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AGENDA OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on Monday 27 May 2024 at 6.00pm

This Council Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, 350 High Street, Preston.

This meeting will be a scheduled hybrid meeting, at which both councillors and members of the public may participate either in person or virtually.

This meeting will also be livestreamed and may be accessed from Councils website www.darebin.vic.gov.au.

Persons wishing to observe the meeting in person, submit a Question or make a Submission, are required to register by 12pm on the day of the meeting.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



English

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

Arabic

هذه هي محاضر مجلس المدينة. للحصول على المساعدة مع أي من البنود في المحاضر يرجى الاتصال بالبلدية 8470 8888.

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

ये काउंसिल की बैठक का सारांश है। सारांश के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

Macedonian

Ова е Записникот од состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од записникот, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

Nepali

यी परिषद्को बैठकका माइन्युटहरू हुन्। माइन्युटका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਵੈੱਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriiir 8470 8888.

Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کی ایکٹیوٹیز کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản Họp Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong biên bản họp, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

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Agenda

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Susanne Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Tim Laurence (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

3. APOLOGIES

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 29 April 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

6. COUNCIL'S OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

7. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

Members of the public can lodge questions for Council to answer or make a Comment or Submission prior to a specific item listed on the Agenda of an Ordinary Council meeting.

QUESTIONS

Members of the public can ask up to three (3) questions at an Ordinary Council meeting. Members of the public wishing to ask a question must register their question using the Questions and Submission Time Form before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

Questions that are not lodged by 12 noon on the day of the Council Meeting will not be accepted, and **no questions will be taken from people *in attendance* on the night of the Council Meeting.**

In accordance with the Council Governance Rules 2020, the Chairperson may disallow a question if it:

- a) relates to a matter outside the duties, functions or powers of Council;
- b) is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- c) may lead to a breach of Council's statutory obligations;
- d) relates to a Notice of Motion, Petition or item of urgent business;
- e) deals with a subject matter already answered;
- f) is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or an Officer; or
- g) deals with a matter that should be, or has been, considered as a confidential matter or relates to any matter in respect of which Council may close the Meeting to the public under section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

No questions directed at an individual Councillor or Officer will be allowed

SUBMISSIONS

Members of the public wishing to make a 2 minute submission on a report listed on the Agenda (unless not permitted pursuant to the Councils Governance Rules) must register online before 12 noon on the day of the Ordinary Council Meeting or Hearing of Submissions Meeting and be in attendance on the day of the Meeting to make their submission.

If the person wishing to make a submission or their representative is not in attendance (including virtual attendance for a scheduled hybrid meeting) when the Agenda item is to be considered, their submission will not be read out.

The person making the submission must clearly state their name and their suburb. The name of the submitter will be recorded in the Minutes, as an official record.

No member of the public can make a submission to a Notice of Motion, Petition (unless originator of petition, Governance Rule 16.3(6)) or item of Urgent Business presented at a Council meeting.

HOW TO REGISTER TO ATTEND THE MEETING, SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION OR MAKE A SUBMISSION

Members of the public who wish to observe the meeting in person, ask a question, or make a submission to an agenda item, at an Ordinary Council Meeting are required to register by 12pm on the day of the meeting in one of the following ways:

- (a) online at darebin.vic.gov.au;
- (b) by calling the customer service team on 8470 8888, or
- (c) by mail to PO Box 91, Preston 3072

Council meetings can be viewed at the 'Watch Council and Planning Committee' meetings page via Council's website.

Agenda's will be available for viewing on Council's website at the 'Meeting Agendas and Minutes' page up to 6 days prior to the date of the meeting.

8. PETITIONS

9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9.1 GOVERNANCE REPORT - MAY 2024

Author: Coordinator Governance Services

Reviewed By: Acting General Manager Customer & Corporate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors (**Appendix A**).
- Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Responses to public question taken on notice at the previous Council Meeting, 29 April 2024.
- Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics to date for the current financial year 2023-24.
- Councillor expenses 1 January to 31 March 2024 (**Appendix B**).
- Bi-annual confidential resolutions review and Confidential Information to be made public (**Appendices C, D, E, F and G**).
- General Planning Information - Applications determined by VCAT, May 2024 (**Appendix H**).

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – May 2024.
- (2) Notes the Summary of attendance at Advisory Committees Meetings, Councillor Briefings, and other informal meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (3) Notes that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to the public questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting on 29 April 2024.
- (5) Notes the Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics to date for the current financial year 2023-24 (**Table 1**).
- (6) Notes the Councillor Expenses Report for the period of 1 January to 31 March 2024 (**Appendix B**) to this report.
- (7) Resolves to make the following confidential matters publicly available on Council's website following publication of the Minutes of this Council Meeting:
 - (a) Item 11.1 Contract Award Bill Lawry Oval Pavilion Report - Special Council Meeting Minutes 25 January 2023 (**Appendix C**)

- (b) Item 5.1 Action arising from the VCAT decision on Northcote Plaza (**Appendix D**) Council Meeting 6 June 2022
 - (c) All decisions during the current Council Term relating to Alphington Rail Spur (**Appendix E**)
 - (d) All decisions during the current Council Term regarding the Melbourne Innovation Centre at 2 Wingrove Street Alphington (**Appendix F**)
 - (e) Item 13.1 Response to Proposed Development of an MRNA Facility at Latrobe University (44 Crissane Road, Bundoora), 25 March 2024 Council Meeting Report (**Appendix G**)
- (8) Notes the Confidential Items considered by Council this financial year listed in **Table 2**, that have been reviewed and are required to remain confidential.
- (9) Notes the General Planning Information – Applications determined by VCAT, May 2024 (**Appendix H**).

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules 2020, the agenda for each Ordinary Meeting is required to list certain governance/administrative matters in addition to other specified items.

These include Reports of Standing Committees i.e. Hearing of Submissions Committee, Summary of Meetings i.e. Briefings, Advisory Committee, responses to Public Questions taken on notice, reports by Mayor and Councillors, Councillor expenses and a range of other governance matters.

In accordance with best practice, good governance principles, transparent and accountable reporting, officers deem it appropriate to consolidate governance/administrative reports into one standing report to provide a single reporting mechanism for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance matters. This also ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* ('the Act'), Council's Governance Rules and related regulations.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 4 Responsible, Transparent and Responsive

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

4.1 We will ensure balanced and responsible financial decision making that meets the needs of our community now and into the future

DISCUSSION

Matters covered in this report for the month of May 2024 are:

Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors

Council's Governance Rules 2020 require any meeting of an Advisory Committee established by Council and attended by at least one Councillor, or a scheduled or planned meeting to discuss the business of Council, including briefing Councillors, and which is attended by at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff (excluding Council, Delegated Committee or Community Asset Committee meetings), the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the meeting is:

- a) Tabled at the next convenient Council meeting; and
- b) Recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

The summary of the meeting should include:

- a) Time, date and location of the meeting
- b) Councillors in attendance
- c) Topics discussed
- d) Positions of council officers in attendance
- e) The organisation that any attendees external to council are representing; and
- f) Conflicts of interest declared, including the reason.

The Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings or other Informal Meetings of Councillors are summarised at **Appendix A**.

Reports by Mayor and Councillors

By 4.00pm on the day of each Ordinary Council Meeting, the Mayor and Councillors submit a report detailing their attendance at various functions and activities since the last Council Meeting. These reports will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

Responses to Questions taken on notice on 29 April 2024 Council Meeting

Questions taken on notice at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 April 2024 and subsequently responded to, are provided below.

Question from 29 April 2024 Council Meeting

- **Marion Attwater of Pascoe Vale**

1. I have a question about the Election Period Policy which was amended and endorsed at the 23 October 2023 Council meeting, without any process of community engagement. Boroondara Council recently tried to do the same thing in February of this year, but after questions were raised about the validity of amending the Governance Rules without community engagement, they instead chose to put the Election Period Policy on public exhibition. That is the requirements of section 60(4) of the Local Government Act 2020. My question for Councillors is, are you satisfied that your resolution of 23 October 2023 about the Election Period Policy was a sound one that cannot be challenged?

Response from Acting General Manager Customer & Corporate

Thank you for your questions, Marion.

In relation to the Governance Rules and the election period policy included within the Governance Rules, I will take this on notice.

Response from Enna Giampiccolo Acting General Manager Customer and Corporate provided to Marion Attwater via email Friday, May 3, 2024 2:40 PM

'Thank you for the public question you submitted at the Council Meeting held on 29 April 2024 regarding the adoption of Council's Election Period Policy (the Policy).

The Policy was reviewed and adopted by Council on 23 October 2023. There were no substantive changes to the Policy with most amendments being grammatical or for clarification. Amendments were also made to reflect the upcoming 2024 election dates and a definitions table was included.

Due to an administrative oversight the policy was adopted as a stand-alone policy, rather than as an incorporated document within the Governance Rules and as such was not put out for public exhibition.

To ensure transparency and compliance with the Act, the Policy will shortly undergo a public exhibition period and be then represented to Council for adoption.

Thank you for bringing this important matter to our attention.'

Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* extends as far as possible, the right of the community to access information in the possession of the government bodies constituted under the law of Victoria (such as Council) for certain public purposes by:

- a. making available to the public information about the operations of agencies and, in particular, ensuring that rules and practices affecting members of the public in their dealings with agencies are readily available to persons affected by those rules and practices; and*
- b. creating a general right of access to information in documentary form in the possession of Ministers and agencies limited only by exceptions and exemptions necessary for the protection of essential public interests and the private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom information is collected and held by agencies.*

As part of Councils commitments made under the Public Transparency Policy, a snapshot of the number of FOI requests made to date for the current financial year (2023 -24) and the outcomes of those requests will be presented to Council on a quarterly basis.

Table 1

FOI statistics: FY 2023-2024	COUNT	COMMENTS
Total Number of Active Requests	10	
Total Number of Request Received (FY 2023-24)	49	
Outcome of Requests (Valid from FY 2023-24)	39	
Access granted in full (no exempt material)	14	
Access granted in part (some exempt material)	4	

Access denied in full (all material exempt)	4	S.31(1)(b)
Withdrawn	5	
Administrative Release	6	
Not Proceeded With	9	
Act does not apply	-	
No Documents found	7	
Not yet finalised (60 days to pass) per s34 of the FOI Act	-	
Not yet finalised	10	
VCAT appeals lodged	-	
Outcome of VCAT Decision on Appeals Arising from Your Decision on Access		
VCAT confirmed agency decision	-	
VCAT varied agency decision	-	
VCAT Overturned agency decision	-	

Councillor Expenses – Quarter 3 from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

Councillor Expenses Report for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024, are included at **Appendix B** to this report. The Councillor Expenses report will also be made available on Council's website.

Bi-annual confidential resolutions review & confidential information to be made public.

At the Special Council Meeting 12 February 2024, Council resolved:

'That Council:

- (1) *Notes that section 58 of the Local Government Act states that the "Council decision making processes must be transparent" except if dealing with information that is confidential.*
- (2) *Notes Darebin's Public Transparency Policy that council has "committed to being accountable to the community through transparency" and "may decide, in the interests of transparency, to release information to the public, if it is in the public's interest" and when the decision is no longer required to be confidential.*
- (3) *Makes publicly available all minutes of the confidential section of the 25 January 2023 council meeting in relation to the decision of the Bill Lawry Oval Pavilion that was going to cost \$12.9mil to complete, while withholding any details which are required to remain confidential.*
- (4) *Makes publicly available Item 5.1 "Action arising from the VCAT decision on Northcote Plaza from the 6 June 2022 council meeting", while withholding any details which are required to remain confidential.*
- (5) *Makes publicly available all decisions regarding the Alphington Rail Spur from any council meeting during this term, while withholding any details which are required to remain confidential.*
- (6) *Makes publicly available all decisions regarding the Melbourne Innovation Centre at 2 Wingrove Street Alphington, from any council meeting this term, while withholding any details which are required to remain confidential.*

- (7) Pursuant to s 125(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, requests the Chief Executive Officer to undertake a review of reports deemed to be confidential on a six-monthly basis and makes a recommendation to Council for reports to be released to the public domain, commencing with the first recommendation to be made to Council at the Ordinary Council meeting to be held Monday, 27 May 2024.'

Confidential Information to be made public as per Council's resolution on 19 February 2024:

NOTE: Appendices C, D, E, F and G, will remain confidential until Council resolves to make public.

- **Special Council Meeting Minutes 6pm, 25 January 2023 – Item 5.1 Construction of Bill Lawry Oval Pavilion.** This item is designated confidential because it contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets and private commercial information, and being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, pursuant to Section 3(1) (g(i)) and (g(ii)) of the Act. The redacted Special Council Meeting minutes, 25 January 2024 to be made publicly available are attached (**Appendix C**)
- **Council Meeting 6 June 2022 - Item 5.1 Action arising from the VCAT decision on Northcote Plaza.** This item is designated confidential because it contains legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies, pursuant to Section 3(1) (e) of the Act. The redacted report to be made publicly available is attached (**Appendix D**).
- **All decisions during the current Council term relating to Alphington Rail Spur – Confidential Council Meeting 22 November 2021 - Item 11.1 Strategic Property Matter.** This item is designated confidential because it contains information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released and also private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, pursuant to Section 3(1) (a) and (g(ii)) of the Act. The redacted report from Council Meeting to be made public is attached (**Appendix E**)
- **All decisions during the current Council Term regarding the Melbourne Innovation Centre at 2 Wingrove Street Alphington.** This item is confidential because it is Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released pursuant to Section 3(1)(a) of the Act. The confidential resolution from Council Meeting 27 March 2023, to be made public is attached as at **Appendix F**.
- **25 March 2024 (Ordinary Council Meeting) Item 13.1 Response to Proposed Development of an MRNA Facility at Latrobe University (44 Crissane Road, Bundoora).** The confidential report as at **Appendix G**, will be made publicly available following publication of the minutes of this meeting on Council's website.

Table 2 - Confidential items considered by Council during the period of 1 July 2023 to 1 May 2024:

#	Confidential Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Resolution to be made public / or date made public / or confidential reason
1	23 October 2023 (Ordinary Council Meeting)	13.1 CEO Performance Review	The resolution was made public via the Governance Report presented to the 27 November 2023 Council Meeting.

#	Confidential Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Resolution to be made public / or date made public / or confidential reason
2	12 February 2024 (Special Council Meeting)	7.1 Commonwealth Single Assessment Tender Update	TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL: This item is designated confidential because it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs and private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) and (g(ii)) of the Act.
3	19 February 2024 (Special Council Meeting)	Item 6.1 Aged Care Single Assessment System Tender Feasibility	TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL: This item is designated confidential because it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs and private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) and (g(ii)) of the Act.
4		Item 6.2 Good Governance and OHS	A public statement on this item, in relation the changes to council meeting arrangements, was published on social media and Darebin's Website, on 22 February 2024: https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/About-council/News-and-Media/News/Council-Meeting-Update The report will remain confidential because it is information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition, pursuant to Section 3(1) (k) of the Act.
5	25 March 2024 (Ordinary Council Meeting)	Item 13.1 Response to Proposed Development of an MRNA Facility at Latrobe University (44 Crissane Road, Bundoora)	This report (Appendix G) can be released to the public following Councils resolution.
6	29 April 2024 (Ordinary Council Meeting)	Item 13.1 Contract Award - CT202374 Provision of Recycling Processing Service	TO REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL: This item is designated confidential because it is private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, pursuant to Section 3(1) (g(ii)) of the Act.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

Not Applicable.

Community Engagement

Not Applicable.

Other Principles for consideration

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

(i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Public Transparency Principles

(a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

Strategic Planning Principles

Not Applicable.

Service Performance Principles

Not Applicable.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

Not applicable

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

Not applicable

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

Not applicable

Operational Impacts

Not applicable

Legal and Risk Implications

Not applicable




IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Not applicable

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Governance Rules

Attachments

- Appendix A - Summary of Councillor Attendance Records (**Appendix A**) [↓](#) 
- Appendix B - Councillor Expenses - Q3 1 January to 31 March 2024 (**Appendix B**) [↓](#) 
- Appendix C - Redacted - Confidential Item Bill Lawry Oval - Special Council Meeting Minutes - 6pm 25 January 2023 (**Appendix C**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Appendix D - Redacted Confidential Item 5.1 - Action arising from the VCAT decision on Northcote Plaza - 6 June 2022 (**Appendix D**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Appendix E - Redacted Confidential Report and Attachments - Item relating to Fairfield Rail Spur - 22 November 2021 (**Appendix E**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Appendix F - Confidential - 2 Wingrove St - Resolution from Council Meeting Minutes 27 March 2023 (**Appendix F**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Appendix G - Confidential Council Meeting Report Item 13.1 Response to Proposed Development of an MRNA Facility at Latrobe University (44 Crissane Road, Bundoora) - 25 March 2024 (**Appendix G**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Appendix H - Applications Determined by VCAT - May 2024 (**Appendix H**) [↓](#) 

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	15 April 2024
	Location:	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting) Virtual Meeting
PRESENT:	Councillors:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr. Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson) • Cr. Laurence (Deputy Mayor) from 5.35pm • Cr. Dimitriadis • Cr. Greco • Cr. Hannan • Cr. McCarthy (from 5.50pm) • Cr. Messina (departed the meeting due to a conflict at 4.28pm, returned for the next item at 4.45pm). Left the meeting at 8pm. • Cr. Rennie (left the meeting at 5.36pm due to a conflict and returned at 6.21pm) • Cr. Williams (from 4.30pm)
	Council Staff:	<p>Peter Smith, CEO</p> <p>Kylie Bennetts, General Manager Community</p> <p>Enna Giampiccolo, Acting General Manager Customer & Corporate</p> <p>Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance</p> <p>Vanessa Petrie, General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy</p> <p>Stevie Meyer, Coordinator Strategic Planning (Item 4.1)</p> <p>Jennifer Loulie, Acting Coordinator, City Design (Item 4.1)</p> <p>Vasili Nicolaidis, Team Leader, Transport Safety (Item 4.1)</p> <p>Gillian Damonze, Acting Manager, Supported and Connected Living (Item 4.2)</p> <p>Nathan Korotkov, Team Leader, Service Projects (Item 4.2)</p> <p>Wendy Dinning, Acting Manager Equity and Wellbeing (Item 4.3)</p> <p>Ana L.Galvez, Interfaith and Multicultural Officer (Item 4.3)</p> <p>Chris Ryan, Manager Property & Asset Strategy (Item 4.4)</p> <p>Srini Krishnan, CFO (Item 4.5)</p>

		Daryl Whitford, Senior Financial Adviser (Item 4.5) Lisa Wheelhouse, Manager CX and Transformation (Item 4.5) Julie Wyndham, Corporate Strategy (Item 4.5)
	External Attendees:	Item 4.3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sylvia Rendina Victorian Multicultural Commissioner • Somayeh Falsafi - International Organisation for Migration
APOLOGIES:		

The Meeting commenced at 4.03pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	Route 86 Tram Corridor Planning Project Update	
4.2	CONFIDENTIAL Update - New Regional Assessment Service Tender July 2024 to December 2024	Cr Messina declared a conflict and left the meeting.
4.3	Cultural Diversity Briefing Report - Presentation	
4.4	Leasing and Licensing Policy	Cr Rennie declared a conflict and left the meeting at 5.36pm and rejoined at 6.21pm
4.5	Final Service and/or NoM advice for Budget	
4.6	General Business	
5.1	Amendment C210dare - Consideration of submissions following exhibition	
5.2	Special Rate Levy Renewal - Fairfield, Northcote and Preston business precincts	

The Meeting concluded at 8.10pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Enna Giampiccolo
	Officer Title:	Acting General Manager, Customer & Corporate



SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	CEO Employment Matters Committee
	Date:	17 April 2024
	Location:	Bagung-bul Wilim Room (Hybrid Meeting)
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson), Cr. Laurence (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Hannan, Cr. Messina
	Council Staff:	Peter Smith, CEO Yvette Fuller, Chief People Officer
	External Attendees:	Joe Carbone – Independent Chair
APOLOGIES:		

The Meeting commenced at 10.00am

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	CEO Performance Agreement – progress update to 31 December 2023: Presentation of progress update by CEO (in attendance for this item)	Cr Messina acknowledged that she works in Aged Care and would remove herself from any conversations pertaining to Aged Care. No conversations were had regarding Aged Care; therefore Cr Messina was able to participate in the entire discussion. No other conflicts were raised.
2	CEO EMC recommendation to Council on CEO performance update for the period ending 31 December 2023.	No disclosures were made.
3	CEO Remuneration review	No disclosures were made.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONTINUED)

The Meeting concluded at 11.37am

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Yvette Fuller
	Officer Title:	Chief People Officer



SUMMARY OF COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	6 May 2024
	Location:	Council Chamber (Hybrid Meeting) Virtual Meeting
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Newton (Mayor) (Chairperson), Cr. Laurence (Deputy Mayor) (from 5.33pm), Cr. Dimitriadis, Cr. Greco, Cr. Hannan, Cr. McCarthy Cr. Messina, Cr. Rennie, Cr. Williams Cr Messina left the meeting at 4.27pm, and returned at 5.45pm Cr McCarthy left the meeting at 4.25pm and returned at 4.55pm
	Council Staff:	Peter Smith, CEO (item 4.3) Kylie Bennetts, General Manager Community (item 4.1) Enna Giampiccolo, Acting General Manager Customer and Corporate Chad Griffiths, Acting General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy Rachel Ollivier, General Manager Infrastructure, Operations & Finance (item 4.4) Jo Smale, Manager, Families Youth and Children (item 4.1) David Godden, Planning and Projects Officer (Item 4.1) Matthew Cullen, Coordinator Statutory Planning (item 4.2) Jody Brodribb, Coordinator Governance Services (item 4.2) Srini Krishnan, Chief Financial Officer (Item 4.3) Valli Morphett, Manager Creative Culture and Economic Development (Item 4.3) Lee McKenzie, Manager Assets and Capital Delivery (item 4.4) Van Le, Coordinator, Integrated Water Management (item 4.4) Garry Howell, Flood Mapping Implementation Lead (Item 4.4)
	External Attendees:	Municipal Monitor, Ross Millard External Presenters from La Trobe

APOLOGIES:		Nil
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The Meeting commenced at 4.04pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	Thornbury High School Kindergarten on School Site - Opportunity to Lease	No disclosures were made.
4.2	Draft Election Advertising Signage and Electioneering Policy 2024	No disclosures were made.
4.3	Budget Update	No disclosures were made.
4.4	Darebin Flood Study Update	No disclosures were made.
4.5	La Trobe - University City of the Future Update	No disclosures were made.
	General Business	No disclosures were made.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONTINUED)

The Meeting concluded at 7.14pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Enna Giampiccolo
	Officer Title:	Acting GM Customer and Corporate

Councillor Expenses - Q3 1 January 2024 - 31 March 2024 (If applicable GST is excluded)

	Cr Dimitriadis	Cr Greco	Cr Hannan	Cr Laurence (Deputy Mayor from 30/11/2023)	Cr McCarthy	Cr Messina	Cr Newton (Deputy Mayor to 29/11/23 then Mayor from 30/11/2023)	Cr Rennie	Cr Williams (Mayor until 30 November 2023)	Total
										\$
Councillor Allowances	5,844	9,090	9,090	15,045	9,090	9,090	30,090	9,090	9,090	105,519
*Mobile (Usage & Data Plan)	95	95	95	95	95	95	100	95	95	864
Internet (Laptop) (*Cr. Laurence does not use a laptop)	41	92	41	41	41	82	41	41	41	460
Travel (Cabcharge/misc travel expenses)										-
Family care										-
Conferences (Inc. all related costs/travel/meals/accom)		695						695	695	2,085
Training & Development							600			600
Good Governance Training										-
Functions/events										-
Subscription / Memberships										-
Stationary / printing / equipment										-
Mayoral Vehicle										-
Total net expenses	5,980	9,972	9,226	15,181	9,226	9,267	30,831	9,921	9,921	109,527

APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY VCAT – MAY 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The General Planning Information attached at **Appendix A** contains:

- A summary of decisions upheld by VCAT by financial year 2023-2024 to date.
- Table 1 includes a revised format to include a column that outlines performance against the Local Government Performance Reporting Team (LGPRF) and a column that more accurately outlines Council's performance by including decisions resolved through mediation.
- Table 2 is a summary of decisions issued since last reported to Council (financial year 2023-2024).

Officer Recommendation

That the General Planning Information attached as **Appendix A**, be noted.

Attachments

- APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY VCAT (**Appendix A**)

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

13 May 2024

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF DECISIONS UPHELD BY FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE - APRIL 2024

	Number of VCAT Decisions	Percentage of decisions upheld (as reported to LGPRF*)	Percentage of decisions upheld (incl. all mediated)
Council decisions	1	0% 0/1	0% (0/1)
Delegate decisions	21	48% 10/21	76% (16/21)
All decisions	22	45% 10/22	73% (16/22)

Comment on performance and trends.

This financial year to date (at the time of reporting) there have been twenty-two VCAT decisions. The Statutory Planning Unit aims to continue the positive trend in Tribunal results achieved in the previous financial year whereby the majority of decisions, including those decided through mediation, were upheld by VCAT, resulting in good planning outcomes for Council and our community. The current results reflect positively on Council's robust decision making, with 73% of decisions upheld this financial year to date.

Revision to Table 1

New reporting guidelines were released by the Local Government Performance Reporting Team (LGPRF) for the 23-24 financial year. Table 1 has been expanded to include VCAT decisions as collated by the LGPRF. Column 3 of Table 1 provides the results as reported to LGPRF. Unfortunately, the LGPRF reporting does not recognise Council's final decision being upheld when it is a mediated outcome or when Council changes its position at a hearing in response to amended plans. To better reflect actual performance and outcomes, column 4 is included which illustrates all results including mediated outcomes.

Notes on Table 1

Council decisions are decisions made by the Planning Committee.

Delegate decisions are decisions made under Council's delegation instrument by Planning Officers in the Statutory Planning Unit.

Council and delegate decisions are both decisions of the Responsible Authority.

Column 3 summarises VCAT decision types and outcomes reported to the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF).

Column 4 summarises all decisions which are upheld by VCAT, including all mediated decisions.

**VCAT decisions which are not upheld but where a mediated outcome has been reached (e.g. S77, S78, S79, S81 and S87A appeals) are reported to the LGPRF as 'Set Aside'. This differs from S80 and S82 appeals, which may be determined as varied, affirmed or upheld. Those decisions are reported to LGPRF in Council's favour when a mediated position has been reached. It is noted that mediated outcomes were not reported to LGPRF in previous years.*

13 MAY 2024

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

13 May 2024

Some less common VCAT application types are not reported to LGPRF (e.g. applications to cancel a permit, obtain a declaration and enforcement proceedings). This financial year to date, there have been five VCAT decisions that are not reportable to LGPRF and are not captured in the above table. Three decisions were delegate decisions that were withdrawn by the permit applicant and two were S87A amendment applications lodged directly with the Tribunal.

#A minor error within last month's reporting incorrectly included a decision not reported to LGPRF (D/465/2015 VCAT Ref P1423/2023), within Table 1. Therefore, last month, there were 19 VCAT decisions, not twenty as reported within Table 1.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

13 May 2024

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF VCAT DECISIONS ISSUED SINCE LAST REPORT TO COUNCIL (COMMENCING FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024)

Council & VCAT references	Address & ward	Proposal	Council position	Council or Delegate decision?	VCAT application type*	Hearing type**	VCAT decision	Was Darebin's final position upheld?
D/456/2015 P1602/2023	176-180 High Street PRESTON Central	Amend to change use from dwellings to a retirement village	Support	n/a	S87A	CC	Allow	Yes
<p>Discussion In appeal P1602/2023, lodged directly with the Tribunal, the applicant sought approval to change the use from residential dwellings to a retirement village and consequential internal built form reconfigurations. The proposal was supported by officers as it provides improved internal amenity outcomes and a level of housing suitable for older residents. A mediated outcome was reached at the Compulsory Conference and the permit amended to include improved ESD outcomes.</p>								
Council & VCAT references	Address & ward	Proposal	Council position	Council or Delegate decision?	VCAT application type*	Hearing type**	VCAT decision	Was Darebin's final position upheld?
EOT/95/2023 P1412/2023	63-71 Plenty Road PRESTON South Central	Extension of time to Planning Permit D/374/2004	Refuse	Delegate	S81	Hearing	Set Aside	No

13 MAY 2024

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

13 May 2024

<p>Discussion Appeal P1412/2023, relates to an 11-storey mixed use apartment development located in the Preston Junction area. Construction of the development has not progressed beyond very minor ground works which were undertaken in 2019. Officers refused the application to extend the time for completion of the development on grounds relating to the original time limit being adequate (the permit having been extended six times previously for a total time of 16 years), the development being inconsistent with the current planning policies and objectives, and changes in the immediate site context. The Tribunal overturned Council’s decision. In making its decision the Tribunal did not consider the total elapse of time fatal to the proposal within the current policy context. Furthermore, the Tribunal did not consider it reasonable or fair for the applicant to incur further costs as related to a new planning permit application. The permit was extended for a further three years.</p>								
Council & VCAT references	Address & ward	Proposal	Council position	Council or Delegate decision?	VCAT application type*	Hearing type**	VCAT decision	Was Darebin’s final position upheld?
D/699/2021 P1318/2023	40 Showers Street PRESTON South west	Construction of eight (8) dwellings and a car parking reduction	Refuse	Delegate	S77	CC	Set Aside	Yes
<p>Discussion In appeal P1318/2023, a mediated outcome was reached between the permit applicant, Council and objector party following the submission of amended plans, which addressed Council and objector party concerns. The amended plans result in improved internal amenity outcomes, improved outlook to the Ray Bramham gardens and additional fencing measures in order to resolve privacy concerns.</p>								
Council & VCAT references	Address & ward	Proposal	Council position	Council or Delegate decision?	VCAT application type*	Hearing type**	VCAT decision	Was Darebin’s final position upheld?
D/526/2022 P1123/2023	64 Charles Street NORTHCOTE South	Demolition of dwelling, construction of a new double storey	Refuse	Delegate	S77	Hearing	Set Aside	No

13 MAY 2024

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

13 May 2024

		dwelling with roof terrace on a lot less than 300m2 within a heritage overlay area and a car parking reduction						
<p>Discussion In appeal P1123/2023, the Tribunal considered the scale, siting, form and appearance of the new dwelling acceptable within the heritage context. However, the Tribunal agreed with Council that further design changes were required in order to better meet design outcomes and accepted Council's recommended design changes via conditions to the permit.</p>								

Notes on Table 2

*VCAT appeal types explained:

- S77 – Section 77 Application for review of Council's refusal to grant a planning permit, by the applicant.*
- S78 – Section 78 Application for review of notice or information requirements requested by Council, by the applicant.*
- S79 – Section 79 Application for review of Council's failure to determine the application within the 60-day statutory timeframe, by the applicant.*
- S80 – Section 80 Application for review of Council's conditions on a planning permit, by the applicant.*
- S81 – Section 81 Application for review of Council's decision to not extend a planning permit, by the applicant.*
- S82 – Section 82 Application for review of Council's decision to support a proposal, by objectors.*
- S87A – Section 87A Application to amend a permit issued at direction of Tribunal.*

**VCAT hearing types explained:

13 MAY 2024

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

13 May 2024

Practice Day Hearing (PDH) – Administration hearing - VCAT gives direction on how the case will proceed, sets dates, discusses preliminary legal issues, etc

Compulsory Conference (CC) – Prior to the full hearing, parties confidentially discuss ways to resolve the case with the help of a VCAT member, may result in a mediated outcome being reached.

Hearing – VCAT hearing where parties present their case, and the decision is made after consideration by VCAT.

None (decision made on the papers) – decision reached without the need for a hearing, usually where parties reached a mediated outcome outside of the Tribunal or where an appeal is withdrawn or struck out for administrative reasons.

Major Case – Major cases are heard sooner and can reach a resolution quicker than other planning cases. Most cases are eligible to be heard as a major case, but one of the parties must pay higher fees. Applications for review under Sections 77, 79, 80 and 82 are all eligible.

Short Case – These are cases which are not complex and can be handled in a short amount of time, typically involving limited issue/s and less parties. These cases are heard sooner and decisions are typically made orally at the hearing.

9.2 2023-24 Q3 PERFORMANCE REPORT (FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL) ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Author: Coordinator Corporate Strategy

Reviewed By: Acting General Manager Customer & Corporate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is required by the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) to prepare a Council Plan containing the strategic objectives of Council, strategies for achieving those objectives, and indicators to monitor the achievement of those objectives.

The 2023-24 Quarter Three (Q3) ending 31 March 2024 Performance Report includes progress of the Council Plan Action Plan (CPAP), Capital Works Program, Council Resolutions, Procurement (**Appendix A**), and Financial Performance (**Appendix B**). The 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan report provides an overview of Council's performance in delivering the year three actions that will contribute to the completion of the four-year strategic actions in the (revised) Council Plan 2021-25.

Overall, the Q3 results indicate that delivery of the 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan is progressing well, with 72.5% (58 actions) On Track, 8.8% (7 actions) Delayed, 7.5% (6 actions) Off Track, 8.8% (7 actions) Completed, 1.3% (1) actions Not Started, and 1.3% (1 action) Deferred, as detailed in **Appendix A**.

This report outlines both Financial performance year to date and the forecast of how Council's full year performance is expected to finish at end of June 2024. The forecast performance is a better indication of the expected current year performance than year to date performance. This is largely because of the timing of revenue and expenditure.

The forecast for the full year, as at the 3rd Quarter budget review indicate a \$3.49M net **unfavourable** operating performance result compared to adopted budget and \$2.98M more than Council's adopted capital works program.

The 2023-24 Quarter Three Financial Report in **Appendix B** provides an update of the financial results year to date ending 31 March 2024. For the nine months ended 31 March 2024, Council has recorded an operating surplus of \$47.0 million, which is \$6.99 million ahead of the year-to-date budget. After eliminating capital and other items, the adjusted underlying surplus is \$45.82 million, which is \$5.81 million favourable to the year-to-date budget. Council has expended \$15.03 million on the capital works program, which is \$6.79 million behind of the year-to-date budget. The financial position as at 31 March 2024 shows a cash (\$39.40M) and investment balance (\$27.27M) of \$66.67 million, which is \$12.48 million ahead of budget.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses the quarter three Performance Report 2023-24 including Council Plan Action Plan Progress at **Appendix A**.
- (2) Notes the quarter three update of the Capital Works program at **Appendix A**.


- (3) Notes the quarter three update on Council Resolutions contained within this report for the current financial year 2023-24.
- (4) Notes the Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2024 at **Appendix B**
- (5) Notes the quarter three Procurement update contained within this report.

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

Underpinning the 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan is 2041 Darebin Community Vision and the (revised) Council Plan 2021-25 and its four strategic directions. For 2023-24 there are a total of 80 year three actions across the four strategic directions.

The quarterly Performance Report provides an overview of Council's performance in delivering year three actions that will contribute to the completion of the four-year strategic actions in the (revised) Council Plan 2021-25.

The Q3 Council Plan Action Plan progress report reflects the status of the actions adopted by Council on 26 June 2023.

Embedded into the Council Plan is the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. This enables Council to meet its obligations under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* by outlining how we will protect, promote, and improve the public health and wellbeing of our community. Strategic actions that form the health and wellbeing component are identified by a heart symbol . The 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan includes 32 health and wellbeing actions equalling 40% of all year three actions.

Council's financial report for the nine months 31 March 2024 provides an overview of the Council's financial performance for the quarter. In accordance with section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, as soon as practicable after the end of each quarter of the financial year, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a quarterly financial report is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.

The quarterly financial report must include a comparison of the actual and budgeted results to date; an explanation of any material variations and any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 26 June 2023, Council resolved:

'That Council:

- (1) *Note the revised Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) and 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan were out on community exhibition seeking community feedback during the period 23 May to 6 June 2023.*
- (2) *Acknowledge the community feedback provided and note officers will write thanking individuals for their time in responding to the revised Council Plan 2021-25 and Council Plan Action Plan.*
- (3) *Adopt the revised Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) at Appendix A.*
- (4) *Adopt the draft 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan at Appendix B.*
- (5) *Authorise the CEO to amend the Council Plan 2021-25 and 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan to reflect any amendments resolved by the Council in the 2023-24 Budget.'*

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

Strategic Direction 3: Climate, Green and Sustainable

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

Strategic Direction 3: Climate, Green and Sustainable

Strategic Direction 4 Responsible, Transparent and Responsive

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

This report provides an overview of Q3 performance focusing on financial and non-financial information, ending 31 March 2024.

DISCUSSION

Overall Performance Summary for Q3:

Performance measurement	Q3 summary commentary	Status
Council Plan Action Plan performance	8.8% of actions are completed and 73% of actions are in progress and on track to be completed by 30 June 2024.	At risk of completing only 70% of Council Plan by 30 June 2025.
Capital Works Performance	36 of 45 projects were on track, three projects completed, two projects at risk, three projects discontinued, and one project deferred.	87% of projects either on track
Council Resolutions	In the third quarter of the 2023-24 financial year, 48 actions arising from resolutions have been made through Council meetings, 21 have been completed and 27 are in progress.	44% completed and 56% in progress
Financial Performance	Year-to-date operating surplus of \$47.0M is ahead YTD adopted budget of \$40.0M. Main drivers behind the YTD variance represents timing differences attributed to user fees & charges and statutory fees and a permanent variance arising in rates and charges, contributions other income and operating and capital grant funding. Year-to-date capital expenditure of \$15.03M is	Stable

Performance measurement	Q3 summary commentary	Status
	<p>behind the YTD adopted budget of \$21.82M. Main drivers behind the YTD variance represents timing differences attributed to building, plant, machinery and equipment roads, footpaths & cycleways and drainage.</p> <p>Year-to-date cash (\$39.40M) and investment (\$27.27M) balance of \$66.67M is ahead of the YTD adopted budget of \$54.19M. Restricted cash and intended obligation (\$27.02M). YTD net current assets of \$85.66M is ahead of the YTD adopted budget of \$59.59M.</p>	
Procurement Update	The primary procurement focus is on local business improvement each year. There is a strong percentage increase to local businesses payments in Q3 in comparison to FY2022-23, resulting from higher transactions made from local suppliers by Council.	On track

Ability to deliver 2023/24 Council Plan Action Plan

Of the 80 actions, at Q3 15 actions have been identified as being at risk or will not be completed by 30 June 2024, this is an increase from Q2, which identified 11 at risk actions. Q3 results indicate that 19% of year three of the 2021-25 Council Plan is unlikely to be delivered. Having 72.5% of the year three CPAP still in progress at Q3 is normal, as most projects will take the full 12 months to complete.

Impacting our capacity to deliver the Council plan actions is the volume of Council resolutions. In Q3 there were 48 new Council resolutions, bringing the total YTD to 125. This is a significant amount of unplanned work, that results in re-prioritisation of workloads and delays in planned work such as council plan actions. Currently over half of the 125 Council resolutions (unplanned work initiatives) are in progress. It is worth noting that a Council resolution may have a range of actions within the resolution further impacting capacity.

Based on the current performance analysis, it indicates that conservatively 70 – 75% of year three of the CPAP will be delivered by 30 June 2024. Further unplanned work may increase the risk of not achieving the conservative estimate. Q4 reporting will consider how actions not completed by 30 June 2024 are managed within the final year of the 2021-25 Council Plan.

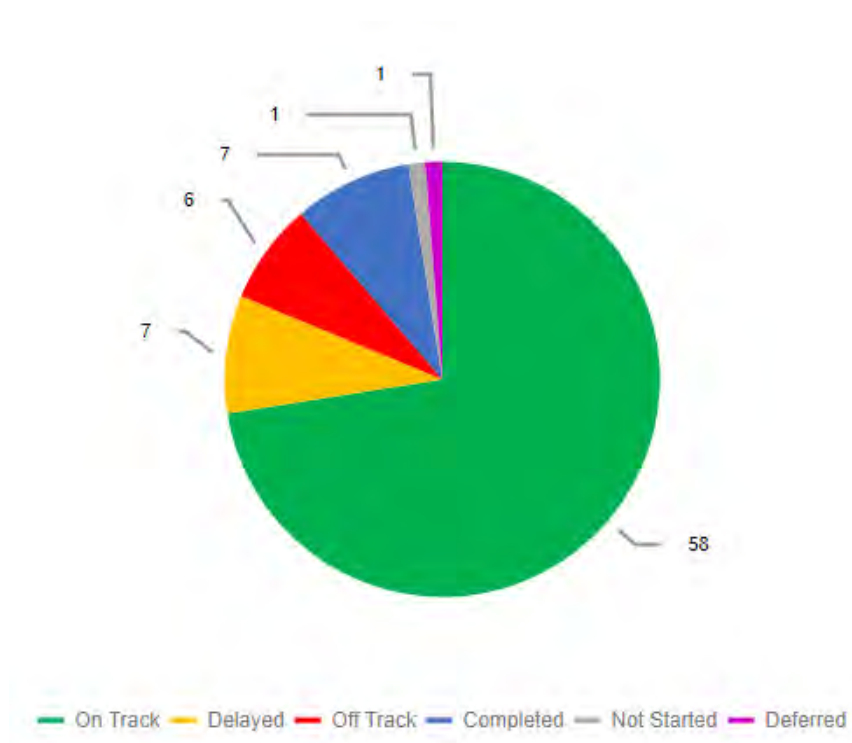
Non- financial Performance:

The Q3 results for the 2023-24 Council Plan Action are detailed in **Appendix A**.

Q3 Council Plan Action Plan Performance Update

The 2023-24 CPAP has a total of 80 yearly actions. . As at the end of Q3, March 2024, 72.5% (58 actions) were On Track, 8.8% (7 actions) were Delayed, 7.5% (6 actions) were Off Track, 8.8% (7 actions) were Completed, 1.3% (1 actions) were Not Started, and 1.3% (1 action) were Deferred.

Figure One: Q3 yearly action progress for 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan



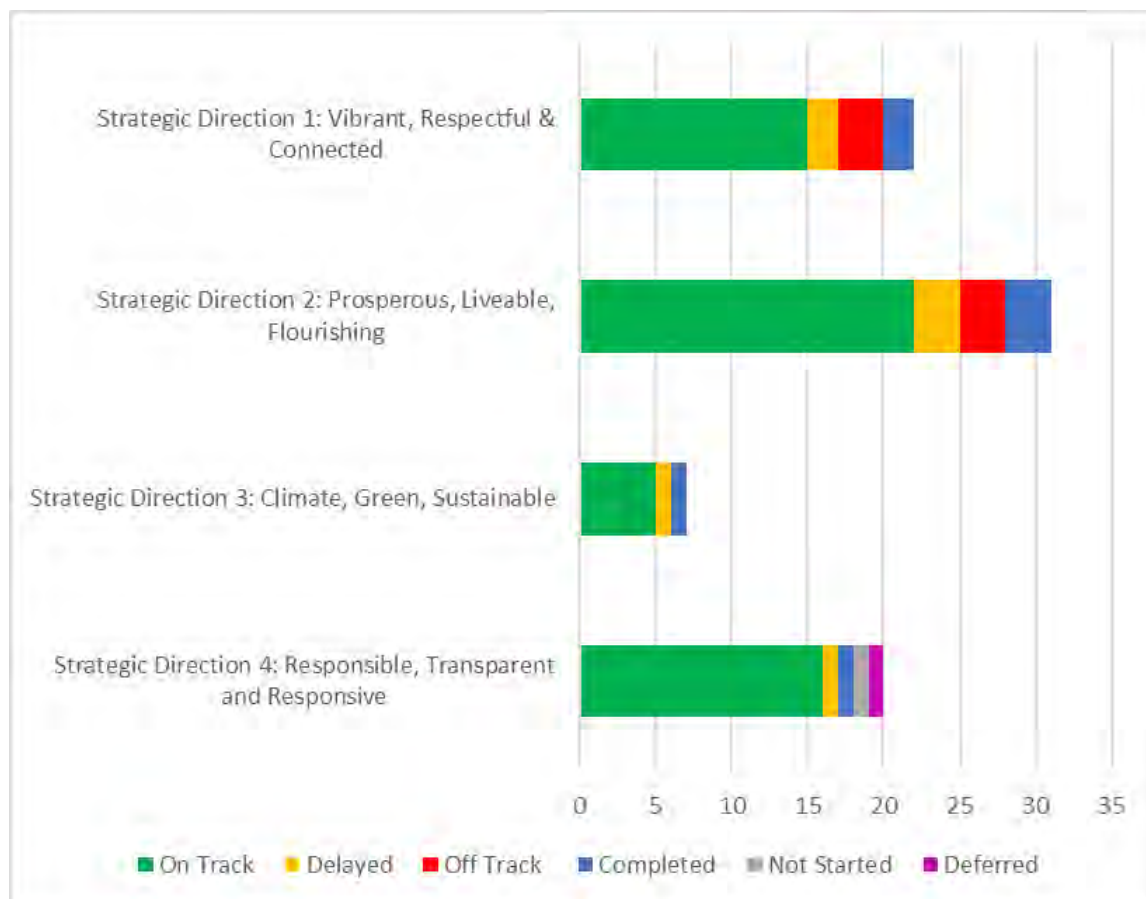
The table below compares the CPAP action performance from Q1 to Q3.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	
			No.	%
Complete	2	6	7	8.8
On Track	66	63	58	72.5
Delayed	4	6	7	8.8
Off Track	1	4	6	7.5
Deferred	0	0	1	1.3
Not Started	7	1	1	1.3

The performance in Q3 indicates a regression in on track actions and an increase in off track actions, this indicates Council is at risk of not delivering the complete year 3 CPAP. This is due to re-prioritisation of planned work to accommodate unplanned work from new Council resolutions. In Q3 there were 48 new Council resolutions.

Figure Two: Q3 status of all actions by Strategic Direction

The following graphs illustrate the status of the 80 actions as of the end of Q3, as well as the progress breakdown for each Strategic Direction.

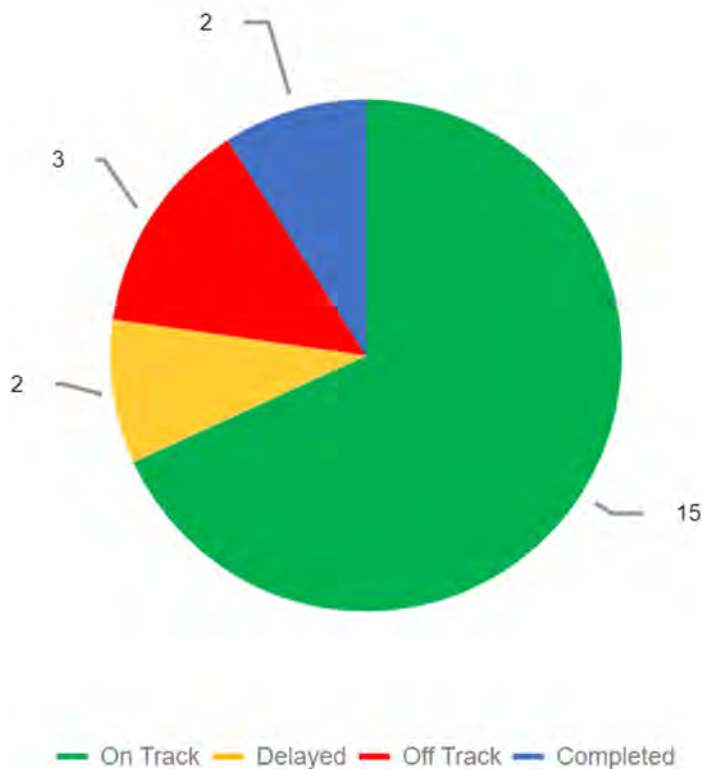


The above bar chart shows that there is a relatively even distribution of completed, in progress and delayed actions across the strategic directions. It should be noted that strategic direction one and two have actions off track and delayed.

Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

Strategic direction one is focused on the community and its people. The priority and four-year objectives are centred on improving the lives of the community by celebrating diversity, supporting empowerment, connecting to, and preserving local history and providing vibrant and dynamic spaces, amenities, and events for all. This strategic direction has eight strategic objectives spanning across four years with 22 actions to be delivered throughout 2023-24.

Figure Three: Q3 Status of Strategic Direction 1 actions



The 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan includes 22 actions that deliver Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected.

Highlights this quarter include:

- Weekly drop-in digital support started in Q3 at the East Preston Community Centre.
- FUSE Darebin is returning with an exciting one-day festival event Meet the Makers Picnic.
- Council has been successful in obtaining a grant of \$212,500 through the Free From Violence Local Government Grant Program 2024-27.
- In partnership with Victoria University, Council has partnered with community groups to deliver a community forum.
- A series of heat health leaflets were produced in multiple languages to help people stay safe in extreme heat events.

At the end of Q3, the following two actions are reported as Delayed:

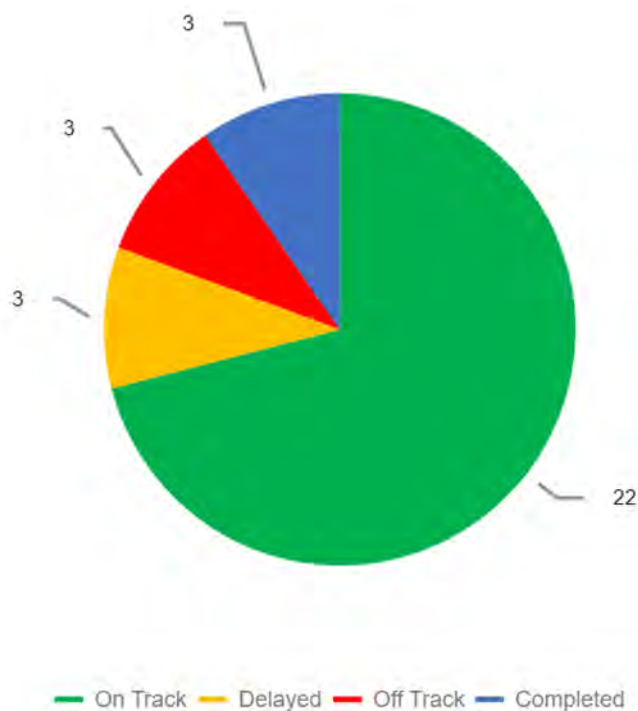
- Preparation for Rainbow Tick Accreditation assessment continues and action plans for in-scope teams are progressing. This work was delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.
- The draft Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan will be developed and presented to Council for endorsement in the first quarter of FY2024-25. This work was delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.

At the end of Q3, the following three actions are reported as Off Track:

- Work continues on the development of the draft Aboriginal Action Plan. This work continued to be delayed given other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.
- The Wurundjeri Garden is progressing. Work on the partnership will commence with the new CEO at Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. This work continued to be delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.
- The research phase of the Cultural Diversity Action Plan focused on collating service level data and an assessment of options for consideration. This work continued to be delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

Strategic direction two is focused on creating infrastructure and spaces for the community to feel safe, respected and welcomed as well as to develop partnerships to support local businesses and community to drive growth and economic sustainability. This strategic direction has 11 strategic objectives, spanning across the four years with 31 actions to be delivered throughout 2023-24.

Figure Four: Q3 Status of Strategic Direction 2 actions

The 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan includes 31 actions that deliver Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing.

Highlights this quarter include:

- Council continued to progress the expansion of funded 3-year-old kindergarten this quarter through a number of projects. This included progressing the Stage 1 expansion of Merri Community Child Care & Kindergarten to the tender stage, progressing planning and design work for expansion at other sites, and reaching agreement with the State Government on a Building Blocks Partnership Agreement for funding of a number of projects in coming years.
- The redevelopment of John Hall Reserve Pavilion is on schedule and within adopted budget. Construction tender evaluation has been completed and will be presented to Council at the April 2024 meeting for appointment. Works are scheduled to commence early in the new financial year.
- Grant applications for the next round of funding have been submitted, with evaluation by the Reservoir Revitalisation Board pending. The project to beautify and improve the Cheddar Road median as well as the tree uplighting in Broadway were completed and acquitted.
- Council successfully advocated for the inclusion of a mandatory affordable housing contribution as part of the Preston Market controls introduced by the Minister for Planning.

At the end of Q3, the following three actions are reported as Delayed:

- Plans are in development with a view to finding a commercial operator for the Edwardes Lake Park boathouse. An existing restrictive covenant is a barrier for this venue to operate as a hospitality venue or cafe business. A process is underway to have this barrier removed.
- Council held two major engagement events this quarter to inform the development of an Integrated Families, Youth and Children Strategy. This work was slightly delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen.
- A community safety mapping report has been finalised and this data is informing the development of the community safety framework. This work was delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.

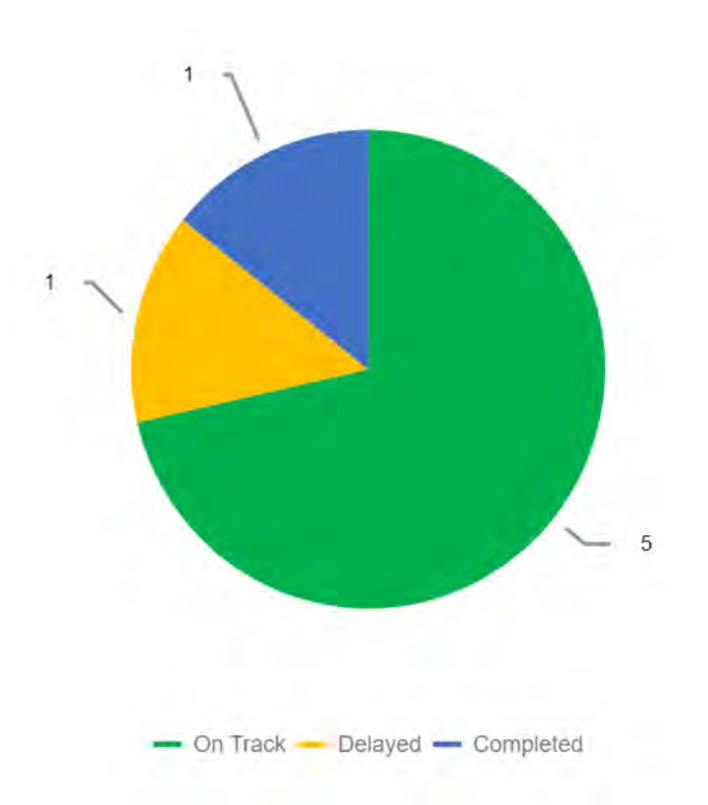
At the end of Q3, the following three actions are reported as Off Track:

- Roof renewal works at the Reservoir Leisure Centre were expected to be completed by end of Q3. Progress on the scoping study has been delayed due to the complexity of the matter, the need to determine how previous work fits with the new study as well as other unplanned work, and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.
- Detailed designs are nearing completion for constructing four priority road safety projects this year.
- Ways are being explored to obtain funding to initiate a Towards Zero approach to support people sleeping rough and experiencing homelessness. This work was delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.

Strategic Direction 3: Climate, Green and Sustainable

Strategic Direction three is focused on building and ensuring the community and Council owned infrastructure is resilient to climate change, increasing canopy cover over Council managed land, improving water quality and biodiversity across Darebin, improving air and water by reducing carbon emissions through renewable energy, and reusing waste to stimulate a local circular economy. This strategic direction has five strategic objectives spanning across four years with 7 actions to be delivered throughout 2023-24.

Figure Five: Q3 Status of Strategic Direction 3 actions



The 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan includes 7 actions that deliver Strategic Direction 3: Climate, Green and Sustainable.

Highlights this quarter include:

- 75 Special Charge solar systems have been approved with 58 further customers sent to the installer for quotes. And there have been 72 solar systems installed through Council's Bulk Buy contract.
- Council endorsed the draft Climate Emergency Plan, and the second round of community consultation was delivered during early March and April. The Plan will be finalised by the end of June 2024.
- Monthly water monitoring at Edwardes Lake has been completed for January and February, with additional weekly algal observations being made over the summer months.

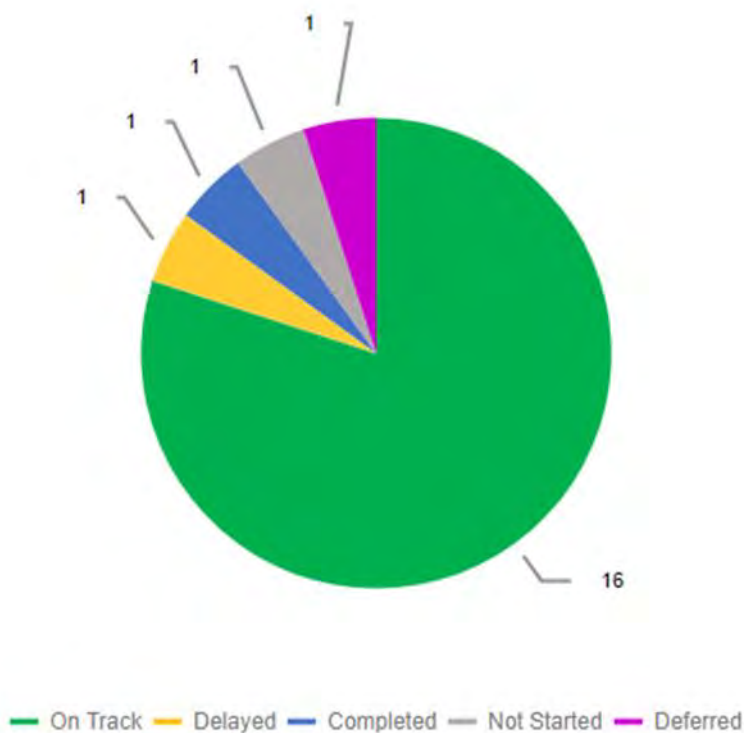
At the end of Q3, the following action was reported as Delayed:

- Progress in proceeding with the purchase of three parcels of land at Clements Reserve has been delayed due to contamination on a major parcel of land to be acquired by Council.

Strategic Direction 4: Responsible, Transparent and Responsive

Strategic direction four is focused on transparent and accountable decision making, ensuring that the organisation is financially responsible, managing resources effectively to ensure our current and future services meet the needs of our community, as well as planning and supporting our community through change. This strategic direction has five strategic objectives, spanning across four years with 20 actions to delivered throughout 2023-24.

Figure Six: Q3 status of Strategic Direction 4 actions



The 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan includes 20 actions that deliver Strategic Direction 4: Responsible, Transparent and Responsive.

Highlights this quarter include:

- Council has been consulting on a draft leasing and licensing policy and will consider community feedback and its next steps at a Council meeting in April/June 2024.
- Council have filled all positions to undertake the work in the service review program. The program for 23/24 includes 4 major reviews and a raft of smaller process review activities.
- Implementation of the Organisational Strategy continues with a successful organisational wide launch occurring in March 2023. Key initiatives in the strategy have commenced which will result in improved customer experience, improved stewardship and or improved employee experience.
- An Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Strategy, including the investment in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) work, was endorsed at the 25 March 2024 council meeting.

At the end of Q3, the following action was reported as Delayed:

- The development and implementation of an annual statement of advocacy priorities is underway. A first draft of advocacy priorities has been completed and feedback has been received. Consultation across the various Council business units has been completed.

At the end of Q3, the following action was reported as Delayed:

- The development and implementation of an annual statement of advocacy priorities is underway. A first draft of advocacy priorities has been completed and feedback has been received. Consultation across the various Council business units has been completed.

At the end of Q3, the following action was reported as Not Started:

- The project to develop detailed business requirements for systems replacement and test the open market for available options will commence after the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) benefit realisation plan is completed and the business case is approved.

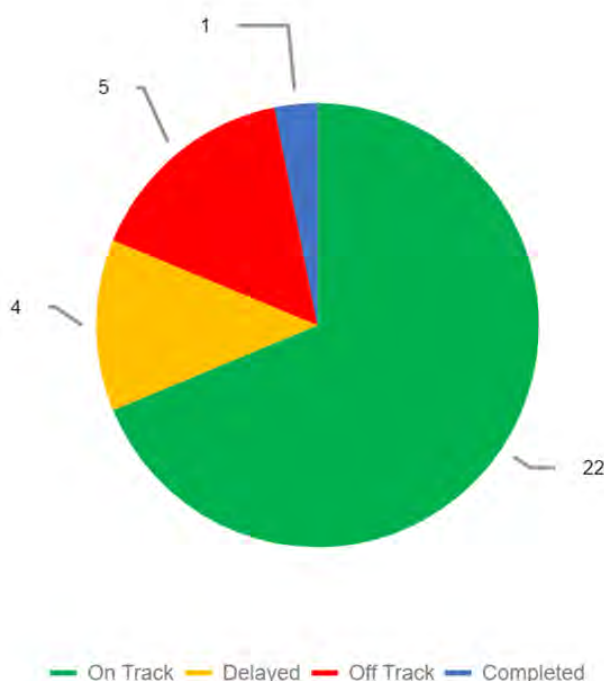
At the end of Q3, the following action was reported as Deferred:

- The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) asset management plan has been deferred to next year due to budget constraints.

Q2 2023-24 Health and Wellbeing Actions

There are 32 Health and Wellbeing actions in the 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan. As at the end of Q3, 31 March 2024, 3.1% (1 action) were Completed, 68.8% (22 actions) were On Track, 12.5% (4 actions) were Delayed, and 15.6% (5 actions) were Off Track.

Figure Seven: Q3 status of Health and Wellbeing Actions



Health and Wellbeing Highlights

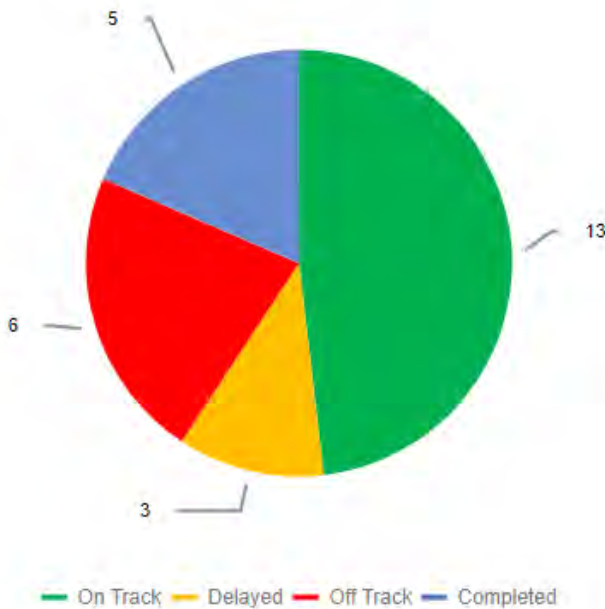
- There are currently 2,340 registered participants in 2023-24 annual sports clubs, and an additional 2,491 participants registered for the summer period. Of these summer participants, 1,052 are females, 195 are from First Nations backgrounds, 435 from low socio- economic backgrounds and 1,058 from CALD backgrounds. Winter registrations for clubs are currently open, with 6,843 already registered. Council continued to support a range of events to increase participation by communities at risk of exclusion, including Aboriginal Junior Football and Netball Carnival, Nepalese Cricket, Annual Women's Cricket Carnival conducted by North Metro Cricket Association, Somali Week, Samoan men's, and women's Cricket Carnival. A Get Active in Darebin Program promotes events like wheelchair dancing, soccer moms, multicultural footy, Rainbow Gym, Para Badminton, Soccer for women and gender diverse people, chair yoga and Rainbow pickleball.
- Council has been successful in obtaining a grant of \$212,500 through the Free From Violence Local Government Grant Program 2024-27. The funding will be used to employ a part-time Cultural Inclusion Primary Prevention Officer over 3 years. The Officer will lead the implementation of the LG Guide for Preventing Family Violence and All Forms of Violence Against Women and deliver a suite of family violence prevention training and resources. Centring the rights of culturally and racially marginalised people will be a key focus of this project.
- Council, in partnership with Banyule, Whittlesea and Nillumbik Councils have applied for VicHealth vaping prevention grant to encourage cessation of vaping and smoking among young people.
- Darebin has produced a series of heat health leaflets to help people stay safe in extreme heat events. The information is provided in the following languages: English, Arabic, Persian, Hindi, Greek, Mandarin, Italian, Vietnamese, Macedonian and Somali. The leaflets have been delivered to community service organisations and neighbourhood houses.
- Health and Wellbeing programs at EPCC saw the continuance of weekly social support groups including diabetes support and older adults social support, weekly exercise class for women and weekly digital support session and healthy cooking classes. Social Gardening at EPCC continues to bring in community seeking connection to both land and people for health and wellbeing.

Refer to **Appendix A** for more information.

10 Big Actions

There are a total of twenty-seven year three actions that contribute to the achievement of the 10 Big Actions. Of these, five (19%) are 'Completed', thirteen (48%) are 'On Track', three (11%) are 'Delayed', and six (22%) are 'Off Track'.

Figure Eight: Q3 status of actions contributing to the Big Actions



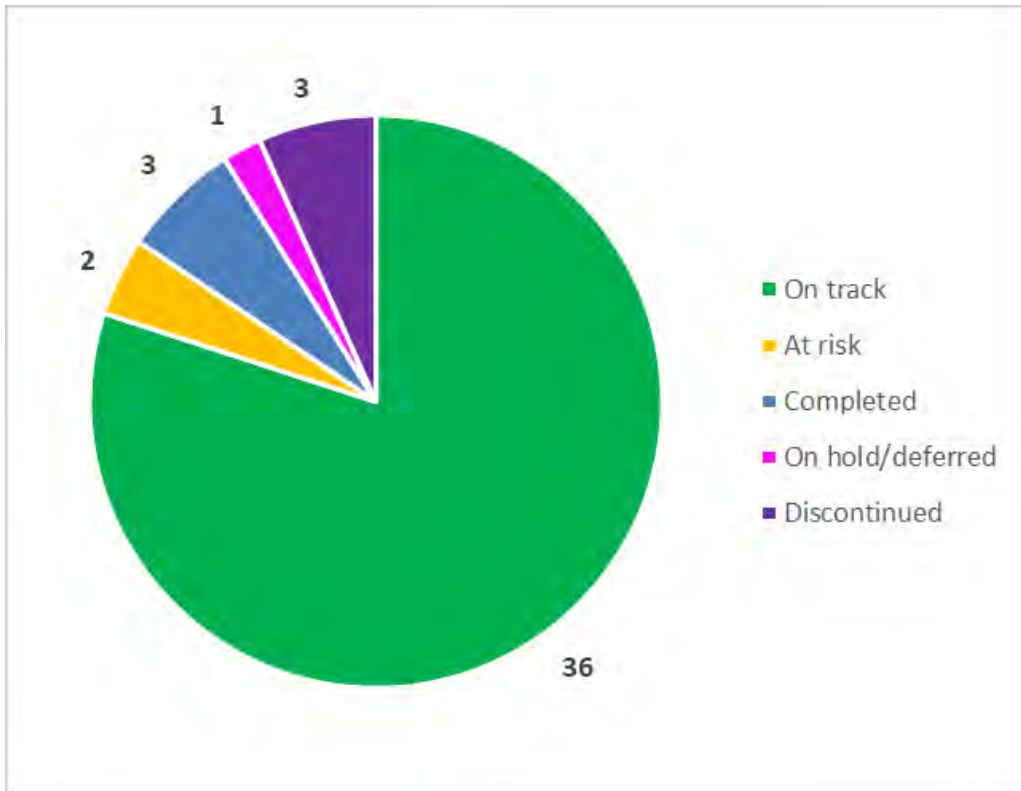
Refer to **Appendix A** for more information.

Project Performance update

Capital Works program is progressing well, and projects are continuously monitored to ensure their ongoing financial and strategic viability. ELT is updated monthly on individual projects including any additions or cancellations to planned program.

Revised budget forecast for the 2023-24 Capital Works Program is \$31.8M and year-to-date expenditure as of 31 March 2024 is \$15.03M. The portfolio consists of 44 programs of works with 143 individual projects. As of 31 March 2024, 36 projects were on track, 2 projects were at risk, 3 projects had been completed, two projects had been discontinued, and one project had deferred. Refer to the graph below for the overall breakdown.

Figure Nine: Q3 Status of Programs and Major Projects

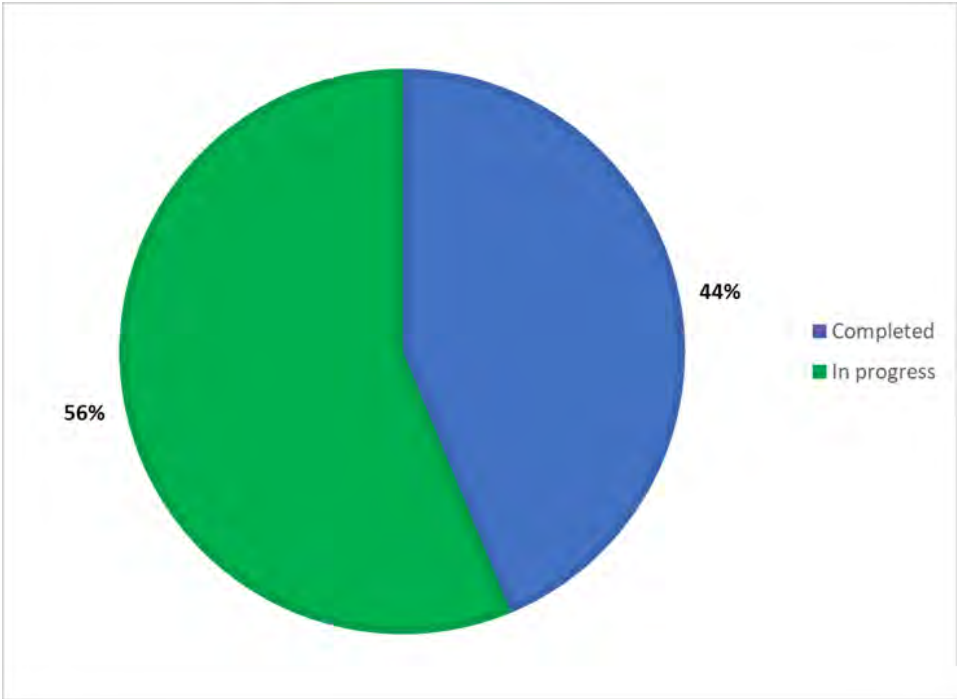


Refer to **Appendix A** for more information.

Council Resolution Status Report

There were 48 Council resolutions in the third quarter of the 2023-24 financial year, 21 have been completed and 27 resolutions are in progress. 11 of these were adopted as per the officer recommendation and 10 were adopted by Council with an alternate resolution. This includes 21 Notices of Motion, 3 Petitions, 2 Notices of Recission and 1 Urgent Business items. Of the 48 resolutions, 5 items were referred to Budget and 16 requested a further report or briefing.

Figure 10: Q3 Status of Council resolutions



Due to the complexity of some of the resolutions, they may span multiple years and can be superseded or updated as the initiatives progress.

The status of actions arising from Council resolutions in Q1, Q2 and Q3 is shown in the table below:

2023-24	In Progress	Completed	Total
Q1 (July – Sept 2023)	22	10	32
Q2 (Oct – Dec 2023)	30	15	45
Q3 (Jan-March 2024)	27	21	48
Total YTD	79	46	125

Actions arising from Council resolutions are considered unplanned work that requires reprioritisation of planned work, including delivering Council Plan Actions.

Financial Performance

The 2023-24 Quarter Three Financial Report in **Appendix B** provides an update of the financial results ending 31 March 2024.

To comply with *the Act*, the report includes the following comparisons for the six months ended 31 March 2024:

- A comparison of actual and budgeted results to date (s.97(2)(a))
- An explanation of any material variations (s.97(2)(b))
- Any other matters prescribed by the regulations (s.97(2)(c))

For the nine months ended 31 March 2024, Council has recorded an operating surplus of \$47.0 million, which is \$6.99 million ahead of the year-to-date budget. After eliminating capital and other items, the adjusted underlying surplus¹ is \$45.82 million, which is \$5.81 million favourable to the year-to-date budget.

The forecast Operating Surplus for the year ending 30 June 2024 is \$6.18 million, which is \$3.49 million unfavourable to the adopted budget. The forecast adjusted underlying deficit is \$4.63 million, which is \$3.75 million less than the budget surplus of \$8.37 million.

For the nine months ended 31 March 2024, Council has expended \$15.03 million on the capital works program, which is \$6.79 million behind of the year-to-date budget. The variance is due to delays in purchase of plant and equipment (fleet replacement program) and in infrastructure works.

The forecast capital performance for the year ending 30 June 2024 is expenditure of \$33.02 million, which is \$2.98 million more than budget which includes carry forwards from prior year of \$4.3M offset by delays in the purchase and remediation of Clements Reserve (\$1.6M).

The financial position as at 31 March 2024 shows a cash (\$39.40M) and investment balance (\$27.27M) of \$66.67 million, which is \$12.48 million ahead of budget. The variance is due mainly to timing differences in receipt of rates, fees and charges, capital grants, payments to employees and suppliers and a higher opening cash and investment position compared with budget.

The forecast Financial Position as at 30 June 2024 is a closing cash (\$34.2M) and investment (\$14.2M) position of \$48.36 million and net current assets of \$34.27 million.

Overall Performance Summary:

Performance measurement	Q3 summary commentary	Status
Operating Performance	Year-to-date operating surplus of \$47.0M is ahead YTD adopted budget of \$40.0M. Main drivers behind the YTD variance represents timing differences attributed to user fees & charges and statutory fees and a permanent variance arising in rates and charges, contributions other income and operating and capital	Stable

¹ An underlying surplus is the net surplus for the year adjusted for non-recurrent capital grants and contributions. It is an accepted measure of financial sustainability as it is not impacted by non-recurring or once-off items of revenue and expenses that can often mask the operating results.

Performance measurement	Q3 summary commentary	Status
	grant funding.	
Capital Performance	Year-to-date capital expenditure of \$15.03M is behind the YTD adopted budget of \$21.82M. Main drivers behind the YTD variance represents timing differences attributed to building, plant, machinery and equipment roads, footpaths & cycleways and drainage.	Stable
Financial Performance	Year-to-date cash (\$39.40M) and investment (\$27.27M) balance of \$66.67M is ahead of the YTD adopted budget of \$54.19M. Restricted cash and intended obligation (\$27.02M). YTD net current assets of \$85.66M is ahead of the YTD adopted budget of \$59.59M.	Stable

A) Budget performance

1.1 Operating performance

Performance for the first nine months of the financial year is favourable to YTD budget by \$6.99m and the forecast operating performance for the full 2023-24 financial year is expected to be \$3.49m less than budget.

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Var \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Operating					
Revenue	185,738	189,669	3,931	205,838	205,595
Expenditure	(145,725)	(142,671)	3,054	(196,178)	(199,420)
Surplus (deficit)	40,013	46,998	6,985	9,660	6,175
Capital & other					
Revenue / grants	0	(1,175)	(1,175)	(1,286)	(1,547)
Adjusted underlying surplus/(deficit)	40,013	45,823	5,810	8,374	4,628

For the nine months ended 31 March 2024, Council has recorded an operating surplus of \$47.0 million, which is \$6.99 million ahead of the year-to-date budget. After eliminating capital and other items, the adjusted underlying surplus² is \$45.82 million, which is \$5.81 million favourable to the year-to-date budget.

Total expenditure year-to-date is favourable by \$3.06M and total revenue year-to-date is favourable by \$3.93 million. The main items contributing to this favourable variance are lower expenditure for materials and services and higher income than budgeted from operating and capital grants.

² An underlying surplus is the net surplus for the year adjusted for non-recurrent capital grants and contributions. It is an accepted measure of financial sustainability as it is not impacted by non-recurring or once-off items of revenue and expenses that can often mask the operating results.

Revenue from Rates and charges are favourable YTD due to:

- 1) Higher waste charges primarily due to additional properties compared to the budget.
- 2) Other favourable variances include higher than budgeted revenue from operating grants due to the receipt of 86 Festival and timing of payment of Financial Assistance Grant in 2022-23 budgeted in 2023-24.
- 3) Favourable investment earnings with movement in interest rates; offset by
- 4) lower than budgeted revenue from traffic enforcement fines.

The forecast Operating Surplus for the year ending 30 June 2024 is \$6.18 million, which is \$3.49 million unfavourable to the adopted budget. The forecast adjusted underlying deficit is \$4.63 million, which is \$3.75 million less than the budget surplus of \$8.37 million.

The variance of \$3.49M between forecast and budget is primarily due to the following:

- 1) \$2.8M: Expenditures relating to programs and projects unspent from prior year.
- 2) \$0.6M: net unfavourable variance within salaries primarily lower than budgeted capitalized salaries.

1.2 Capital performance

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Var \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Property	6,506	6,827	(321)	5,950	7,139
Plant & equipment	4,272	3,016	1,256	5,200	5,836
Infrastructure	11,038	5,186	5,852	18,882	20,041
Total capital works	21,816	15,029	6,787	30,032	33,016

For the nine months ended 31 March 2024, Council has expended \$15.03 million on the capital works program, which is \$6.79 million behind of the year-to-date budget. The variance is due to delays in purchase of plant and equipment (fleet replacement program) and in infrastructure works.

The forecast capital performance for the year ending 30 June 2024 is expenditure of \$33.02 million, which is \$2.98 million more than budget which includes carry forwards from prior year of \$4.3M offset by delays in the purchase and remediation of Clements Reserve (\$1.6M).

1.3 Financial Position

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Var \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Audited 2023 \$'000
Cash and investments	54,192	66,673	12,481	51,441	48,356	55,967
Net current assets	59,591	85,662	26,071	25,677	34,271	36,969
Net assets and total equity	1,694,983	1,711,500	16,517	1,664,631	1,670,678	1,664,503

The financial position as at 31 March 2024 shows a cash (\$39.40M) and investment balance (\$27.27M) of \$66.67 million, which is \$12.48 million ahead of budget. The variance is due mainly to timing differences in receipt of rates, fees and charges, capital grants, payments to employees and suppliers and a higher opening cash and investment position compared with budget.

The cash and investment balance of \$66.67 million was sufficient to meet restricted cash and intended allocation obligations of \$27.03 million at the end of March³.

The Net Current Asset YTD is \$85.66 million, which is \$26.07 million favourable to budget, primarily due to higher opening cash position and timing of rate receivables.

The net asset position of \$1.71 billion is \$16.51 million favourable to budget. This is mainly due to the prior year revaluation increment of investment properties not reflected in the adopted budget due to timing of year-end adjustments.

The forecast Financial Position as at 30 June 2024 is a closing cash (\$34.2M) and investment (\$14.2M) position of \$48.36 million and net current assets of \$34.27 million.

The forecast closing cash balance of \$34.2M represents a net decrease in cash of \$7.2M out of a \$41.8M opening cash position due to timing of the spend for capital works investment carry forwards and unspent grants programs.

1.4 3rd Quarter Budget Review (Q3 Forecast)

The 3rd Quarter budget review indicate a \$3.49M net unfavourable result compared to adopted budget and \$2.98M more than Council's adopted capital works program.

Operating Performance: Overall unfavourable result to financial forecast to the value of \$3.49M. Main drivers are:

Operating Revenue (\$242k Unfavourable Net):

- Interest on Investments: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value of **\$1.9M** – favourable external market conditions.
- Contribution Income: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$1.3M** - Mainly due better than expected Developer Contribution Plan performance (\$500k) and unbudgeted income (\$840k) relating to LXP contribution towards the various level crossing removal projects delivered. This is fully offset by an increase in doubtful debts as noted below.
- Eighty-Six Festival: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$788K** – Grant income received not budgeted in current year.

³ Restricted cash is the amount of cash holdings Council requires to meet external restrictions such as trust funds, statutory reserves and cash for intended allocations, such as cash held to fund future capital works.

- Waste Charge: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$400k** – Additional properties bought online for rating purposes.
- Capital Grant Funding: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$400k** – Grant funding received not budgeted relating to Preston City Oval project.
- Supplementary Rate Income: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$400k** - Higher than expected No. of properties coming online for rating purposes throughout the year.
- Reservoir Leisure Centre User Fees & Charges Income: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$336K** - Better than expected demand & financial performance at the leisure centre.
- Aged Care Service Delivery: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value of **\$1.8M** – Due to non-performance against funding targets.
- Open Space Levy (OSL): Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value of **\$1.5M** – Due to continued downturn in construction industry and timing of when levies are due.
- Darebin Resource Recovery Centre: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY income targets to value of **\$1M** - Lower than budgeted volumes through the gate house due to fees & charges price setting partially offset by reduction in contract expenses as noted below.
- Land Sales: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value of **\$317k** – Based on updated sales information.
- Solar Saver Program Income: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value **\$890K** - Expecting less installs that originally planned. Offset by lower contract related expenditure.

Operating Expenditure (**\$3.2M unfavourable Net**):

- Solar Saver Program: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value **\$890K** - Expecting less installs that originally planned. Offset by lower income.
- Darebin Resource Recovery Centre: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$400K** – Reduced contract expenditure due to lower than budgeted demand on resource recovery services due to fees & charges price setting.
- Insurances: Industrial Special Risk & Motor Vehicle insurance expenses to value of **\$306k** due to annual premiums being less than originally budgeted.
- Operating Project – Open Space Amendment: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$163K** – Project delayed and expected to be delivered next year.
- ERP system support contract: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$180K** - New support contract costs lower than previous contract.
- Property & Asset Strategy legal expense: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$150K** Lower than expected legal expenses.
- Community Grant Program: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$122K** – Reduced program mainly in the Sports & Leisure grant program.
- Consultant expense: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$208K** - Lower than expected consultancy related expenses within People & Culture & City Development Depts.
- Budget Carry Forwards and Unspent Grants from prior year: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$2.8M**. *Funded from prior year budget surplus. No impact to underlying cash result.*

- Salary costs: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value **\$600K** – mainly due to under budgeted salaries within Family, Youth and Children and Recreation and Library departments resulting from data anomalies within establishment data utilised to develop original labour budgets. Significant work into cleansing the data in preparation for FY 2024-25 labour budgets has been undertaken.
- Provision for Doubtful Debts: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value **\$1.3M** – Mainly due LXP contribution towards the various level crossing removal projects undertaken over the past 6 years. Currently in negotiations with LXP, uncertain if Council will receive 100% of monies owed. Offset by invoice raise to recognise debt.
- Property Management: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$473K** – Write-off of outstanding rental income owed to Council by iceHQ – Funded through the balance sheet with no impact to underlying cash.
- Climate Emergency – Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$300K** – Payment to City of Glen Ira in support of VECO program – Funded from Council reserves.
- Governance - Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$200k** - Unbudgeted allocation of legal costs to mitigate the impact of Councillor nominations / urgent items and review of Governance rules. Item is not currently funded.

Capital Works Program: Overall unfavourable result to the value of **\$3.0M**. Main drivers:

- Unfavourable net budget carry forwards from previous FY **\$4.29 million**.
- Unfavourable net budget adjustment for Preston Oval cricket nets **\$0.48 million**.
- Unfavourable: Other minor adjustments to EOY forecast across the Capital Works Program **\$0.34 million**.
- Favourable for proposed land purchase at Clements Reserve. Purchase from Department of Transport and Planning will be executed in 2024-25. Purchase was carried over from previous FY **\$1.6 million**.
- Favourable Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre project due to overspends in the previous year as a result of early completion. Overall project on budget - timing **\$0.46 million**.

Procurement update

Council's Social and Sustainable Procurement (S&SP) Policy Principles continue to drive:

- Value for money is more than price paid.
- More opportunities for the local business community, particularly our social enterprises, to increase their capacity and capability to become suppliers to Council.
- Increased opportunities for local businesses and social enterprises to create capacity for local job seekers, especially those who are marginalised, disadvantaged and or under-represented in the work force.
- Working to reduce our negative impact on the environment, support our climate emergency goals and move towards our aim of carbon neutral through purchasing behaviours.
- Lead procurement governance practices of integrity, probity and accountability while building organisational capability and expertise.
- Achieving equity, inclusion, and diversity outcomes.

Corporate Social Responsibility

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- Value for money is more than price paid.
- More opportunities for the local business community, in particular our social enterprises, to increase their capacity and capability to become suppliers to Council.
- Increased opportunities for local businesses and social enterprises to create capacity for local job seekers, especially those who are marginalised, disadvantaged and under-represented in the work force.
- Working to reduce our negative impact on the environment, support our climate emergency goals and move towards our aim of carbon neutral through purchasing behaviours.
- Lead procurement governance practices of integrity, probity and accountability while building organisational capability and expertise.
- Achieving equity, inclusion, and diversity outcomes.

Social & Sustainable results to date

The table below provides information of supplier and contract activities *for Q3 period January to March 2024*, which address our S&SP policy objectives in delivering local, social and sustainable benefits.

2. Local Economy

Supplier payments – local businesses identified by postcode within Darebin (includes contracted and adhoc payments)						
Q3 Results Supplier payments	Transacted all Suppliers	Transacted Local Suppliers	%Transacted Suppliers	\$Total aggregated payments all Suppliers	\$Local Suppliers aggregated payments	YTD Local Suppliers payments
Payment to suppliers (excludes statutory payments)	737	172	30%	\$12.98M	\$1.00M	8%
FY23/24YTD	2300	568	25%	\$52.39M	\$7.44M	14%
Expenditure will continue to be monitored. Practices include sourcing and inviting local suppliers to register and provide quotes and pricing.						
Contracts awarded by Category – formal contracts ranging from one to five year term.						
Q3 Results Awarded by Category	No of contracts awarded	No of contracted awarded locally	\$Total aggregated contract sum	Contract sum awarded locally	% \$awarded locally	YTD Local Aggregated
Works	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services	1	-	\$615k	-	-	-
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Information Tech	1	-	\$105k	-	-	-
Goods & Plant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	-	\$720k	-	-	-
Contract awarding will continue to move due to timing of retiring, new or renewal of capital and operational needs. Local businesses may not always be able to fulfill our requirements thus needing to source outside of Darebin. The consequences are less funds going back into the community. Social objectives is a mandatory 25% weighted criteria priority and continue to be promoted in improving local economy and achieving social objectives. Continued education of educate staff, promoting local business registration and sourcing activities continues to target local businesses.						

3. Social Opportunities –resulting from contracting.

Q3 Results S&SP Objective	Awarded that identify supporting people	Contract total value	Aligned benefits (% or actual no).
Indigenous & Torres Strait staff	1	\$615k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of one first nations person part of the contract delivery.
Disadvantaged & local apprentices or trainees	1	\$615k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prensa actively seeks opportunities to employ individuals facing disadvantage, collaborating with organizations like Career Seekers. This initiative has successfully provided employment opportunities to refugees and people seeking asylum. • Employ 4 disadvantaged 10% of their overall employees. Prensa employ 2 disadvantaged 0.8% of their overall employees.
Evidence of Local (15-25yo) Young 10% dividend	1	\$615k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ 10 young between the age of 16 to 24, 25% of their overall employees. Prensa employs 90 young between the age of 16 to 24, 34.6% of their overall employees.
Gender Equity	2	\$720	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace Diversity Procedure that advocates for gender equity and workplace equality. • 62% of overall employees.
Social or Charitable Enterprises engaged through contracting	1	\$615k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prensa Partners with Melbourne Indigenous Transition School. Supporting Indigenous students from North Queensland to study in Melbourne.

Our Social procurement ensures that purchasing decisions always include equity, inclusion and diversity that will collectively achieve a more holistic community result, delivering maximum value for our community. Results continue to move as tendering dependencies are driven by new or renewing procurement events.

Mandatory selection criteria and overall weighting of 25% is applied to:

- Local businesses at 5%
- Social at 5%
- Sustainability at 5% and
- Remaining 10% aligned to either category according to the procurement type or activity.

4. Sustainability

Q3 Results S&SP Objective	No. contracts awarded that address environmental sustainable procurement objectives
Environmental policies and initiatives in reducing environmental impacts	2 no. contracts Supplier subscribes to external industry bodies for updates on best practices and legislative changes, implemented an AlphaTracker system resulting in an 80% reduction in paper usage. Both actively engage in carpooling initiatives.
Environmental Management System	

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

The Q3 2023-24 Financial Report is scheduled to be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 19 June 2024.

Community Engagement

The preparation of the 2023-24 Q3 Performance Report was supported by and involved detailed discussions with all senior leaders, project managers and relevant responsible officers.

The preparation of the Q3 Procurement Update was supported by and involved detailed discussions with all senior leaders, project managers and relevant responsible officers.

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.
- (g) the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;

Public Transparency Principles

- (b) Council information must be publicly available unless (i) the information is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act; or (ii) public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;

Strategic Planning Principles

- (e) strategic planning must provide for ongoing monitoring of progress and regular reviews to identify and address changing circumstances;

Service Performance Principles

- (d) a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring;

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

No Environmental Sustainability Considerations for the 2023-24 Q3 Performance Report.

Procurement activities detail specific factors considered in all purchasing decisions including re-usable, recycled, low and energy efficient initiatives and climate emergency objectives in reducing CO2 emissions. The Q3 period of the 2023-24FY has resulted in 2 contracts which address Councils sustainable objectives by suppliers evidencing their policies, initiatives, and systems.

Suppliers have demonstrated initiatives and outcomes which actively reduce the reliance of fossil fuels, promote and market recycled materials, use of 100% recycled post consumers and FSC accredited paper products, and adhere to Darebin Council's Sustainable Design (ESD) policy.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

The 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan applies several Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations.

In line with Darebin's Social and Sustainable Procurement policy, procurement evaluation criteria give weighting to social initiatives and practices.

Tenderers are assessed in how their business activities demonstrated a commitment to addressing disadvantaged and improving equity to deliver social value and positive social outcomes, including a commitment to employment of youth and Aboriginal people. Council continues to award contracts that employ indigenous staff or sub-contractors, young local youth students and trainees living locally and gender equity policies with a high percentage of gender diverse workforce.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

The 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan applies several Economic Development and Cultural Considerations.

Evaluation criteria incorporated into procurement activities gave weight to Darebin based businesses. In addition, businesses that could demonstrate a local economic contribution through regular purchasing from local traders or the employment of local people were viewed favourably in line with evaluation criteria. Tendering activities includes a strong focus on employing local people, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from a CALD background, young people, those experiencing disadvantage and people with a disability whilst keeping a gender inclusive lens.

The Q3 period of the FY2023-24 results show 1 awarded contract, delivering long term economic benefits for the local community, as demonstrated in actual aggregated local business payments to date.

Operational Impacts

- Operational impacts are considered in delivering the Q3 Council Plan Action Plan.
- Operational impacts are considered in delivering the 2023-24 procurement activities.

Legal and Risk Implications

The reporting of progress toward the Council Plan Action Plan fulfils Council's legislative obligations in accordance with the principles of the *Local Government Act 2020* and its accountability to the community.



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

2023-24 Q3 Performance Report will be accessible to the community via the Darebin website and social media.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 2041 Darebin Community Vision
- Revised 2021-25 Council Plan (incorporating Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan)
- 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan
- Annual Budget 2023-24
- Financial Plan 2023-24 to 2032-33
- *Local Government Act 2020*
- Social and Sustainability Procurement Policy December 2021
- 10-year Capital Works Plan

Attachments

- Attachment A - Q3 2023-24 Performance Report (**Appendix A**) [↓](#) 
- Attachment B - Financial Report 9 months ended 31 March 2024 (**Appendix B**) [↓](#) 

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLAN 2022-2023 PROGRESS REPORT Q3



the place
to live



INTRODUCTION

Welcome

Guiding the way Council delivers its services and plans for the future is the 2021–25 Council Plan. This plan was developed following the most recent election and revised in 2023-24. The plan outlines the objectives and aims of Council over its four-year term. Development of the plan included significant community consultation at community forums and social media.

Council has committed to four directions that will guide our actions and resources for a period of four years:

1. Vibrant, Respectful and Connected – making sure our community is one where all our people are valued, and no one is left behind
2. Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing – building on Darebin’s strengths in relation to business, services and industry, and creating a city where all services and facilities to support a balanced, healthy life are easily accessible to our residents
3. Climate, Green and Sustainable – ensuring Darebin is a leader in responding to the climate emergency, and our natural environment is protected and enhanced
4. Responsible, Transparent and Responsive – recognising we are here to serve our community, in all its diversity, and that we govern transparently and accountably.

For more detail on the Council Plan, go to www.darebin.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Council-structure-and-performance/Council-plan

Supporting the Council Plan is an annual Action Plan which sets out our work for the financial year to ensure that the objectives of the Council Plan are implemented.

We invite you to read on to see what we’ve done to implement the Council Plan in the third quarter of the 2023-24 financial year.

INTRODUCTION

How to Read This Report

This document outlines our progress in completing the 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan.

There are four sections to this report:

Section one provides an overview of the 10 Big Action themes.

Section two provides the quarter three action commentary and progress status for the 80 actions from the 2023-24 Council Plan Action Plan. The actions are arranged by Council Plan strategic direction/objective and have commentary that outlines the progress against that action as at 31 March 2024.

Section three is the Capital Works Portfolio Status Report for Quarter Three which provides the status and progress of all programs and major projects.

Section four is the status of Council Resolutions report which provides a summary of the organisation's progress in implementing Council's decisions for the 2023-24 financial year.

Darebin at a Glance

The City of Darebin is located between five and fifteen kilometres north of Melbourne's central business district.

It has been home to the Wurundjeri people for many thousands of years.

Our city covers 53 square kilometres of land stretching from the inner northern suburbs of Northcote and Fairfield to Reservoir and Bundoora.

In 2023, our city's estimated population was 155,683 people, and this is forecast to increase to 215,360 by 2041.

We are home to one of Victoria's largest and most diverse communities in the realms of culture, language, religion, socioeconomic background, employment status, occupation and housing need. In 2021, 46,688 of our residents were born overseas; 18 per cent had arrived in Australia in the five years prior.

We have a diverse mix of properties – with 68,081 residential properties, 4,661 business properties and 531 mixed-use properties. Our largest industries are education and training, retail, manufacturing, health care and social assistance.

As a Council, we are responsible for a large part of our city's infrastructure and natural habitat. We own, manage, or maintain 333 buildings, 790 hectares of open space, 27 sports reserves, seven natural reserves, 57 playing fields/sports grounds, 130 playgrounds, 29 wetlands, 84,300 trees, 530 km of roads, 30 km of shared paths, 1,045 km of sealed footpaths, 66 road and foot bridges, 628 km of stormwater pipes, 23,194 stormwater pits, and 30 gross pollutant traps (structures that trap solid waste such as litter).

While our city's social and economic prosperity is changing, with more of our residents earning higher incomes, we still have many of our residents experiencing disadvantage.

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) score ranks areas based on indicators that contribute to disadvantage (including unemployment and income). In 2021, Darebin's SEIFA disadvantage score was 1018, which is the same as for Greater Melbourne.

In November 2023, our job seeker rate was 4.8 per cent. This is somewhat higher than the unemployment rate for Greater Melbourne (4.1 per cent), and Victoria overall (4.5 per cent).

10 BIG ACTIONS

Big Action Number	Council Plan Strategic Action Numbers	Big Action Description
BA1	(None in 2023-24)	Build Infrastructure for the future by developing Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, redeveloping BT Connor Pavilion in Reservoir, and building Darebin Intercultural Centre in Preston.
BA2	2-2 2-3 2-6	Plan infrastructure for decades to come by redeveloping Reservoir Leisure Centre, activating Edwardes Lake Boat House in Reservoir, building new kindergarten facilities, and undertaking a feasibility study for a Global Learning Hub in Preston.
BA3	2-15 2-16 3-1 3-2 3-18	Continue to lead with our response to the climate emergency by updating our Climate Emergency Plan to set out how to best achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions for Darebin by 2030, offering solar installations and energy retrofits to pensioners and vulnerable communities, delivering new business and community power purchase partnerships, supporting a shift to a circular economy and programs aimed to improve safety for people cycling, walking and wheeling, increasing active travel which will also reduce transport emissions.
BA4	1-1 1-2 1-3 1-4	Deepen our commitment to truth and justice for First Nations communities in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples who live and work in Darebin.
BA5	2-40	Support vulnerable members of our community by providing support with COVID-19 recovery, expanding our Homelessness Assertive Outreach program, and supporting community-led programs in East Reservoir and East Preston, to achieve greater physical and mental health, and wellbeing for all.


10 BIG ACTIONS


Big Action Number	Council Plan Strategic Action Numbers	Big Action Description
BA6	2-49 2-52	Champion local business and creative industries by providing support with COVID-19 recovery, facilitating the establishment of a Darebin Chamber of Commerce, and improving the lighting and safety of our retail precincts and business activity centres.
BA7	1-6 1-7 1-10 1-12 1-13 1-14 1-19 1-35	Build a more inclusive community for all by supporting Darebin's multicultural communities, reducing racism and discrimination, increasing access to our Council's services and sporting assets by groups who are under-represented, developing our Disability Action Plan, to improve access for all to our services and infrastructure, and achieving Rainbow Tick accreditation (best practice in LGBTQIA+ inclusion) for our services and activities.
BA8	2-33 2-62	Improve the quality of development and work to protect all that we love about Darebin by pursuing protections for Preston Market, conducting a Planning Scheme review informed by in-depth community consultation, and reviewing to amend our Parking Permit Policy.
BA9	3-11	Protect our natural environment and biodiversity by significantly improving water quality in Edwardes Lake, increasing tree canopy coverage in our parks, residential areas and retail precincts, and enhancing understorey planting.
BA10	1-20 2-6	Expand our delivery of quality universal services across the lifespan by providing more three-year old kindergarten places, continuing to deliver our flagship Age Friendly Darebin Project, expanding aged care direct services, and registering to become a home care package provider.




Council Plan

1.0: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

1.1: We will prioritise and respect the voices and aspirations of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin



H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-1] In consultation with the Traditional Owners, Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities develop and commence implementation of a three-year Aboriginal Action Plan Key elements of this Plan, in addition to items mentioned in the Council Plan, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop partnerships with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to enhance our work towards mutual goals A meaningful and comprehensive response to the six key requests of DAAC's Our Black Lives Matter statement to Council Continue to implement and expand our Aboriginal Employment Strategy and Aboriginal Action Plan Begin discussions with Traditional Owners to understand the feasibility and resources required for Council to hand back land and responsibility for land management 	In consultation with the Traditional Owners, Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities develop and commence implementation of a three-year Aboriginal Action Plan. Key elements of this Plan, in addition to items mentioned in the Council Plan, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop partnerships with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to enhance our work towards mutual goals A meaningful and comprehensive response to the six key requests of DAAC's Our Black Lives Matter statement to Council Continue to implement and expand our Aboriginal Employment Strategy and Aboriginal Action Plan Begin discussions with Traditional 	Work continues on the development of the draft Aboriginal Action Plan. Consultation with members of the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee is ongoing. This work continued to be delayed given other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.		Off Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
		Owners to understand the feasibility and resources required for Council to hand back land and responsibility for land management			
	[1-2] Progress a partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and continue to progress “decolonising” Bundoora Park	Progress a partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and continue to progress “decolonising” Bundoora Park	The Wurundjeri Garden is progressing. Work on the partnership will commence with the new CEO at Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. This work continued to be delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.		Off Track
	[1-3] Deliver initiatives that support truth telling, and provide opportunities for culturally diverse communities, and our broader Darebin community, to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history	Deliver initiatives that support truth telling, and provide opportunities for culturally diverse communities, and our broader Darebin community, to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history	The second stage truth telling space at Bundoora Farm is progressing. This work will continue and will support the 7th annual School Yarning Conference scheduled for late 2024.		On Track
	[1-4] Increase support to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations by incorporating a specific funding stream into our Community Grants Program	Establish an appropriate grant stream, subject to guidance from the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee	A new grant stream was created after consultation with Aboriginal Organisations and Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee in 2023. This grant round was launched on March 4 and closes on April 30 2024. https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Darebin-grants/Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Grants		Completed

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

1.2: We will develop partnerships with organisations from across our city, to value and include people from multicultural and diverse backgrounds

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-6] Support and promote a significant increase in participation in Darebin's sports clubs, in particular, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, girls, people of all abilities, and multicultural and diverse communities	Support and promote a significant increase in participation in Darebin's sports clubs, in particular, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, girls, people of all abilities, and multicultural and diverse communities	<p>There are currently 2,340 registered participants in 2023-24 annual sports clubs, and an additional 2,491 participants registered for the summer period. Of these summer participants, 1,052 are females, 195 are from First Nations backgrounds, 435 from low socio- economic backgrounds and 1,058 from CALD backgrounds. Winter registrations for clubs are currently open, with 6,843 already registered.</p> <p>Council is supporting a range of events to increase participation by communities at risk of exclusion, including Aboriginal Junior Football and Netball Carnival, Nepalese Cricket, Annual Women's Cricket Carnival conducted by North Metro Cricket Association, Somali Week, Samoan men's and women's Cricket Carnival. A Get Active in Darebin Program promotes events like wheelchair dancing, soccer moms, multicultural footy, Rainbow Gym, Para Badminton, Soccer for women and gender diverse people, chair yoga and Rainbow pickleball.</p>		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started


H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-7] Encourage and reward sporting and leisure groups/sporting teams that use Council's recreation spaces, by reducing user fees to those that demonstrate inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, women, girls, people of all abilities, and multicultural and diverse communities	Encourage and reward sporting and leisure groups/sporting teams that use Council's recreation spaces, by reducing user fees to those that demonstrate inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, women, girls, people of all abilities, and multicultural and diverse communities	Formal evaluation of the Council's Performance Subsidy Program has started. Benchmarking with other councils has been completed and all clubs are being surveyed for their feedback at present. Current subsidy program is underway for Summer and Annual clubs.		On Track
	[1-9] Partner with Bowel Cancer Screening, Cancer Council Victoria and local community organisations to increase awareness of bowel cancer and improve community understanding, including for Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, of the benefits of screening, with a particular focus on underrepresented groups undertaking bowel cancer screening	Partner with Bowel Cancer Screening, Cancer Council Victoria and local community organisations to increase awareness of bowel cancer and improve community understanding, including for Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, of the benefits of screening, with a particular focus on underrepresented groups undertaking bowel cancer screening	Council in partnership with Cancer Council delivered key messages to raise awareness of Bowel Cancer in January 2024 via social media.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

1.3: We will help to build an inclusive and empowered community, where social cohesion and community harmony are fostered

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-10] Develop the Disability Action Plan to improve access to services and infrastructure for our residents and visitors	Develop an implementation plan for the Disability Action Plan to improve access to services and infrastructure for our residents and visitors	The Disability Action Plan 2023 - 2025 continues to be implemented by teams from across the organisation. This year there is a strong focus on accessible and inclusive communications. Some excellent access and inclusion outcomes have recently been achieved including the accessible programming of the Spring Fuse Festival, the creation of a carers parking permit, and a number of disability events taking place in Darebin Libraries. The delivery of activities for community and staff to celebrate the International Day of People with Disability is progressing well, with the first event to be delivered on March 25 by the High Street Bells Choir, and a second event to be delivered by the Northern Autism Network currently in development.		On Track
	[1-12] Develop and deliver a program to support middle years students (later primary school, and early secondary school-aged) from Darebin schools to connect with each other, and take action on systemic racism issues together, to support student voices	Evaluate the completed pilot program to support middle years students to connect with each other, and take action on systemic racism issues together, to support student voices and provide findings to Department of Education and Training for consideration in any future programs they may choose to run	Feedback from participants has been received from the Council-led inter-racism workshop. A draft report has been finalised and will be presented to the Department of Education and Training for consideration.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-13] Develop a Cultural Diversity Action Plan to improve access, participation and engagement of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to venues and encourage participation in Council services where participation is low • Work with our sporting and recreation clubs to increase participation • Identify creative opportunities to reflect Darebin's different cultures in the built environment across our city • Work with our local organisations to create an active Community Leader network comprising community leaders from our culturally diverse communities 	Develop a Cultural Diversity Action Plan to improve access, participation and engagement of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to venues and encourage participation in Council services where participation is low • Work with our sporting and recreation clubs to increase participation • Identify creative opportunities to reflect Darebin's different cultures in the built environment across our city • Work with our local organisations to create an active Community Leader network comprising community leaders from our culturally diverse communities 	In this quarter, the research phase of the Cultural Diversity Action Plan focused on collating service level data and an assessment of options for consideration. This has involved gathering data from multiple sources and internal stakeholder consultation. During the next quarter, work will continue to assess those options, while preparing for conversations with communities of interest through a community engagement plan. In addition, the next workshop to progress plan development with Councillors will be delivered. This work continued to be delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.		Off Track



● Completed
 ● On Track
 ● Delayed
 ● Off Track
 ● Not Started

1.4: We will embrace diversity and ensure everyone is included in our society, and no one is left behind - by combating discrimination, and championing equity, inclusivity and diversity

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-14] Continue to become more LGBTIQ+ inclusive across Council's services and activities including work towards Rainbow Tick accreditation for several services	Continue to become more LGBTIQ+ inclusive across Council's services and activities including work towards Rainbow Tick accreditation for several services	Preparation for Rainbow Tick Accreditation assessment continues and action plans for in-scope teams are progressing. Baseline training continues to be rolled out for staff. Teams continue to work on each of the Rainbow Tick Standards. This work was delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.		Delayed
	[1-19] Develop a Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan to support the inclusion, rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ communities and work to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia	Develop a Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan to support the inclusion, rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ communities and work to combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia	An extended phase of community engagement was undertaken between January and the end of March which enabled Council to engage during the Midsumma Festival. Findings from the consultation will inform the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan. The draft Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan will be developed and presented to Council for endorsement in the first quarter of FY2024-25. This work was delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.		Delayed




 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

1.5: We will increase social connection to reduce isolation and loneliness, and support positive mental health

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-20] Deliver Age Friendly Darebin and implement aged care reforms	Deliver Age Friendly Darebin and implement aged care reforms	Officers continued to progress work to prepare Council services for aged care reforms. An Age Friendly Darebin (AFD) Project Plan has been developed.		On Track
	[1-22] Review opportunities through Council services, and in partnership with others, to address the digital divide for public housing and high-risk accommodation residents, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and other excluded groups	Review opportunities through Council services, and in partnership with others, to address the digital divide for public housing and high-risk accommodation residents, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and other excluded groups	Weekly drop-in digital support started in Q3 at the East Preston Community Centre. Residents can drop in every Tuesday and receive free one-on-one digital support to discuss their individual digital needs. Community support requests have ranged from searching the internet, setting up email or signing up to social media to chat with friends and family. Planning has started for a six-week digital safety course in Q4. Outreach will continue for public housing residents and CALD community to attend the drop-in support sessions and digital safety course. Both individual digital support and cyber safety can support residents to access information, communicate with friends and family, secure employment and health & wellbeing supports, and understand how to navigate the digital landscape safely and responsibly.		On Track
	[1-23] Provide grants, and deliver and facilitate programs, services, and events that address loneliness, through supporting social connectedness and positive mental health	Provide grants, and deliver and facilitate programs, services, and events that address loneliness, through supporting social connectedness and positive mental health	There were 116 community grants awarded in 2023-24. 102 (87%) focused on activities supporting events that address loneliness through supporting social connectedness and positive mental health. These programs and projects continue to be delivered throughout 2023-24.		Completed



 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

1.6: We will ensure our festivals, events and functions are inclusive and respond equitably to, and value the diverse needs and aspirations of, our community

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-28] Deliver an annual cultural diversity and social cohesion oration as part of the FUSE festival	Deliver a new annual cultural diversity and social cohesion oration	Planning for the Cultural Diversity Oration is on track. The speaker, George Megalogenis, has been selected for the event to be held on Tuesday 21 May at the Intercultural Centre.		On Track
	[1-29] Deliver a signature cultural event as part of the FUSE festival in and around the grounds of the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre that showcases culturally diverse artists, music, food, participatory workshops and performances.	Deliver a signature cultural event as part of the FUSE festival in and around the grounds of the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre that showcases culturally diverse artists, music, food, participatory workshops and performances	<p>Program has been announced and this event is on track for delivery.</p> <p>We are thrilled to announce the return of FUSE Darebin with an exciting one-day festival event Meet the Makers Picnic. This free and inclusive gathering promises a day packed with music, culinary delights, and community engagement. Families can look forward to an engaging program tailored just for them, featuring fun activities and entertainment for children. Festivalgoers will have an opportunity to participate in the Aboriginal cultural experience with Aunty Brenda Fahey. Attendees are invited to savour a curated selection of food and beverages available on-site or bring their own picnic baskets to enjoy amidst the picturesque setting of the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre.</p> <p>This inclusive and accessible event is designed to bring together individuals from all walks of life to celebrate the vibrant culture and creative spirit of Darebin.</p>		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

1.7: We will continue to be a local government leader in the prevention of violence against women, and gender equity

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-30] Implement and extend our Gender Equality and Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan, using an intersectional approach	Implement and extend our Gender Equality and Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan, using an intersectional approach	<p>Council has been successful in obtaining a grant of \$212,500 through the Free From Violence Local Government Grant Program 2024-27. The funding will be used to employ a part-time Cultural Inclusion Primary Prevention Officer over 3 years. The Officer will lead the implementation of the LG Guide for Preventing Family Violence and All Forms of Violence Against Women and deliver a suite of family violence prevention training and resources. Centering the rights of culturally and racially marginalised people will be a key focus of this project.</p> <p>Darebin's Family Violence Network meeting was held in February and a review of the organisation's Family Violence Policy has commenced.</p>		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started




1.8: We will work towards a discrimination-free, and systemic racism-free Darebin, and reduce the impact of poverty and disadvantage

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[1-34] Address inequities in the distribution of resources, and ensure the needs of our most vulnerable people are prioritised by implementing our Towards Equality Framework	Address inequities in the distribution of resources, and ensure the needs of our most vulnerable people are prioritised by implementing our Towards Equality Framework	The Towards Equality Framework has continued to be implemented, mostly through the application of the Equity Impact Assessment (EIA), incorporating the legally mandated Gender Impact Assessment (GIA). In this third quarter, three EIAs were undertaken on a range of plans, including Hard Waste Collection, review of Local Laws and Family Violence Policy.		On Track
	[1-35] Work with the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council, our community, and local organisations, to foster respect and address systemic racism	Work with the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council, our community, and local organisations, to foster respect and address systemic racism	This quarter, in partnership with Victoria University, Council has partnered with community groups to deliver a community forum. The community forum is an opportunity for the focus groups to share their findings.		On Track
	[1-36] Continue to implement the Welcoming Cities Standard, with the aim of becoming a 'Mentoring' level Council	Continue to implement the Welcoming Cities Standard, with the aim of becoming a 'Mentoring' level Council	The collection and collation of evidence across the organisation has been finalised in readiness for assessment. The assessment will be conducted in three stages in March and April.		On Track
	[1-38] Mitigate the impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of our disadvantaged communities	Through the development and implementation of the Climate Emergency Plan mitigate the impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of our disadvantaged communities	Darebin produced a series of heat health leaflets to help people stay safe in extreme heat events. The information was provided in the following languages: English, Arabic, Persian, Hindi, Greek, Mandarin, Italian, Vietnamese, Macedonian and Somali. The leaflets were delivered to community service organisations and neighbourhood houses. There are many actions in the new draft Climate Emergency Plan that support our disadvantaged communities. Following community consultation that will close in early April, the final new Climate Emergency Plan will be complete in June.		On Track




Completed On Track Delayed Off Track Not Started

2.0: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing




2.1: We will deliver equitable and accessible infrastructure to provide opportunities for our community to live well

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-2] Redevelop Reservoir Leisure Centre, incorporating opportunities to enhance health, wellbeing and socioeconomic outcomes	Undertake minor renewal works while commencing scoping for the longer-term options for the redevelopment and rebuilding of the centre to enhance health, wellbeing and socioeconomic outcomes	<p>The roof renewal works are anticipated to be completed by end of March 2024.</p> <p>Following the 1 February 2024 Council Meeting, officers are preparing a report for the March 2024 Council Meeting addressing high-level costing estimates, funding strategy, future fund parameters and steps and processes to build a new Reservoir Leisure Centre (RLC) in coming years as requested by Council. Progress on the scoping study has been delayed due to the complexity of the matter, the need to determine how previous work fits with the new study as well as other unplanned work, and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.</p>		Off Track
	[2-3] Invest in the Edwardes Lake Boathouse in Reservoir to support a long-term lease arrangement	Continue to advocate to the descendants of the original owner to remove the restrictive covenants so appropriate renewal works of the boat house can occur	Plans are in development with a view to finding a commercial operator for the Edwardes Lake Park boathouse. An existing restrictive covenant is a barrier for this venue to operate as a hospitality venue or cafe business. A process is underway to have this barrier removed.		Delayed

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started









H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-6] Expand funded 3-year-old kindergarten	Expand funded 3-year-old kindergarten	Council continued to progress the expansion of funded 3-year-old kindergarten this quarter through a number of projects. This included progressing the Stage 1 expansion of Merri Community Child Care & Kindergarten to the tender stage, progressing planning and design work for expansion at other sites, and reaching agreement with the State Government on a Building Blocks Partnership Agreement for funding of a number of projects in coming years.		On Track
	[2-9] Redevelop KP Hardiman Pavilion in Kingsbury	Continue pavilion design and commence construction	Designs are progressing well. Construction is currently planned to start in the 2024-25 financial year.		On Track
	[2-10] Redevelop the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre	Complete construction of the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre	The redevelopment of the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre is complete for practical purposes. The Centre was officially re-opened in November 2023 and is now fully accessible to the public. Minor defects are being rectified during this current stage with 100% completion to be achieved at the end of the defects period		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started





H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-11] Develop an Integrated Families, Youth and Children Strategy	Develop an Integrated Families, Youth and Children Strategy	Council held two major engagement events this quarter to inform the development of this strategy. Over 90 representatives from more than 40 organisations across the Families, Youth and Children sector attended a stakeholder summit in February to work on principles and key focus areas for action to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. This was followed by a Youth Round Table in March. Insights from these events, along with the results of the community engagement activities conducted in late 2023, will inform the draft strategy which is scheduled to be presented to Council in May for approval to go to Stage 2 Community Engagement. Following this engagement process it is planned that the strategy will be brought back to Council in August for adoption. This work was slightly delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen.		Delayed
	[2-13] Plan for the redevelopment of John Hall pavilion and public toilet in Kingsbury	Continue pavilion design and commence construction	The redevelopment of John Hall Reserve Pavilion is on schedule and within adopted budget. Construction tender evaluation has been completed and will be presented to Council at the April 2024 meeting for appointment. Works are scheduled to commence early in the new financial year.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started


2.2: We will design and create public spaces where our people feel safe, welcome, and respected, including improving lighting and safety for people walking, wheeling, cycling and driving

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-15] Improve road safety, and the cycling, walking and wheeling network, by constructing high priority improvements	Improve road safety, and the cycling, walking and wheeling network, by constructing high priority improvements	Detailed designs are nearing completion for constructing four priority road safety projects this year. The projects include a signal crossing at the Miller and Devon Street intersection, a northern Reservoir truck management project, and road safety changes on Davidson Street and Radford Road in Reservoir.		Off Track
	[2-16] Investigate and prioritise road safety, accessibility, cycling, walking and wheeling improvements across Darebin by using a Local Area Placemaking approach - where one third of the city is reviewed, with community involvement, each year	Investigate and prioritise road safety, accessibility, cycling, walking and wheeling improvements across Darebin by using a Local Area Placemaking approach - where one third of the city is reviewed, with community involvement, each year	The second round of community consultation for the Group B study areas of the Your Street, Your Say program will be open until mid-April. Feedback from the community will be used to recommend projects to Council by June 2024.		On Track
	[2-17] Develop and implement a Community Safety Framework	Develop a Community Safety Framework	Community safety mapping report has been finalised and this data is informing the development of the community safety framework. This work was delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.		Delayed
	[2-19] With State Government approval, reduce the speed limit in more local streets across our city	With State Government approval, reduce the speed limit in more local streets across our city	Five applications are currently in development for submission to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to reduce the speed limit on local roads in Darebin. An application to extend the existing 40 Km/h in Gilbert Road up to Kendall Street was submitted to DTP in February 2024.		On Track





 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-21] Develop a Community Infrastructure Plan to inform Council's decision making on the future of our assets, based on service needs across our city for the next 10 years	Continue to develop a Community Infrastructure Plan, including an implementation plan	A high-level assessment of community infrastructure needs over the next 10 years is complete. An audit tool has also been developed to gather information about the use and configuration of existing Council facilities and whether they are fit-for-purpose given projected community needs. Audits of existing Council facilities are continuing, as is the development of a set of principles to guide community infrastructure provision.		On Track
	[2-23] Update flood risk assessments across Darebin, and incorporate them into our Darebin Planning Scheme	Commence work on planning scheme amendment to introduce updated flood levels into Darebin Planning Scheme	Council continues to hold discussions with Melbourne Water and the Department of Transport and Planning about the process for formalising new flood mapping. Background work for the preparation of draft planning provisions has commenced.		On Track
	[2-24] Continue our Traffic Blackspot Design and Construction Program	Continue our Traffic Blackspot Design and Construction Program	Construction is underway for the Belgrove and Ovando Intersection upgrades. This work will be completed by early April. Design is continuing for future Blackspot projects at other sites.		On Track
	[2-27] Actively participate in the Reservoir Revitalisation Board to improve outcomes for the Reservoir community	Actively participate in the Reservoir Revitalisation Board to improve outcomes for the Reservoir community	Grant applications for the next round of funding have been submitted, with evaluation by the Board pending. The project to beautify and improve the Cheddar Road median as well as the tree uplighting in Broadway were completed and acquitted. Officers continue to work on delivering board-funded projects in Reservoir, including activation projects in Q4.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-30] Undertake a review of the General Local law	Undertake a review of the General Local law	Background research and analysis continues. Early engagement with some Council Advisory Committees has been undertaken, and planning for community engagement is underway.		On Track

2.3: We will facilitate more affordable, social and public housing in Darebin, to meet our community's needs

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-31] Enable and facilitate more affordable and social housing across our city	Facilitate more crisis, affordable and social housing across our city through development of the Property Strategy and the Advocacy Strategy	Council already has several sites leased for temporary and/or community housing purposes. Council's Property Strategy (currently in development) and Property Plan will consider opportunities to facilitate more affordable social and public housing within Council's existing property portfolio.		On Track
	[2-32] Partner with the State Government to ensure its social and public housing investment meets our community's needs, and creates liveable, connected communities through appropriate design and construction	Partner with the State Government to ensure its crisis, housing first, social and public housing, and its consideration of private development, meets our community's needs and creates liveable, connected communities through design and construction	As a result of the Victorian Government's Housing Statement, developments that will be assessed via the Development Facilitation Program are required to include a 10% affordable housing contribution. Council will work with the Victorian Government and developers to facilitate the provision of this housing. Council also successfully advocated for the inclusion of a mandatory affordable housing contribution as part of the Preston Market controls introduced by the Minister for Planning. Council is advocating for significant social housing to be achieved through the Preston Central activity centre. A draft of a new housing supply strategy is anticipated to be complete by August 2024.		On Track


 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

2.4: We will foster local urban streetscapes and activity centres that connect our community, support economic recovery, and encourage people to live, work and play locally

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-33] Review to amend the Parking Permit Policy to: (i) to improve access for people with special needs (ii) to allow owners of single lot dwellings that exist on their own Torrens title, the option to have an additional residential parking permit at the same price as current parking permits (iii) to allow single lot dwellings built after December 2004 that are greater than 300sqm property with three or more bedrooms and that exist on their own Torrens title (even if the property was previously subdivided), to have the same entitlements to parking permits as dwellings built before December 2004 (iv) to ensure that renovations of a property that is still a single lot on its own Torrens title and is greater than 300sqm with three or more bedrooms are still entitled to parking permits	Finalise the new Parking Permit Policy	A new Parking Permit Policy was adopted by Council on 27 November.		Completed
	[2-36] Develop a policy setting the basis for how Council may permit commercial or private Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure on our public streets	Run an Expression of Interest process to identify potential EV charging partners	Preparation work has been undertaken to run an expression of interest process, to identify EV charging partners. This will confirm which providers are interested in setting up community chargers in Darebin. It is expected that the EOI will be advertised by May 2024.		On Track



 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

2.5: We will invest in services and the built environment to improve access for our residents and visitors

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-39] Create additional accessible car parking spaces in our city	Create additional accessible car parking spaces in our city	One Accessible Car Parking space has been created through the NARC Construction. Design underway for second site in Collins Street Thornbury adjacent to Penders Park. This work will create an additional 2 accessible car parking spaces.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

2.6: We will support the human rights, housing and wellbeing needs of our people experiencing homelessness

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-40] Deliver programs that support people sleeping rough and experiencing homelessness including Assertive Outreach and advocate for funding for Towards Zero	Advocate for funding to initiate the Towards Zero approach to support people sleeping rough and experiencing homelessness	During the period officers started exploring ways to progress the project in 2024/25 and will be discussing options with Councillors as part of the development of the 2024/25 Council Plan and Budget. This work was delayed given the complexity of the work in addition to other unplanned work and service delivery priorities that have arisen during this period.		Off Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

2.8: We will advocate to reduce the harm associated with electronic machine gambling, alcohol and tobacco


H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-47] Support partner and local community organisations, groups, and clubs, to deliver initiatives that encourage the cessation of vaping and smoking	Support partner and local community organisations, groups, and clubs, to deliver initiatives that encourage the cessation of vaping and smoking	Council is planning to apply for the VicHealth vaping prevention grant to encourage cessation of vaping and smoking among young people. If successful, Council plans to deliver the project in partnership with Your Community Health.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

2.9: We will leverage investment, partnerships and advocacy to drive Darebin’s growth and sustainability and ensure Darebin is a great place to do business

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-49] Invest in economic reactivation and recovery initiatives to support existing and new industries, to ensure Darebin's economy is robust and resilient	Invest in economic reactivation and recovery initiatives to support existing and new industries, to ensure Darebin's economy is robust and resilient	<p>The sustainable business initiatives (Light\$mart, Energy\$mart, Solar Saver, Sustainable Leaders Program) continue to support the recovery of Darebin's Business community through investing in energy efficiency, renewable energy and waste avoidance to reduce energy and waste bills. This FY the following upgrades have been supported: six Solar Saver business installs (total of 49kw), five LED Light\$mart upgrades (283 lights) and one Energy\$mart heat pump hot water upgrade. The Energy\$mart program has also been expanded to include efficient split systems. Collectively these upgrades are saving the businesses \$13,400 a year on their electricity bills and 80 tonnes of CO2 emissions. These programs also delivered over \$37,000 of State and Federal rebates and subsidies to the businesses.</p> <p>The Greening our Business tool - cross Council and NAGA (Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action) project - has commenced preliminary in-house testing.</p>		On Track
	[2-50] Continue to implement our Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy to increase the engagement of Aboriginal-led businesses, and focus on job creation for culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, and young people	Host supplier forums, connecting with Aboriginal-led businesses in the Darebin community at least every two months to provide tailored information regarding upcoming procurement	Kinaway and Dardi Munwurro groups have been involved in recent tender activities such as hard waste collection, with a view to include opportunities in supply arrangements. The operations centre has recently engaged Dardi staff to carry out minor works across the facility.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-51] Build partnerships across all levels of government and the private sector, to attract new industries and investment into Darebin, to support its future growth	Build partnerships across government and the private sector, to attract new industries and investment into Darebin, to support its future growth	Participation is continuing in the development of an application for significant funding to bolster investment attraction in the La Trobe university/ Northland/ West Heidelberg region in partnership with Banyule Council, La Trobe Uni and Northlink.		On Track
	[2-52] Undertake consultation with industry and other key stakeholders to help inform the future development of an Economic Development Strategy and interest in partnering with Council on ways industry and business can connect, network and influence for the benefit of the Darebin community	Undertake consultation with industry and other key stakeholders to help inform the future development of an Economic Development Strategy and interest in partnering with Council on ways industry and business can connect, network and influence for the benefit of the Darebin community	The Economic Summit series was delivered successfully during October and November. Over 240 people, representing 14 different business sectors within the Darebin business community, participated in six Round Table engagement forums and one large-scale Economic Summit conference event. High level statistics include: 6 Round Tables, 1 Summit conference, 7 Darebin venues, 793 individual comments gathered, 1108 votes cast and multiple new partnerships established between business community members. This valuable feedback pool provides a robust engagement knowledge-base to underpin Economic Strategy development.		Completed
	[2-53] Catalyse new jobs at scale in Darebin with businesses, new industry attraction and our partners - including Jobs Victoria Advocates - focusing on jobseekers facing multiple employment barriers including culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, young people, women, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	Catalyse new jobs in Darebin with businesses, new industry attraction and our partners - including Jobs Victoria Advocates - focusing on jobseekers facing multiple employment barriers including culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, young people, women, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	Activities have included ongoing chairing, fostering and building networks, including the First Nations employment network. A meeting was held on Feb 27 focusing on mental health initiatives and cultural strengthening activities in major public companies. A workshop is planned for late March 2024 to build capacity for employers engaged in the visitor economy to make their workplaces more accessible.		On Track



 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

2.10: We will ensure major changes in our city achieve significant improvements in our City

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-62] Protect Preston Market, including advocating Council's position to the State Government during its planning consultation process, and working with our community to advocate for the strongest possible planning controls and Protections	Continue efforts to protect the Preston Market through participating in the strategic and statutory planning processes and supporting traders through existing programs	Council welcomed the news that Preston Market traders will have their leases extended for five years from January 2024, providing much needed security. This news comes after over five years of advocacy that Council is proud to have been a part of alongside our passionate community. This included working alongside community groups to gather over 30,000 petition signatures and writing on multiple occasions to the Minister for Planning, calling for the protection of the Preston Market, and advocating strongly to the Standing Advisory Committee for stronger planning controls. This advocacy culminated in approval by the Minister for Planning of Amendment C182dare in August 2023.		Completed

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started







2.11: We will improve the sustainability, accessibility, and design of development on private land in our city

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[2-65] Complete major planning reform work to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce an open space levy to fund open spaces in our city Introduce a Developer Contributions Scheme to help fund infrastructure for our growing population Establish Heidelberg Road Corridor controls Establish Thornbury Park Heritage Estate controls 	Progress a planning scheme amendment to deliver an interim 5% Open Space Levy	Following the authorisation of Amendment C210dare by the Minister for Planning on 12 January, exhibition of the amendment commenced on 22 February for a period of one month. The amendment proposes to enable up to 5% open space contributions from subdivisions, in place of the existing sliding scale which limits contributions to 2, 3 or 4% for subdivisions creating less than 5 additional lots.		On Track
	[2-66] Complete our Central Preston Structure Plan	Complete our Central Preston Structure Plan	<p>Council adopted the draft Preston Structure Plan and Activity Centre Zone schedules at its meeting on 18 December 2023, and have requested that the Minister for Planning authorise the preparation and exhibition of Amendment C218dare to the Darebin Planning Scheme. Council also endorsed that the CEO negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Transport and Planning to progress planning for Preston Central and Preston South.</p> <p>In line with the Victorian Government's Housing Statement, planning for the Preston Central Activity Centre is now the responsibility of the Department of Transport and Planning. Council is continuing to liaise and support the State Government's project team.</p>		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started


3.0: Climate, Green and Sustainable

3.1: We will adapt to climate change and build the resilience of our community, infrastructure and the built environment, with a focus on our vulnerable communities at risk of fuel poverty, and flooding

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[3-1] Through our Solar Saver 4-year program, support solar installation and energy efficiency retrofits for our vulnerable households, including public and social housing, and renters	Install up to 150 systems and undertake a service review to inform future directions	74 Special Charge solar systems have been approved with 58 further customers sent to the installer for quotes. Marketing continues to increase installations. There have been 72 solar systems installed through Council's Bulk Buy contract. The service review is progressing.		On Track
	[3-2] Review our Climate Emergency Plan, including in- depth engagement with our community	Finalise the Climate Emergency Plan and consider the options for future actions that accelerate progress toward net zero, including options for reducing household and business reliance on gas and options for the future of the solar saver program	Council endorsed the draft Climate Emergency Plan, and the second round of community consultation was delivered over early March and April. The Plan will be finalised by the end of June 2024.		On Track
	[3-3] Support our community members experiencing fuel poverty, to prevent heating and freezing	Incorporate fuel poverty into the development and implementation of the new Climate Emergency Plan	Fuel poverty is considered in the draft Climate Emergency Plan. The Plan will be finalised by June 2024.		On Track


 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

3.2: Aim to achieve 12% canopy cover on Council owned and managed land by 2025, prioritising catchment biodiversity and shopping areas

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[3-8] Acquire land to create new parks	Finalise the acquisition of the three parcels of land at Clements Reserve	Council has endorsed a resolution to proceed with the purchase of three parcels of land at Clements Reserve. However, progress has been delayed due to a recent Environmental Action Notice issued by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on a major parcel of land to be acquired by Council.		Delayed



-  Completed
-  On Track
-  Delayed
-  Off Track
-  Not Started

3.3: We will drive significant improvements in water quality and biodiversity across Darebin, designating Edwardes Lake as a flagship project to demonstrate water recreation (in the long term)

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[3-11] Establish and adequately resource the Edwardes Lake Taskforce to significantly improve the water quality and amenity of Edwardes Lake in Reservoir	Continue to monitor the health of the lake and invest in activities that improve water quality (as recommended by the taskforce)	Monthly water monitoring has been completed for January and February, with additional weekly algal observations being made over the summer months. A clean-up Australia Day event was run over the first weekend of March, with litter analysed and data collected on rubbish collected.		On Track

-  Completed
-  On Track
-  Delayed
-  Off Track
-  Not Started

3.5: We will reduce waste and stimulate a local circular economy, where waste resources are re-used rather than discarded

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[3-16] Develop a plan to respond to new State Government requirements for contaminated land	Finalise and implement the Contaminated Land Framework	The Contaminated Land Management Framework project is progressing. The project is likely to be completed later in 2024.		On Track
	[3-18] Undertake waste reform and take action towards establishing a circular economy	Undertake community engagement to inform future kerbside waste services for residents	Community consultation about future kerbside waste services was completed between 7 August and 11 September 2023.		Completed

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started









4.0: Responsible, Transparent and Responsive

4.1: We will ensure balanced and responsible financial decision making that meets the needs of our community now and into the future


H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[4-2] Develop and implement an Advocacy Framework and four year Advocacy Plan, informed by our Council Plan priorities, aimed at influencing public policy change and attracting support and funding for our priorities including:• Investment in early intervention and tertiary mental health services• Dedicated sexual and reproductive health service in the Northern region• Key transport priorities• Increased funding for road safety infrastructure, driver behaviour and law enforcement• Towards Zero approach to address homelessness• Local Economic Development priorities• Protection of Strathallan as public land• Community and business use of energy efficiency initiatives• Higher and mandatory Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) standards in building and planning controls	Develop and implement an annual statement of advocacy priorities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in early intervention and tertiary mental health services Dedicated sexual and reproductive health service in the Northern region Key transport priorities Increased funding for road safety infrastructure, driver behaviour and law enforcement Towards Zero approach to address homelessness Local Economic Development priorities Protection of Strathallan as public land Community and business use of energy efficiency initiatives Higher and mandatory Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) standards in building and planning controls 	A first draft of advocacy priorities was completed and feedback has been received. Consultation across the various Council business units, such as Transport, Sports, Climate and Environment, City Futures and Economic Development, has been completed.		Delayed
	[4-4] Review our 10 year Financial Plan to ensure a level of revenue and expenditure that maintains a balance between service delivery, asset maintenance and renewal, and provides a strong, sustainable base for the future	Implement the action plan provided to the Minister for Local Government in response to the Monitor's Report	Actions contained in the Good Governance Action Plan have been completed.		Completed

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

4.2: We will ensure our assets are optimised for the benefit of our community




H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[4-5] Review our Asset Portfolio, to ensure maximum benefit for our community is being realised, including the occupancy of unused and under-utilised Council buildings	Establish a Lease and Licensing Policy, with consideration to the inputs provided through deliberative engagement to inform the Council Plan.	Council has been consulting on a draft leasing and licensing policy and will consider community feedback and its next steps at a Council meeting between April and June 2024.		On Track
		Establish the Property Strategy	A report is being prepared by officers for executive management review in April for confirmation of the scope. A procurement plan to be drafted following scope determination.		On Track
	[4-6] Explore opportunities for Council owned and managed land (including airspace) to be used as temporary housing for people at risk or who are experiencing homelessness	Incorporate the consideration of temporary housing opportunities for people at risk or who are experiencing homelessness into the development of the Property Strategy for Council owned land	Council already has several sites leased for temporary and/or community housing purposes. Council's Property Strategy (currently in development) and Property Plan (to be developed) will incorporate opportunities to facilitate more affordable social and public housing within Council's existing property portfolio.		On Track
	[4-8] Improve delivery of our services to our community by developing an Asset Management Plan for Open Space, establishing a level of service for each class of our assets, and collecting data on our drainage assets	Undertake drainage asset condition inspections to support the early detection of damage and deterioration and to inform the Drainage Asset Management Plan	Request For Quotations (RFQ) were sent out in March. The RFQ plan is ready and awaiting approval from senior management.		On Track
		Complete the review of the Drainage Asset Management Plan	Drafting of the drainage asset management plan has started.		On Track
		Complete the review of the ICT Asset Management Plan	The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) asset management plan has been deferred to next year due to budget constraints.		Deferred
		Complete the establishment of the Arts and Cultural Collection Asset Management Plan	The Arts and Cultural Collection asset management plan has been completed and will be presented to senior management for approval soon.		On Track

 Completed  On Track  Delayed  Off Track  Not Started





H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
		Complete the review of the Plant and Fleet Asset Management Plan	The first draft of the Plant and Fleet asset management plan (AMP) will be available for council review by the end of March.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

4.3: We will transform our services and service delivery models to ensure they meet the current, emerging and future needs of our community

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[4-10] Transform our models of service delivery through the development of service profiles and conduct service reviews, to improve and ensure accessibility, inclusivity for under-represented groups and consistency of our customer experience	Transform our models of service delivery through the development of service profiles and conduct service reviews, to improve and ensure accessibility, inclusivity for under-represented groups and consistency of our customer experience	Council have filled all positions to undertake the work in the review program. The program for 23/24 includes 4 major reviews and a raft of smaller process review activities. Outcomes from the reviews include improved transparency, speed and access to permit related processes and lower risk to community and business. Activities have commenced to prioritise for the major reviews in 24/25 based on improved customer outcomes and enhanced user experiences.		On Track
	[4-12] Develop and implement a new 4 year Organisational Strategy to deliver on Council Plan Strategic Direction 4 and other organisational improvement priorities in an integrated and efficient way	Through the development of an Organisational Strategy the following will be integrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Service, Technology and Innovation • Engagement, Governance and Risk • Long Term Financial Sustainability, Asset Management and Project Delivery • Leadership, People and Culture 	The Organisational Strategy has been developed and launched across the organisation. Key initiatives have commenced to improve customer experience.		On Track
	[4-13] Establish a long-term investment in IT systems to improve our customer experience, enable our people and deliver effective governance, compliance, improved data and cyber risk management	Progress Council approval of this investment in 2023-24.	Work is on track to present a report to Council at the 25 March 2024 council meeting, seeking endorsement and adoption of Council's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Strategy including the investment in ERP.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
		Integrate this work with our Customer Experience strategy and our People and Culture Plan	An Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital strategy and a People Strategy have been developed with extensive engagement and consultation across all departments, including the Customer Experience area. This strategy is scheduled for endorsement and adoption at the 25 March 2024 Council meeting.		On Track
		Develop detailed business requirements for systems replacement and test the open market for available options	This project will commence after the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) benefit realisation plan is completed and the business case is approved. Commencement will be planned after the council adoption of ICT and Digital strategy including the ERP investment.		Not Started
		Develop a detailed Benefits Realisation Plan	Work is underway in developing a detailed Benefits Realisation Plan.		On Track
		Develop and incorporate a Governance Platform and standards into the overall ICT Governance Framework and Architecture	Work has commenced and is now in progress. The draft is scheduled for completion by May 2024.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

4.4: We will improve the effective governance and public accountability of Council

H&W	Strategic Action	Action	Comments	Status	Status Explanation
	[4-14] Improve effective governance and accountability of Council	Deliver a professional development program for Councillors and continue to promote external professional development opportunities available to Councillors	Professional development continues to be provided through the Good Governance Action Plan. Some Councillors are either enrolled in or have completed a Company Directors course. Professional development will continue to be offered to all councillors.		On Track
		Provide regular reporting to Council to improve transparency on matters including: the status of Council resolutions, the number of Notices of Motion, training undertaken by Councillors, the number of complaints received - customer complaints and complaints about Councillors, matters referred to or received from integrity agencies and the cost of Councillor Conduct matters.	All reports referred to are in place and are reported as required.		On Track
		Promote the 2024 Council election to raise awareness for potential Councillor candidates across the municipality	The 2024 Election Project Plan is progressing and information will be published for candidates in due course.		On Track

 Completed
  On Track
  Delayed
  Off Track
  Not Started

CAPITAL WORKS

Project by Asset Class	Delivery Due Date	Status	Project Status Comments
Buildings			
John Hall Pavilion Design	Multi-year Project	●	The John Hall Pavilion project is progressing well. Designs have been completed and a recommendation to appoint a contractor will be presented to Council at the April council meeting. Works are expected to start in July 2024.
Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre	30-Sep-23	●	Project is completed.
Workplace office accommodation	30-Jun-24	●	A recent staff survey has been completed to identify areas of highest priority. These results are being analysed and will form the basis for the minor works that are undertaken in the coming months to support improved office accommodation.
DRRC asset renewal	30-Jun-24	●	Project site has been identified and initial discussions and finalisation of design documentation expected to be completed in Q3. Construction works to commence in Q4.
Funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten	30-Jun-24	●	Scope finalisation is currently underway for JS Grety Kindergarten. Design documentation will commence shortly. Raleigh Street Kindergarten & Merri Community Childcare and Kindergarten designs are underway - Works expected to commence in June 2024.
Building Renewal Program	30-Jun-24	●	A number of projects sit within the Building Renewal Program. A variety of these have already been completed, including: Northcote and Bundoora Golf Shop Air Conditioning improvements, Security System upgrades at Northcote Town Hall, Blake Street Kindergarten, JS Grey Family centre & Northcote Senior Citizens Centre, Removal of gas appliances at Perry St Childcare and Alfred Nuttall Kindergarten, Electricity supply upgrades at TW Blake Pavilion and Roof repairs at Reservoir Leisure Center. There are a number of remaining projects within this program that are on track to be completed by June 2024.
Drainage			
Drainage System Renewal and Upgrade Program including WSUD and Reactive Works and stormwater pipe relining	30-Jun-24	●	The Massey Avenue Drainage upgrade works have been awarded with construction to commence in Q4. The Stormwater Pipe re-lining program is progressing well with a large number of pipe cleaning and unblocking already underway.
Sportsground Sub-Surface Drainage	30-Jun-24	●	This project was merged with the WH Robinson Oval Renewal Project to deliver better outcomes for the overall use and functionality of the reserve - Including irrigation upgrades and improved sub-surface drainage.
Pit lid renewal program	30-Jun-24	●	The Pit Lid Renewal Program is progressing well, with a substantial number of damaged pit lids repaired in the third quarter (Approx. 70% completed).
Footpaths & Cycleways			
Footpath Renewal Program	30-Jun-24	●	Prioritising of footpaths is based on proactive and reactive inspections. Approximately 9512 sq m of footpath has been reconstructed so far, this financial year.

● Completed
 ● On Track
 ● At Risk
 ● On hold/deferred
 Discontinued

CAPITAL WORKS

Project by Asset Class	Delivery Due Date	Status	Project Status Comments
Footpaths & Cycleways			
Transport Safety Projects Design	30-Jun-24	●	Transport safety project designs continue. There are multiple locations being designed, including the safety changes at the Broadhurst Avenue / Banbury Road / Massey Avenue intersection.
Transport Safety Projects Construct	30-Jun-24	●	Design documentation is underway for a number of locations. Stakeholder feedback is being sought prior to finalisation of designs. Contractors are expected to be appointed in the coming month with all works commencing in Q4.
Computers & Telecommunications			
IT Improvement Program	30-Jun-24	●	All planned projects under IT improvement Program are on track.
IT Infrastructure Upgrade Program	30-Jun-24	●	All projects within the program are on track except hardware replacement program (related to laptops and Network Switches). There is a risk of not being able to deliver the hardware replacement program within this financial year.
Land			
Land Acquisition to Create New Parks	30-Jun-24	●	Project is on hold. Council has endorsed a resolution to proceed with the purchase of three parcels of land at Clements Reserve. However, progress has been delayed due to a recent Environmental Action Notice issued by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on a major parcel of land to be acquired by Council.
Contaminated Land Remediation	30-Jun-24	●	Multiple projects are being delivered under this program including new pump and monitoring system at All Nations Parks and improvements to the leachate treatment system at Darebin Parklands.
Irrigation Upgrades and Renewals Program	30-Jun-24	●	Project is progressing as planned with a slight delay due to program adjustments. Project will still be delivery by end of FY, with May being the current target.
Oval and Sportsground Renewal and Upgrade Program	30-Mar-24	●	Sportsground renewal works are progressing well at WH Robinson Reserve. Construction commenced in February 2024 with all works (including irrigation upgrades) to be completed by the end of May 2024.
Synthetic Cricket Wicket Installation	30-Nov-23	●	Project is completed.
Libraries			
Library Collections	30-Jun-24	●	Project to purchase library collections is on track.
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes			
John Cain Memorial Park and Preston City Oval Lighting Design	30-Jun-24	●	Design documentation is currently being finalised for the two project sites.

● Completed
 ● On Track
 ● At Risk
 ● On hold/deferred
 Discontinued

CAPITAL WORKS

Project by Asset Class	Delivery Due Date	Status	Project Status Comments
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes			
Preston City Oval Cricket Nets	30-Jun-24	●	Project is completed.
Park Asset Renewal Program including drinking fountains and swing at Susan Walsh	01-May-24	●	A comprehensive list of sites and assets gaps have been identified with staged installation already occurring.
Street lighting safety renewal program -High St Preston and Gillies St car park	30-Jun-24	●	Construction works for this project have been completed. Ongoing monitoring of the lights is currently underway.
Street Furniture and Equipment Renewal Program	24-May-24	●	Project is on track to be completed by end of financial year.
McDonnell Precinct Upgrades	30-Sep-24	●	Two new coaches' boxes built in accordance with AFL guidelines have been completed at McDonnell Reserve. Stage 2 includes forecourt improvements and a Book-A-Court system to support the Northcote Tennis User Group. Designs have been completed and consultation is underway with key stakeholders. Construction is expected to commence in Q4.
Street Lighting BT Connor surrounding - Scope	30-Jun-24	●	A scoping report covering engagement findings and indicative costs is being finalised.
Play Space Renewal Program	30-Jun-24	●	The provision of Softfall mulch to playgrounds and childcare centers for the third quarter has been successfully completed.
Open Space Improvements Program	30-Jun-24	●	Works are progressing and projects within the program will be completed on time.
Plant, Machinery and Equipment			
Replacement of Mobile Garbage, Green Waste and Recycling Bins	30-Jun-24	●	Project is progressing well and will be completed before end of the financial year.
Vehicular Plant Replacement - Heavy Vehicle	30-Jun-24	●	Project is on track to be completed by end of the financial year.
Vehicular Plant Replacement - Light Vehicle	30-Jun-24	●	Project is on track to be completed by end of the financial year.
Youth Services Asset Renewal Program	30-Jun-24	●	Project is on track.
Art Collection Acquisitions - Bundoora Homestead Art Centre	31-May-24	●	Research into suitable artworks for acquisition is ongoing.

● Completed
 ● On Track
 ● At Risk
 ● On hold/deferred
 Discontinued

CAPITAL WORKS

Project by Asset Class	Delivery Due Date	Status	Project Status Comments
Plant, Machinery and Equipment			
Reservoir Leisure Centre Gym Equipment and Group Exercise Equipment	30-Jun-24	●	Project to purchase gym and group exercise equipment is on track.
Darebin Furniture Purchases including libraries	30-Jun-24	●	Additional stakeholder consultation has been completed and final product selection underway to progress sourcing of quotes. Installation is expected in May/June 2024.
Arts Venues Asset and Equipment Renewal	30-Jun-24	●	Priority renewal projects continue to be progressed under the program.
Direction signage to country of origin	30-Jun-24	●	Project has been delayed. Consultation with key stakeholders has recommenced after 2-months delay.
Migration Monument - Scope	30-Jun-24	●	Project is on track. Expression of Interest is currently open.
Recreation, Leisure & Community Facilities			
Reservoir Leisure Centre	30-Jun-24	●	Roof repair works have commenced and are progressing well. These are focused on the area directly above the Spin Class exercise room. Construction is expected to be completed mid-April 2024.
Roads			
Kerb and Channel Renewal Program	30-Jun-24	●	Contract has been awarded and construction has commenced. Approximately 80% of identified kerb and channel works have been completed. The remaining 20% is expected to be completed by May 2024.
Road Resurfacing Program	30-Jun-24	●	Contract has been awarded and construction has commenced. 80% of identified streets have been re-sealed, with the remaining 20% to be awarded as a separate package of works utilising green and recycled content. These works are expected to be completed by June 2024.
Asset Management Road Survey		●	Project is funded via Operational budget and therefore discontinued from Capital Works Portfolio
Road Rehabilitation Design	30-Jun-24	●	Contract has been awarded. All road rehabilitation design works have been completed for 23/24. The projects are now shovel ready for future Capital Works budget considerations.

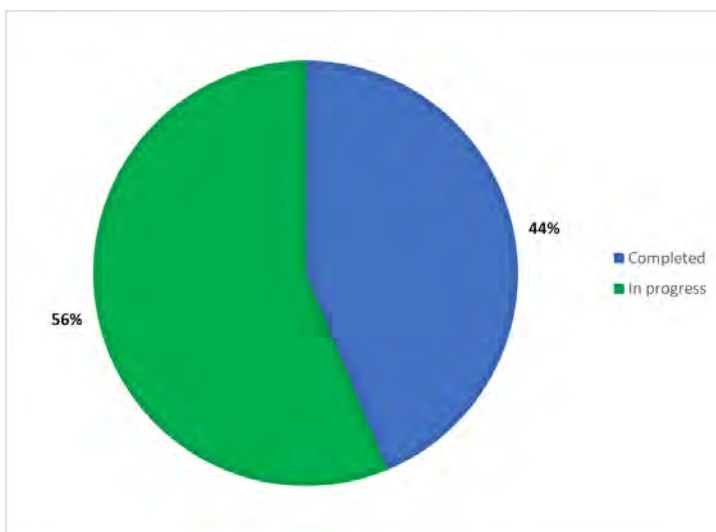
● Completed
 ● On Track
 ● At Risk
 ● On hold/deferred
 Discontinued

Council Resolution update

There were 48 resolutions in the third quarter of the 2023-24 financial year. 11 of these were adopted as per the Officer Recommendation and 10 were adopted by Council with an alternate resolution. This includes 21 Notices of Motion, 3 Petitions, 2 Notices of Recission and 1 Urgent Business items.

Of the 48 Resolutions, 5 items were referred to Budget and 16 requested a further report or briefing.

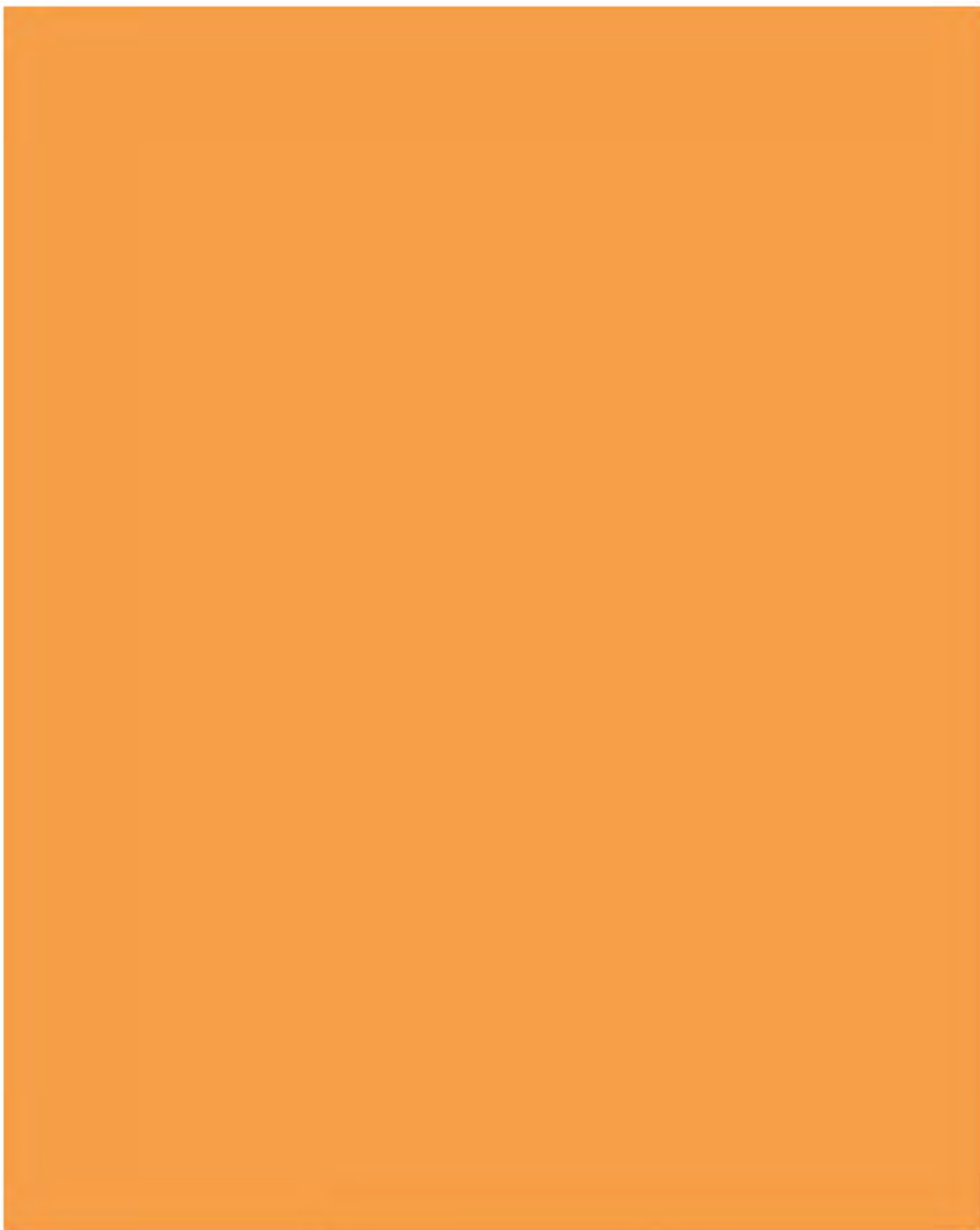
In the third quarter of the 2023-24 financial year, 48 actions arising from resolutions were made through Council meetings, 21 have been completed and 27 resolutions are in progress.



Due to the complexity of some of the resolutions, they may span multiple years and can be superseded or updated as the initiatives progress.

The current status of actions arising from Council resolutions in Q1, Q2 and Q3 is shown in the table below:

2023-24	In Progress	Completed	Total
Q1 (July – Sept 2023)	22	10	32
Q2 (Oct – Dec 2023)	30	15	45
Q3 (Jan-Dec 2024)	27	21	48
Total YTD	79	46	125



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FINANCIAL REPORT

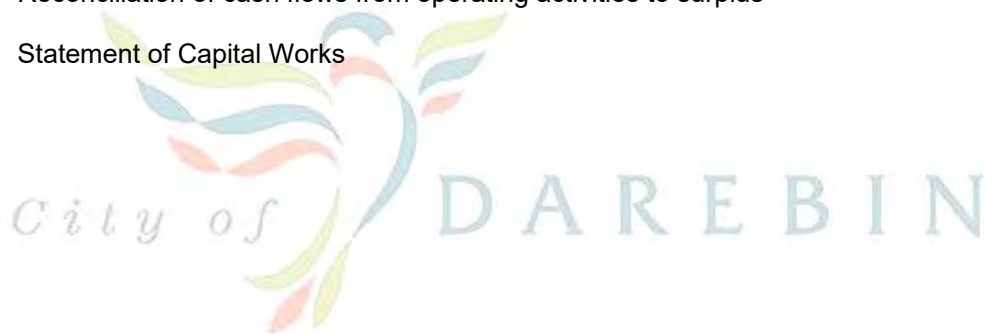
Nine months ended
31 March 2024



Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

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Financial Report

9 months ended 31 March 2024

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Operating performance

Performance for the first nine months of the financial year is favourable to YTD budget by \$6.99m and the forecast operating performance for the full 2023-24 financial year is expected to be \$3.49m less than budget.

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Var \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Operating					
Revenue	185,738	189,669	3,931	205,838	205,595
Expenditure	(145,725)	(142,671)	3,054	(196,178)	(199,420)
Surplus (deficit)	40,013	46,998	6,985	9,660	6,175
Capital & other					
Revenue / grants	0	(1,175)	(1,175)	(1,286)	(1,547)
Adjusted underlying surplus/(deficit)	40,013	45,823	5,810	8,374	4,628

For the nine months ended 31 March 2024, Council has recorded an operating surplus of \$47.0 million, which is \$6.99 million ahead of the year-to-date budget. After eliminating capital and other items, the adjusted underlying surplus¹ is \$45.82 million, which is \$5.81 million favourable to the year-to-date budget.

Total expenditure year-to-date is favourable by \$3.06M and total revenue year-to-date is favourable by \$3.93 million. The main items contributing to this favourable variance are lower expenditure for materials and services and higher income than budgeted from operating and capital grants.

Revenue from Rates and charges are favourable YTD due to:

- 1) Higher waste charges primarily due to additional properties compared to the budget.
- 2) Other favourable variances include higher than budgeted revenue from operating grants due to the receipt of 86 Festival and timing of payment of Financial Assistance Grant in 2022-23 budgeted in 2023-24.
- 3) Favourable investment earnings with movement in interest rates; offset by
- 4) lower than budgeted revenue from traffic enforcement fines.

The forecast Operating Surplus for the year ending 30 June 2024 is \$6.18 million, which is \$3.49 million unfavourable to the adopted budget. The forecast adjusted underlying deficit is \$4.63 million, which is \$3.75 million less than the budget surplus of \$8.37 million.

The variance of \$3.49M between forecast and budget is primarily due to the following:

- 1) \$2.8M: Expenditures relating to programs and projects unspent from prior year.
- 2) \$0.6M: net unfavorable variance within salaries primarily due to lower than budgeted capitalized salaries.

¹ An underlying surplus is the net surplus for the year adjusted for non-recurrent capital grants and contributions. It is an accepted measure of financial sustainability as it is not impacted by non-recurring or once-off items of revenue and expenses that can often mask the operating results.

Financial Report

9 months ended 31 March 2024

1.2 Capital performance

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Var \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Property	6,506	6,827	(321)	5,950	7,139
Plant & equipment	4,272	3,016	1,256	5,200	5,836
Infrastructure	11,038	5,186	5,852	18,882	20,041
Total capital works	21,816	15,029	6,787	30,032	33,016

For the nine months ended 31 March 2024, Council has expended \$15.03 million on the capital works program, which is \$6.79 million behind of the year-to-date budget. The variance is due to delays in purchase of plant and equipment (fleet replacement program) and in infrastructure works.

The forecast capital performance for the year ending 30 June 2024 is expenditure of \$33.02 million, which is \$2.98 million more than budget which includes carry forwards from prior year of \$4.3M offset by delays in the purchase and remediation of Clements Reserve (\$1.6M).

1.3 Financial Position

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Var \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Audited 2023 \$'000
Cash and investments	54,192	66,673	12,481	51,441	48,356	55,967
Net current assets	59,591	85,662	26,071	25,677	34,271	36,969
Net assets and total equity	1,694,983	1,711,500	16,517	1,664,631	1,670,678	1,664,503

The financial position as at 31 March 2024 shows a cash (\$39.40M) and investment balance (\$27.27M) of \$66.67 million, which is \$12.48 million ahead of budget. The variance is due mainly to timing differences in receipt of rates, fees and charges, capital grants, payments to employees and suppliers and a higher opening cash and investment position compared with budget.

The cash and investment balance of \$66.67 million was sufficient to meet restricted cash and intended allocation obligations of \$27.03 million at the end of March².

The Net Current Asset YTD is \$85.66 million, which is \$26.07 million favourable to budget, primarily due to higher opening cash position and timing of rate receivables.

The net asset position of \$1.71 billion is \$16.51 million favourable to budget. This is mainly due to the prior year revaluation increment of investment properties not reflected in the adopted budget due to timing of year-end adjustments.

The forecast Financial Position as at 30 June 2024 is a closing cash (\$34.2M) and investment (\$14.2M) position of \$48.36 million and net current assets of \$34.27 million.

The forecast closing cash balance of \$34.2M represents a net decrease in cash of \$7.2M out of a \$41.8M opening cash position due to timing of the spend for capital works investment carry forwards and unspent grants programs.

² Restricted cash is the amount of cash holdings Council requires to meet external restrictions such as trust funds, statutory reserves and cash for intended allocations, such as cash held to fund future capital works.

Financial Report

9 months ended 31 March 2024

1.4 3rd Quarter Budget Review (Q3 Forecast)

The 3rd Quarter budget review indicate a \$3.49M net unfavourable result compared to adopted budget and \$2.98M more than Council's adopted capital works program.

Operating Performance: Overall unfavorable result to financial forecast to the value of \$3.49M. Main drivers are:

Operating Revenue (\$242k Unfavourable Net):

- Interest on Investments: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value of **\$1.9M** – favourable external market conditions.
- Contribution Income: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$1.3M** - Mainly due better than expected Developer Contribution Plan performance (\$500k) and unbudgeted income (\$840k) relating to LXP contribution towards the various level crossing removal projects delivered. This is fully offset by an increase in doubtful debts as noted below.
- Eighty-Six Festival: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$788K** – Grant income received not budgeted in current year.
- Waste Charge: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$400k** – Additional properties bought online for rating purposes.
- Capital Grant Funding: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$400k** – Grant funding received not budgeted relating to Preston City Oval project.
- Supplementary Rate Income: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$400k** - Higher than expected No. of properties coming online for rating purposes throughout the year.
- Reservoir Leisure Centre User Fees & Charges Income: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$336K** - Better than expected demand & financial performance at the leisure centre.
- Aged Care Service Delivery: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value of **\$1.8M** – Due to non-performance against funding targets.
- Open Space Levy (OSL): Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value of **\$1.5M** – Due to continued downturn in construction industry and timing of when levies are due.
- Darebin Resource Recovery Centre: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY income targets to value of **\$1M** - Lower than budgeted volumes through the gate house due to fees & charges price setting partially offset by reduction in contract expenses as noted below.
- Land Sales: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value of **\$317k** – Based on updated sales information.
- Solar Saver Program Income: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value **\$890K** - Expecting less installs that originally planned. Offset by lower contract related expenditure.

Operating Expenditure (\$3.2M unfavourable Net):

- Solar Saver Program: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value **\$890K** - Expecting less installs that originally planned. Offset by lower income.
- Darebin Resource Recovery Centre: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$400K** – Reduced contract expenditure due to lower than budgeted demand on resource recovery services due to fees & charges price setting.

Financial Report 9 months ended 31 March 2024

- Insurances: Industrial Special Risk & Motor Vehicle insurance expenses to value of **\$306k** due to annual premiums being less than originally budgeted.
- Operating Project – Open Space Amendment: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$163K** – Project delayed and expected to be delivered next year.
- ERP system support contract: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$180K** - New support contract costs lower than previous contract.
- Property & Asset Strategy legal expense: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$150K** Lower than expected legal expenses.
- Community Grant Program: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$122K** – Reduced program mainly in the Sports & Leisure grant program.
- Consultant expense: Favourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value **\$208K** - Lower than expected consultancy related expenses within People & Culture & City Development Depts.
- Budget Carry Forwards and Unspent Grants from prior year: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$2.8M**. *Funded from prior year budget surplus. No impact to underlying cash result.*
- Salary costs: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value **\$600K** – mainly due to lower than budgeted capitalisation of salaries.
- Provision for Doubtful Debts: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to the value **\$1.3M** – Mainly due LXP contribution towards the various level crossing removal projects undertaken over the past 6 years. Currently in negotiations with LXP, uncertain if Council will receive 100% of monies owed. Offset by invoice raise to recognise debt.
- Property Management: Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$473K** – Write-off of outstanding rental income owed to Council by iceHQ – Funded through the balance sheet with no impact to underlying cash.
- Climate Emergency – Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$300K** – Payment to City of Glen Ira in support of VECO program – Funded from Council reserves.
- Governance - Unfavourable adjustment to EOY forecast to value of **\$200k** - Unbudgeted allocation of legal costs to mitigate the impact of Councillor nominations / urgent items and review of Governance rules. Item is not currently funded.

Capital Works Program: Overall unfavorable result to the value of **\$3.0M**. Main drivers:

- Unfavorable net budget carry forwards from previous FY **\$4.29 million**.
- Unfavorable net budget adjustment for Preston Oval cricket nets **\$0.48 million**.
- Unfavourable: Other minor adjustments to EOY forecast across the Capital Works Program **\$0.34 million**.
- Favorable for proposed land purchase at Clements Reserve. Purchase from Department of Transport and Planning will be executed in 2024-25. Purchase was carried over from previous FY **\$1.6 million**.
- Favorable Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre project due to overspends in the previous year as a result of early completion. Overall project on budget - timing **\$0.46 million**.

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

2. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Operating performance

The information in the table below shows income and operating expenditure for the period ended 31 March 2024. The five columns of data provide information on the following:

- YTD budget to 31 March 2024 (i.e. estimated timing of income and expenditure)
- YTD actual results to 31 March 2024
- YTD variance of actuals compared to budget
- Annual budget as adopted by Council
- Q3 (annual) forecast of the year end position
- Variance of original budget adopted by Council and mid-year (annual) forecast of the year end position.

The report provides a year-to-date summary of Council’s financial position and is a guide on the timing of receipts and payments. Timing differences can occur during the financial year and year to date variances do not imply that the annual budget will be affected.

**DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL
Comprehensive Income Statement**

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2024

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	YTD Variance %	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Forecast Variance \$'000
Income							
Rates and charges	150,574	151,511	937	0.6%	152,133	152,381	248
Statutory fees and fines	7,026	7,016	(10)	(0.1%)	8,775	8,889	114
User fees	9,595	9,314	(281)	(2.9%)	13,116	11,929	(1,187)
Grants - operating	10,897	12,029	1,132	10.4%	18,841	18,842	1
Grants - capital	18	1,193	1,175	100.0%	1,865	2,147	282
Contributions - monetary	4,897	4,469	(428)	(8.7%)	6,539	6,216	(323)
Net gain (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	439	286	(153)	(34.9%)	1,436	545	(891)
Other income	2,292	3,851	1,559	68.0%	3,133	4,646	1,513
Total income	185,738	189,669	3,931	2.1%	205,838	205,595	(243)
Expenses							
Employee costs	73,757	74,602	(845)	(1.1%)	100,557	101,520	(963)
Materials and services	45,302	41,627	3,675	8.1%	60,053	60,163	(110)
Depreciation	20,035	19,458	577	2.9%	26,714	26,714	0
Amortisation - intangible assets	385	497	(112)	(29.1%)	512	543	(31)
Bad and doubtful debts	421	903	(482)	(100%)	1,436	2,716	(1,280)
Borrowing costs	1,301	1,363	(62)	(4.8%)	1,735	1,735	0
Finance Costs - leases	0	2	(2)	0.0%	2	0	2
Other expenses	4,524	4,219	305	6.7%	5,169	6,029	(860)
Total expenses	145,725	142,671	3,054	2.1%	196,178	199,420	(3,242)
Surplus for the year	40,013	46,998	6,985	17.5%	9,660	6,175	(3,485)
Less							
Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	0	(1,175)	(1,175)	0.0%	(1,286)	(1,547)	(261)
Adjusted underlying surplus/ (deficit)	40,013	45,823	5,810	14.5%	8,374	4,628	(3,746)

Legend	
< (\$100,000) and (-5%)	Unfavorable Variance
> = \$100,000 and 5%	Favorable Variance

Financial Report

9 months ended 31 March 2024

Operating Revenue – notes

1. **Rates and charges:** Major variances YTD include:
 - General rates & waste charges are \$491K more than budget and it is forecast this variance will be \$402K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Additional and larger bin charges have been exceeded. (P)
 - Supplementary rates and charges are \$441K more than budget. Timing and quantum of building supps undertaken since April-23. (P)
 - Solar Saver special charge is \$147K less than budget. Lower than anticipated take up of the special charge. The revenue has been offset by a decrease in Solar Saver expenditures (refer materials and services section, first bullet point for more details). (P)
2. **Statutory fees and fines:** Major variances include:
 - Traffic enforcement penalties issued are \$265K less than the budget and it is forecast this variance will be \$181K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. (P)
3. **User fees:** Major variances include:
 - Darebin Resource Recovery Centre income is \$563K less than the budget and it is forecast this variance will be \$1.01 million less than budget at the end of the financial year. Lower than anticipated waste volumes being processed. This will result in a corresponding reduction of expenditure (e.g. tipping costs) (P)
 - Supported and connected living income is \$189K less than budget and it is forecast this variance will be \$327K less than budget at the end of the financial year. (P)
 - Reservoir Leisure Centre income is \$437K greater than the budget. Strong growth experienced in centre swim school participation. (P)
4. **Grants operating:** Major variances include:
 - Economic development is \$710K greater than budget. Unbudgeted State Government funding for 86 Festival received in advance. (P)
 - Victorian Grants Commission (Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants) for 2023-24 were 100% prepaid in 2022-23 and the adjustment grants received are \$170K greater than budget. It is forecast this variance will be \$226K greater than the budget at the end of the financial year. (P)
 - Supported and connected living is \$364K less than budget and it is forecast this variance will be \$1.81 million less than budget at the end of the financial year. Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) funding received in advance and recognized in accordance with agreed performance obligations. (P)
5. **Grants Capital:** Major variances include:
 - Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding \$349K greater than budget. Stage 4 funding received in advance. (P)
 - Preston City Oval cricket nets \$406K greater than budget. LXP funding for the relocation of the Preston City Oval cricket nets was not budgeted. (P)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

6. **Contributions - monetary:** Major variances include:

- Public open space (\$1.10 million unfavorable) and developer contributions (\$484K favorable) are \$620K less than budget and it is forecast this variance will be \$1.0 million less than budget at the end of the financial year. Construction and development have been impacted by rising interest rates, state-wide economic uncertainty and the staged timing of development. (P)

7. **Other income:** Major variances include:

- Interest on investments is \$1.44 million greater than budget and it is forecast this variance will be \$1.89 million greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Rising interest rates in conjunction with higher cash balances have increased yield on invested funds. (P)
- Cost recoveries received from Victorian Workcover Authority is \$750K. This item is unbudgeted. (Refer Employee costs, offset by increase in subsequent expenditure) (P)
- Lower than expected take-up of the Solar Saver program has impacted income receipt of Small-Scale Technology Certificates \$406K. It is forecast this variance will be \$317K less than the budget at the end of the financial year. (P)

Operating Expenses – notes

8. **Employee costs:** Major variances include:

- Capitalised employee costs is \$1.07 million unfavourable to budget at the end of March. It is forecasted that capitalized wages would be \$770K unfavourable. Awaiting third quarter allocation of capital recovery costs. (P)
- WorkCover salaries are \$576K more than budget at the end of March. (Refer Other income) (P)
- Family, youth and children is \$402K more than budget at the end of March and it is forecast this variance will be \$724K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Under budgeting of Maternal and Child Health services salaries. (P)
- Recreation and libraries is \$342K more than budget at the end of March and it is forecast this variance will be \$610K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Additional Library, Bundoora Park and Reservoir Leisure Centre costs. (P)
- Ongoing staff vacancies across all services has resulted in a favourable budget variance at the end of March. (P)

9. **Materials and services:** Major variances are:

- Environment & Sustainable transport is \$1.19 million less than budget at the end of March and it is forecast this variance will be \$871K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Due primarily to lower than anticipated take up of the Solar Saver program. (P)
- Capital and major projects is \$708K less than budget at the end of March. Lower than anticipated facility management costs. (T)
- Recreation and Libraries is \$575K less than budget at the end of March and it is forecast this variance will be \$218K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Costs associated with Library management and major leisure contracts. (T)
- Creative culture and events is \$509K less than budget at the end of March. (T)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

Financial Report

9 months ended 31 March 2024

- Family, youth and children is \$172K less than budget at the end of March and it is forecast this variance will be \$248K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Pre-school field officer. (P)
 - Property and asset strategy is \$494K less than budget at the end of March. Asset management strategy.
 - Supported and connected living is \$181K less than budget at the end of March and it is forecast this variance will be \$466K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Positive ageing care finder funding program. (P)
 - City works is \$362K more than budget at the end of March and it is forecast this variance will be \$421K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Higher residential and kerbside tipping and waste disposal costs. (P)
 - Financial services is \$229K more than the budget at the end of March. Additional recoverable rate collection costs. (T)
 - Recovery, resilience and economic development \$616K more than budget at the end of March and it is forecast this variance will be \$1.04 million greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Costs associated with Eighty-Sixth festival project. (Refer grants operating) (P).
10. **Bad and doubtful debts:** Major variance is:
- Property management bad and doubtful debts is \$485K more than budget and it is forecast this variance will be \$473K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Associated write-off of outstanding license at iceHQ stadium at CH Sullivan Reserve. (P).
11. **Other expenses:** Major variances are:
- Parks and open space is \$199K less than budget at the end of March. Timing of contribution made to Darebin and Merri Creek management committees. (T)
 - Community grants are \$196K less than budget at the end of March. Timing of assessment and payment of the community grants program. (T)
 - Balance of contributions received from participating Council's for the Local Government Victorian Energy Collaboration \$297K was not budgeted. (P)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

2.2 Capital performance

The information in the table below shows capital expenditure for the period ended 31 March 2024. The six columns of data provide information on the following:

- YTD budget to 31 March 2024
- YTD actual results to 31 March 2024
- YTD variance of actuals compared to budget
- Annual budget as adopted by Council
- Q3 (annual) forecast of the year end position
- Variance of original budget adopted by Council and mid-year forecast of the year end position.



Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL

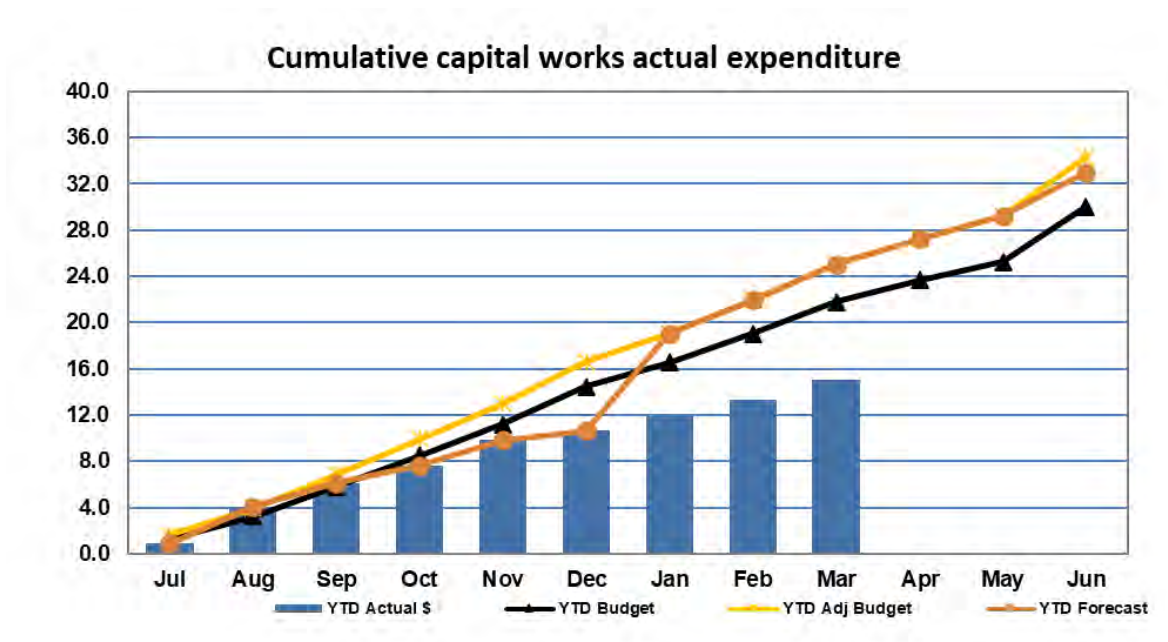
Statement of Capital Works

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2024

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	YTD Variance %	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Forecast Variance \$'000
Capital works							
Property							
Land	600	0	600	100.0% >	600	0	600
Buildings	5,906	6,827	(921)	(15.6%) <	5,350	7,139	(1,789)
Total property	6,506	6,827	(321)	(4.9%)	5,950	7,139	(1,189)
Plant & equipment							
Plant, machinery & equipment	1,577	1,040	537	34.1% >	1,820	1,840	(20)
Fixtures, fittings & furniture	29	9	20	69.0%	30	30	0
Computers & telecommunications	2,065	1,449	616	29.8% >	2,600	3,216	(616)
Library books	601	518	83	13.8%	750	750	0
Total plant & equipment	4,272	3,016	1,256	29.4%	5,200	5,836	(636)
Infrastructure							
Roads	3,584	499	3,085	86.1% >	4,750	4,230	520
Bridges	0	2	(2)	0.0%	0	127	(127)
Footpaths & cycleways	2,361	1,471	890	37.7% >	2,750	3,165	(415)
Drainage	1,749	142	1,607	91.9% >	1,580	1,166	414
Land Improvements	695	355	340	48.9% >	350	1,639	(1,289)
Recreation, leisure & community facilities	146	6	140	95.9% >	5,550	5,672	(122)
Waste management	188	243	(55)	(29.3%)	350	250	100
Parks, open space & streetscapes	2,315	2,468	(153)	(6.6%) <	3,452	3,692	(240)
Off-street car parks	0	0	0	0.0%	100	100	0
Total infrastructure	11,038	5,186	5,852	53.0%	18,882	20,041	(1,159)
Total capital works	21,816	15,029	6,787	31.1%	30,032	33,016	(2,984)
Represented by:							
Asset renewal	16,727	11,524	5,203		23,026	25,315	(2,289)
New assets	1,707	1,176	531		2,350	2,583	(233)
Asset expansion	1,961	1,351	610		2,700	2,968	(268)
Asset upgrade	1,421	979	442		1,956	2,150	(194)
Total capital works	21,816	15,029	6,787	31.1%	30,032	33,016	(2,983)

Legend	
< (\$100,000) and (-5%)	Unfavorable Variance
> = \$100,000 and 5%	Favorable Variance

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024



Capital Expenditure – notes

1. **Land:** Major variances include:

- Proposed land acquisition at Clements Reserve is forecast to be \$600K less than the budget at the end of the financial year. The purchase from Department of Transport and Planning will be executed in 2024-25. (P)

2. **Buildings:** Major variances include:

- Bill Lawry Oval pavilion upgrade is \$507K greater than budget at the end of March. Project works have been revised to include bluestone wall reconstruction. It is forecast that this variance will be \$950K more than the budget at the end of the financial year. The project was deferred from 2022-23. (P)
- Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre redevelopment is \$2.22M unfavourable to YTD budget due to phasing of spend. The current year forecast is favourable to budget, however the full project spend is line with the project budget.
- Building renewal program is \$1.31M less than budget at the end of March. (T)
- Merrilands Community Centre works is \$136K less than budget at the end of March. (T)

3. **Plant, machinery & equipment:** Major variances include:

- Vehicular plant replacement program is \$403K less than budget at the end of March. Delays in availability of replacement vehicles. (T)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

Capital Expenditure – notes

4. **Computers & telecommunications:** Major variances include:
- IT equipment replacement is \$670K less than budget. (T) Awaiting renewal of existing equipment lease arrangements.
 - Website and intranet improvements is \$173K less than budget. (T)
5. **Roads:** Major variances include:
- Road resurfacing program is \$1.62M less than budget at the end of March. Program commencing in March (T)
 - Road rehabilitation – Massey Avenue works is \$813K less than budget at the end of March. (T)
6. **Footpaths & cycleways:** Major variances include:
- Footpath renewal program is \$882K less than budget at the end of March. (T)
7. **Drainage:** Major variances include:
- Massey Avenue works is \$1.08M less than budget at the end of March. (T)
 - Sports ground sub-surface drainage is \$281K less than budget at the end of March. (T)
8. **Parks, opens space & streetscapes:** Major variances include:
- Light up Rezza is \$193K greater than budget at the end of March. It is forecast that this variance will be \$189K greater than the budget at the end of the financial year. 2022-23 External funded project which will be completed this year. (P)
 - Preston Oval cricket net is \$237K greater than budget at the end of March. It is forecast that this variance will be \$280K greater than the budget at the end of the financial year. (P)
 - WH Robinson Reserve cricket net is \$225K greater than budget. It is forecast that this variance will be \$226K greater than the budget at the end of the financial year. Project carried forward from 2022-23. (P)
 - Playspace renewal program is \$180K less than budget at the end of March. (T)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

2.3 Financial position

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Var \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Audited 2023 \$'000
Cash and investments	54,192	66,673	12,481	51,441	48,356	55,967
Net current assets	59,591	85,662	26,071	25,677	34,271	36,969
Net assets and total equity	1,694,983	1,711,500	16,517	1,664,631	1,670,678	1,664,503

Cash & Investment balance

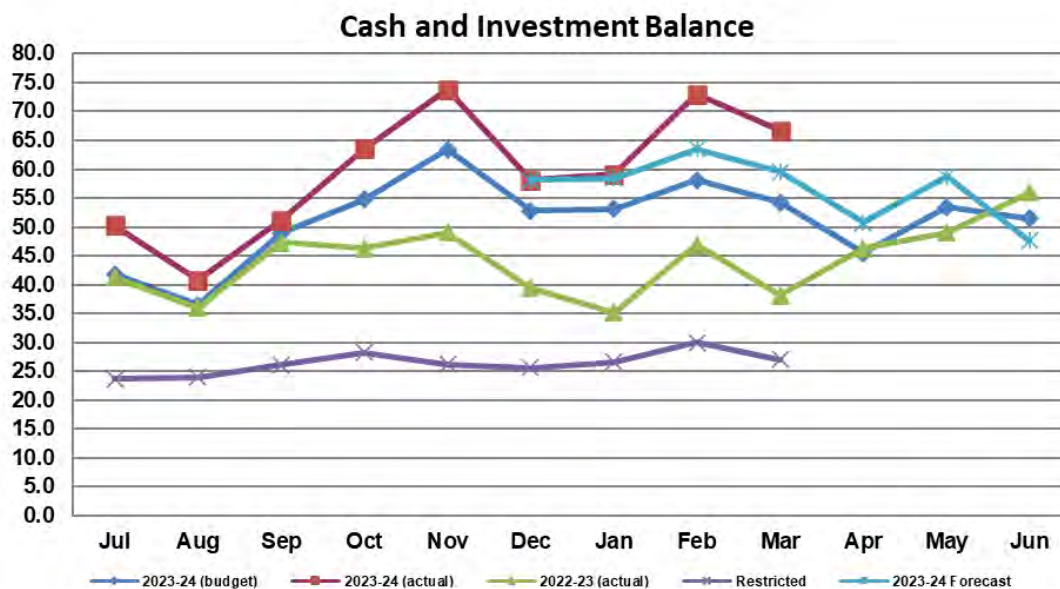
The chart below shows projections of how Council’s cash balance is expected to perform over the course of the 2023-24 financial year. The chart portrays:

- YTD budget to 31 March 2024
- YTD actual results to 31 March 2024
- YTD variance of actuals compared to budget
- Annual budget as adopted by Council
- Restricted Cash
- Mid-year (annual) forecast cash balance.

Restricted cash includes:

- Drainage development reserve
- Recreational lands and Developer Contribution Plan contributions received
- Carried forward capital works
- Trust funds and deposits.

The graph below shows Council’s cash balance is within expectations. Every opportunity is taken to invest surplus cash to maximise investment returns.



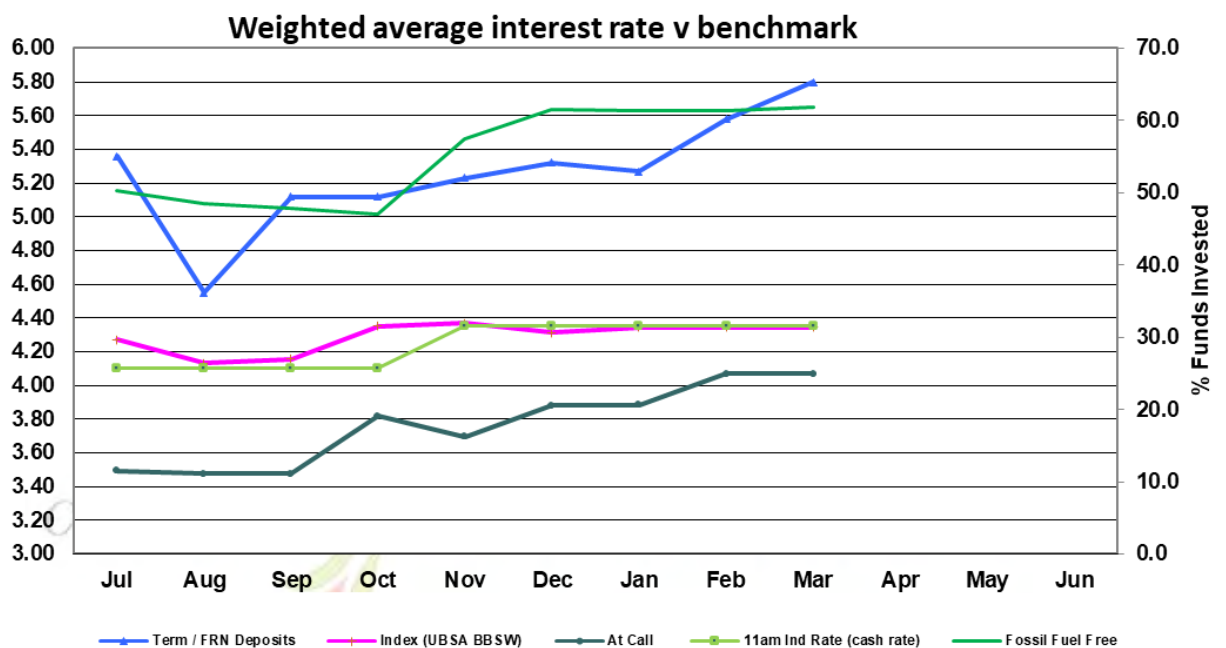
Note: Cash and investments include term deposits with a maturity date exceeding 90 days which are classified as other financial assets in the Balance Sheet (\$27.28M).

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

The graph below shows Council’s interest performance against the market as well as showing the percentage of investments that were placed with financial institutions and authorised deposit-taking institutions (ADI’s) which do not have a record of funding fossil fuels.

As at 31 March 2024, 62% of all invested funds were placed with financial institutions and ADI’s which do not have a record of funding fossil fuels (31 Dec 2023 61%).

A comprehensive review of the Council’s investment portfolio has been undertaken for the 9 months ended 31 March 2024. The council’s investment portfolio has earned \$2.01 million in interest on investments, with term deposits, floating rate deposits and cash investments earning an annualised rate of 4.65% (Dec 2023: 4.47%).



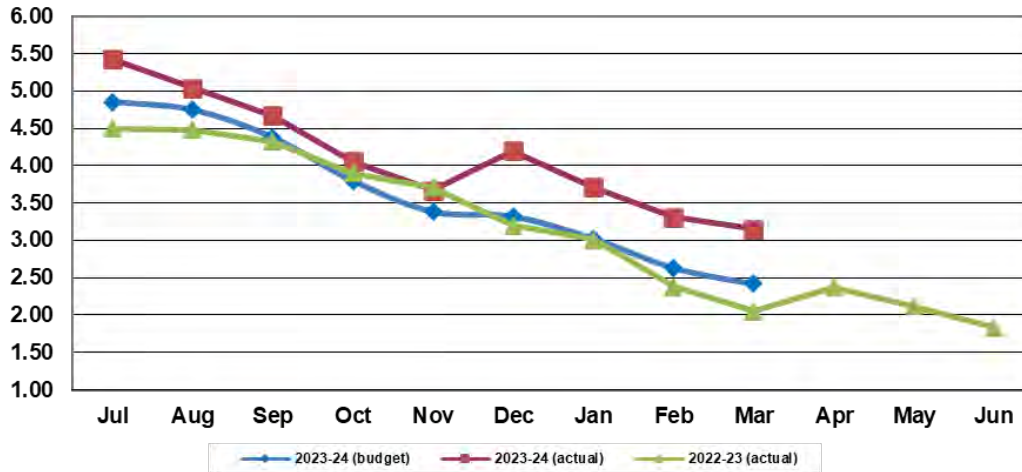
Working capital

The chart below shows projections of the movement in Council’s working capital over the course of the 2023-24 financial year. The chart portrays:

- Budgeted 2023-24 working capital
- Actual 2023-24 working capital
- Actual 2022-23 working capital

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

Working capital (current assets/current liabilities)



As at 31 March 2024, \$1501.5 million was raised in general and waste rates and charges including supplementary valuations generated by changes to council’s property base. At 31 March 2024, 67.9% of the rates raised have been collected compared to the same period of the 2022-23 financial year of 71.7%.

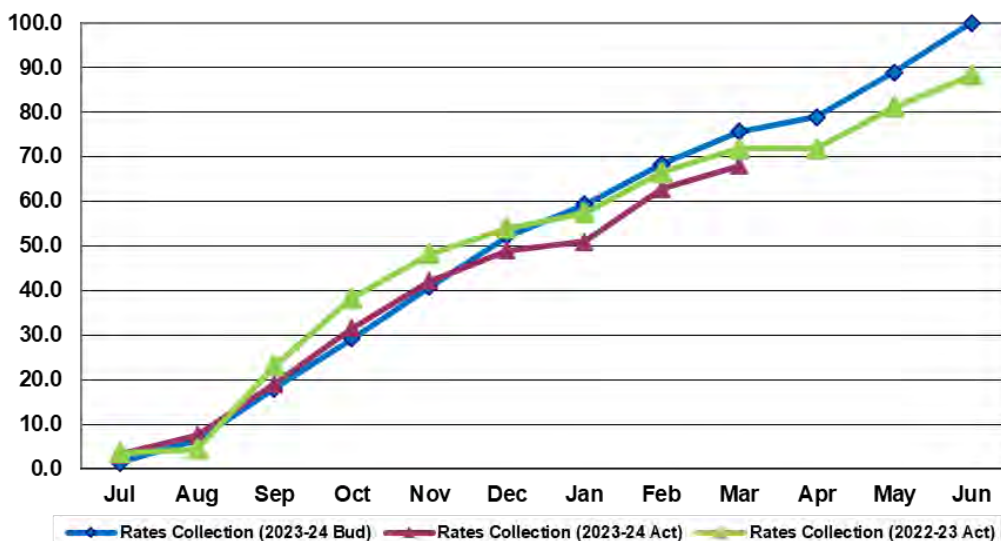
Rates debtors

The following graphs show that current collection trends are closely following the 2022-23 collection trend and the budgeted collection trend:

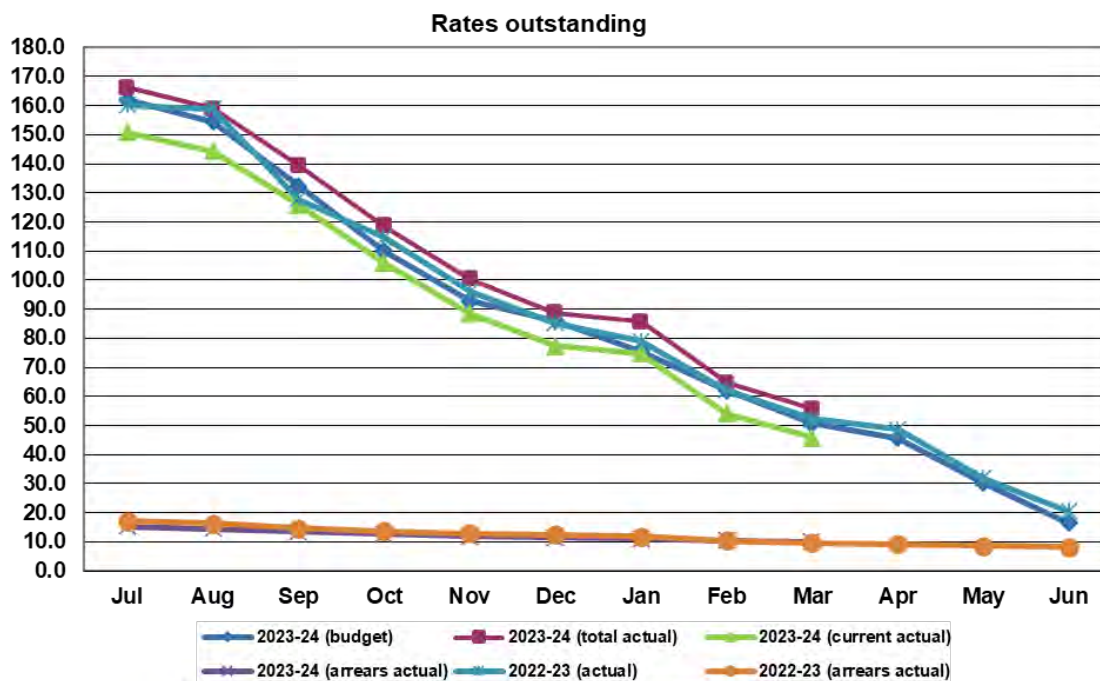
In the financial year 2022-23, an effective rate debt collection campaign was run to collect outstanding rates. Debt levels at the end of 2021-22 were around \$19.1m, excluding Special Charges. The campaign resulted in the collection of \$9.2m of outstanding debt from prior years. The rate debt collection campaign is continuing and has helped to improve Council’s cash flow and for the first time in the past four years, the outstanding General Rates and Fire Service Levy decreased from the prior year.

For the 9 months to March 2024, the Outstanding Rates Balance has decreased by \$7.069m

% of rates received



Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024



Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Income Statement
Balance Sheet
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Capital Works



Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL
Comprehensive Income Statement

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2024

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Income					
Rates and charges	150,574	151,511	937	152,133	152,381
Statutory fees and fines	7,026	7,016	(10)	8,775	8,889
User fees	9,595	9,314	(281)	13,116	11,929
Grants - operating	10,897	12,029	1,132	18,841	18,842
Grants - capital	18	1,193	1,175	1,865	2,147
Contributions - monetary	4,897	4,469	(428)	6,539	6,216
Net gain (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	439	286	(153)	1,436	545
Other income	2,292	3,851	1,559	3,133	4,646
Total income	185,738	189,669	3,931	205,838	205,595
Expenses					
Employee costs	73,757	74,602	(845)	100,557	101,520
Materials and services	45,302	41,627	3,675	60,053	60,163
Depreciation	20,035	19,458	577	26,714	26,714
Amortisation - intangible assets	385	497	(112)	512	543
Bad and doubtful debts	421	903	(482)	1,436	2,716
Borrowing costs	1,301	1,363	(62)	1,735	1,735
Finance Costs - leases	0	2	(2)	2	0
Other expenses	4,524	4,219	305	5,169	6,029
Total expenses	145,725	142,671	3,054	196,178	199,420
Surplus for the year	40,013	46,998	6,985	9,660	6,175
Less					
Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	0	(1,175)	(1,175)	(1,286)	(1,547)
Adjusted underlying surplus/ (deficit)	40,013	45,823	5,810	8,374	4,628

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Audited 2023 \$'000
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	44,191	39,406	(4,785)	41,440	34,202	41,813
Trade and other receivables	44,097	56,188	12,091	15,164	20,868	22,232
Other financial assets	10,001	27,267	17,266	10,001	14,154	14,154
Inventories	101	67	(34)	101	66	66
Prepayments	3,026	1,521	(1,505)	2,056	2,715	2,901
Other assets	67	341	274	921	145	145
Total current assets	101,483	124,790	23,307	69,683	72,150	81,311
Non-current assets						
Trade and other receivables	2,315	2,880	565	3,385	1,562	2,704
Other financial assets	6	6	0	6	6	6
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	1,671,941	1,655,680	(16,261)	1,673,477	1,666,444	1,660,142
Right-of-use assets	80	30	(50)	83	0	29
Investment property	2,643	9,270	6,627	2,643	9,270	9,270
Intangible assets	444	743	299	315	727	1,241
Total non-current assets	1,677,429	1,668,609	(8,820)	1,679,909	1,678,010	1,673,392
Total assets	1,778,912	1,793,399	14,487	1,749,592	1,750,160	1,754,703
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables	7,550	6,966	584	10,428	7,375	13,082
Trust funds and deposits	5,982	6,705	(723)	5,938	6,908	6,908
Unearned Income	2,615	1,662	953	2,615	107	1,254
Provisions	21,740	19,595	2,145	20,840	19,233	18,986
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	3,924	4,168	(244)	4,102	4,256	4,080
Lease liability	81	32	49	83	0	32
Total current liabilities	41,892	39,128	2,764	44,006	37,879	44,342
Provisions	1,846	2,424	(578)	1,846	2,380	2,380
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	40,191	40,347	(156)	39,109	39,221	43,478
Total non-current liabilities	42,037	42,771	(734)	40,955	41,601	45,858
Total liabilities	83,929	81,899	2,030	84,961	79,481	90,200
Net assets	1,694,983	1,711,500	16,517	1,664,631	1,670,678	1,664,503
Equity						
Accumulated surplus	626,775	640,470	13,695	594,994	599,480	593,470
Asset revaluation reserve	1,055,675	1,055,673	(2)	1,055,676	1,055,675	1,055,675
Other reserves	12,533	15,357	2,824	13,961	15,523	15,358
Total equity	1,694,983	1,711,500	16,517	1,664,631	1,670,678	1,664,503

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL

Statement of Cash Flow

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2024

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Rates	116,611	115,388	(1,223)	150,907	153,387
Statutory fees and fines	7,025	5,108	(1,917)	9,605	6,173
User fees & charges (inclusive of GST)	10,541	11,389	848	14,357	12,739
Grants - operating	14,511	12,493	(2,018)	18,673	19,306
Grants - capital	18	2,387	2,369	1,848	1,827
Contributions - monetary	4,347	4,469	122	6,539	6,216
Other income	2,359	2,529	170	3,184	2,006
Employee costs	(73,998)	(74,548)	(550)	(100,587)	(101,955)
Materials and services (inclusive of GST)	(56,707)	(50,099)	6,608	(71,796)	(74,921)
Net FSPL refund / payment	11	(591)	(602)	0	0
	24,718	28,523	3,806	32,730	24,780
Interest	112	1,105	994	753	2,841
Trust funds and deposits	0	393	393	0	0
Net GST refund / payment	6,163	4,807	(1,356)	3,304	8,104
Net cash provided by operating activities	30,993	34,829	3,837	36,787	35,724
Cash flows from investing activities					
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	430	315	(116)	1,436	545
Payment for property, infrastr, plant & equipment	(21,818)	(20,029)	1,789	(30,032)	(38,074)
Repayment of loans and advances	0	9	9	0	9
Payment for other financial assets	0	(13,112)	(13,112)	0	0
Net cash used in investing activities	(21,388)	(32,817)	(11,430)	(28,596)	(37,520)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Finance costs	(1,301)	(1,374)	(72)	(1,735)	(1,735)
Repayment of borrowings	(3,046)	(3,043)	0	(3,950)	(4,080)
Net cash used in financing activities	(4,347)	(4,418)	(73)	(5,685)	(5,815)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash & cash equivalents					
	5,257	(2,407)	(7,664)	2,506	(7,611)
Cash & cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	38,934	41,813	2,879	38,934	41,813
Cash & cash equivalents at the end of the period	44,191	39,406	(4,785)	41,440	34,202

Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL

Statement of Cash Flow

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2024

Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Surplus for the year	40,013	46,998	6,985	9,660	6,175
Items not involving cash or non operating in nature					
Depreciation and amortisation	20,420	19,955	(465)	27,226	27,257
Interest expense	1,301	1,365	64	1,737	1,735
Bad & doubtful debts	421	903	482	1,436	2,716
Net (gain) / loss on sale of assets	(439)	(286)	153	(1,436)	(545)
Decrease / (Increase) in trade and other debtors	(28,445)	(36,123)	(7,678)	(294)	1,207
Decrease / (Increase) in other operating assets	70	2,235	2,166	(6)	(1,239)
(Decrease) / Increase in Trade creditors	(2,959)	(4,930)	(1,971)	635	0
(Decrease) / Increase in other operating liabilities	(289)	4,056	4,345	(2,171)	(1,830)
(Decrease) / Increase in provisions	900	655	(245)	0	248
	<u>(30,723)</u>	<u>(34,105)</u>	<u>(3,382)</u>	<u>(1,836)</u>	<u>(1,613)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>30,993</u>	<u>34,829</u>	<u>3,836</u>	<u>36,787</u>	<u>35,724</u>



Financial Report
9 months ended 31 March 2024

DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL
Statement of Capital Works

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2024

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Budget & CFWDs \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Capital works						
Property						
Land	600	0	600	600	1,570	0
Buildings	5,906	6,827	(921)	5,350	5,312	7,139
Total property	6,506	6,827	(321)	5,950	6,882	7,139
Plant & equipment						
Plant, machinery & equipment	1,577	1,040	537	1,820	1,820	1,840
Fixtures, fittings & furniture	29	9	20	30	30	30
Computers & telecommunications	2,065	1,449	616	2,600	3,215	3,216
Library books	601	518	83	750	750	750
Total plant & equipment	4,272	3,016	1,256	5,200	5,815	5,836
Infrastructure						
Roads	3,584	499	3,085	4,750	4,890	4,230
Bridges	0	2	(2)	0	137	127
Footpaths & cycleways	2,361	1,471	890	2,750	2,750	3,165
Drainage	1,749	142	1,607	1,580	1,580	1,166
Land Improvements	695	355	340	350	857	1,639
Recreation, leisure & community facilities	146	6	140	5,550	5,839	5,672
Waste management	188	243	(55)	350	350	250
Parks, open space & streetscapes	2,315	2,468	(153)	3,452	4,088	3,692
Off-street car parks	0	0	0	100	100	100
Total infrastructure	11,038	5,186	5,852	18,882	20,590	20,041
Total capital works	21,816	15,029	6,787	30,032	33,287	33,016
Represented by:						
Asset renewal	16,727	11,524	5,203	23,026	25,523	25,315
New assets	1,707	1,176	531	2,350	2,606	2,583
Asset expansion	1,961	1,351	610	2,700	2,994	2,968
Asset upgrade	1,421	979	442	1,956	2,169	2,150
Total capital works	21,816	15,029	6,787	30,032	33,287	33,016

9.3 FAMILIES, YOUTH & CHILDREN STRATEGY AND STAGE 2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Author: Planning and Project Officer

Reviewed By: General Manager Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Council with the results of the first stage of community engagement for the new Families, Youth and Children Strategy and recommends that Council endorses the draft Families, Youth and Children Strategy – A Framework for Collective Action to go to Stage 2 Community Engagement.

The draft Families, Youth and Children Strategy – A Framework for Collective Action has been developed with input from more than 800 community members and stakeholders through an extensive community engagement process. The draft Strategy is intended to present a high-level framework for action by Council and partners on a set of strategic focus areas across seven themes that have been identified through the community engagement process.

The draft Strategy does not contain actions or specific commitments. A Collective Action Plan for Council and partners, which will operationalise the Strategy, will be developed after the Strategy has been finalised and adopted, outlining, and clarifying the roles and actions that Council and partners will take and shared measures of progress. Throughout the process of developing this Strategy, the Strategy has been framed as a partnership document, not solely a Council Strategy. This approach is strongly supported by the stakeholders.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorses community engagement on the draft Families, Youth and Children Strategy – A Framework for Action at **Appendix A**.
- (2) Approves release of the Stage 1 Community Engagement Summary at **Appendix B**.
- (3) Thanks the community and stakeholders for providing valuable feedback during Stage 1 community engagement.
- (4) Notes the Young Citizens Jury’s “Our Vision” at **Appendix C** and thanks the Young Citizens Jury for preparing this report.

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

The development of an integrated Families Youth and Children Strategy is a strategic action in the 2021-25 Council Plan (action number 2-11). The Strategy will replace the previous Early Years Strategy 2011-21 and the Youth Services Strategy 2019-21 with the aim of supporting Council and partners to adopt an integrated, long-term, and strategic approach to improving outcomes for children and young people from 0-25 years and their families.

Council approved the plan for Stage 1 Community Engagement on this strategy in September 2023 and resolved to receive a report back on the Stage 1 engagement as soon as possible in 2024.

In the report Council received in September 2023 seven broad strategic aims for the Strategy were outlined:

- Support achievement of the Darebin 2041 Community Vision.
- Promote equity and support all children, young people, and families in Darebin to thrive.
- Identify, understand, and address current and emerging issues impacting children, young people, and families in Darebin.
- Support a strategic, integrated, and collaborative approach across Council and with partners to addressing the needs of children, young people, and families.
- Clarify the roles of Council and partners in supporting children, young people, and families.
- Strengthen our partnerships with key stakeholders and provide a platform to work collaboratively with them on priority issues.
- Support a financially sustainable approach to work in this area over the long term.

The draft Strategy that is presented with this report is the product of extensive engagement with the community and stakeholders, as well as being informed by the Background Report for the Strategy that was shared with Councillors in 2023. Throughout the engagement process, stakeholders indicated strong support for this strategy being a partnership document, not solely a Council strategy. Partnership and collaboration have been emphasised throughout the document, and the name of the Strategy has been adjusted to include the subtitle “A Framework for Collaboration and Action” to make the intent clear.

The intent of this document is to be a high-level framework for action outlining the strategic focus areas that Council and partners intend to focus on to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families. The Strategy contains strategic aims but does not contain specific actions or commitments at this stage. Following adoption of the strategy we will work with partners to develop an action plan which will outline the actions that Council and partners will take and shared measures of progress. A key part of the action plan development will be establishing clarity about what role Council will play in actions and what role partners will play. This is essential as no one organisation can deliver on the range of needs and aspirations of this cohort.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 25 September 2023, Council resolved:

That Council:

- (1) *Approves the delivery of Stage 1 Community Engagement to inform the development of an integrated Families, Youth and Children Strategy as per the Community Engagement Plan included at Appendix A.*
- (2) *Resolves to receive a report back to Council on the Stage 1 Community Engagement on the integrated Families, Youth and Children Strategy as soon as possible in 2024.*

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

2.1 We will deliver equitable and accessible infrastructure to provide opportunities for our community to live well

The development of an integrated Families Youth and Children Strategy is a strategic action in the 2021-25 Council Plan sitting under Strategic Objective 2.1.

DISCUSSION

The core of the draft Strategy is a set of seven themes, each of which includes three or four focus areas. These themes and focus areas emerged from our engagement with the community and stakeholders, as well the background research and evidence-base, as the high priority areas for action to improve outcomes for children, young people, and families in Darebin. Within the Strategy each theme has been distilled into a short summary that outlines the key focus areas within the theme, why the theme and focus areas are important, a small selection of key data indicators related to the focus area and a set of aims for each theme. The themes, focus areas and aims are the core strategic statements within the Strategy as they outline the intended areas of focus and directions of change. The themes and focus areas are summarised in the table below.

Themes	Focus Areas
Essentials for life	Supporting families and young people facing cost of living pressures. Helping young people to access secure and rewarding employment and career pathways. Helping all children, young people, and families to have their basic needs met. Financial literacy and life skills.
Inclusion & belonging	Making Darebin a community where everyone can find their people. Welcoming and inclusive places and services for all. Opportunities to participate and connect. Valuing everyone.
Health & wellbeing	Physical activity and active transport. Mental health and wellbeing. Access to thriving natural environments that support wellbeing.
Safety & independence	Physical, cultural, emotional, and psychological safety in all settings. Community safety in public spaces and transport. Safety in families and homes.
Learning	Access to high quality learning. Participation in learning. Preparing young people for the future.
Community Leadership	Supporting youth and community leadership.

Themes	Focus Areas
	Valuing lived experience. Authentic community engagement.
Systems of support	Accessible services. Connected services. Responsive and engaging services. Culturally safe services.

As per the Strategic Directions for the Strategy that were presented to Council in September 2023, the draft Strategy places a strong emphasis on collaboration to deliver change for children, young people, and families in Darebin. Principles to guide this collaboration were discussed at the Stakeholder Summit and from this discussion a set of principles has been included in the draft Strategy:

1. We value diverse perspectives and listen to our community.
2. We value learning, and work to create safe spaces to learn from each other.
3. We value relationships, and work to build trust across our partnerships.
4. We share information, resources, and power across our partnerships and with our community to achieve our goals.
5. We are flexible and adapt as the needs of our community change.
6. We work cohesively towards a shared vision and clear goals.
7. We hold ourselves accountable to get things done, and report transparently to our community.
8. We have the courage to take risks and innovate.

As the initiator of this Strategy and convenor of the collaboration that has developed the strategy, Council has a key role to play in the Strategy's delivery. Council's role in implementation aligns with the five key roles of local government in supporting children and their families outlined by the Municipal Association of Victoria in their Municipal Early Years Planning Guide.

1. **Planning and coordination** – Council's role will include convening ongoing collaboration to develop and implement action plans to deliver on the Strategy's aims; support for information sharing; coordination of activities across partners in this space; coordinating monitoring, evaluation and reporting of progress across the Strategy's aims.
2. **Service delivery** – Council's service delivery to children, young people and families will provide opportunities for Council to contribute to some of the aims in the strategy, for example addressing some of the youth-focused priorities through Darebin Youth Services. For many of the aims Council will not be one of the primary service delivery agencies, and actions will be led by other organisations.
3. **Facilities and infrastructure** – Several priorities for children, young people and families relate to public spaces and places, including parks and playgrounds, roads and other public spaces, and facilities such early childhood facilities and libraries. With regard to infrastructure planning and provision, the Strategy, alongside other current and future strategy, and policy documents, will help to inform and guide Council's work in this space by articulating aims for public spaces and places that respond to the needs of children, young people, and families.

4. **Advocacy** – Advocacy to state and federal governments and other key stakeholders on behalf of children, young people and families is a core role that Council already plays. The Strategy will provide both a resource to draw on for advocacy on issues that have been identified by the community and stakeholders, and a platform for coordinated advocacy with partners on key issues.
5. **Strengthening community capacity** – the Strategy will provide support for strengthening ongoing community and stakeholder participation in decision-making and action in relation to issues impacting children, young people, and families. Council's role will include being a facilitator of participation in Council decisions as well as an advocate and champion of participation across the partnerships.

As with any public document of this nature, the “look and feel” of the document will have a significant impact on how it is received, perceived and utilised by the community and stakeholders. The draft Strategy is presented for review in plain formatting as a word document. A designed version of the Strategy will be developed with input from young people. It is planned that this will occur after the Stage 2 community engagement process.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

There are no specific actions or commitments or direct financial implications from this strategy at this stage.

Our expectation is that many of the actions that Council would contribute to would be delivered within existing budget allocations (e.g. through the focusing of youth services programs budget on relevant programs that respond to the focus areas). Any actions that require allocation of additional Council resources would be referred to the 2025-26 budget cycle for consideration as part of Council's budget process.

Community Engagement

Stage 1 Community Engagement on this Strategy was delivered in two phases:

- In October and November 2023, we sought feedback from the community on four broad questions to help us understand what's important to children, young people, and families, what's currently working well, what makes life hard, and what priorities they would like Council and our partners to focus on to help children, young people, and families across Darebin. In this phase we heard from over 650 children, young people, and adults through a combination of on-line and face-to-face methods that included engaging with children at early year services, primary schools, and secondary schools.
- In February and March 2024, we delivered a series of three engagement events with stakeholders and young people, which built on what we had heard from the community in the previous phase and moved into the identification of key focus areas for action. These events included a Stakeholder Summit attended by 96 stakeholders representing 46 organisations, a Youth Roundtable in which 14 young people participated in an in-depth collaborative planning process, and a Sensemaking Workshop in which a small group of stakeholders worked to synthesise and prioritise findings from the previous events.

Appendix B presents an overview of the community engagement approach and key findings.

Following the Youth Roundtable, the Young Citizens Jury independently developed their own summary of their key priorities for the Strategy in preparation for a meeting that they had with the Minister for Youth, the Hon. Natalie Suleyman MP and Nathan Lambert MP, Member for

Preston, and Reservoir. This summary document, which includes proposed solutions to the key issues identified by young people as well as an overview of the Youth Roundtable process is included as **Appendix C**.

The Families, Youth and Children Strategy Reference Group and the Darebin Young Citizens Jury have had direct input into reviewing and strengthening the draft Strategy that is being shared with Councillors. The Stage 2 engagement is proposed to run from May 28 to 18 June 2024. The engagement will seek the community's feedback on the draft Strategy with the aim of understanding whether the draft Strategy aligns with the community's priorities and whether any significant priorities are missing from the themes and focus areas. The engagement will adopt a similar range of methods as the first stage including online & hard copy surveys for young people and adults, engagement sessions with children and at early years services and schools, engagement through Council services including Youth Services, Libraries and Immunisation sessions, and pop-up engagement at shopping centres and markets. All stakeholders who participated in Stage 1 engagement activities will be invited to provide feedback. A child-friendly summary of the draft Strategy will be developed to support engagement with children during Stage 2.

A detailed communications plan for the Stage 2 Community Engagement is being developed with the support of the Communications Team.

Other Principles for consideration

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

(d) the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

Whilst environmental sustainability and climate emergency were not major themes in the engagement responses, these issues did come up. This is reflected in the focus areas 'Access to thriving natural environments that support wellbeing' under the 'Health & Wellbeing' theme.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

An Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed to inform the development of the Community Engagement Plan and overall project plan. The EIA informed the engagement approach, questions, language, and methods, which were designed to ensure that the engagement was inclusive, accessible, and relevant across Darebin's diverse community.

As noted in the engagement report, some indicators of diversity in participation in our engagement included:

- 30% young people or adults who completed a survey spoke a language other than English at home (similar to the Darebin population profile).
- Survey respondents came from across Darebin: 26% Reservoir, 23% Preston, 17% Northcote, 10% Thornbury, 16% others.
- Aboriginal organisations and stakeholders who participated in stakeholder engagement included the Best Start Aboriginal Reference Group, Dardi Munwurro, Aboriginal Housing Victoria, Melbourne Polytechnic Koorie Services Unit, Ngwala, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

- **262 young people and adults completed an online or hard copy survey** (71% online, 29% hard copy):
 - Age: 30% 10-19, 4% 20-29, 29% 30-39, 24% 40-49, 5% 50-59, 2% 60+.
 - Postcode: 26% Reservoir, 23% Preston, 17% Northcote, 10% Thornbury, 16% others.
 - Connection to Darebin: 77% live, 18% work, 18% study, 10% visit.
 - Gender: 65% woman, 27% man, 3% non-binary/gender diverse.
 - 30% spoke a language other than English at home.
 - 2% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.
 - 8% reported having a disability.

- **387 children completed an activity sheet :**
 - The children's ages ranged from 2 to 13 years old. 18% were aged 2-5 years, 38% were aged 6-9, 31% were aged 10-13, 13% of children did not give their age.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

Employment and career opportunities are a particular interest for young people, which is reflected in the Strategy's theme of "Essentials for life". The opportunity to link this to Councils Economic Development Strategy will be explored in subsequent phases of work.

Operational Impacts

There are no operational impacts at this stage.




Legal and Risk Implications

No legal or risk implications have been identified at this stage.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- Stage 2 Community Engagement – 29 May 2024 to 21 June 2024
- Revise Strategy and prepare report on Stage 2 Engagement – June to July 2024
- Provide report to Council on Stage 2 Engagement and request Council adoption of Strategy – 26 August 2024
- Commence development of Council and Partner Collective Action Plan – September to November 2024

Attachments

- FYC Strategy Draft Strategy.pdf (**Appendix A**) [↓](#) 
- FYC Strategy Stage 1 Community Engagement Report.pdf (**Appendix B**) [↓](#) 
- Our Vision Presented by Darebin Youth Jury (**Appendix C**) [↓](#) 

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



the place
to live

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy: A Framework for Collective Action

DRAFT 8 May 2024

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

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Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Darebin

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

We pay respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

We recognise, and pay tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience, and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.

DRAFT

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

Thankyous

This strategy was developed with the support of many people.

Council would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this strategy including:

- The more than 650 children, young people and adults who participated in the stage 1 community engagement.
- The Strategy Reference group representatives from Your Community Health, Merri Outreach Support Service, Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service (DIVRS), Anglicare, the Inner North Local Learning & Employment Network and the Darebin Young Citizens Jury.
- The 46 partner organisations who participated in the Stakeholder summit.
- The Young Citizen's Jury for their input at multiple stages of the strategy process.
- The young people who participated in the Youth Roundtable and Jury members Max, Hunter and Sakshi for co-designing and co-hosting the Roundtable.
- Geoff Brown from Tangent Consulting and Chelsey Cooper Hatrick & Co for designing and facilitating the Stakeholder Summit and Youth Roundtable.
- Dr Robyn Cochrane from Cochrane Research Solutions for background research.

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

Placeholder: Mayor's Foreword

Placeholder: Young Citizens Jury's Foreword

Placeholder: Families, Youth & Children Strategy Reference Group's Foreword

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

Introduction

This Families, Youth & Children Strategy aims to enable Council and partners to take an integrated, long-term, and strategic approach to improving outcomes for children and young people aged 0-25 and their families.

Nearly 30% of Darebin residents are aged between 0 to 25 (an estimated 48,735 people in 2025), and the number of children and young people is forecast to increase over the next twenty years.

Supporting the health, wellbeing, care and education of children and young people in Darebin is a vital priority for Council and our community. Childhood and youth are critical times in life. The experiences that people have from birth through to 25 have profound and lasting effects on their health, wellbeing and life chances. By creating the social and environmental conditions for children and young people in Darebin to thrive, we can give all children and young people the best chance of health and wellbeing throughout life. If we fail to do this, we put children and young people at risk of serious negative consequences over the course of their lives.

Council's aim is that this strategy will provide a platform for powerful and effective collaboration to improve outcomes for all children, young people and their families in Darebin. The strategy has been developed through engagement and collaboration processes that have involved more than 800 children, young people and adults from across the Darebin community, including representatives from more than 40 organisations who all have a stake in improving outcomes for children, young people and families. We hope that the strategy will provide a framework for action that supports Council, community and a wide range of partners to work together to leverage the strengths in our community and address the challenges that impact the lives of children, young people and families.

This strategy focuses on the 0-25 age group, in recognition of the fact that many of the factors that children and young people need to thrive are consistent throughout childhood and into young adulthood. Whilst children, young people and families have specific needs at various stages of development from conception through infancy, early childhood, the middle years, the teenage years and young adulthood, many of the fundamentals are consistent, such as the need to be loved and safe, material basics such as housing and food, being healthy, learning, participating, and having a positive sense of identity and culture. By developing a strategy that cuts across the age cohorts from 0-25 we aim to ensure that no age cohort is neglected, and to facilitate greater collaboration and integration across organisations and groups that work with specific age cohorts so that everyone receives the support they need throughout their first 25 years of life.

The Strategy in Practice

This Strategy is a starting point for action improve outcomes for Darebin's children, young people. It is intended to guide Council and our partners as we develop collaborative responses to the key themes and focus areas.

This Strategy is a snapshot of the issues and priorities that community and stakeholders feel are most important for children, young people and families at a particular moment in time. We recognise that these issues and priorities will change over time, and our responses will need to change as this happens. Our collaborative principles, developed with stakeholders, outline how we will work together in this flexible and responsive way underpinned by a commitment to listening, learning, sharing and holding each other accountable.

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

This Strategy is a reference and tool which we will use in our collaboration going forward to:

- Align action towards the issues that are most significant for children, young people and families,
- Develop Action Plans to outline the actions that Council and partners will take to deliver on the aims outlined in this strategy,
- Hold ourselves collectively account to deliver on the priorities that the community has identified,
- Advocate for the action by others where they are in a position to influence change,
- Extend and strengthen our collaboration, bringing in new partners who can help us address the key themes and focus areas.

Next Steps: from Strategy to Action

An initial two year Action Plan will be developed to accompany this Strategy. This first Action Plan will outline the key actions that Council and partners will take to work towards the aims outlined for each theme in this Strategy.

The Action Plan will be developed collaboratively with the partners and stakeholders who have helped developed this Strategy, including young people and community members. It will include actions, measures of progress, timeframes and responsibilities for leadership and contribution to each action. The Principles of Collaboration and Action outlined in this Strategy will guide the development and delivery of the Action Plan as a shared responsibility amongst Council and partners.

In line with the principles of holding ourselves accountable to get things done and valuing learning, monitoring and evaluation of progress will be critical to ensure that we stay focused on the issues that are important to children, young people and families in Darebin and track progress on our aims. The monitoring, evaluation and progress will be an ongoing process, with progress reported annually to Council and the community.

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

Principles for Collaboration and Action

Collaboration is essential to improving outcomes for children, young people from 0 to 25 and their families. Hundreds of organisations and groups from dozens of diverse sectors of society play a critical role in providing the services, supports and community infrastructure that enables children and young people to thrive. Collaboration that is grounded in relationships, networks and partnerships is now more important than ever.

A wide range of organisations from many sectors helped develop this strategy, including early childhood education and care, primary, secondary and tertiary education, health, employment, welfare, homelessness, Neighbourhood Houses, police, philanthropy, volunteer groups, family services, youth services, drug and alcohol, mental health, family violence and many more areas. Together we developed these principles to guide how we work together, how we communicate and the approaches to change that we will follow to deliver outcomes for families, youth and children across Darebin.

Listening and learning, relationships, trust

1. We value diverse perspectives and listen to our community.
2. We value learning, and work to create safe spaces to learn from each other.
3. We value relationships, and work to build trust across our partnerships.

Sharing power and resources

4. We share information, resources and power across our partnerships and with our community to achieve our goals.

Aligning our efforts, staying adaptable

5. We are flexible and adapt as the needs of our community change.
6. We work cohesively towards a shared vision and clear goals.

Taking action, being courageous

7. We hold ourselves accountable to get things done, and report transparently to our community.
8. We have the courage to take risks and innovate.

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

Council's Role

As the initiator of this strategy and convenor of the collaboration that brought this Strategy into being, Council has a key role to play in the Strategy's delivery and in supporting children, young people and families across the work that Council does.

The five key roles of local government in supporting children and their families outlined by the Municipal Association of Victoria in their Municipal Early Years Planning Guide provide a useful framework for thinking about the roles that Council can play in supporting children, young people and families. These five roles align closely with the roles partners have said they want Council to play in progressing the focus areas of this strategy.

Five key roles outlined by the Municipal Association of Victoria	Roles partners have asked Council to play
Planning and coordination – acting as a key coordination point and community planner for services and activities that support children, young people, and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide platforms for collaboration and community action. • Facilitate connections and information sharing between services to improve service coordination and access. • Data collection and analysis. • Provide funding to services, groups and programs for Families, Youth & Children.
Service provision – delivering a range of programs, activities, and initiatives for children, young people, and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the ideas put forward by community and stakeholders
Facility planning – planning, providing, and maintaining a range of infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve buildings, facilities and parks.
Advocacy – lobbying and advocating to state and federal governments and other key stakeholders on behalf of children, young people and their families, and the services that support them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for funding and support from other levels of government.
Strengthening community capacity – facilitating community connections and community participation in decision-making, including supporting children and young people's role as active citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genuine and meaningful engagement, listen to the community and stakeholders. • Provide platforms for collaboration and community action.

The role of Partners

Partners organisations who participated in the Stakeholder Summit in February 2024, articulated a set of key roles that they can play in improving outcomes for children young people and families in collaboration with Council and each other.

- Continued engagement in strategy development: raising issues and sharing information
- Holding Council and other partners to account.
- Supporting or providing inclusive services and spaces for all children and families.
- Building connections, sharing information and collaborating across sectors.
- Listening to young people, creating more space for their voices to be heard.
- Advocating for the needs of children, young people and families.
- Implementing agreed actions.

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

A snapshot of children, young people and families in Darebin

Source: 2021 census data

Children, young people and families comprise a significant proportion of the Darebin community and the numbers of children and young people are forecast to increase.

- Around 26% of Darebin residents are children and young people aged from 0 to 24.
 - 5.3% (or 7,896) are aged 0 to 4 years (early years)
 - 6.9% (or 10,231) are aged 5 to 11 years (middle years)
 - 5.5% (or 8,229) are aged 12 to 17 years (teenagers)
 - 8.2% (or 12,160) are aged 18 to 24 years (young adults)
- In addition, 19.2% (or 28,587) of people in Darebin are aged 25 to 34 years and 23.0% (or 34,168) are aged 35 to 49 years, the age groups within which people are most likely to have children.
- Households with children comprise 35.2% of all households in Darebin. Of these, couples with children comprise 26.1% of households and single parents with children comprise 9.1% of all households. In 80.1% of single parent households the single parent is female.
- 577 people aged 0-24 in Darebin are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, which is around 40% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Darebin.
- 11.4% of people aged 0-24 were born overseas. The 5 most common birthplaces outside of Australia for people aged 0-24 were: India (1.9% of people aged 0-24), China (1.3%), Nepal (0.9%), England (0.8%) and Vietnam (0.8%).
- 34.5% of people aged 0-24 had a mother who was born overseas. The five most common maternal birthplaces (excluding Australia) for persons aged 0 to 24 years in Darebin were China (3.9%), India (3.5%), Vietnam (3.2%), England (2.6%) and New Zealand (2.0%).
- 70.0% of Darebin residents aged 0-24 use only English at home. Of those residents aged 0-24 who use another language at home, the 5 most commonly used languages were: Greek (3.4%), Mandarin (3.2%), Arabic (2.8%), Vietnamese (2.2%), Italian (1.4%).
- 76.6% of persons aged 15 to 24 years were fully engaged with employment and education and 6.9% were disengaged, consistent with Greater Melbourne.
- 812 children and young people aged 0-19 needed assistance in their day-to-day lives due to disability.
- The number of children and young people in Darebin is forecast to grow over the next ten years and become a larger proportion of the total Darebin population. By 2031, forecasts suggest there will be 14,568 more 0-24 year olds than in 2021. 0-24 year olds are expected to make up 29% of the Darebin population in 2031 compared to 26% in 2021.

Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy DRAFT

How this Strategy was developed

Stage 1 Community Engagement

We heard from over 650 children, young people and adults what's important to them and where they need support.

From 9 October to 26 November 2023, we asked the Darebin community four questions to help us understand what's important to children, young people and families.

1. **What are the most important things that children, young people and families need to have a good life?** What do you or your family need to be healthy, happy and to live a good life?
2. **What is working well for children, young people and families in Darebin right now?** What helps you or your family to be healthy, happy and reach your potential?
3. **What makes life hard for children, young people and families in Darebin right now?** What makes it hard for you or your family to be healthy, happy and reach your potential?
4. **What should Council and our partners focus on to help children, young people, and their families across our diverse community?** What are the things you would most like Council and our partners to do something about for you or your family?

For children, we adapted the questions and created an activity sheet that asked:

1. What makes you happy and healthy?
2. What do you like best about the area where you live?
3. What would you change to help all children in Darebin to be happy and healthy?

We also asked people to post on our engagement website their vision or big idea for what would make Darebin a great place for all children, young people and their families.

Engagement activities

- Online & hard copy surveys for young people and adults.
- Engagement sessions with children and young people at six kindergarten & childcare services, six primary schools, three secondary schools and several community settings.
- Engagement through Council services including Youth Services, libraries, immunisation sessions, Toy Library.
- Engagement at shopping centres, markets, train stations & community events.
- Stakeholder meetings.

Who did we hear from?

262 young people and adults completed an online or hard copy survey (71% online, 29% hard copy)

- Age: 30% 10-19, 4% 20-29, 29% 30-39, 24% 40-49, 5% 50-59, 2% 60+.
- Postcode: 26% Reservoir, 23% Preston, 17% Northcote, 10% Thornbury, 16% others.
- Connection to Darebin: 77% live, 18% work, 18% study, 10% visit.
- Gender: 65% woman, 27% man, 3% non-binary/gender diverse.
- 30% spoke a language other than English at home.
- 2% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.
- 8% reported having a disability.

387 children completed an activity sheet

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- The children's ages ranged from 2 to 13 years old. 18% were aged 2-5 years, 38% were aged 6-9, 31% were aged 10-13, 13% of children did not give their age.

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder meetings

- Young Citizens Jury, Youth Workers Network, Darebin Education Network, Best Start Aboriginal Reference Group, Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service, Dardi Munwurro, Aboriginal Housing Victoria, Melbourne Polytechnic Koorie Services Unit.

Stakeholder Summit

- 96 people from 46 organisations participated in a full-day Families, Youth & Children Stakeholder Summit in February 2024. This included representation from organisations that work across the child, youth and family spectrum including early years, middle years, teenagers, young adults and families. The summit was designed collaboratively with stakeholders through the Families, Youth & Children Reference Group. We invited participation from all levels within organisations - from strategic decision makers to frontline service delivery workers, as well as community members including young people.
- At the Summit stakeholders reviewed the feedback received from the community in the stage 1 community engagement, identified principles for collaboration, explored Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results to inform the Strategy and then developed proposed Strategic Focus Areas for the Strategy.

Youth Roundtable

- 14 young people participated in a half-day Youth Roundtable workshop in March 2024. The Roundtable was co-designed and co-hosted by members of the Young Citizens Jury.
- At the Roundtable young people developed a vision of a 'Future Perfect' Darebin that met all the needs of young people, mapped out the assets that currently support young people in Darebin, the things that are missing and identified their priority actions to improve Darebin for young people. They also reviewed the Strategic Focus Areas that stakeholders had identified at the Stakeholder Summit.

Sensemaking Workshop

- 13 people including representatives from six partners organisations, Darebin Young Citizens Jury members and Council officers participated in a facilitated sensemaking workshop to review outputs from the Stakeholder Summit and Youth Roundtable to synthesise the key principles and focus areas/themes for the Strategy.

Young Citizens Jury: Our Vision

- The Young Citizens Jury independently developed a document entitled 'Our Vision' which outlined their proposals for action in the key priority areas that had been identified in the Youth Roundtable.

Themes and Focus Areas

Summary

		Themes						
		Essentials for life	Inclusion & belonging	Health & wellbeing	Safety & independence	Learning	Community Leadership	Systems of support
Focus Areas	Supporting families and young people facing cost of living pressures.	Making Darebin a community where everyone can find their people.	Physical activity and active transport	Physical, cultural, emotional and psychological safety in all settings	Access to high quality learning	Supporting youth and community leadership	Accessible services	
	Helping young people to access secure and rewarding employment and career pathways.	Welcoming and inclusive places and services for all	Mental health and wellbeing	Community safety in public spaces and transport	Participation in learning	Valuing lived experience	Connected services	
	Helping all children, young people and families to have their basic needs met.	Opportunities to participate and connect	Access to thriving natural environments that support wellbeing	Safety in families and homes	Preparing young people for the future	Authentic community engagement	Responsive and engaging services	
	Financial literacy and life skills.	Valuing everyone					Culturally safe services	

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Theme 1: Essentials for life	
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting families and young people facing cost of living pressures. Helping young people to access secure and rewarding employment and career pathways. Helping all children, young people and families to have their basic needs met. Financial literacy and life skills.
Why is this important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children, young people and families need the material basics of life. This includes suitable, secure, stable housing, appropriate clothing, nutritious food, access to transport and services, enough money for all of life’s necessities and to be an active member of society. Many families and young people in Darebin are experiencing significant cost of living pressures, which can place significant stress on families and individuals. The number of people seeking material and financial support services is on the rise. Many other issues have an impact on a person or family’s ability to access the essentials for life, including physical or mental health issues, disability, experiences of trauma or violence. Family violence is a significant cause of homelessness.
What we’ve heard from community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of living was an area of significant concern in community responses to our engagement survey. Community members noted that it puts pressure on families, and many described it as a crisis. This theme was particularly strong in the responses from young people and adults, but it was clear that many children are also aware of cost of living pressures. Housing was the most commonly mentioned cost of living pressure, but many other things were also mentioned including food, childcare (early years and out of school), petrol, rates, utilities and children’s activities. Employment opportunities, career prospects and their rights at work are key issues for young people.
Key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76.6% of persons aged 15 to 24 years are fully engaged with employment and education. 12.8% of persons aged 15 to 24 were unemployed (1,232 people in total). (2021 census data) 28.8% of households living in rented accommodation in Darebin (6,547 households in total) pay more than 30% of their income on rent, a commonly accepted indicator of rental stress. 14.2% of households with a mortgage (2,499 households in total) pay more than 30% of their income on their mortgage. (2021 census data). These figures are likely to have been impacted by interest rate rises since 2022.
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports with basic needs including housing supports, food relief and financial supports are available and accessible when needed, including wrap-around supports for those who need them. Affordable housing is prioritised by all levels of government. The causes of youth homelessness are addressed so that no young person ends up homeless. Young people understand their rights as workers and those rights are respected by employers. Young people are supported to identify and achieve their employment and career aspirations. Young people are equipped with the life skills they need to thrive. People know what benefits and supports they are entitled to and are supported to access these.

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Theme 2: Inclusion & belonging	
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Darebin a community where everyone can find their people. • Welcoming and inclusive places and services for all. • Opportunities to participate and connect. • Valuing and including everyone.
Why is this important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection and belonging are fundamental human needs. Having loving, trusting relationships with family and friends, and feeling valued and cared for by teachers and other adults in their life is one of the core needs for children and young people. • For all people feeling like you belong to a community is vital for mental health and positive identity. It is particularly important for children and young people to feel this sense of belonging and connection in their lives as they develop their identity and transition through key life stages. • Feeling lonely, isolated or excluded is damaging to mental and physical health.
What we've heard from community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses from children, young people and adults all suggest a strong recognition of the importance of relationships and community for supporting children, young people and families. Friendship and family were amongst the strongest themes from children's responses to the question "what makes you healthy and happy?". • Adults want children to feel supported and loved, and they want their children and themselves to feel part of a supported and connected community. • The community wants more opportunities for children, young people, parents and families to connect including through activities, events, support networks/groups, and spaces to connect.
Key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020, 17.5% of adults surveyed in Darebin said they talked to friends a few times a month or less often, compared to 18.3% across Victoria (Victorian Population Health Survey). • In 2020, 16.9% of adults surveyed in Darebin said that most people could be trusted 'never' or 'not often', compared to 14.2% across Victoria (Victorian Population Health Survey). • Across Australia 24% of young people aged 15-19 surveyed by Mission Australia in 2023 identified relationship challenges with family, friends or significant others as their biggest personal challenge (Mission Australia Youth Survey 2023).
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing places, spaces and activities that support connection for children, young people and families. • Working together to activate our places, spaces and services to create more opportunities for connection and belonging. • Making Darebin a community where everyone can find a group or community where they feel they belong, whatever their interests.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places, spaces, activities and services that are safe, welcoming and inclusive for all children, young people and families, including neurodivergent people, LGBTQIA+ people, First Nations, culturally diverse communities, people with disabilities and anyone else who may be marginalised or excluded. • Increased connection across generations and cultures – weaving the community together.
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Theme 3: Health & wellbeing	
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical activity and active transport • Mental health and wellbeing • Access to thriving natural environments that support wellbeing
Why is this important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mental health of children and young people is a major concern for young people and the community more broadly. • Mental health problems that emerge in childhood can have impacts across the life-course: it is estimated that about half of adult mental problems begin before the age of 14. • Suicide is the leading cause of death among Australians aged 15–24. Young people also have the highest rates of hospitalisation for intentional selfharm. A wide range of issues can impact mental health including the pressures of navigating significant life transitions, social isolation, discrimination and social exclusion. • Protective factors include access to mental health care when required, social connection and connection with nature, community and land. • Access to high quality open space is also essential to support physical activity and wellbeing. • Health and wellbeing outcomes are unequal across different groups in our community. For example, there is evidence to indicate that people with autism have a life expectancy 20–36 years shorter than the general population (Australian Parliament Select Committee on Autism Report)
What we've heard from community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, playgrounds and open spaces were probably this single biggest theme across community engagement responses from children, young people and adults. All groups identified parks, playgrounds and open space as being important for health and happiness, and identified access to these spaces as current strength or a feature that they like about their local area. However, many children also identified parks and playgrounds as an area for improvement, both in terms of the level of provision across all parts of Darebin and improvements they would like to see such as more shade. Other themes in relation to the environment include concerns about cleanliness and litter, support for walkable and cyclable environments (as reflected in the safety theme), and support for enhancing Darebin's natural environments and biodiversity.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant number of responses from children, young people and adults emphasised the important of opportunities to be physically active for children’s wellbeing. Darebin’s sports clubs and sport and recreation facilities were seen as a strength, but the cost of accessing sports and recreation opportunities was reported as a challenge that many in the community face. • Young people have identified access to mental health support as a key priority.
Key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021, 16.1% of children in Darebin were developmentally at risk or vulnerable at the time of starting school in the physical health and wellbeing domain, compared to 19.1% across Victoria. 20.8% of children were developmentally at risk or vulnerable in the emotional maturity domain, compared to 21.5% across Victoria (Australian Early Development Census). • Mental health conditions are the most commonly diagnosed long-term health conditions amongst people aged 15-24 in Darebin, with 13.7% of people in this age group reporting that they had been diagnosed with a mental health condition in 2021. (2021 census data). Across Australia 24% of young people aged 15-19 surveyed by Mission Australia in 2023 identified mental health challenges such as stress, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, diagnosed disorders or self-harm as their biggest personal challenge (Mission Australia Youth Survey 2023). 32% of young people were personally extremely or very concerned about mental health. • 7.4% of households in Darebin don’t have access to a public open space within 500 metres of their house. The areas with the highest proportion of households that don’t have this access are Preston West (25.4%), Reservoir South (17.1%) and Kingsbury (15.3%) (Breathing Space: Darebin Open Space Strategy 2019).
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health support available when and where children, young people and families need it. • Everyone has access to a wide range of physical activity opportunities to match their interests. • Children, young people and families feel connected to nature. • Children, young people and families feel socially connected

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Theme 4: Safety and independence	
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical, cultural, emotional and psychological safety in all settings Community safety in public spaces and transport Safety in families and homes
Why is this important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone has the right to feel safe at home, in the community and in all settings, at every age. For children and young people feeling safe and secure is vital for their emotional and psychological development. Feeling safe is foundational for mental health and wellbeing, inclusion and participation in community and for people to be able to embrace who they are regardless of their cultural or religious identify, gender, sexual identity or any other factors. For young people feeling safe and being safe in public spaces and in all forms of transport is essential for their independence and autonomy.
What we've heard from community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road safety, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists, was a strong theme that came through in responses from children as well as adults. Being and feeling safe in public spaces also came through, particularly in responses from adults and stakeholders. Stakeholders identified cultural safety as key priority for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Children's safety online is another important priority flagged by stakeholders. The issue of knife crime was raised as a safety concern by stakeholders.
Key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2023 the family-related incident rate for Darebin was 1,100 per 100,000 population, compared with the Victorian rate of 1,385. The rate of family violence incidents against females in Darebin in 2022-23 was more than three times higher than the rate against males. In 2017 there were 18.3 fatalities or injuries from road accidents per 10,000 residents in Darebin, compared to 19.3 per 10,000 people across Victoria as a whole.
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children, young people are safe and feel safe at home and in the community. Children are safe and protected from harm online. Public spaces and places are safe and welcoming for all children and young people. All services are culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families. Child Safe Standards are a high priority for all Darebin services. Darebin is a place where everyone feels physically, culturally, emotionally and psychologically safe. Children, young people and families are more aware of the supports available to assist them to be safe in their community.

Theme 5: Learning	
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to high quality learning. • Participation in learning. • Preparing young people for the future.
Why is this important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From birth to adulthood learning is essential to enable people to realise their potential. Learning starts at home during the first of life and continues through Early Childhood Education and Care, and then at school, and also in wide variety of settings beyond formal education. • For children and young people’s learning to be supported, the formal and informal education services and settings they encounter from the early years right through to their young adulthood need to be high quality, inclusive and safe. • Disengagement from education or difficulties attending school (often referred to as ‘school refusal’) have been seen to be on the rise in recent years, in a trend that has been attributed to the disruptive impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. • Learning is not just about academic skills and knowledge. Children and young people also need to acquire essential life skills in areas such as financial literacy, emotional intelligence and regulation, cooking and driving, as well as useful work experience opportunities, to support their transition to adulthood. • For many children and young people socioeconomic barriers can affect their ability to access to the technology and other resources children need to fully engage at school or in other learning settings.
What we’ve heard from community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewed in broad terms, learning featured strongly in the responses to both the children’s activity and adult/young people’s survey. Children’s response indicated that they value reading, books, libraries and school as well as creative activities. • Adult’s responses placed a high value on education, and emphasised access to childcare, kindergarten and school as being important.
Key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare provision in Darebin shows a clear North-South divide, with 35% of children in Darebin-North living in a childcare desert, compared to 0% in Darebin-South. • 89% of four-year-olds in Darebin participated in kindergarten in 2022, the highest participation rate in Darebin in the last five years. Across Victoria, the four-year-old participation rate was 92% in 2022. • In 2021, 68.4% of people aged over 15 years in Darebin had completed Year 12 schooling (or equivalent), compared to 59.4% across Greater Melbourne. • 74.2% of students who completed Year 12 in Darebin in 2020 were in further education or training in 2021, compared to 49.4% of Year 12 non-completers (based on Department of Education On Track survey responses) • Across Australia 49% of young people aged 15-19 surveyed by Mission Australia in 2023 identified school challenges, such as high workload, academic pressure, challenges with teachers or learning difficulties, as their biggest personal challenge (Mission Australia Youth Survey 2023).

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Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All children and young people in Darebin have access to high quality education and learning opportunities from the early years through to young adulthood.• Children and young people’s access to education and learning is not limited by financial barriers.• More children and young people participate and engage in kindergarten, school and other education and training.• Children, young people and their families are well supported through all of the transitions in their education journey.• Young people leave school with the skills they need to succeed in life and are aware of the pathways available to them.
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Theme 6: Community Leadership	
Focus Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting child, youth and community leadership • Valuing lived experience • Authentic community engagement
Why is this important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging authentically and meaningfully with the community, and placing a high value on the voices of lived experience, are essential to delivering on all aspects of this strategy. • Authentic engagement builds trust, improve the strategic responses to the community’s needs, creates belonging and ownership, and improves accountability. • For children and young people, having a voice, being listened to, and taken seriously within their community is crucial to feeling that they are full and valued members of the community. • Young people have made it clear that they want to have influence over the decisions that impact their lives and they want the chance to lead.
What we’ve heard from community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people want to have a say over the issues impacting them, they want to be involved in all stages of strategy development and decision making and they want the chance to lead. • Many adults also put significant effort into facilitating opportunities for children to participate in the development of this strategy, suggesting that some adults recognise the importance of children having a say.
Key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.0% of 15-19 year olds and 14.7% of 20-24 years olds in Darebin volunteered in 2021, which was higher than the rates for those age groups in Victoria as a whole.
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community views and voices, including those of children and young people, are embedded and influential in decision-making processes in Council and other organisations. • Children, young people and families who engage with Council and other organisations feel respected, listened to, valued and taken seriously. • Youth leadership and community- and youth-led projects and initiatives are supported to addresses the priorities that are important to children, young people and families. • Peer support models and peer leadership are strengthened.

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Theme 7: Systems of support	
Focus Areas	<p>Accessible services</p> <p>Connected services</p> <p>Responsive and engaging services</p> <p>Culturally safe services</p>
Why is this important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the priorities across this strategy require a service response to ensure that children, young people and families get the support they need when they need, regardless of socioeconomic status, ability, cultural or religious background, gender, sexuality, neurodiversity or other factors. • To meet the needs of children, young people and families, services need to be high quality, accessible, affordable, available when needed, safe, welcoming, and inclusive. • Stakeholders have identified that services need to be more connected and operate collaboratively as a system to ensure that children, young people and families are supported to navigate the system and find the supports they need. • Responsive service systems that intervene early can help address challenges for children, young people and families at an earlier stage to reduce harm and promote better outcomes over the long-term. • Research on the key aspects of service systems for supporting children and families shows that children and families benefit when access to key services is simplified by integrating services and supports across different sectors.
What we've heard from community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community wants accessible and affordable services to be available to all children, young people and families across Darebin.
Key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022-23, 92% of babies born in Darebin participated in a four-week key age and stage visit with the Darebin Maternal and Child Health Service. • 33% of Early Childhood Education and Care services in Darebin are rated as exceeding the National Quality Standard, compared to 23% of services across Australia. • Children and young people aged from 0-24 represent 48% of all NDIS participants in Darebin (date for Q2 2023-24: https://data.ndis.gov.au/explore-data)
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more connected and integrated service system in which there is no wrong door – wherever someone goes they'll get the help they need. A system that provides timely support when people need it. • Better communication so the community and services know what help is available and how to access it. • A more responsive system that is aware of the community's needs and intervenes early to improve outcomes. A system that proactively works to reach out and engage children, young people and families at risk of poor outcomes. • Integrated 'wrap-around' services are available to those who need them. • Services are accessible for people from all cultures, are culturally safe, and child safe.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All services for children, young people and families achieve high standards for quality and clinical governance. |
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Appendix: Policy Context

Council's plans, strategies and policies

Council's strategic documents present commitments, principles, priorities, and topics that are worthy of consideration when developing the new FY&C Strategy and include:

- Darebin 2041 Community Vision: Darebin is an equitable, vibrant, and connected community. Darebin respects and supports First Nations People, values country, our diverse communities, and places. Darebin commits to mitigating the climate emergency, creating prosperity for current and future generations.
- 2021-2025 Council Plan (Incorporating the Darebin Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan): Commitment to promoting, protecting, and improving the wellbeing of our community, and addressing health inequality. Priorities are modifiable health risks and determinants of health. Approach involves ensuring health equity, focusing on environments for health, and taking a life course approach (targeting modifiable health risks). 10 Big Actions include Plan infrastructure for decades to come, Support community members experiencing vulnerability, and Expand our delivery of quality universal services.
- Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy: Human health and wellbeing are directly affected by the built and natural environments. Safety, including cultural safety, in open spaces is important. Making the distribution of open space equitable. Recognising local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, particularly traditional owners. Designing for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Engaging with users, residents, and community groups to help inform the designing, planning, and managing open space with particular emphasis on diverse communities. Enhancing women's visibility and representation in open space. Increasing opportunities for children to engage with nature. Engaging the community as partners in biodiversity protection. There are concentrations of households with limited access to open space particularly in Preston and Reservoir as well as parts of Alphington. Regional open space to have a play space while District open space to have, or may have, a play space.
- Community Engagement Policy 2023: Commitment to building a fair, inclusive, and equitable city by placing residents, business owners and the community sector at the heart of decision-making. Engagement principles are respectful; action oriented; focused on justice and equity; inclusive; and integrity. Commitment to supporting the rights of people and groups who experience discrimination and disadvantage, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; children; young people; culturally and linguistically diverse people; migrants and refugees; women and girls; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ+) people; people with a disability; and people experiencing poverty, including intergenerational disadvantage and inequalities.
- Darebin Libraries and Learning Strategy 2020-2024: Four goals are: To improve equity of access; To support our thriving and resilient community; To create welcoming, safe, inclusive, and flexible spaces; and To deliver responsive services.
- Disability Access and Inclusion in Darebin: A community plan of access and inclusion 2021-2026: The six goals are Accessible and inclusive communication; Getting around Darebin – transport, footpaths, and parking; Places we live, work and play; Accessible and inclusive activities and

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events; Pathways to employment for people with disability; and Changing attitudes and raising awareness about disability.

- Early Years Infrastructure Planning Framework 2021-2041: Planning principles are Equity, Access, Diversity and inclusion, Connection to culture and country, Truth-telling, Choice, Quality and Safety, Integrated services for the whole community, Community engagement and collaboration, Environmental sustainability, Access to natural environments, Arts and creative culture, and Economic development.
- Gender Equity and Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2019-2023: Vision is a gender equitable, safe, and respectful Darebin community. Priority action areas are Organisational leadership; Safe, inclusive, and respectful communities; Women's participation in community life; Research and advocacy.
- Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: Council respects and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' values, living culture and practices. Council respects the human, cultural and spiritual rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations, Council is committed to working towards a future based on justice, respect, understanding and the elimination of disadvantages and barriers to equality, notably in health, education, housing, and employment, in the spirit of the Close the Gap Statement of Intent 2008. Darebin is a significant gathering place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the homeland of a number of significant Aboriginal peak bodies, organisations, and businesses. Council affirms the positive forward movement towards equality and equity, race relations, institutional integrity, historical acceptance through truth-telling and unity.
- Towards Equality: Darebin City Council's Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework 2019-2029: Long-standing commitment to social justice, we consider the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and human rights in everything we do. Framework guides and helps us strive for a just society by reducing disadvantage, standing against discrimination, and sharing resources equitably, in partnership with the community, local agencies and organisations. It puts equity, inclusion, and human rights at the heart of all our work and will help us build a stronger, healthier, and happier community where everyone is welcome, valued, and respected.

Future Council plans and strategies

This Strategy will be a key reference for future plans and strategies that Council develops, to ensure that the needs of children, young people and families are addressed in an integrated way by Council across the breadth of its work. The flow of influence between this Strategy and future plans and strategies will be two way, with this Strategy also being responsive to issues and needs that are highlighted in those future plans.

Some of the upcoming plans and strategies that this Strategy will intersect with include:

- Aboriginal Action Plan
- Cultural Diversity Action Plan
- GBTIQ+ Action Plan
- Prevention of Violence Against Women Action Plan
- Disability Action Plan

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- Economic Development Strategy
- Property Strategy
- Community Infrastructure Plan

State and Federal Government policy

Some of the key state and federal policies and strategies that have implications for specific themes and focus areas within this strategy include:

- Best Start, Best Life: Early Childhood Education That Works (State of Victoria, 2022)
- Child Safe Standards (Commission for Children and Young People, 2022)
- Closing the Gap (National Indigenous Australians Agency, 2020)
- Early Childhood Reform Plan: Ready for kinder, Ready for school, Ready for life (Department of Education and Training, 2017)
- Healthy kids, healthy futures (Victoria's five-year action plan) (Department of Health, 2021)
- Information sharing and MARAM reforms (State of Victoria, 2018)
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy (National Indigenous Australian Agency, 2021)
- National Action Plan for the Health of Children and Young People 2020-2030 (Department of Health, 2019)
- National Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy (National Mental Health Commission, 2021)
- Our promise, Your future: Victoria's Youth Strategy 2022-2027 (Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, 2022)
- Roadmap for Reform: Strong families, safe children (Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, 2021)
- Supporting Children and Families in the Early Years: A Compact between DET, DFFS (previously DHHS) and Local Government (represented by MAV) 2017-2027 (Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and MAV, 2017)
- The First 1000 Days: Conception to two years (Department of Social Services, 2023)
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (Department of Education and Training, 2016)

Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy – Stage 1 Community Engagement Report (April 2024)



the place
to live



Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy
What have we heard so far?
Stage 1 Community Engagement Report
April 2024

Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy – Stage 1 Community Engagement Report (April 2024)

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Darebin

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

We pay respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

We recognise, and pay tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience, and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.

Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy – Stage 1 Community Engagement Report (April 2024)

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Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy – Stage 1 Community Engagement Report (April 2024)

Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy- Background

Darebin City Council is developing a new **strategy for children, young people, and their families from 0 to 25 years old**. The Families, Youth and Children Strategy will replace our previous Early Years Strategy 2011-2021 and the Youth Services Strategy 2019-2021. The strategy aims to enable Council and partners to take a **collaborative, integrated, long-term, and strategic approach** to improving outcomes for children and young people aged 0-25 and their families.

Aims in developing the strategy

Council identified seven aims at the outset of the strategy development process:

- Support achievement of the Darebin 2041 Community Vision:
 - An equitable, vibrant and connected community;
 - Respects and supports First Nations People, values country, our diverse communities and places;
 - Commits to mitigating the climate emergency, creating prosperity for current and future generations.
- Promote equity and support all children, young people and families in Darebin to thrive.
- Identify, understand and address current and emerging issues impacting children, young people and families in Darebin.
- Support a strategic, integrated and collaborative approach across Council and with partners to addressing the needs of children, young people and families.
- Clarify the roles of Council and partners in supporting children, young people and families.
- Strengthen our partnerships with key stakeholders and provide a platform to work collaboratively with them on priority issues.
- Support a financially sustainable approach to work in this area over the long term.

Council's role in supporting children, young people and their families

The 5 key roles of local government in the early years (from the Municipal Association of Victoria's *Municipal Early Years Planning Guide*) have been used as broad guide to the roles that Council plays in supporting children, young people and their families.

1. **Planning and coordination** – acting as a key coordination point and community planner.
2. **Service provision** – delivering a range of programs, activities, and initiatives.
3. **Facility planning** – planning, providing, and maintaining a range of infrastructure.
4. **Advocacy** – lobbying and advocating to state and federal governments and other key stakeholders on behalf of children, young people and their families.
5. **Strengthening community capacity** – facilitating community connections and community participation in decision-making.

These roles outline the areas in which has Council has traditionally worked, and they are likely to continue to represent Council's role in supporting children, young people and families.

Council's aspiration is that **the new Families, Youth and Children will be partnership strategy**, developed with partners and by Council and our partners. We hope that it will provide a **scaffold for partners to work together** and contribute in their domains of expertise, skill and focus.

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Overview of Phase 1 of Stage 1 Community Engagement

From 9 October to 26 November 2023, we asked the Darebin community four questions to help us understand what's important to children, young people and families.

1. **What are the most important things that children, young people and families need to have a good life?** What do you or your family need to be healthy, happy and to live a good life?
2. **What is working well for children, young people and families in Darebin right now?** What helps you or your family to be healthy, happy and reach your potential?
3. **What makes life hard for children, young people and families in Darebin right now?** What makes it hard for you or your family to be healthy, happy and reach your potential?
4. **What should Council and our partners focus on to help children, young people, and their families across our diverse community?** What are the things you would most like Council and our partners to do something about for you or your family?

For children, we adapted the questions and created an activity sheet that asked:

1. What makes you happy and healthy?
2. What do you like best about the area where you live?
3. What would you change to help all children in Darebin to be happy and healthy?

We also asked people to post on our engagement website their vision or big idea for what would make Darebin a great place for all children, young people and their families.

Engagement activities

- Online & hard copy surveys for young people and adults.
- Engagement sessions with children and young people at six kindergarten & childcare services, six primary schools, three secondary schools and several community settings.
- Engagement through Council services including Youth Services, libraries, immunisation sessions, Toy Library.
- Engagement at shopping centres, markets, train stations & community events.
- Stakeholder meetings.

Who did we hear from?

262 young people and adults completed an online or hard copy survey (71% online, 29% hard copy)

- Age: 30% 10-19, 4% 20-29, 29% 30-39, 24% 40-49, 5% 50-59, 2% 60+.
- Postcode: 26% Reservoir, 23% Preston, 17% Northcote, 10% Thornbury, 16% others.
- Connection to Darebin: 77% live, 18% work, 18% study, 10% visit.
- Gender: 65% woman, 27% man, 3% non-binary/gender diverse.
- 30% spoke a language other than English at home.
- 2% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.
- 8% reported having a disability.

387 children completed an activity sheet

- The children's ages ranged from 2 to 13 years old. 18% were aged 2-5 years, 38% were aged 6-9, 31% were aged 10-13, 13% of children did not give their age.

Stakeholder meetings

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- Young Citizens Jury, Youth Workers Network, Darebin Education Network, Best Start Aboriginal Reference Group, Darebin Information, Volunteer & Resource Service, Dardi Munwurro, Aboriginal Housing Victoria, Melbourne Polytechnic Koorie Services Unit.

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Introducing the Nest framework

We have used the six domains of [the Nest](#) as a starting point for analysing what we heard from children, young people and families in Darebin through community engagement.

The Nest is a wellbeing framework for children and young people aged 0 to 24 years developed by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) through listening to over 4000 children, families, and professionals. **The Nest conceptualises wellbeing as six interconnected domains that support each other to help children and young people reach their potential. For optimal wellbeing, a child or young person needs to be adequately resourced in all six domains.**

Overview of the six domains

Valued, loved, and safe

Being valued, loved, and safe means having loving, trusting relationships with family and friends. It involves a child or young person feeling valued by teachers and other adults in their life and knowing that they are important to others and that others are caring and supportive of them. It involves feeling safe at home, in the community and online. Safety also means feeling safe about their future, which includes the knowledge that the environment and climate are a priority and are being protected.

Material basics

Children and young people who have material basics have the things they need. They live in suitable, secure, stable housing, with appropriate clothing, nutritious food, clean water and clean air. They have access to transport, to required local services and to open spaces in nature. Their family has enough money for necessities. They have the material items needed to develop as an active member of society such as school supplies, suitable technology or sporting equipment.

Healthy

Healthy children and young people have their physical, mental, and emotional health needs met. All of their developmental health needs are provided for in a timely way. They receive appropriate health services, including preventative measures to address potential or emerging physical, emotional and mental health concerns.

Learning

Children and young people learn through a variety of experiences within the classroom, the home and the community in which they live. Their individual learning needs are addressed to allow them to realise their full learning potential. Families are engaged in their child's learning. Children and young people are supported and encouraged to learn in a wide variety of settings, including formal education. They have opportunities to participate in a breadth of experiences where their learning is valued and supported by their family and in the wider community.

Participating

Participating is about children and young people having a voice, being listened to, and taken seriously within their family and community. It means having a say in decisions that impact them. It is being empowered to speak out and express themselves. Participating includes involvement with peers and

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groups through a variety of activities, including online communities. Participating means being an active member of society.

Positive sense of identity and culture

Having a positive sense of identity and culture is central to the wellbeing of all children and young people. This is important for all, regardless of background, but in Australia, especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. It encompasses having spiritual needs met, a sense of cultural connectedness, belonging and acceptance at home and in the community – and confidence that their identity, culture and community is respected and valued. It involves feeling safe and supported in expressing one’s identity, regardless of gender, sexuality, culture or language.

<https://www.aracy.org.au/the-nest-in-action/the-nest-overview>

Analysis of what we’ve heard from the community

Using the Nest as our starting point we have grouped our analysis into ten areas that cover the six Nest domains, but with some of the domains broken up into more granular categories:

1. Valued & loved
2. Safe
3. Environment, nature and outdoor spaces
4. Material basics
5. Healthy
6. Active
7. Learning
8. Participating
9. Identity and culture
10. Equity & inclusion

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1. Valued & loved

Responses from children, young people and adults all suggest a strong recognition of the importance of relationships and community for supporting children, young people and families. Friendship and family were amongst the strongest themes from children's responses to the question what makes you healthy and happy. Adults want children to feel and supported and loved, and they want their children and themselves to feel part of a supported and connected community. A strong theme was a call for more community events to bring people together.

What we've heard from children

- **What makes you healthy and happy?** Friendship and family were amongst the most common responses. This included responses such as having friends, playing with and hanging out with friends, my family, seeing my family, hanging out with my family.
- Responses to this question also showed that children value their relationships with pets.
- **What do you like best about the area where you live?** My home or my house, and friends, people and community were frequently mentioned by children.

What we've heard from young people and adults

- **What's important?** Themes from the survey responses included children feeling supported and loved, being part of a community that is inclusive diverse, supportive and connected, friendship and opportunities to socialise and connect, and support for parents.
- **What's working well?** Some respondents felt that they were part of a strong and supportive community. Community events were referenced as a strength.
- **What makes life hard?** Social isolation and lack of social supports for families/parents.
- **What should we focus on?** More opportunities for children, young people, parents and families to connect including free or low-cost activities, more weekend activities, more community events, support networks/groups, spaces to connect including indoor spaces/community centres.

What we've heard from stakeholders

- Stakeholders mentioned the stress that cost-of-living and housing pressures can place on relationships within families.
- Stakeholders noted that some parts of Darebin, such as East Preston, have limited spaces for families to gather.

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2. Safe

Road safety was a strong theme that came through in responses from children as well as adults. Other themes of being and feeling safe in public spaces also came through, particularly in responses from adults and stakeholders.

What we've heard from children

- **What makes you healthy and happy?** A relatively small number of children mentioned safety in response to this question.
- **What would you change to help all children in Darebin to be happy and healthy?** Quite a few children referenced safety when asked *what they would change*. Road safety including school crossings were a reasonably common theme in response to this question, along with a few references to other safety issues.

What we've heard from young people and adults

- **What's important?** Safety was strong theme in the survey responses, including a general broad theme about the importance of children and young people *being safe* and *feeling safe*, and a wide range of sub-themes including:
 - Safe roads and streets – especially for walking and cycling: bike paths, footpaths, crossings, less traffic, slowing traffic.
 - Safe parks, playgrounds and open spaces – for all users, including a few mentions of being safe from dogs.
 - Safe spaces and places to play and to gather.
 - Safe communities.
 - Safe homes as well as safe and secure housing.
 - Security & stability.
- **What's working well?** Some people feel Darebin is a safe place for children and families.
- **What makes life hard?** Concern about road safety was a strong theme including concern that roads are dominated by cars, the speed of traffic in local areas, pedestrian safety and walkability, bike safety and lack of bike lanes. More general comments about feeling unsafe in some areas was also a theme. Crime received a few mentions.
- **What should we focus on?** Safer roads for walking and cycling – less traffic, slower traffic, dedicated safe walking and cycling paths. Safe public spaces and parks.

What we've heard from stakeholders

A range of safety issues have been raised by stakeholders including:

- Family violence
- Youth violence/knife crime
- The impact of global events on school student's feelings of safety
- Online safety
- Self-defence/safety classes

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3. Environment, nature and outdoor spaces

Parks, playgrounds and open spaces were probably this single biggest theme across both the children's activity responses and the survey responses from young people and adults. Both groups identified parks, playgrounds and open space as being important for health and happiness, and both groups also identified access to these spaces as current strength or a feature that they like about their local area. However, many children also identified parks and playgrounds as an area for improvement, both in terms of the level of provision across all parts of Darebin and improvements they would like to see such as more shade. Other themes in relation to the environment include concerns about cleanliness and litter, and support for walkable and cyclable environments (as reflected in the safety theme).

What we've heard from children

- **What makes you healthy and happy?** Parks, playgrounds and open space were a strong theme in children's responses to this question, particularly as contributors to happiness. Fresh air, the outdoors and clean environment were identified as making them healthy.
- **What do you like best about the area where you live?** Parks and playgrounds were referenced more than any other feature in response to this question. Natural features such as trees, plants, lakes and creeks were mentioned quite frequently, as were animals.
- **What would you change to help all children in Darebin to be happy and healthy?** Improvements to the environment and public realm were the strongest theme in responses to this question, including changes as stop littering, less pollution, clean streets, cleaner public toilets, more trees. More parks and playgrounds was the second strongest theme for this question. Protection and care for animals, and places to see/connect with animals also came through as themes.

What we've heard from young people and adults

- **What's important?** Parks, playgrounds, green spaces, open spaces and play spaces was one of the strongest themes emerging from survey responses. This included responses that emphasised the benefits of providing connection to nature, opportunities to be outside, be active, play and connect with others. Important features of these spaces included that they are high quality, accessible, safe, clean, and have shade, modern equipment and good amenities.
- A healthy and clean environment and connection to nature were also seen as being important.
- **What's working well?** Many respondents noted good access to parks, green spaces, opportunities to be in nature and playgrounds. Good access to public transport and bike and walking paths also featured in responses.
- **What makes life hard?** Responses included a need for more shade, more trees, opportunities for water play, better maintenance of the parks, more parks and open space in certain areas particularly Preston. Responses also indicated concern about litter and rubbish on the streets, pollution and air quality.
- **What should we focus on?** Responses called for more parks and open spaces, improvement to parks and playgrounds, more skateparks, more shade in parks and playgrounds, more/better toilet facilities, creating a more sustainable and greener environment, more

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walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods, improving public transport, reducing traffic congestion, and improving the availability of parking for people with disabilities.

What we've heard from stakeholders

Issues raised by stakeholders related to this theme include:

- Safe places to exercise, walk and enjoy nature
- Multipurpose outdoor spaces
- Access to transport as a barrier to employment and participation
- Dumped rubbish

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4. Material basics

Cost of living emerged as an area of significant concern that puts pressure on families, and was described by many as a crisis. This theme was particularly strong in the responses from young people and adults, but it was clear that many children are also aware of cost of living pressures. Housing was the most commonly mentioned cost of living pressure, but many other things were mentioned including food, childcare, petrol, rates, utilities and children's activities.

What we've heard from children

- **What makes you healthy and happy?** A small number of children identified shelter or 'my home' in response to this question.
- **What do you like best about the area where you live?** My home/my house was one of the more common responses to this question.
- **What would you change to help all children in Darebin to be happy and healthy?** Cost of living and housing featured quite strongly in these responses, including suggestions such as make things cheaper and make sure everyone has a home.

What we've heard from young people and adults

- **What's important?** Having a house or home that is affordable, safe, secure and stable was a strong theme in responses to this question. Money/income/financial security also featured as did employment opportunities and public transport.
- **What's working well?** Good access to public transport was identified as a strength.
- **What makes life hard?** Cost of living was mentioned with striking frequency, and was described by many as a crisis. The most often mentioned specific factor was housing affordability, for both renters and for home buyers (house prices, rental prices, interest rates), as well as the cost of food, childcare, petrol, Council rates, utilities and the cost of sport and other activities for children. Related themes included financial stress/stress caused by financial concerns and families having to work longer hours and commute more because of the cost of living, meaning they had less time available for their children.
- **What should we focus on?** Suggestions included provide/advocate for more affordable housing and lower rents, provide financial assistance to families and young people, reduce cost of living for families, reduce rates, provide low cost activities, support people to find jobs.

What we've heard from stakeholders

Cost of living and access to material basic featured very strongly in conversations with stakeholders. Rent increases and other cost of living pressures are significantly increasing the number of families seeking financial and material aid, and concern/worry about finances is widespread.

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5. Healthy

Health cuts across many of the areas discussed elsewhere in this analysis, as the concept of health was embedded in the framing of the questions in both the children’s activity and the survey. Factors that contribute to health can therefore be identified across most of the other domains. Themes that are not covered elsewhere that are significant for health include access to healthy food, and access to support for mental health challenges particularly for young people.

What we’ve heard from children

- **What makes you healthy and happy?** Food was one of the major themes in response to ‘what makes you healthy’ from children, including “healthy eating”, fruit, vegetables and also water. Quite a few children also identified unhealthy foods that make them happy, such as sweets, ice cream and fast food.
- A second major health theme was sport and physical activity, discussed below under ‘Active’.
- Other themes related to health that also connect to other domains discussed include parks and open space, and fresh air, being outside and clean environment.
- Additional health themes included health services (doctors, dentists, hospitals, medicine) and sleep.
- **What do you like best about the area where you live?** A number of children mentioned shops, shopping centres, markets and cafes in response to this question, but there was no particular evidence either way about whether they had healthy options in mind with these responses.
- **What would you change to help all children in Darebin to be happy and healthy?** In addition to themes discussed elsewhere connected to physical activity, parks/playgrounds and the environment, there some specifically health-related themes including stopping people from smoking, and providing more hospitals and health services.

What we’ve heard from young people and adults

- **What’s important?** Access to healthy/nutritious, affordable and fresh food came through as a theme, with a connected theme of maintain markets/save Preston Market (note that two of our face-to-face engagement sessions were held at Preston Market).
- **What’s working well?** Some respondents identified maternal and child health services, immunisation services and other health services as working well.
- **What makes life hard?** Mental health challenges and access to mental health supports were the most significant explicitly health related challenge.
- **What should we focus on?** Mental health support for young people was identified as an area of focus.

What we’ve heard from stakeholders

Issues raised by stakeholders related to this theme include:

- Access to health services for Aboriginal families
- Access to mental health services was a major theme in conversations with stakeholders.
- Drug, alcohol and gambling prevention including micro transactions in video games.

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6. Active

A significant number of responses from children, young people and adults emphasised the important of opportunities to be physically active for children's wellbeing. Darebin's sports clubs and sport and recreation facilities were seen as a strength, but the cost of accessing sports and recreation opportunities was reported as a challenge that many in the community face.

What we've heard from children

- **What makes you healthy and happy?** Sport and physical activity were a major theme in children's responses, with many different sports mentioned (soccer being the most popular, with AFL footy, basketball and cricket also being popular). Swimming was the most popular of the other activities followed by bike riding. Other forms of play including video games also featured strongly.
- **What do you like best about the area where you live?** Parks and playgrounds were the most common feature mentioned by children in response to this question. Swimming pools and sporting facilities also featured amongst common responses.
- **What would you change to help all children in Darebin to be happy and healthy?** Common responses included more parks, more playgrounds and more facilities for sports and exercise including soccer, basketball and cricket.

What we've heard from young people and adults

- **What's important?** Access to sport, exercise, recreation and leisure opportunities, activities and facilities was a strong theme, with an emphasis on these being affordable, free or cheap.
- **What's working well?** Darebin's sports clubs, sporting facilities, leisure centres and pools were seen as a strength. Several respondents mentioned Darebin's new facilities, the re-opened Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre and Narrandjeri Stadium (note – NARC re-opened during the consultation period and some responses were gathered at the centre's community open day).
- **What makes life hard?** The cost of sports and other activities was identified as a challenge.
- **What should we focus on?** Improve access to sports for children and young people, including free and low-cost opportunities. More facilities for sport and recreation, including soccer pitches, basketball courts, skate parks. Improving existing facilities such as Reservoir Leisure Centre.

What we've heard from stakeholders

- Stakeholders noted the importance of access to high quality recreation and leisure facilities across Darebin.
- Low-cost activities during school holidays were raised by stakeholders.

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7. Learning

Viewed in broad terms, learning featured strongly in the responses to both the children's activity and adult/young people's survey. Children's response indicated that they value reading, books, library and school as well as creative activities. Adult's responses placed a high value on education, and emphasised access to childcare, kindergarten and school as being important. We have included concerns about access to childcare within this domain in recognition of the important role that Early Childhood Education and Care plays in learning from the earliest, whilst recognising that this issue connects to a range of other issues including cost of living and workforce participation for parents.

What we've heard from children

- **What makes you healthy and happy?** Creative activities featured prominently in children's responses to this question including music, drawing, arts and dance. Reading and books, libraries and education, school and teachers also featured quite strongly.
- **What do you like best about the area where you live?** School was the second most common response from children after parks and playgrounds. Library was another common response.
- **What would you change to help all children in Darebin to be happy and healthy?** More schools and more libraries were one of the relatively common themes.

What we've heard from young people and adults

- **What's important?** Education and particularly schools were identified as an important and necessary requirement for a good life. Comments referenced the need for equal access, well-funded public education and support for diverse needs – both educational and other support needs
- Access to childcare and kindergarten services was a strong theme, with emphasis on these services being free or affordable, easy/close/convenient and high quality/good/great.
- Libraries and playgroups also featured in responses.
- **What's working well?** Libraries, childcare and kindergarten (particularly community-managed services), Toy Library, good schools and playgroups were all identified as working well.
- **What makes life hard?** Childcare and kindergarten were strong theme in responses to what makes life hard. The cost of childcare, the availability of childcare and kindergarten, and the waiting lists for childcare were all raised as issues of concern. Concerns about the future of community-managed childcare and kindergarten services also featured strongly (note that at the same time as this consultation was running, another consultation commenced about proposed new leases for kindergarten and childcare services in Council buildings).
- **What should we focus on?** There was support for education in general as a priority focus.
- There was a strong call for Council to maintain support for community-managed childcare and kindergarten services. Responses also called for increases to childcare places, reduced wait times and investment childcare and kindergarten services/facilities.
- Another theme was for investment in and expansion of the offering at libraries for children, young people, students and families, including more free and low cost events and activities at libraries for children.
- There were some calls for an increase to the Toy Library service: including more locations, longer hours and more resources.

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What we've heard from stakeholders

Themes raised by stakeholders include:

- Transition to adulthood: life skills e.g. cooking, mechanics, finance, renting.
- Employment & opportunity: challenges for young people to get suitable work experience opportunities.
- Access to the technology and other resources children need to succeed at school, e.g. laptops, uniforms.
- Young people not engaged in education – rise in school disengagement since COVID.
- Access to additional tutoring/educational support– not affordable for many families.
- Attracting young people to libraries – more events, make joining libraries less intimidating.

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8. Participating

There was limited direct evidence from what people said through this process that the community sees children and young people participating and having a voice as an important priority. However, the fact that children, young people and adults did participate suggests that many people do place a value on having a say. Many adults also put effort into encouraging children to participate or facilitating opportunities for them to be involved in the process, suggesting that some adults recognise the importance of children having a say. More broadly, children and young people's participation in activities and community life is strongly valued by children, young people and adults.

What we've heard from children

- There was little in the responses from children that related specifically to the issue of participating in decision making and having a voice. However, it should be noted that the majority of children who participated in the consultation were enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute ideas that would help shape a strategy for children, young people and families.
- The broader notion of participation as involvement with peers and groups and participation in activities is clearly of importance to children, as demonstrated throughout this analysis by the value they place on friendships, and on participation in sport, physical activity play and creative activities.

What we've heard from young people and adults

- As with children there little in the responses that directly spoke to the issue of participating in decision making and having a voice, although there were few responses to the *'What's working well?'* question that noted that Council asking people to express their interests was a positive. It can also be noted that a number of adults were very enthusiastic about facilitating opportunities for children to have a say in this process and put significant effort into working with Council to enable that to happen
- More broadly, responses indicate a strong interest in children, young people and families having opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities including sport, physical activity, social groups, entertainment, music, arts & culture, and community events & festivals.
- Another theme related to participation was a call for better communications and promotion of what Council provides and what is available to children, young people and families in including services, facilities, activities and events. This includes better use of social media.

What we've heard from stakeholders

- Stakeholders noted the opportunity to link engagement/participation with children and young people with school curriculum requirements, such as the Unit 2 Vocational Major in secondary schools.
- Stakeholders noted that trust in authority is low/fragile amongst young people and the issue of raising expectations about what is possible when engaging needs to be managed carefully.
- Young people have spoken about a desire to have the chance to make Darebin their own through opportunities such as street art classes, input to council, environmental activism and involving them in the campaign to save Preston Market.

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9. Positive sense of identity and culture

Direct references to this domain in responses to the children’s activity sheet and the survey responses from adults and young people were limited. This should be interpreted with care as there may be a number of reasons for this not featuring more strongly in the data. Stakeholder feedback indicates that this is an important area for further examination.

What we’ve heard from children

- Positive sense of identity and culture did not come through in the children’s responses.

What we’ve heard from young people and adults

- The main area where this theme came through to some extent was in the responses to the question ‘**What should we focus on?**’ where there were references to celebrating the diversity of Darebin, and to strengthening knowledge and awareness of Aboriginal culture within the Darebin community.

What we’ve heard from stakeholders

- The importance of cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families has been raised by stakeholders, including concerns that cultural awareness and cultural safety is not widespread and embedded in mainstream organisations.
- The impact of the Voice Referendum debate and result on Aboriginal communities was also raised.
- Celebrating Darebin’s diversity was also raised by stakeholders.

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10. Equity & inclusion

Concerns about issues of equity and inclusion were a strong theme in community responses to the questions of *'What makes life hard?'* and *'What should we focus on?'*. These themes have also come through strongly in discussions with stakeholders. Issues raised include support for children and young people with additional needs due to disability, neurodivergence and experiences of trauma, addressing place-based disadvantage and inequalities across Darebin, and adopting inclusive approaches and language for all children, young people and families.

What we've heard from children

- There was evidence in the children's responses of a concern for equity and inclusion, particularly in responses to the question *'What would you change to help all children in Darebin to be happy and healthy?'* which indicated support for addressing homelessness in particular, as well as support for ensuring everyone has access to other material basics.
- A few children also mentioned eliminating racism, and there were some references to creating inclusive spaces for people living with disability.

What we've heard from young people and adults

- Responses to the questions *'What makes life hard?'* and *'What should we focus on?'* included a number of themes related to equity & inclusion including:
 - Access to services, activities and facilities for people on low incomes or facing cost-of-living pressures
 - Greater support and inclusion of people with a disability
 - Greater awareness, inclusion of and support for neurodivergent children and young people
 - Recognise and respond to the specific needs of young people
 - More mental health support for young people
 - Address inequalities between different parts of Darebin.

What we've heard from stakeholders

Stakeholders have raised a number of issues relating to this them including:

- Options for children who have additional needs in early years or at school due to disability or neurodiversity.
- Awareness/ability to work with children with trauma backgrounds in early years services and schools.
- The importance of recognising diversity within the population and being mindful of intersectionality, for example using inclusive and modern language around gender and sexuality.
- Concern about inequality across Darebin, for example in terms of access to infrastructure and facilities.
- The challenges of navigating the NDIS and/or social security support systems for people living with disability, particularly 18-25 year olds.
- Opportunities for young people with disabilities that don't rely on NDIS funding.
- Integrated and coordinated responses to areas of place-based disadvantage.
- Respite/activities for young carers.

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Overview of Phase 2 of Stage 1 Community Engagement

Stakeholder Summit

- 96 people from 46 organisations participated in a full-day Families, Youth & Children Stakeholder Summit in February 2024. This included representation from organisations that work across the child, youth and family spectrum including early years, middle years, teenagers, young adults and families. The summit was designed collaboratively with stakeholders through the Families, Youth & Children Reference. We invited participation from all levels within organisations from strategic decision makers to frontline service delivery workers, as well as community members including young people.
- At the summit stakeholders review the feedback received from the community in stage 1 community engagement, identified principles for collaboration, explored Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results to inform the strategy and then developed proposed Strategic Focus Areas for the strategy.



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Stakeholder Summit Agenda



Youth Roundtable

- 14 young people participated in a half-day Youth Roundtable workshop in March 2024. The Roundtable was co-designed and co-hosted by members of the Young Citizens Jury.
- At the Roundtable young people developed a vision of a 'Future Perfect' Darebin that met all the needs of young people, mapped out the assets that currently support young people in Darebin, the things that are missing and identified their priority actions to improve Darebin for young people. They also reviewed the Strategic Focus Areas that stakeholders had identified at the Stakeholder Summit.

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Sensemaking Workshop

- 13 people including representatives from six partners organisations, Darebin Young Citizens Jury members and Council officers participated in a facilitated sensemaking workshop to review outputs from the Stakeholder Summit and Youth Roundtable to synthesise the key principles and focus areas/themes for the Strategy.

Young Citizens Jury: Our Vision

- The Young Citizens Jury developed a document entitled 'Our Vision' which outlined their proposals for action in the key priority areas that had been identified in the Youth Roundtable.

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Summary of key focus areas from the stakeholder summit

One of the major outputs from the stakeholder summit were key focus areas identified by stakeholders. The key focus areas developed by stakeholders have been a critical input into the themes and focus areas in the draft strategy. A summary of the key focus areas as articulated by the stakeholders is presented below.

Youth & community leadership

How did stakeholders describe this?

Peer-led engagement
Youth-led initiatives
Empowered young people & families
Community-driven/voice

Why did they think this was important?

Doing with not doing for
Increase engagement with services & programs
The people the strategy is for should be heard and in control
Authentic and purposeful engagement - not tokenistic

What changes did they want to see?

More youth-led and parent/carer-led projects
More peer and community consultation
Ethical participation approaches (non-extractive)
Children, youth and families are central to decision making, are heard and their opinions and ideas are acted upon.
Explore different ways of hearing the voice of the community

Engagement

How did stakeholders describe this?

Authenticity/authentic engagement
Effective two-way engagement
Accountability

Why did they think this was important?

Regain trust
Embed positive change across services
Ensuring strategy is relevant and effective
Increase participation
Essential for success – underpins all other focus areas
Accountability to those who have shared ideas and opinions

What changes did they want to see?

Activities that are meaningful to service users
Children, youth and families have a voice, are heard, their opinions and ideas are acted upon.

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Better engagement and understanding of community's needs.
Community members feeding into policy. The voices of the people are heard and acted upon.
Families and youth feel included
Regular information sharing between community and council

Safety

How did stakeholders describe this?

Cultural safety
Community Safety
Safe, welcoming, inclusive & respectful environments

Why did they think this was important?

Everyone has the right to feel safe and embrace who they are regardless of cultural, religious, gender and/or sexual identity.
Foundation for inclusion & participation
Impacts mental and physical wellbeing
Reduce demand on emergency and crisis services

What changes did they want to see?

Safe and secure housing
Cultural safety and reduced racism
Safety in open spaces/public spaces/road safety
Safety in the home (family violence, respectful relationships)
Child safe practices
Active participation and representation of different cultures, diverse backgrounds, beliefs across community
Disability access and safety
Reduced violence and crime

Accessible services

How did stakeholders describe this?

Universal access/equal access to services
Access to health services
Engagement & accessibility

Why did they think this was important?

Universal access to programs, services and support regardless of socioeconomic status, ability, cultural or religious background
Services currently not accessed by young people
Access to health services, drug and alcohol services, childcare
Timely access, when it is needed
Easy to access, user friendly and time efficient
Awareness and streamlining of services/programs available

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What changes did they want to see?

Equal opportunities for all families and their children
 Affordable activities and services, more choice, more opportunities
 More young people and diverse cohorts accessing services
 Reduced wait times
 Central and accessible hub for services
 Inclusive and safe services

Collaboration

How did stakeholders describe this?

Cross agency collaboration and relationship building
 Community approach: Service and community connection, collaboration & advocacy
 Connected support services

Why did they think this was important?

Pool resources for maximum impact
 Reduce service duplication and gaps
 Cross pollination of perspectives & ideas
 Problems are complex: no one organisation can do it all
 A community approach reaches more people

What changes did they want to see?

Connected and complementary services meeting families' needs
 Child/young person-centred approach
 Formation of a project group/active cross sectional Darebin youth jury to support collaborative change/impact
 Resource and contact list of local community services
 Time allocated for collaboration
 Wrap around services
 Reduce delays in access to services

Prevention & early intervention

How did stakeholders describe this?

Prevention & early intervention
 Addressing school engagement, health & wellbeing, youth crime

Why did they think this was important?

Increase education and knowledge to build autonomy
 Ensure all YP have a meaningful pathway
 Earlier intervention = more chance for the children and young people to thrive.
 Stronger more connected community
 Reduced crime, reduced burden on reactive support services

What changes did they want to see?

More and better support in school and early years. Increase school engagement.

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Increase employment/improve employment outcomes
Improved community connections
Individual knowledge and capacity: literacy, numeracy, life skills, bright future/positive outlook, health & wellbeing
Responsible citizens; building self-confidence; resilience
Reduce youth crime

Cost of living

How did stakeholders describe this?

Cost of living
Stability

Why did they think this was important?

Keep people in Darebin
Reduce demand on emergency/crisis services

What changes did they want to see?

Affordable housing
Food relief
Financial support options
Life skills training (e.g. financial counselling, gaining employment, cooking).
Reduced stress on families

Self-determination

How did stakeholders describe this?

Self-determination
Cultural representation and self-determination

Why did they think this was important?

Inclusion for everyone in the community
Supports mental and physical wellbeing
Respect
Knowledge
Self-determination

What changes did they want to see?

Empowered choice
Access to education
Access to health services
Acknowledgement and understanding of intersectionality and impacts
Reaching out to all members of community
Everyone feels they belong, and are represented

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Healthy environments

How did stakeholders describe this?

Green Spaces

Healthy and active living and environment

Environment and climate

Why did they think this was important?

Green space for mental and physical wellbeing

Connection with nature, community & land

Keep people in Darebin

Youth, kids and families have asked for open safe spaces for physical and mental health

Supporting kids and families to take action for sustainability; informed community tackles climate anxiety and supports taking action.

What changes did they want to see?

More outdoor activities

Accessible parks

Increased green spaces, spread more equally

Third Spaces

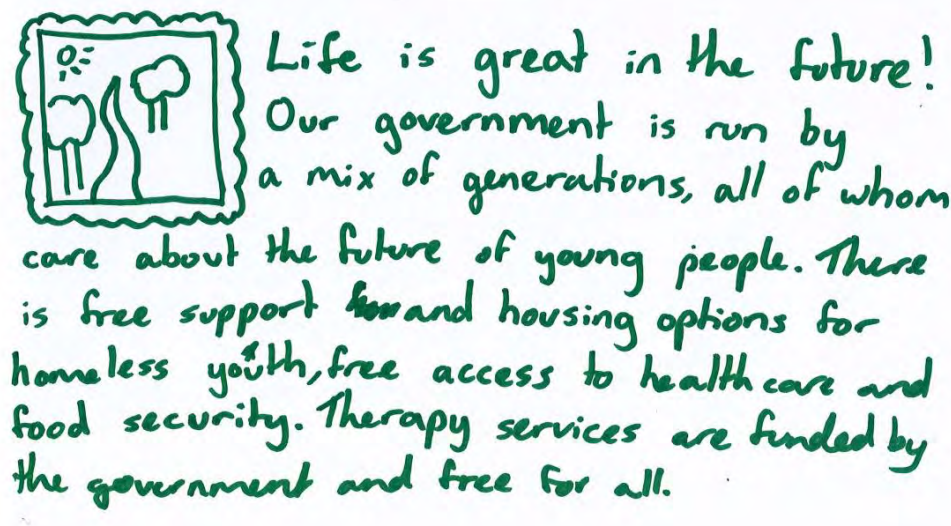
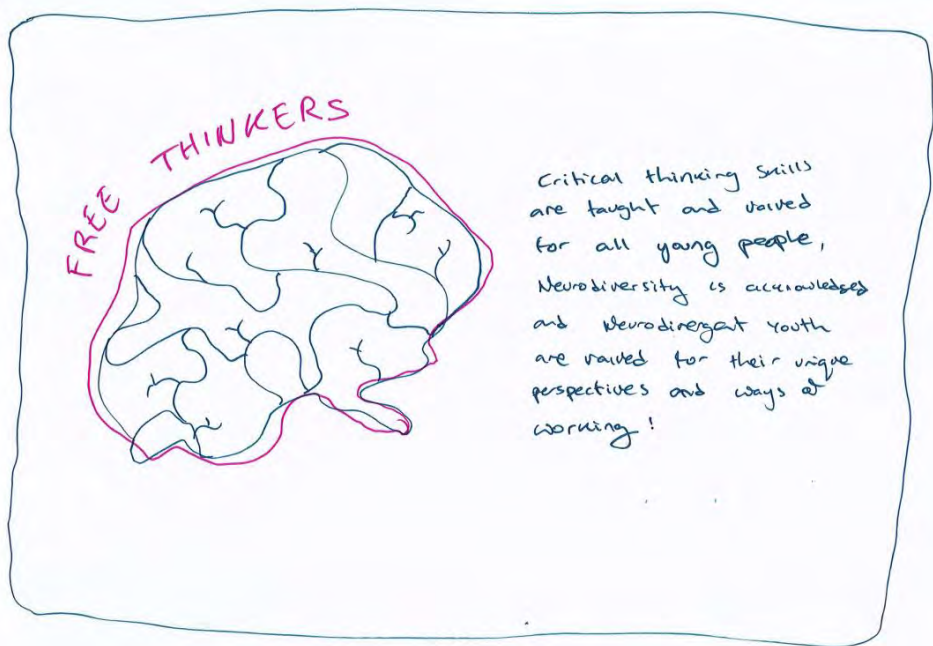
Kids and youth feel safe, happy and healthy in open spaces

Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy – Stage 1 Community Engagement Report (April 2024)

Youth Roundtable Outputs

The Youth Roundtable produced a wide range of outputs. Young people themselves summarised many of the key outputs themselves in the document “Our Vision” developed by the Young Citizens Jury.

To supplement this, below is a selection of “Postcards from the Future” produced by participants by participants at the Roundtable describing what a 10 of 10 Future Perfect would look like for young people in Darebin.



Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy – Stage 1 Community Engagement Report (April 2024)



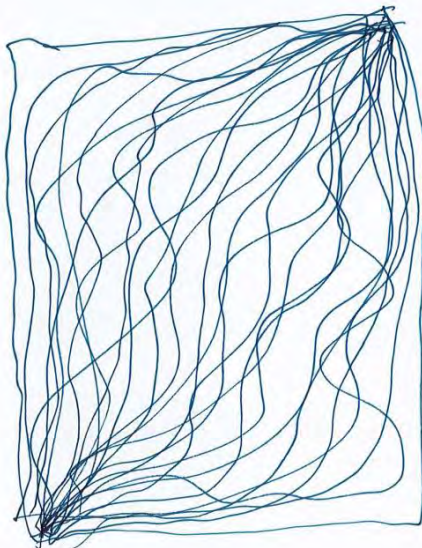
Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy – Stage 1 Community Engagement Report (April 2024)

Building Blocs are Met



If we don't meet the building blocs for young people - Housing + food, how can we ask young people to contribute to council or to do Advocacy?!

Postcard From A PERFECT FUTURE



I saw a platypus in the creek today! No car noises or bright lights to scare it away. I'm not a young person anymore, but when I look around I see youth advising every decision made about them. I see young people's lived experience valued, they are paid for their time and their input is valued.

Yours, Max

Darebin Families, Youth & Children Strategy – Stage 1 Community Engagement Report (April 2024)

8.8.2030

Times are great now. There is free education for everyone. Schools teach young people to be free thinkers, not workers. They help people to find what they want to do with their life, and more people know what their passion is. There's a lot of arts & creative things in the area. Nobody worries about rent or food.

OUR VISION

**Presented by :
The Darebin Young Citizen Jury**

Acknowledgement of Country

Darebin Youth Jury honours the traditional custodians of this land – the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations. We extend our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging, while acknowledging that we gather on unceded territory. It's also crucial to recognise that any decisions or actions we take in our work may deeply affect these traditional owners.

The Wurundjeri people's connection to this land spans an unprecedented 65,000 years, representing one of the longest continuous cultures globally. Across potentially 2,600 generations, their families, children, and young people dedicated themselves to a sustainable and enduring culture that cared for the lands and their people in stark contrast to the inequality and ecological damage that's occurred from just 9 generations of colonial rule.

Keeping all this mind, let's aim to empower the next generations to continue this idea of an enduring legacy that benefits all people and the lands for generations to come.



Co-Design

Overview

Youth have been involved in every step of the development of the ongoing Families, Youth and Children Strategy as part of a co-design process outlined below.

Process

1. Youth Jury was consulted on the initial stages of the project such as drafting questions for initial community survey and general brainstorming.
2. Invited to both design and participate in putting together the Stakeholder Summit that included representatives from across Darebin's youth support sector.
3. Helped design and co-facilitate the Youth Roundtable inviting Darebin's youth to brainstorm in person on their vision for the future and develop guiding principles.
4. Invited along with stakeholders to be involved in sensemaking workshop on all the results so far and priority areas.
5. In the future to be involved in critiquing the draft of Families, Youth and Children's strategy.



Housing, Cost of living and Life skills

Overview

The housing and cost of living crisis is a major concern among Darebin Youth, jeopardising their ability to secure stable shelter amidst rising costs. Navigating these challenges can be further complicated by a lack of essential life skills.

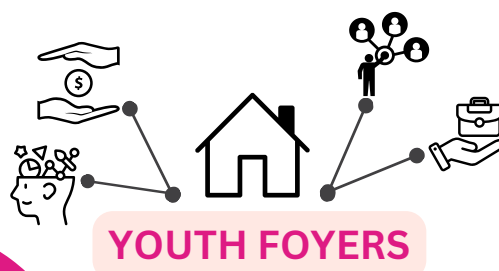
Youth Foyer Solution

One of the most valued ideas at the Youth Roundtable was the **need for Youth Foyers in the City of Darebin** where currently none exist. A Youth Foyer would also address a Darebin Council recommendation to the VLC inquiry into homelessness in Victoria to invest in targeted homelessness interventions for young people.

Youth foyers provide 16 to 24 year olds experiencing or at a risk of homelessness **not only with housing, but a safe space, integrated with education, employment and life skills support.**

To consider:

- More than 80% of Youth Foyer residents exit into safe and stable housing, 65% gain secure and decent employment and 60% are less likely to be involved in the Justice System.
- Within two years of living in a Youth Foyer, a young person develops the skills and capabilities they need to achieve long-term stability and independence.



Housing, Cost of living and Life skills

Youth Foyer Solution

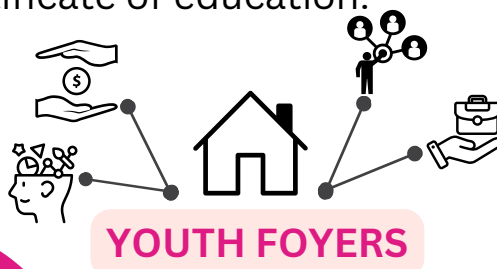
The ask:

- Work with local community organisations and **The Foyer Foundation** to ensure you people at risk of experiencing homelessness in Darebir Council have Access to a Youth Foyer so they can live thriving, independent lives and contribute back to the community.

For more details please contact: CEO@foyer.org.au
Also visit <https://foyer.org.au/under-one-roof/>

Other Solutions

- **Expand social housing availability** within designated zones and collaborate with stakeholders to boost construction efforts.
- Introduce **additional high-rise buildings while expanding and integrating green and community spaces.**
- **Affordable university student accommodation** accessible to part-time work incomes, while fostering social connections.
- **Penalties for unused and vacant land** to compel owners to either sell or utilise the land for housing or community development.
- Government acts as guarantor for students to secure leases; **priority leasing laws for student housing needs.**
- **Life skills education in schools** (and / or out of school) covering topics such as budgeting, taxes, civic education and rights, first-aid, self-defence and more potentially as a pass-fail certificate course to gain certificate of education.



Mental Health

Overview

Mental health support is vital for youth navigating significant life transitions, explaining the **higher rates of mental illness among this demographic**. These risks are heightened for LGBTQIA+ and First Nations youth. Social isolation can further exacerbate mental health issues, with post-pandemic youth being the **most socially isolated demographic**. Given the challenges posed by COVID-19, addressing mental health is particularly crucial to address.

Mental Health Solutions

- **Need a Headspace in Darebin.** The closest are in Collingwood, Greensborough, Glenroy. This is a major source of concern among young people in Darebin who find general therapy inadequate to their unique needs as young people.
- **Fund mental health support** and include people with lived experience in the process.
- Fund **mental health prevention programs** aimed at youth.
- **Specialised areas and spaces for therapy for specific demographics** such as LGBTQIA+ support and First Nations.

Social Engagement Solutions

- Youth led, peer led groups, **groups run by youth with lived experience** eg neurodiversity group ran by autistic youth.
- **Funding for social clubs**, dinner nights to limit isolation for neurodivergent and socially isolated young people.
- **Youth ‘takeovers’ of council spaces** at pools, libraries, etc. where young people use the spaces that already exist to throw events.



Young Workers Rights

Overview

Presently young workers are only **paid a fraction** of the wages of their older (21+) counterparts. This has no regard for their experience and responsibilities compared to other colleagues, and does not consider that many **young people face the same expenses and cost of living pressures** as the rest of the working population. The current system allows a 20 year old with the same work experience as someone 40 years old to be **paid less for the same work and responsibilities**. The dynamic this sets for many young people on their introduction to the work force is that **their labour isn't valued**, creating a generation in the workforce more **vulnerable to exploitation**.

Solutions

- **Fund** young workers' rights education **campaigns for young people**.
- **Fund and deliver** public **events** at and distribute **resources** to **public libraries, community centres, and schools** to educate on young workers' rights.
- **Increase funding** of **oversight bodies** to dedicate **specific resources and teams** to enforce **industry and business compliance** relating to young workers' rights.
- **Expand the school curriculum to educate young people on the invaluable life skills of workers' rights knowledge**, and understanding of available resources and organisations for support, grievances, and legal assistance, **including an education on the role of unions**.
- **Advocate for legislative change to end reduced pay rates for those under 21**.

Current % of full minimum wage paid to young workers

Age	Percentage	Hourly minimum
Under 16	36.8%	\$8.55
16	47.3%	\$10.99
17	57.8%	\$13.43
18	68.3%	\$15.87
19	82.5%	\$19.16
20	97.7%	\$22.70

Liveable Communities

Overview

Liveable communities enhance the quality of life of residents. In the case of young people this means embracing transportation independence, healthy life styles, safety, and preservation of the natural environment and community spaces for generations to

Current Issues

- **Lack of independence of youth** due to unsafe active transport infrastructure & lack of adequate public transport resulting in a car-dependent culture.
- Investing **multi-billion dollars in road construction** designed for large, space-consuming and unsafe automobiles (inc. EVs).
- Urban areas at risk of losing community focus, pedestrian-friendly design and natural environment due to **development threats** that focus on profit over community interests.
- **Disparities in access** to community facilities and services.

Solutions

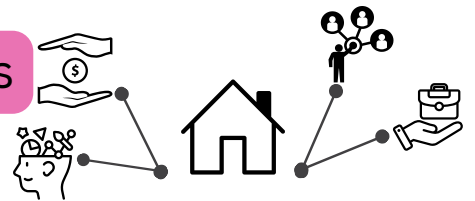
- **Prioritise active and public transport infrastructure** for more safer, efficient & child-friendly communities that promote independence and healthy lifestyles.
- Creation and **protection of community focused, pedestrianised & urban areas** such as Preston Market from developers (eg. buy Preston Market to be publically-owned).
- **Equitable access** to community space throughout Darebin such as extending tram line to Preston Market and Edwardes Park Lake.
- **Preserve natural environments & biodiversity** with strict safeguards and investment into waterways and green spaces.



Reach Out

Darebin Young Citizen Jury -
youngcitizensjury@darebin.vic.gov.au

Sakshi - Youth Foyers and Homelessness



Max - mental health, LGBTQIA+ and neurodiversity



Dylan - Young Workers Rights

Tom - Biking and Liveable Communities



Hunter - Housing, Life Skills and Liveable Communities

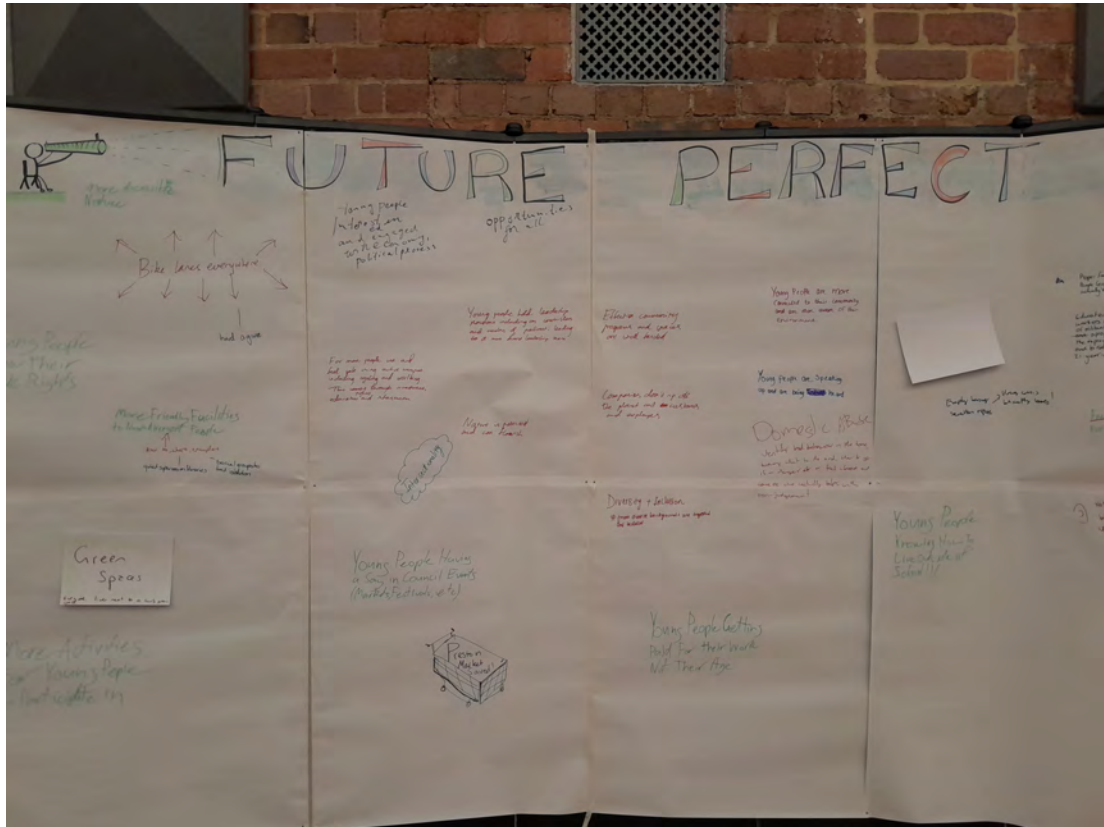
Thank You



Appendices

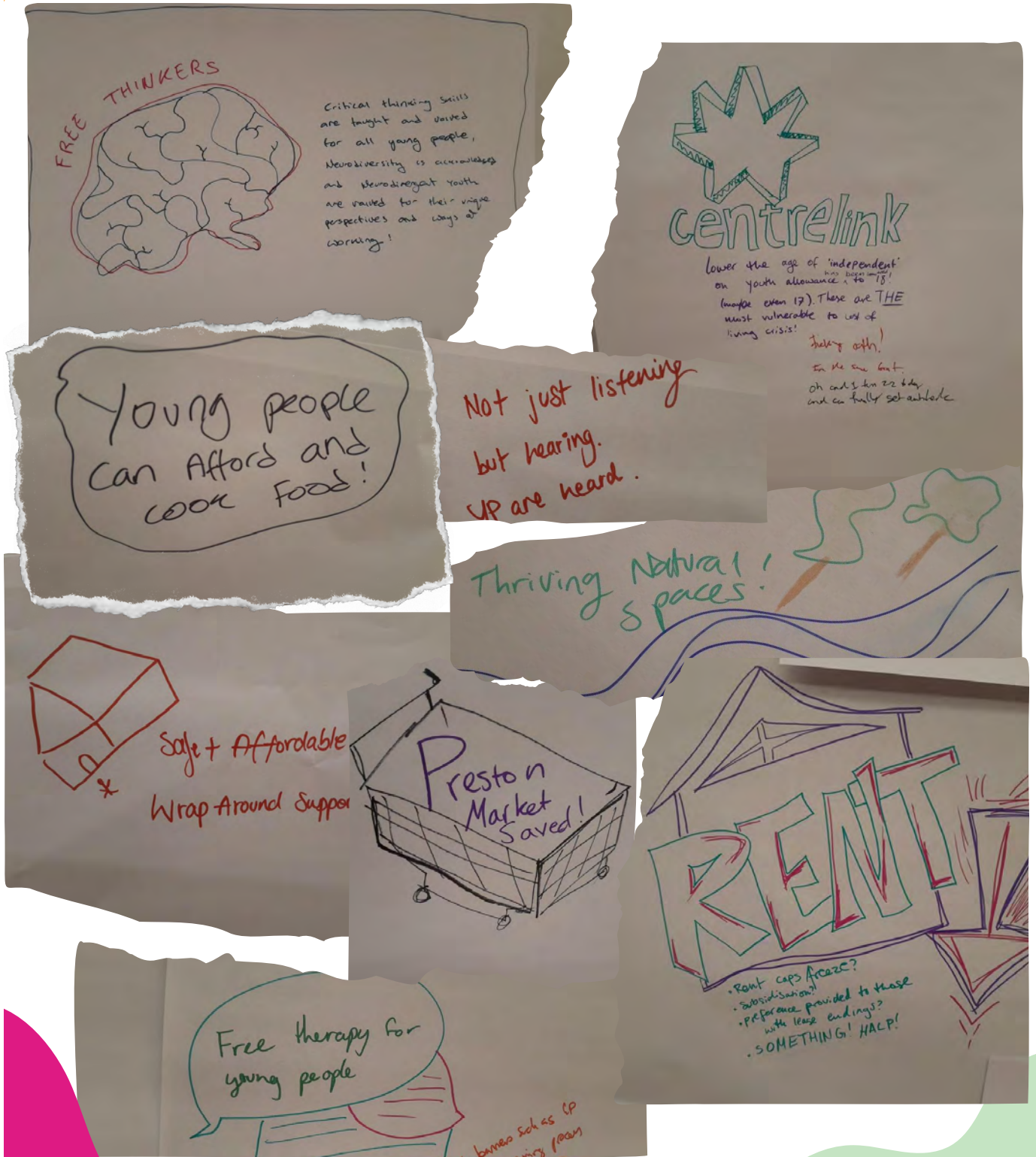


Future Perfect




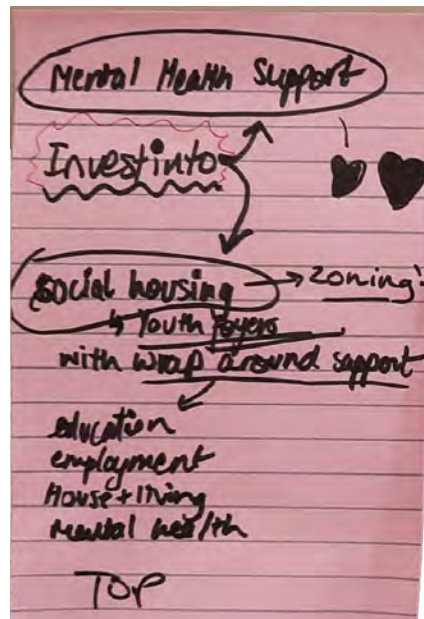
‘Future Perfect’ was the prompt for a visioning activity completed by young people at the Youth Roundtable for Darebin’s Families, Children and Youth Strategy development. ‘Future Perfect’ was described to the group as exploring their hopes for the future and what those hopes mean. ‘Future Perfect’ was the process of building a collective dream board. Above the group visioning is pictured, and specific hopes are pictured on the next page.

Future Perfect



Future Perfect

TOP 
 Mental health support workers with training to provide therapy for young people (funded by government).
 • Spaces created and developed in accessible areas.
 • People with lived experience being involved in this process.
 • Specialised areas and spaces for therapy for specific demographics i.e. LGBT support and First Nations support
 Headspace in Dorebin



Education for young workers' rights - voluntary education programmes say at libraries / programmes / talks at schools; info sheets for distributors at schools + libraries; people as info about who to contact in relation to illegal exploitations; events w/ unions. Push for our end to reduce rates for under 21 year olds.
 TOP

Following the initial visioning activity, young people worked in groups to create more detailed visions and actions. Pictured above are the top priorities as voted by young people, however there were many other pertinent issues given the same level of enthusiasm and advocacy. Those issues include but are not limited to:

Youth/peer/lived experience led groups for young people, youth training opportunities in advocacy and facilitation, social and community spaces for neurodiverse youth, increased social and public housing, life skills education in schools, more accessible and farther reaching public transport, programs that support young people to access secure housing, cost of living support, and increased wages.

Future Perfect

2nd level priorities

<p>2nd</p> <p>Youth led, peer led groups, groups run by youth with lived experience. eg. Neurodiversity group run by Autistic youth.</p> <p>Youth trained in facilitation + Advocacy so they have the skills to run groups. Youth paid for their time + expertise</p>	<p>① Spaces for neurodivergent^{2nd} people in libraries <u>- quiet places</u></p> <p>- perhaps social clubs to limit isolation (for neurodivergent ppl.)</p>
<p>2nd</p> <p>Youth 'takeovers' of council spaces, at pools, libraries, council chambers, where young people use the spaces that already exist to support other young people and throw events.</p> <p>Not so much a takeover, but more involvement + leadership from young people in the community</p>	<p>2nd</p> <p>More zoning for more housing such as social housing and possibly doing high rise buildings to fit more in houses do not exist increasing green space, utilise high rises to increase green space and housing simultaneously. Investigate ways to have co-housing alternative housing arrangements for young and uni students to be socially engaged, connected and supported. How can we utilise the space of old buildings next to Preston Mill.</p>

Future Perfect

3rd level priorities

<p>① more life skills & free thinking taught in schools, by getting the devolution council to talk to the education department to reform the system</p> <p>⑤ Incentivise younger people to come into politics, & have younger leaders in the cabinet</p> <p>④ Programs that endorses young people to get leases, & provide more assistance to people with rent & food, lobby to increase central bank, not make it on strict & lower prices & increase wages</p>	<p>② Push the government for better public transport, and extend the 4 tram line & put further up & towards the lake</p> <p>③ improve Preston market, the government buys Preston market, renovate it & help shop owners innovative & run their business</p> <p>Council Group go to schools to teach life skills and financial</p> <p>Push for better PT, extend tram line/bus line Buy Preston Market and run it, teach business</p> <p>Lobby for changes in education, groceries and rent/leases</p>
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Future Perfect

3rd level priorities

Cheaper rates for bus
Injecting life into area

Approving later liquor house
Notice etc

Permit approvals

Change council culture
to be more in line with
Marri-Bok/Yarra with
social settings

- extend tram line
up to preston market
↳ coordinate with
vic transport to
build

- Take out state/federal
loan to buy preston market
↳ then progressively
fund upgrades

- Council provides guarantorship
to students to get a lease
/priority laws on leasing

- Youth benefit/subsidy for
rent

Remove need for
parents to
give permission
for library
cards

Council creates a
routing list/navigation
tool of what youth
resources are available,
and have peer navigators
to help young people
connect with non-
council services

↳ clearer +
better marketing

Youth having a
direct voice and
channel to speak
to council. For
example meeting directly
with youth jury
so they can influence
and lead policy
development directly
with the council

9.4 THORBURY HIGH SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN ON SCHOOL SITE - OPPORTUNITY TO LEASE**Author:** Planning and Project Officer**Reviewed By:** General Manager Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Education (DE) is building a new kindergarten on the site of Thornbury High School as part of the Kindergartens on School Sites (KOSS) program. The new facility will be a three-room, 99-place kindergarten, which is scheduled to commence operating in January 2025. As per DE's standard approach, Council has been offered first refusal on a lease of this facility. DE have requested that Council decide whether it wishes to lease this facility by 28 May 2024. If Council chooses not to lease the facility, DE will run an expression of interest process to directly lease the facility to a not-for-profit early years service provider.

The proposed lease would be for 20 years with the option of 2 further terms of 10 years. The rent would be \$1.00 per annum if and when demanded. Council would be required to ensure the property is used to deliver three and four-year-old kindergarten programs for the duration of the tenancy. The lease would make Council 100% responsible for all rates and taxes, all outgoings, and all internal and external repairs and maintenance (including repairs of a capital and structural nature). A Life Cycle Operational cost report procured by Council estimates the maintenance/replacement costs for which Council would be liable over the 20 years of the lease at \$1.25M in today's value. These costs, and any other costs associated with the facility, are not currently factored into Council's budget, capital works program or long-term financial plan.

As Council is not a kindergarten service provider, if Council takes on the lease it would need to sublease the kindergarten to a kindergarten provider. Council would be able to pass on some of the costs associated with the management of the property to the sub-tenant in line with Council's Lease and Licensing Policy (once adopted), but many of the costs would remain with Council. If Council does not take on the lease, a provider could just lease directly from DE.

Unlike the previous KOSS project in Darebin (Reservoir East Family Centre), this new facility will not include any additional community facilities (e.g. consulting rooms or a group room) for use by Council. However, DE have made provision within the site plan for the later addition of two maternal and child health rooms, if Council chooses to fund and deliver these additional facilities. This would require an estimated future capital investment of approximately \$1M (2023 price), which is not currently within Council's budget, capital works program or long-term financial plan.

Officers recommend that unless Council are able to negotiate a change to the standard lease terms where Council is able to achieve a cost neutral position and is not required to take on maintenance costs over the life of the agreement and initial establishment costs including fit out and leasing costs that Council decline the opportunity to lease this facility.

The reason for this is the current terms on offer from DE would commit Council to significant liabilities over the 20-year term of the lease (including estimated maintenance/replacement costs of \$1.25M in today's value over the 20 years), without delivering significant, clear added value to the Darebin community than what could be achieved if DE undertook an Expression of Interest process and entered into an agreement directly with an early years management service.

At this stage officers are also not recommending that Council take up the opportunity to construct two maternal and child health (MCH) rooms as Additional Community Facilities to the site given this is not factored into Council's budget, four-year capital works program or long-term financial plan and the significant competing community needs and priorities for Council's available capital works program. While subject to change, at this stage based on available information, officers understand that saying no now, would not preclude Council reconsidering this option in the future following Council's consideration of its Community Infrastructure Plan, and availability of future capital funding. This could alter at some point in the future.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes that, as per DE's standard approach, Council has been offered first refusal on a lease of the new kindergarten to be built on the site of Thornbury High School. The lease would make Council 100% responsible for all rates and taxes, all outgoings, and all internal and external repairs and maintenance (including repairs of a capital and structural nature).
- (2) Notes that the Life Cycle Operational Cost report procured by Council estimates the maintenance/replacement costs for which Council would be liable over the 20 years of the lease at \$1.25M in today's value. These costs, and any other costs associated with the facility, are not currently factored into Council's budget, capital works program or long-term financial plan.
- (3) Notes that there may be additional Kindergartens on School Sites established in Darebin and that the lease terms agreed to for the Thornbury High School kindergarten could set a precedent for any future site.
- (4) Notes that if Council chooses not to lease the facility, DE will run an expression of interest process to directly lease the facility to a not-for-profit early years service provider.
- (5) Requests the CEO advise DE that unless Council are able to negotiate a change to the standard lease terms where Council is able to achieve a cost neutral position and is not required to take on maintenance costs over the life of the agreement and initial establishment costs including fit out and leasing costs, Council is not in a position to take on the lease of the new kindergarten to be built on the site of Thornbury High School due to:
 - a. the financial liability associated with the standard lease terms; and
 - b. there being limited added value to the Darebin community than what could be achieved if DE undertook an Expression of Interest process and entered into an agreement directly with an early years management service.
- (6) Requests a further report be brought back to Council providing the outcome of the discussion with DE for Council to resolve its final position.

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

The Department of Education (DE) Kindergartens on School Sites (KOSS) program delivers modular kindergartens on new and existing school sites in areas where additional kindergarten capacity is required. To date one new facility has been completed in Darebin through this program, the Reservoir East Family Centre, which was completed in January 2023 and has been leased to Council for 20 years, with the option for two further 10-year terms.

The Thornbury High School Kindergarten (interim name) is to be built on the site of Thornbury High School, with construction due to commence later this year for the facility to open in January 2025. The new facility will include three kindergarten rooms with a total capacity for 99 licensed places.

DE have given Council first right of refusal to lease this facility on DE’s standard lease terms for KOSS facilities. If Council chooses not to take a lease on this facility, DE will put the lease out for expressions of interest to not-for-profit early years’ service providers and the school Council.

Lease terms

The proposed terms of the lease under DE’s standard terms are summarised below (see **Confidential Appendix A: Heads of Agreement** for details):

Term	20 years with option for 2 further terms of 10 years
Rent	\$1.00 per annum if and when demanded
Mandatory Services	Three and four-year-old kindergarten programs. The Tenant must ensure that the Premises is used to provide the Mandatory Services for the duration of the Term.
Permitted Use	Other services for children and families are permitted.
Insurance	Tenant must effect insurance which provides the State of Victoria, and the Tenant with cover for the reinstatement or replacement value of the Premises against the destruction of or damage to the Premises and plant, equipment, or property.
Rates & Taxes	Tenant is 100% responsible for all Rates and Taxes.
Outgoings	Tenant is 100% responsible for all Outgoings.
Maintenance & Repairs	The Tenant will be 100% responsible for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All internal repairs, maintenance and replacements required. • All repairs and maintenance of the external fabric of the building, including the structure, façade, and base building services. • Repairs or maintenance in respect of the Premises, whether repairs are structural or otherwise.
Furniture, Fittings & Equipment	Any furniture, fittings, and equipment to be installed at the Premises will be paid for and installed by the Tenant at the Tenant’s own cost.
Assignment & Subleasing	The Tenant must seek the Landlord’s approval before subletting the Premises to a third party, such approval being subject to any reasonable conditions the Landlord sees fit to impose. Consent will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

If Council resolves to lease the kindergarten, it will be responsible for ensuring that three- and four-year-old kindergarten programs are delivered from the facility commencing in January/February 2025. As Council is not a kindergarten service provider, Council would need to sublease the facility to a kindergarten provider. This was a process Council went through for the Reservoir East Family Centre, which resulted in Council subleasing the kindergarten section of that facility to Kids First Australia. Unlike the Reservoir East Family Centre which includes maternal and child health consulting rooms and a community room in addition to the kindergarten rooms, the Thornbury High School facility will be a kindergarten only with no other facilities within the build (although there is scope for additional facilities to be added later, see later in this report). As such, if Council leases the facility, it would sub-lease the whole of the facility to a sub-tenant.

Financial implications of taking on the lease

The major considerations for Council are the financial and other resourcing costs of taking on this lease and the risks that Council would bear during the life of the lease, particularly in relation to the maintenance of the facility. When considering the financial costs of this, it should be noted that this project has not been factored into any current budgeting work and is not listed in Council’s capital works program or long-term financial plan.

If Council chooses to take on the lease, there would be a set of initial costs that would need to be funded within the 2024-25 budget (set-up costs), and then ongoing liabilities over the 20-year lease period. Based on the experience of leasing the Reservoir East Family Centre, the main costs associated with taking on the lease are the up-front Furniture, Fittings & Equipment costs, the ongoing maintenance costs, and outgoings.

Set-up costs

- **Furniture, Fittings & Equipment** – the construction of the facility excludes loose Furniture, Fittings & Equipment (FFE). Based on the recent experience of delivering FFE for the Reservoir East Family Centre, officers estimate the FFE costs for the kindergarten at \$120,000. Some of these costs could be passed on to the subtenant if Council chose not to fully furnish the facility. There is no provision in the 2024-25 budget for this sum, and so Council would need to reprioritise other capital priorities if it wished to take on the lease.
- **Subleasing and other project costs** – if Council takes on the lease it would be responsible for delivering a range of set-up tasks to meet the obligations of the lease including the obligation to ensure that three and four-year-old kindergarten programs are delivered from the site. These would include running an EOI process to find a subtenant, negotiating and agreeing a sub-lease with the subtenant, liaising with the Victorian School Building Authority and the sub-tenant on issues such as early childhood licencing requirements, OHS requirements, IT, security, and signage. These steps would require a significant amount of time from the Families, Youth & Children Department as well as other Departments including Property, Facilities Management and Parks. These resources are not factored into current planning for 2024-25. Other priorities of Council would need to be re-prioritised to enable this work to occur.

Ongoing costs

- **Maintenance Costs** - Council’s obligations under the lease would include responsibility for maintenance and repair of the property including all internal and external repairs, maintenance and replacements required, including the structure, façade and base building services, capital replacements and grounds. A Quantity Surveyor has estimated the maintenance/replacement costs that Council would be liable for over the 20 years of the lease at \$1,252,000 in today’s value (**Full details in Confidential Appendix B**). This is inclusive of both the building and external areas. These costs increase over the lifetime of the lease, as the building ages. The estimated costs over each five-year period are summarised below.

	Life Cycle Operational Cost				Total
	Years 1-5	Years 6-10	Years 11-15	Years 16-20	
Maintenance/ Replacement Costs	\$138,000	\$364,000	\$324,000	\$426,000	\$1,252,000

- Both Facilities Management and Parks Infrastructure have indicated that taking on responsibility for additional facilities and their grounds has significant staff resourcing implications as well as financial costs.
- **Other costs** – Other ongoing costs associated with the facility would include outgoings, where these are not passed on to the subtenant through the sublease, and insurance to cover for the reinstatement or replacement value of the Premises against destruction or damage to the Premises and plant, equipment, or property.

Potential for future addition of additional community facilities

No additional community facilities are in scope for the Thornbury High School Kindergarten. However, following discussions with Council officers, DE has agreed to include provision within the site plan that two maternal and child health (MCH) rooms could be added as Additional Community Facilities, if Council chooses to fully fund such an addition. Space for the inclusion of Additional Community Facilities has been identified to the west of the facility, in an area that would not impact the kindergarten's licensed outdoor play area or car park.

DE have drafted a letter of intent to outline the agreement with respect to the potential future construction of Additional Community Facilities. This letter notes that:

- DE will not fund or deliver any part of the additional facilities, including the completion of design.
- Should Council wish to proceed with the Additional Community Facilities, Council will be required to submit a Land Use Proposal Form [2019] to the Department; and enter into a Development Agreement with the Minister for Education.
- Council will be responsible for:
 - Completing the design of the Additional Community Facilities, based on the Schematic Design, in consultation with the Department;
 - Procuring the works to construct the Additional Community Facilities; and
 - Managing the project to ensure that the Additional Facilities are completed in a timely manner without undue interruption to the Kindergarten or School.
- Council acknowledges that the Department, as a key stakeholder, must approve the final design documentation and is to be consulted at key points during the delivery process to ensure that issues which may affect the School or Kindergarten's ability to operate are mitigated.
- Council is advised the warranties provided in respect of the Department's Kindergarten works may not be enforceable to the extent that the new works tamper with/modify the existing Kindergarten works. It would be beneficial for Council to utilise the same contractor that will undertake the original Kindergarten works.
- Council acknowledges it is the Department's preference that the Additional Community Facilities should be a modular build.

A cost plan provided to DE by their quantity surveyor provided a cost estimate of \$1,088,452 for the completion of the additional community facilities (rates current August 2023). **(confidential Appendix C)**. There is no funding factored into Council's current budget, capital works program or long-term financial plan to undertake this work. If Council was interested in taking up this option, Council would need to re-prioritise other capital works projects to enable this to occur.

At this stage officers are also not recommending that Council take up this opportunity given it is not factored into Council's budget, four-year capital works program or long-term financial plan and the significant competing community needs and priorities for Council's available capital works funding. While subject to change, at this stage, officers understand that following Council's consideration of its Community Infrastructure Plan, and dependent upon the availability of capital funding in future years, there may still be an opportunity for Council to take up this option into the future.

The letter of intent regarding Additional Community Facilities is premised on the assumption that Council will be leasing the facility. If Council does not lease the facility, the addition of additional community facilities would be significantly more complicated due to the involvement of a third party as lead tenant of the facility. DE may also change its position.

Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

2.1 We will deliver equitable and accessible infrastructure to provide opportunities for our community to live well

The new facility will increase kindergarten capacity in the Thornbury area. Taking a lease on the facility would support this expansion of kindergarten capacity, although the expansion is not dependant on Council's involvement.

DISCUSSION

The options before Council are:

- Option 1 (recommended): Unless Council is able to negotiate a change to the standard lease terms where Council is not required to take on the maintenance costs over the life of the agreement and the initial establishment cost, decline the opportunity to take on the lease, allowing DE to run an EOI to lease the facility directly to a kindergarten provider.
- Option 2 (not recommended): Agree to take a 20-year lease on the facility on the terms offered by DE.

Option 1 – Unless Council is able to negotiate a change to standard lease terms, decline the opportunity to lease the facility

- Council could try to negotiate a change to standard lease terms, one where Council achieves a cost neutral position and is not required to take on the maintenance costs over the life of the agreement and the initial establishment cost including fit out and leasing costs. If this could be achieved then Council could consider taking up the lease, rather than declining the offer.

- As outlined above the additional financial and resourcing burdens of taking on the lease are significant (estimated \$1.25M over 20 years in maintenance/renewal costs alone) at a time of significant resource constraints for Council and a range of other asset management priorities.
- Taking on these additional costs does not create the ability to realise savings or cost reductions elsewhere as the purpose of the additional facility is to add to capacity, not substitute for it. All current Council kindergarten facilities will still be needed, and the costs of maintaining those facilities would be unaffected by this decision.
- The opportunity cost of taking on this lease is that funds and resources that could be directed elsewhere would need to be directed towards this facility. In the short-term (2024-25 financial year) this would include needing to allocate \$120,000 of capital funds towards Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment for this facility. Such an amount could not be taken from the existing Three-Year-Old Kindergarten capital program without a significant impact on the proposed projects within that pipeline (Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten Expansion). In the longer term the servicing of an additional facility would reduce the resources that could be directed to existing facilities, all of which will have significant investment requirements over the next 20 years due to their age.
- The project is not dependant on Council's involvement. The additional capacity and community benefit will still be delivered if Council chooses not to take on the lease, assuming that DE is able to find a provider through an EOI process.
- Council would still be able to provide support to the provider in the new facility, without taking on the lease. Currently, Council provides support to all early years services in Darebin through the Children and Community Development Unit in the Families, Youth & Children Department, and Council provides an enhanced level of support to all community-managed services. Several community-managed services that do not operate out of Council buildings receive this level of support, including Keon Park Kindergarten, Westgarth Kindergarten, Nara Community Early Learning Centre, and Merrilands Uniting Early Learning. The additional supports that these services can access include participation in the kindergarten and childcare registration system, additional networking opportunities, support and advice with grant funding applications, and supply of soft fall mulch.
- Officers have been in touch with colleagues in other Councils to understand what decisions other Councils are making on KOSS projects and found a mixed picture, with several Councils exercising caution with regard to taking on the additional liability of these buildings. Officers have received information from eight Councils who have had KOSS projects in their LGA: four have taken on the lease (two did this as service providers, and two to sub-lease to another provider) and four declined the opportunity to lease.

Option 2 – Agree to take a 20-year lease on the facility with the current lease terms offered by DE (not recommended)

Benefits

- Maintain a role as an active partner of DE in delivering the kindergarten reform agenda (three-year-old kindergarten and four-year-old Pre-Prep) in line with the Council Plan and Early Years Infrastructure Framework. Being seen by DE as an active and supportive partner may influence future decisions by DE on matters such as future KOSS locations, infrastructure grants and other investment.

- For Council, KOSS projects are generally a cost-effective way to meet unmet demand for kindergarten, as the construction costs of the new kindergarten places are covered by DE. This means that Council can direct more of its capital investment towards meeting demand in other localities of high unmet kindergarten demand and/or towards other areas of need such as MCH facilities, Toy Libraries, or playgroup venues. These other services may also potentially be included in future KOSS projects if site conditions allow and Council capital contributions are available. DE has flagged that they are looking at a couple of additional sites in Darebin for the 2027 KOSS program, but no further projects beyond 2025 have been confirmed at this stage.
- Play an active role in supporting the creation of a new community facility that will provide 99 additional licensed kindergarten places in an area of need. Be recognised by the community as playing an active role in improving access to kindergarten.
- Maintain an active role in support of community-managed/not for profit kindergarten services, sharing the burden of establishing a new service. Be recognised by the sector as being committed to supporting community-managed/NFP services.
- Gain the ability to have oversight of the kindergarten program delivered from the new facility through a service agreement with the subtenant, providing greater leverage to influence practice and standards in areas such as quality, inclusion, cultural safety, sustainability etc

Risks

- Other important community needs or asset management priorities would need to be foregone or re-prioritised to pursue this opportunity.
- Additional asset management liability created for Council taking on responsibility for an additional facility.
- Project is not currently listed in Council's budget, capital works program or long-term financial plan.
- Potential reputational risk with DE: may be seen as a less active partner in the kindergarten reform agenda, which could have flow on impacts to other investments.
- Potential reputational risk with community and the Early Childhood Education and Care Sector: may be seen as not being committed to expanding kindergarten provision or supporting the sector.
- If Council does not take the lease on, DE would look for an Early Years Management Service or not for profit other provider to take a lease on the facility. If DE was unable to find a tenant (worst case scenario), the building could end up being unused until resolved. In this scenario DE may come back to Council with a revised lease offer on more favourable terms to Council.
- The potential to add additional community facilities (MCH rooms) at some point in the future, may be harder to achieve if Council does not take on the lease. It may still be possible to add the additional facilities, but the situation would be more complicated.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

As discussed above, the financial implications of taking on the lease of this facility are significant and would last for at least the initial 20-year term of the lease.

Community Engagement

Internal consultation has been undertaken with the following Departments: Property & Asset Strategy, Capital & Major Projects (Facilities Management), Parks & Open Space (Open Space Infrastructure). Both Capital & Major Projects and Parks & Open Space have raised concerns about the financial and workload impact of taking on the facility, as noted above. No external consultation, apart from discussions with DE has been undertaken and none is planned at this stage.

Other Principles for consideration

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

[Selection from drop down menu](#)

Public Transparency Principles

[Selection from drop down menu](#)

Strategic Planning Principles

[Selection from drop down menu](#)

Service Performance Principles

[Selection from drop down menu](#)

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

Environmental sustainability considerations have not been considered. As Council is not a partner or contributor to the construction of this facility, Council has had limited opportunity to influence the design of the facility. The environmental standards to which the building has been designed are not known.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

No EIA or GIA has been completed for the purposes of assessing the opportunity to lease this facility. However, the advice provided to Council has been prepared with consideration of the Early Years Infrastructure Planning Framework 2021-2041 as the guiding policy document for early years infrastructure in Darebin. This framework was the subject of an EIA and equity is one of the core principles outlined in the framework to guide early years infrastructure planning.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

No economic development or cultural considerations have been identified.

Operational Impacts

No additional operational impacts have been identified beyond the maintenance and renewal liabilities associated with the building discussed above.

Legal and Risk Implications

Other than the risks highlighted above, officers are not aware of any other legal and risk implications arising from a decision not to take on the lease. If Council chooses to take on the lease, then legal advice would be sought on the proposed lease prior to execution.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

If Council chooses to seek to re-negotiate the terms of the lease, officers would notify DE and seek to negotiate the terms as determined by Council. Officers would indicate to DE if it was not possible to renegotiate then Council is more than likely to decline the lease. Officers would report the outcome of this back to Council for Council to resolve their final position.

If Council chooses to take on the lease, officers will advise DE of this decision and enter into negotiations to finalise lease terms. Officers will then commence an expression of interest process to find a suitable early years provider to sub-lease the facility to in order to comply with the obligation to ensure that the premises is used to provide the Mandatory Services (three and four-year-old kindergarten programs) for the duration of the lease. Council would then be required to re-prioritise its capital program and long-term financial plan to accommodate this priority.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Early Years Infrastructure Planning Framework 2021-2041

Attachments

- Thornbury KOSS Heads of Agreement for Lease copy.pdf (**Appendix A**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Thornbury KOSS - Operational LCC Report copy.pdf (**Appendix B**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Thornbury KOSS Cost Plan A for MCH rooms.pdf (**Appendix C**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**9.5 AMENDMENT C222DARE - PLACES OF WORSHIP
PERMANENT HERITAGE CONTROLS****Author:** Senior Statutory Planner**Reviewed By:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to a request to Council under s29A of the *Building Act 1993* for consent to demolish the former Croxton Methodist Church at 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury, on 18 April 2024 Council resolved to request the Minister for Planning prepare and approve Amendment C220dare to the Darebin Planning Scheme to apply an interim heritage overlay.

The interim heritage overlay will protect this locally significant place while permanent heritage provisions are prepared, exhibited, and affected parties have the opportunity to make submissions, and have these reviewed by an independent panel of experts.

In order for the interim heritage overlay to be supported by the Department of Transport and Planning and the Minister for Planning, Council must pursue permanent heritage controls in a timely manner.

In investigating the heritage significance of the Croxton Methodist Church, a further six (6) places of worship have been identified as significant places that reflect the municipality's social, cultural and built form heritage. The expanded heritage analysis confirms these properties are also of local heritage significance and should be protected by a heritage overlay.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Council seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence Amendment C222dare (Appendices A - C) which proposes a permanent Heritage Overlay for the former Croxton Methodist Church, as well as six (6) other places of worships, which are:

- HO328 - Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury
- HO329 - Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street, Preston
- HO330 - Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston
- HO331 - Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury
- HO332 - Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church, 66 St David Street, Thornbury.
- HO333 - Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Requests under section 8A (2) and (3) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* that the Minister for Planning authorise Darebin City Council to prepare Amendment C222dare (Appendices A-C) to the Darebin Planning Scheme;
 - (2) When authorised by the Minister for Planning, exhibit Amendment C222dare for a period of one month and/or in accordance with notice requirements under section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*;
 - (3) Seek community and stakeholder feedback (including affected landowners) as part of the exhibition period on the proposed changes to the planning scheme;
 - (4) Authorise the Manager City Futures to make alterations, corrections, and additions, as necessary, to Amendment C222 material as attached at Appendices A-C prior to lodgement of the authorisation request with the Minister for Planning and/or exhibition period.
 - (5) In response to any further demolition applications under Section 29a of the *Building Act 1993* for properties included in Amendment C222dare, authorise the General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy to request the Minister for Planning prepare and approve an amendment under Section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to apply an interim Heritage Overlay, while permanent heritage controls via Amendment C222dare are considered.
-

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**Interim Heritage Overlay Amendment (c220dare) for former Croxton Methodist Church**

On 18 April 2024, Council resolved to request the Minister for Planning to prepare and approve Amendment C220dare to apply an interim heritage overlay under the Darebin Planning Scheme to 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury (Former Croxton Methodist Church - HO327), pursuant to section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Amendment C220dare).

The request was made on 19 April 2024 to protect the subject site in response to a request made to Council under s29A of the *Building Act 1993* for consent to demolish the existing church.

Timing of commencement of c222dare

Following Council's request to apply an interim Heritage Overlay (HO) to the former Croxton Methodist Church, Council must pursue permanent heritage protection for the property as soon as practicable. While the lodgement of the request enabled officers to suspend demolition under s29B of the *Building Act 1993*, the Minister's decision to support the interim HO requires a commitment from Council to seek permanent controls through commencement of a new amendment. This is because the purpose of interim controls is to protect sites with identified heritage values while permanent controls are being considered.

Amendment C222dare proposes to apply the HO on a permanent basis to the former Croxton Methodist Church, as well as six (6) additional places of worship identified as having local heritage significance.

Applying the heritage overlay

Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act), a planning authority has a responsibility to protect local cultural heritage. These protections are generally in the form of a heritage overlay (HO) in the planning scheme.

The purpose of an HO control is to conserve and enhance those elements which contribute to the significance of heritage places and to ensure that development does not adversely affect the significance of heritage places.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 18 April 2024, Council resolved:

That Council:

- (1) Requests the Minister for Planning prepare and approve Amendment C220dare to apply an interim heritage overlay to the Darebin Planning Scheme, pursuant to section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.*
- (2) Authorises the Manager City Futures to make minor alterations and corrections, where necessary, to the Amendment C220dare material as attached prior to the lodgement of the request with the Minister for Planning.*
- (3) Notes that the affected landowner will have the opportunity to present their case and participate in the planning scheme amendment process for permanent heritage controls.*

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

4.5 We will improve the sustainability, accessibility, and design of development on private land in our city

DISCUSSION

Proposed permanent heritage amendment – places of worship.

Worshipping is a key theme in Darebin's history of significance to the community and demonstrates the changing socio-demographics of the community over time and in particular the influence of immigration. When European settlers, and more recently people from the Middle-East and Asia, began to put down roots in Darebin, they founded community institutions, with places of worship being an important part of local community activity.

As part of preparing Amendment C222dare, Council’s heritage experts conducted assessments of six (6) additional places of worship to determine whether any would be likely to meet the threshold for local protection in the Darebin Planning Scheme (set out in Table 1 below).


In Victoria, heritage values and significance are informed by the Burra Charter and defined in the Model Heritage Criteria (HERCON), which provides a standard measure by which heritage places are assessed. A place needs to meet at least one criterion to meet the threshold for local significance to Darebin. It should be noted that meeting more than one criterion does not make a place more significant, it simply means that the place is significant for a variety of reasons.




The HERCON criteria are defined as follows:


- Criterion A - Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).
- Criterion B - Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).
- Criterion C - Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).
- Criterion D - Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).
- Criterion E - Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).
- Criterion F - Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).
- Criterion G - Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).
- Criterion H - Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance). (DELWP 2018, 1–2).

The heritage assessment report including full heritage citations for all seven (7) identified places of worship is provided in Appendix B.

Table 1 - Proposed heritage places and their significance

HO, name and address	Significance	Image
HO327 Former Croxton Methodist Church, 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury	Local Criterion A – historical significance as a clear example of Methodism in the nineteenth and early twentieth century and served the community for almost 115 years for various church functions and local events. Criterion D – representative significance as a highly intact ecclesiastical church complex representative of distinct waves of development.	

HO, name and address	Significance	Image
<p>HO328</p> <p>Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury</p>	<p>Local</p> <p>Criterion A – historical significance as an early inter-war Church of Christ building (brick church c 1922 and Gothic Revival church c 1927) clearly demonstrates the significant growth of Thornbury in the inter-war period.</p> <p>Criterion D – representative significance as a reasonably intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church featuring characteristic architectural elements.</p> <p>Criterion G – social significance for its special association with the congregation of the Church of Christ in Thornbury for social and spiritual reasons as the centre of worship for the Church of Christ congregation in Thornbury for over 100 years.</p>	
<p>HO329</p> <p>Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street, Preston</p> <p>(Council owned property)</p>	<p>Local</p> <p>Criterion A – historical significance as a Post-War Church of Christ building (original c 1911 church into Gothic Revival c 1953).</p> <p>Criterion D – representative significance as an intact example of a pared back, Post War ultra simplified Gothic Revival style church featuring characteristic architectural elements, including successfully integrating the frame and roof of original c 1911 church into later 1953 building.</p>	
<p>HO330</p> <p>Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston</p>	<p>Local</p> <p>Criterion A – historical significance as a purpose-built multi-ethnic Mosque that was established by the Islamic Society of Victoria (ISV) in 1975-76 to serve the growing Muslim population.</p> <p>Criterion D – representative significance as a purpose built late twentieth century Mosque that clearly exhibits all the elements associated with this typology such as domes, minarets and arch motifs, etc.</p> <p>Criterion G – social significance for its clear and ongoing role as a place of worship, cultural gathering, and community meeting for Darebin’s Muslim community.</p> <p>Criterion H – associative significance for its association with Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam, a prominent Muslim community leader in Melbourne and the Grand Mufti of Australia from 2007 and 2011.</p>	

HO, name and address	Significance	Image
<p>HO331</p> <p>Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury</p>	<p>Local</p> <p>Criterion A – historical significance as an example of the strength and prevalence of Congregationalism in Darebin in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.</p> <p>Criterion D – representative significance as an intact ecclesiastical church complex (including early c 1914 church), comprising multiple structures onsite representative of the more unique/less represented development patterns of Congregational churches in the Darebin and the broader Melbourne region.</p> <p>Criterion G – social significance as a centre of worship and as a gathering place for the Congregational Church, the Greek Orthodox Church and now the Church of the Nazarene for over 100 years.</p>	
<p>HO332</p> <p>Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (formerly Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church), 66 St David Street, Thornbury</p>	<p>Local</p> <p>Criterion A – historical significance as a former nineteenth century Methodist Church complex that was later converted into a Greek Orthodox Church in the post-war period.</p> <p>Criterion D – representative significance as a modest brick Gothic Revival church which was erected in Darebin in the early twentieth century and transitioned into a church of another denomination in the mid twentieth century.</p> <p>Criterion G – social significance as a church that has been known, used and valued by the local community for religious activities for over 100 years.</p>	
<p>HO333</p> <p>Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir</p>	<p>Local</p> <p>Criterion E – Aesthetic significance as a highly articulated purpose-built mosque distinguished by high-quality masonry construction, a prominent dome, striking minaret, multi-paned arched windows, buttressing and its dynamic use of rectilinear and rounded forms.</p> <p>Criterion G – social significance as a continuing place of worship, assembly and gathering space for the local and surrounding Albanian community.</p>	

Addressing heritage gaps and efficiency of process.

The aim of seeking to broaden the amendment beyond the initial subject site, was to gain efficiencies by addressing other potential heritage gaps through one amendment process.

The additional places identified for investigation do not represent a comprehensive review of potential heritage gaps in relation to places of worship in Darebin. The extent to which the scope of the amendment could be broadened beyond the initial subject - the Former Croxton Methodist Church - was limited by the time available to undertake the necessary investigations and prepare the required amendment documentation.

Impact of heritage overlay on development.

It is important to note that the Heritage Overlay does not prohibit development of a site, but rather seeks to ensure that new development conserves and enhances heritage places and conserves those elements of the place that contribute to its heritage significance.

In short, the heritage overlay does not prevent development, but rather encourages sensitive, considered development which respects the heritage significance of the place.

Other than the former Croxton Methodist Church, the other places included in Amendment C222 are still active places of worship. While the application of the HO generally means that a permit is required for making external changes, with the exception of some minor buildings and works, this does not mean development is prohibited, rather it provides that the heritage impacts of proposed development are considered through the permit process. Further, the HO contains a standard exemption for internal alterations made for liturgical purposes.

Some recent commentary regarding the application of the interim Heritage Overlay to the former Croxton Methodist Church has raised concern with how protecting the Darebin's valued heritage will adversely impact local housing development.

Analysis commissioned to support a new Darebin Housing Strategy indicates that currently available housing capacity far exceeds forecast demand to 2041. Modelling shows that estimated housing capacity allows for up to 92,930 additional dwellings to be established in Darebin, with projected demand up until 2041 is 28,700 dwellings. It is the role of the Housing Strategy to manage housing growth by ensuring there is supply and directing it to the most sustainable locations. The provision of housing must be balanced with other key planning objectives and constraints, including environmental and heritage considerations.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES**Financial Management**

The planning scheme amendment process for C222dare will incur costs associated with formal notification, exhibition, and Planning Panel. These costs will be absorbed through City Futures Planning Scheme Amendment budget for 2024/2025.

Community Engagement

Proposed Amendment C222dare will undergo a 4-week statutory exhibition process, including notice, in accordance with s19 of the Act, to owners and occupiers of the subject land and of adjacent land. Submissions will be invited and encouraged during the exhibition period - engagement with affected property owners will assist in understanding whether any refinement to specific controls is needed to best manage these places for the communities they serve.

In addition to statutory notice requirements, the team will engage with affected communities of faith. It is likely that this will involve a series of meetings, though the most appropriate engagement method and channels will be confirmed in consultation with Equity and Wellbeing.

A broader community general information /drop-in session will also be held during the exhibition period.

Other Principles for consideration

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

(a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;

Public Transparency Principles

(a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

The property at 220 High Street is Council owned. As Planning Authority, Council officers have identified the church building as potentially locally significant and, in accordance with the objectives of the Planning and Environment Act, recommend its protection by an HO in the planning scheme. The property department, which represents Council's interests as a landowner, will be notified during the consultation process.

Strategic Planning Principles

(b) strategic planning must address the Community Vision;

Service Performance Principles

(a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

The retention of heritage fabric supports the reduction of emissions by supporting reuse and adaptation of existing building stock.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

The heritage protection of places of historic significance within the City of Darebin will provide net benefit to the community.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

The amendment is expected to have a positive social impact by providing protection for buildings identified as being of heritage significance. The recognition of heritage will contribute to an understanding of Darebin's social and architectural history, for present and future generations.

The application of a Heritage Overlay may create additional costs for landowners/developers if they wish to develop their property in circumstances where there were previously no planning permit requirements.

Operational Impacts

The proposed application seven site specific, permanent Heritage Overlays is not expected to have any significant operational impacts.

Legal and Risk Implications

Protection of heritage buildings is an objective of planning in Victoria under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Failing to apply appropriate controls places a risk to the significance of the heritage place.




IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Next steps if Council resolves to request Ministerial authorisation for Amendment C220dare:

(*Note: steps and timing are TBC – dependent on Minister’s authorisation)

- June-July 2024 – Council receives authorisation and commences exhibition of Amendment C222dare
- August/September 2024 - Council considers submissions to Amendment C222dare
- Late 2024/early 2025 – Amendment C222dare is considered by an independent planning panel
- Early 2025 – Council considers the panel findings and adoption of the amendment.

Attachments

- Explanatory documents, ordinance and maps - C222dare (**Appendix A**) [↓](#) 
- Incorporated documents C222dare (**Appendix B**) [↓](#) 
- Background document C222dare (**Appendix C**) [↓](#) 

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Darebin Planning Scheme

Amendment C222dare

Explanatory Report

Overview

This amendment introduces heritage protection controls to seven (7) individual heritage places, comprising five (5) churches and two (2) mosques in Thornbury, Preston and Reservoir.

It does this by applying the Heritage Overlay to protect the places of identified heritage significance; amending the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay to include the seven heritage places, amending Clause 72.04 (Incorporated documents) and Clause 72.08 (Background documents) and updating the Incorporated Document *City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan – Permit Exemptions (2022)*.

Where you may inspect this amendment

The amendment can be inspected free of charge at:

- Darebin City Council website at <https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au>
- During office hours at the following place:
 - Darebin Civic Centre
274 Gower Street, Preston, VIC 3072

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Transport and Planning website at <http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection> or by contacting the office on 1800 789 386 to arrange a time to view the amendment documentation.

Submissions

Any person may make a submission to the planning authority about the amendment. Submissions about the amendment must be received by **[insert submissions due date]**.

A submission must be sent to:

Strategic Planning, Darebin City Council

By post: PO Box 91, Preston VIC 3072

In person: 274 Gower Street, Preston

By email: planningservices@darebin.vic.gov.au

Panel hearing dates

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- Directions hearing: [insert directions hearing date]
- Panel hearing: [insert panel hearing date]

Details of the amendment

Who is the planning authority?

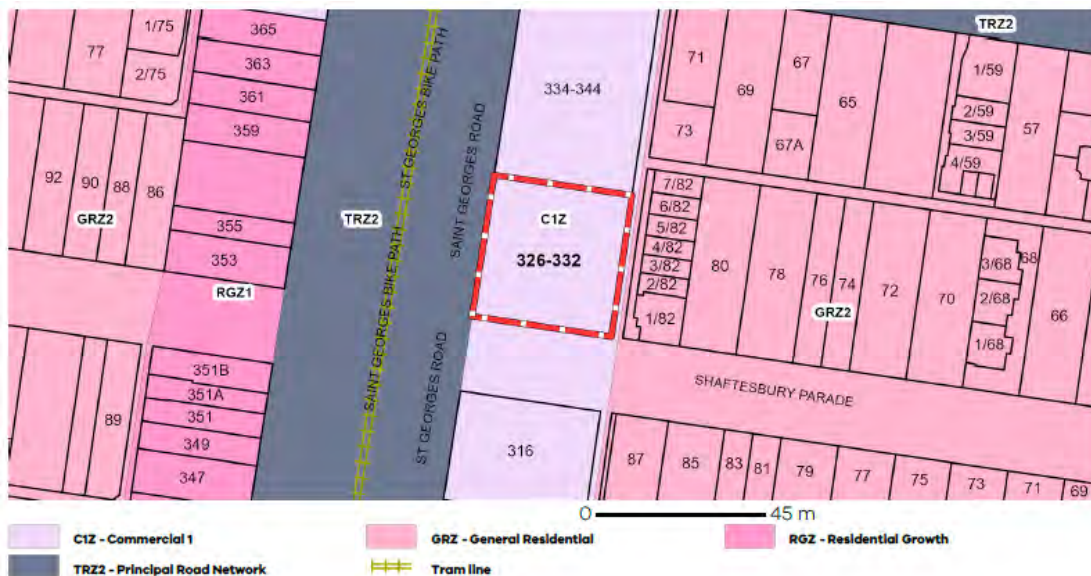
This amendment has been prepared by Darebin City Council who is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of Darebin City Council.

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment applies to seven (7) separate land parcels, as per the below list and identified by the red outline on the maps following.

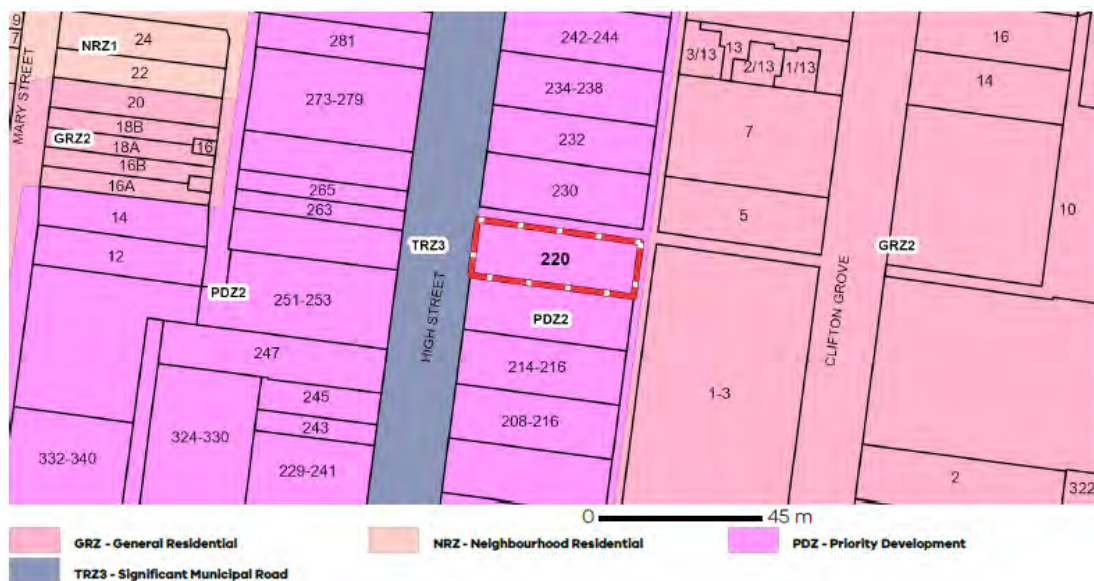
- 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury
- 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury
- 220 High Street, Preston
- 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston
- 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury
- 66 St David Street, Thornbury
- 111 Blake Street, Reservoir



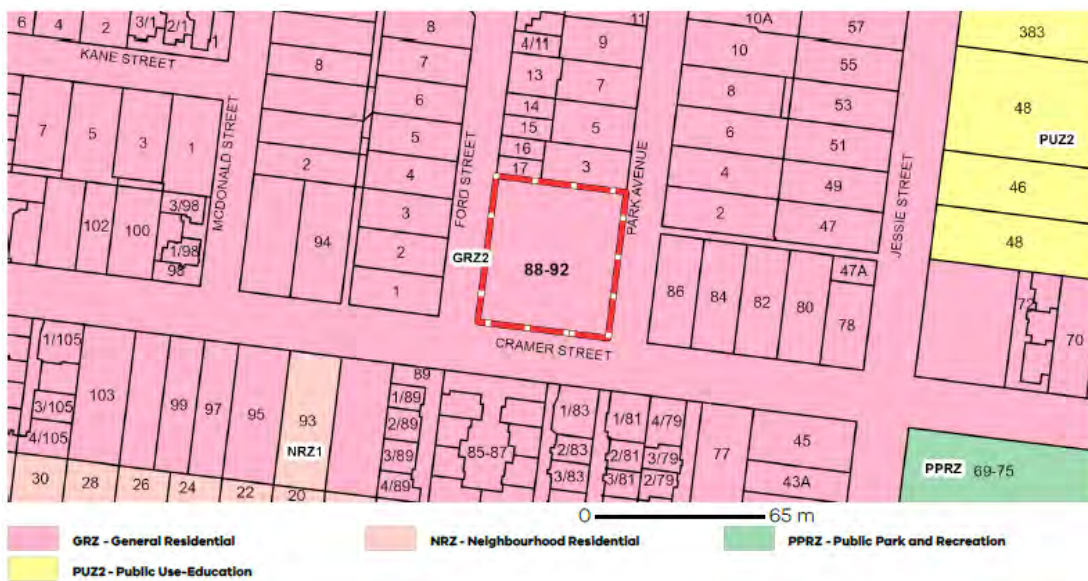
Map 1: 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury – Former Croxton Methodist Church



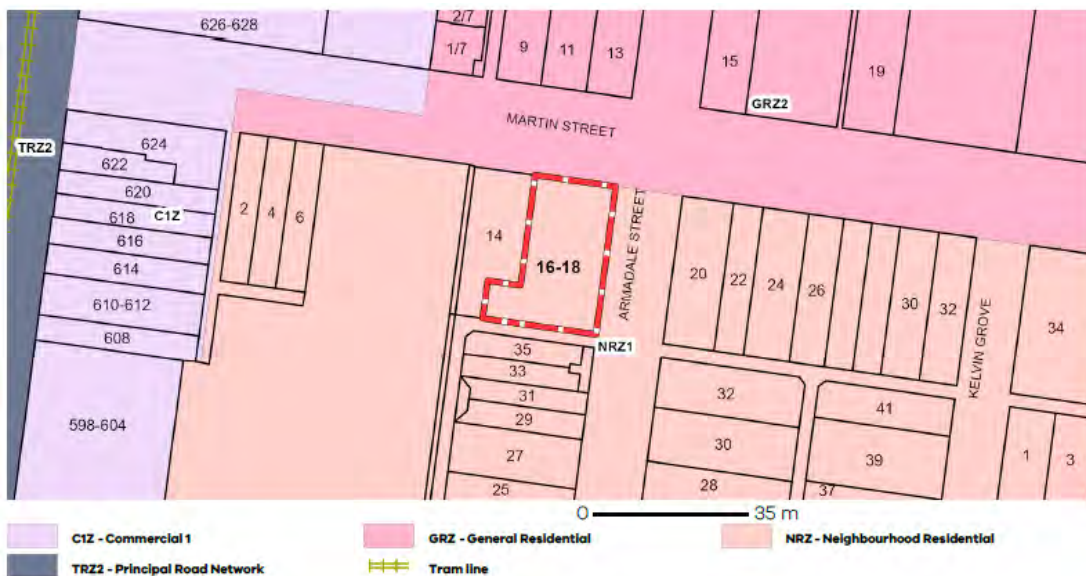
Map 2: 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury - Church of Christ



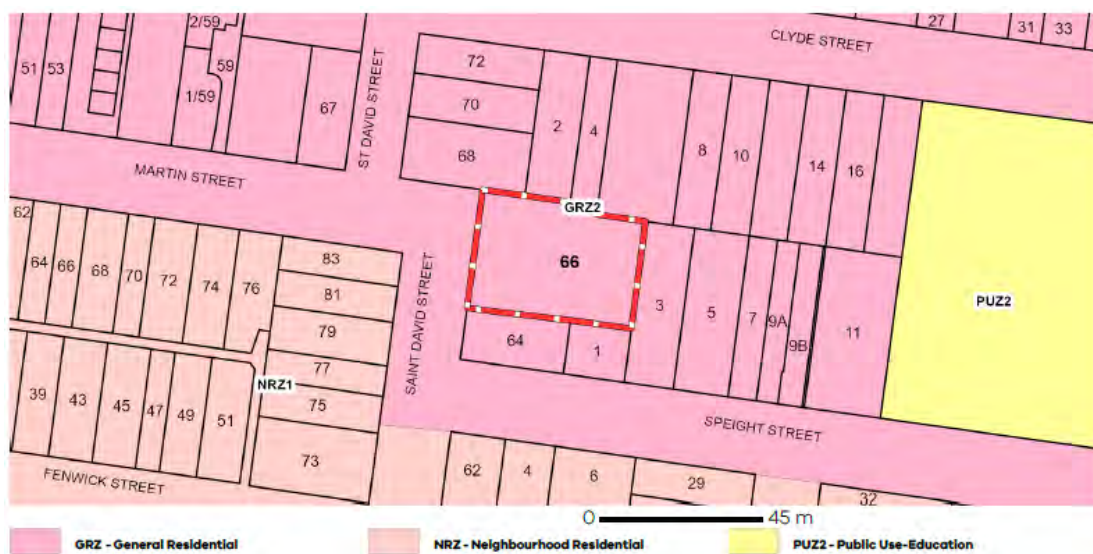
Map 3: 220 High Street, Preston - Former Preston Church of Christ



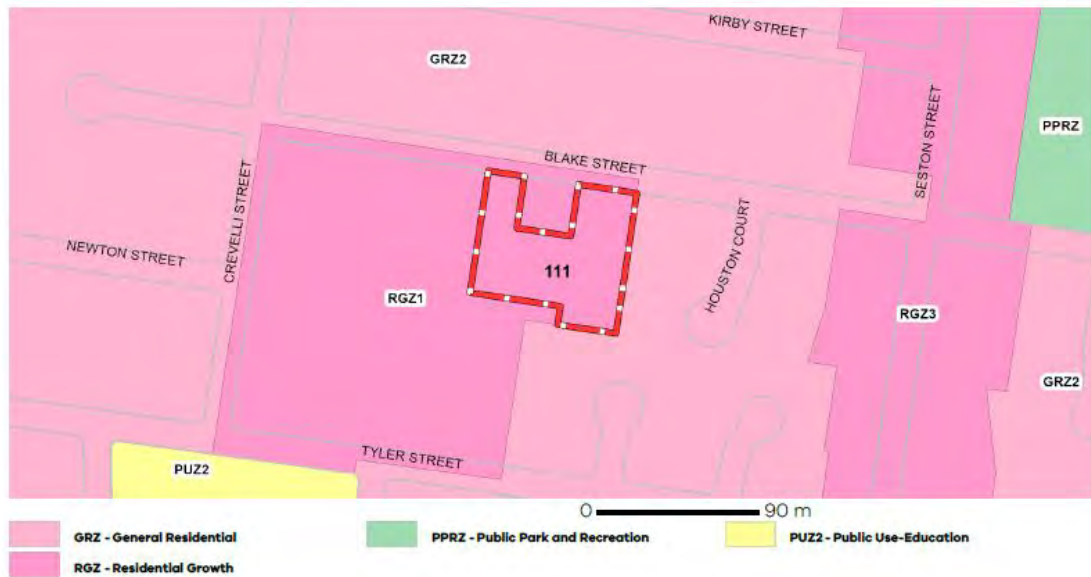
Map 4: 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston - Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque



Map 5: 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury – Former Northcote Congregational Church



Map 6: 66 St David Street, Thornbury - Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex



Map 7: 111 Blake Street, Reservoir – Reservoir Albanian Mosque

What the amendment does

The amendment applies heritage controls to seven (7) individual places of worship in the City of Darebin, to ensure that future development respects and enhances the heritage significance of the identified places.

The amendment applies the Heritage Overlay to the following properties:

- HO327 – 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury – Former Croxton Methodist Church
- HO328 - 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury – Thornbury Church of Christ
- HO329 - 220 High Street, Preston - Former Preston Church of Christ
- HO330 - 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston - Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque
- HO331 - 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury – Former Northcote Congregational Church
- HO332 - 66 St David Street, Thornbury - Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (Formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church)
- HO333 - 111 Blake Street, Reservoir – Reservoir Albanian Mosque

Specifically, the amendment:

- Amends Map Nos. 10HO, 11HO, 12HO, 13HO and 14 HO to apply the Heritage Overlay to the above properties.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 43.01 (Heritage Overlay) to include the above properties.
- Amends the schedule to Clause 72.04 (Incorporated Documents) to include the Statement of Significance for each of the above properties, known as :
 - *Statement of Significance: Former Croxton Methodist Church, 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury (May 2024)*

- *Statement of Significance: Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury (May 2024)*
- *Statement of Significance: Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street, Preston (May 2024)*
- *Statement of Significance: Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston (May 2024)*
- *Statement of Significance: Former Northcote Congregational Church, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury (May 2024)*
- *Statement of Significance: Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (Formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church) , 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury (May 2024)*
- *Statement of Significance: Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir (May 2024)*
- Amends the schedule to Clause 72.04 (Incorporated Documents) by updating the date of the document *City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022)* to 2024.
- Replaces the incorporated document *City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022)* with an updated version titled *City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2024)* to include reference to the *Places of Worship Heritage Assessment Volumes 1 and 2 (Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024)*.
- Amends the schedule to Clause 72.08 (Background Documents) to include the Background Report and Individual Citations for each of the above properties, known as:
 - Individual Citation - *Former Croxton Methodist Church, 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury*
 - Individual Citation - *Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury*
 - Individual Citation - *Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street, Preston*
 - Individual Citation - *Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston*
 - Individual Citation - *Church of the Nazarene, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury*
 - Individual Citation - *Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex, 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury*
 - Individual Citation - *Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir*

Strategic assessment of the amendment

Why is the amendment required?

Under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act), Council has a responsibility to protect local cultural heritage. The amendment is required to protect the heritage values of the individual places and preserve the places for current and future generations.

The amendment proposes to implement the recommendations of the Places of Worship Heritage Assessment Volumes 1 and 2 (2024)). This study identifies seven (7) places within the municipality, comprising five (5) churches and two (2) mosques, as meeting the threshold for local heritage significance, and therefore for protection under the Darebin Planning Scheme.

How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The amendment implements the objectives of Planning in Victoria, under Section 4 of the *Planning & Environment Act (1987)* in particular:

- *To conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value.*
- *To balance present and future interests of all Victorians*
- *To facilitated development in accordance with the objectives outlined above.*

Further, the amendment implements section 12(1)(a), which is to implement the objectives of planning in Victoria, in this case to protect heritage values.

These objectives are implemented through the identification and protection of heritage built form.

How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

Environmental

The amendment is expected to have a positive environmental impact by providing for protection of places of historic significance and thereby supporting the reuse of existing building stock.

Social

The amendment is expected to have positive social effects by protecting fabric that adds to the understanding of cultural history, providing a link to the past and giving a sense of place.

Economic

The amendment is not expected to have significant economic impacts, although it may impose some additional costs on the owners or developers of affected properties as a planning permit will be required for most buildings and works due to the application of the Heritage Overlay.

The Heritage Overlay does not prohibit development, but instead requires the significance of a place to be considered when assessing applications. These impacts are offset by the benefit to the community provided through the protection of heritage places over many generations.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The properties subject to the amendment is not subject to bushfire risk or a Bushfire Management Overlay, and the amendment is unlikely to result in any significant increase to the risk to life, property, community, infrastructure or the natural environment from bushfire.

Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any other Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The amendment complies with the Ministerial Direction on the Form and Content of Planning Schemes under Section 7(5) of the Act.

The amendment complies with Ministerial Direction No.9 – Metropolitan Strategy pursuant to Section 12 of the Act, that requires planning authorities to have regard to the Metropolitan Strategy (Plan Melbourne 2017-2050).

The amendment complies with Direction 4.4 of Plan Melbourne: Respect Melbourne's heritage as we build for the future. The amendment is consistent with this direction as it proposes to make minor changes to enable the Planning Scheme to continue to guide appropriate development in the municipality, and to ensure that the built heritage of the municipality is maintained.

The amendment complies with Ministerial Direction No. 11 (Strategic Assessment of

Amendments) under section 12 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 as the requirements of this direction have been followed in the preparation of this amendment.

How does the amendment support or implement the Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The amendment supports the Planning Policy Framework (PPF), in particular Clause 15.03-1S (Heritage Conservation) by providing heritage protection for identified heritage places to minimise the loss of local heritage whilst more permanent heritage protection is progressed.

The amendment additionally supports Clause 15.03-1L (Heritage) of the Darebin Planning Scheme by seeking to protect, conserve and enhance a place identified as being of local significance by applying an interim Heritage Overlay. The amendment also seeks to discourage demolition or relocation of locally significant heritage buildings.

How does the amendment support or implement the Municipal Planning Strategy?

No changes to the Municipal Planning Strategy are proposed as part of this amendment.

This amendment supports the Municipal Planning Strategy by protecting and enhancing places of heritage significance as sought by Clause 02-03-4.

The application of site-specific Heritage Overlays to the significant places will not prevent development of the municipality as envisaged by the Municipal Planning Strategy and will not undermine policy contained within the Municipal Planning Strategy relating to housing and economic development.

The application of a Heritage Overlay does not prohibit development or future change. Rather, it ensures future development is in accordance with the identified significance of the heritage place.

Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The amendment makes proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions by utilising the Heritage Overlay to protect individual places of local heritage significance. This approach is consistent with Planning Practice Note 1 Applying the Heritage Overlay and the Ministerial Direction - The Form and Content of Planning Schemes.

How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

No relevant government agency was required to be consulted regarding this

amendment.

Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?

The amendment is not likely to have an impact on the transport system.

Resource and administrative costs

What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?

The amendment will increase the number of properties subject to the provisions of the Heritage Overlay by seven (7). As the amendment only affects a small number of properties, and given some permit exemptions have been included in the form of an Incorporated Document, it is not expected to have a significant impact on resourcing and administrative costs.

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Darebin Planning Scheme

Amendment C222DARE

Instruction sheet

The planning authority for this amendment is Darebin City Council.

The Darebin Planning Scheme is amended as follows:

Planning Scheme Maps

The Planning Scheme Maps are amended by a total of 5 attached map sheets.

Overlay Maps

1. Amend Planning Scheme Map No. 10HO, 11HO, 12HO, 13HO and 14HO in the manner shown on the five (5) attached maps.

Planning Scheme Ordinance

The Planning Scheme Ordinance is amended as follows:

2. In **Overlays** – Clause 43.01, replace the Schedule with a new Schedule in the form of the attached document.
3. In **Operational Provisions** – Clause 72.04, replace the Schedule with a new Schedule in the form of the attached document.
4. In **Operational Provisions** – Clause 72.08, replace the Schedule with a new Schedule in the form of the attached document.

End of document

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

27/08/2021
C161dare

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 43.01 HERITAGE OVERLAY

1.0 Application requirements

07/08/2023
C482dare Proposed C222dare None specified.



2.0 Heritage places

24/04/2024
C219dare Proposed C222dare The requirements of this overlay apply to both the heritage place and its associated land.



PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER								
HO19	Terrace Houses, 186-192 Clarke Street, Northcote	-	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H1774	No	No
HO312	Former Northcote Theatre 212-220 High Street, Northcote	-	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H2287	Yes	No
HO45	Former Northcote Cable Tramways Site 626-628 High Street, Thornbury	-	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H2129	Yes	No
HO144	Preston Tramway Workshops 16-18 Miller Street, Preston The heritage place includes Miller Street Tramway Bridge (part) (refer HO236)	-	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H2031	No	No
HO59	Former Mont Park Hospital and Avenue of Honour Ernest Jones Drive and Springthorpe Boulevard and Cherry Street Macleod	-	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H1872	Yes	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO74	Bundoora Park Homestead 7-27 Snake Gully Drive, Bundoora	-	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H1091	Yes	No
HO175	Former Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged 104 – 112 St Georges Road, Northcote	-	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H1950	Yes	No
HO313	Yan Yean Water Supply System Northcote, Preston, Reservoir The heritage place includes: Part HO163 Northcote-Merri Precinct; and Part HO171 Regent G.E. Robinson Park	-	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H2333	No	No
HO314	Maroondah Water Supply System (Upper and Central Sections) Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	Yes Ref No H2381	No	No
	LOCAL OVERLAYS								
	Precincts:								
HO167	Alphington Area bounded by Clive Street and Miller Street, north of Heidelberg Road to the Railway line	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO297	Broomfield Avenue Precinct 2-52 and 3-45 and 495 (Park); 509 and 515 Broomfield Avenue; Heidelberg Road, Alphington Incorporated plan:	No	No	Yes - Street trees and Bloomfield Park	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								I
HO96	Area bounded by St George's Road, Hawthorn Road, Hartington Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO97	Area bounded by Herbert Street, James Street, Butler Street, Bastings Street, Eastment Street, Hawthorn Road, Separation Street & Prospect Grove, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO98	Area bounded by Langwells Parade, Right of Way, Hunter Street & High Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO99	Dally Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO100	Area bounded by Clarke Street, Charles Street, Merri Parade, High Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO101	Area bounded by High Street, Union Street, Westgarth Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO102	Area bounded by High Street, Westgarth Street, Urquhart Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO105	Robbs Parade, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO160	Northcote - Township Area bounded by Westgarth Street, East Street, Cunningham Street, Walker Street, Ross Street, Urquhart Street, High Street and Merri Creek	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO161	Northcote - Westgarth Area bounded by Clarke Street, Roberts Street, Simpson Street, South Crescent, Westgarth Street, High Street, Jackson Street, Tobin Avenue, Pearl Street, Timmins Street and Bridge Street	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO162	Northcote - Rucker's Hill Area bounded by Clarke Street, Waterloo Road, Ilma Grove, High Street, Separation Street, James Street, Herbert Street, Turnbull grove, Eastment Street and Helen Street	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO163	Northcote – Merri Area bounded by St. George's Road, Westbourne Grove, Park Street and Gordon Grove	No	No	No	Yes	No	No (part Ref No H2333 refer HO313)	No	No
HO164	Northcote - Clarke Street North and south sides of Clarke Street, west of St. George's Road to Merri Creek	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO165	Northcote – Sumner Estate Area bounded by Auburn Avenue, Sumner Avenue, St. George's Road and Winifred Street	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO166	Northcote - Croxton Area bounded by Arthurton Road, Scott Street, Gladstone Avenue, Railway Parade, and St. George's Road	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO173	Newmarket Street	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No





DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	Area bounded by Clarke Street, Brooke Street and includes all properties in Newmarket Street								
HO298	Gladstone Avenue Precinct 1-35 & 2-46 Gladstone Avenue Northcote Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO95	HCV Newlands Estate, Elizabeth Street, Preston.	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO103	Kelley Grove, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO104	Collins Street, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO168	Preston Tramway Area bounded by Oakover Road, Gillingham Street, Davies Street and Devon Street	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO169	Preston State School Area bounded by Orient Grove, Oakover Road, Etnam Street and Scotia Street	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO182	<i>Preston, Bruce Street</i> 9-25 Bruce Street, 2-8 Herbert Street, & 17 Mary Street, Preston Incorporated plan: Preston Residential Heritage Precincts Permit Exemptions	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO183	<i>Preston, 'Heart of Preston' precinct</i> 8-42 & 9-43 William Street, Preston Incorporated plan: Preston Residential Heritage Precincts Permit Exemptions	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO184	<i>Preston Mary Street precinct</i> 5-15 & 26-36 Mary Street, Preston Incorporated plan: Preston Residential Heritage Precincts Permit Exemptions	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO185	<i>Preston Spencer Street precinct</i> 1-23 & 8-18 Spencer Street, Preston Incorporated plan: Preston Residential Heritage Precincts Permit Exemptions	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO186	<i>Preston War Service Homes precinct</i> 17-25 & 18-28 Arthur Street, 27-37 Bruce Street, 1-9 & 10-16 Herbert Street and 76-84A St Georges Road, Preston Incorporated plan: Preston Residential Heritage Precincts Permit Exemptions	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO170	Bell Railway Area bounded by Garnet Street, Showers Street, west of High Street to the Railway line	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO299	Carlisle Street Precinct	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	42-46, 52-56 & 62-64 Carlisle Street, Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								
HO300	Garnet Street Houses 7-17 & 16 Garnet Street, Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
									
HO301	High Street Preston 274-288 & 317-341 High Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
									
HO302	Larne Grove & Roxburgh St Precinct 1-31 & 4-26 Larne Gve, 1-23 & 2-24 Roxburgh St, 23-33 Dundas St & 30-36 Milton Cres, Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
									
HO303	Livingstone Parade Precinct	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	1 -9 & 6-24 Livingstone Parade Preston, 8 & 10 South Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								
HO304	Milton Crescent Precinct 6-12 & 5-11 Milton Crescent Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
									
HO305	Plenty Road Precinct 85-107, 131-141 & 126-134 Plenty Road Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
									
HO171	Regent G.E. Robinson Park Area bounded by King William Street, Down Street, Garden Street and High Street	No	No	No	Yes	No	No (part Ref No H2333 refer HO313)	No	No
HO172	Preston Oakhill Avenue Area bounded by Tyler Street, Oakhill Avenue, Capp Street, Xavier Grove, Mc Ivor Street, Southernhay Street, McCarten Street, King William Street and Joffre Street	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO306	Edgar Street Precinct 2-18 Edgar Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO307	High Street Reservoir 658-694 & 763-793 High Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO308	Queen Street Precinct 1-27, 41-49 & 2-58 Queen Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO309	High Street, Thornbury 732-848 & 827-927 High Street Thornbury Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO310	Plow Street Precinct	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	1-31 & 2-30 Plow Street Thornbury Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								
HO311	Rossmoyne Street Precinct 43-67 & 50-78 Rossmoyne Street Thornbury Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
									
HO181	Woolton Avenue, 55-67 & 52-60 Woolton Avenue, Thornbury	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO295	Whittlesea Railway Precinct Arthurton Road, Merri parade Northcote, Normanby Avenue Thornbury, Bell Street, Murray Road Preston High Street, Regent Street Reservoir. Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
									
HO315	Fairfield Village Heritage Precinct Railway Place, Fairfield Railway Station and reserve, Wingrove Street and Station Street, Fairfield Incorporated plan:	Yes	No	Yes - Two palm trees on the railway reserve	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								
HO318	Thornbury Park Estate Precinct*	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	Interim Control								
	Expiry Date:								
	25/10/2024								
	Individual Items:								
	Alphington								
HO187	Clifton Bridge Yarana Road (Darebin Parklands), Alphington	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
	Bundoora								
HO111	Former Larundel Hospital Complex	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO107	Hugh Linaker's Cottage, Larundel	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO108	Idiot Block, Farm Workers Block, and Idiot Cottages, Larundel (Kingsbury)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO188	Preston General Cemetery, 900 Plenty Road Bundoora	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
	Fairfield								
HO1	1-3 Abbott Street, Fairfield (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO2	17-19 Arthur Street, Fairfield (House & Shop)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO3	35 Arthur Street, Fairfield (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO112	92-96 Arthur Street, Fairfield (Post Office)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO6	51 Austin Street, Fairfield (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO7	59 Austin Street, Fairfield(House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO8	Former St Anthony's Presbytery 59 Austin Street, Fairfield	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO34	12 Hanslope Avenue, Fairfield (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO125	Merri Creek Bridge, Heidelberg Road, Fairfield	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO35	Centenary Dairy Complex 181-187 Heidelberg Rd, Fairfield	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO36	Grandview Hotel 429 Heidelberg Rd, Fairfield	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO37	457 Heidelberg Road, Fairfield (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO316	St Andrew's Alphington and Fairfield Uniting Church, 85-87 Gillies Street, Fairfield Incorporated document City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022 2024)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO38	Uniting (Former Methodist) Church complex, 797-809Heidelberg Road, Alphington	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO39	Hills View (former), 849-851, Heidelberg Road, Alphington	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO189	Fairfield Primary School No. 2711 1-5 & 176-206 Langridge Street & Wingrove Street, Fairfield	Yes	No	Yes - Moreton Bay Fig and Pepper trees	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO75	2 Rowe Street, Fairfield (House & Canary Island Palm-"Phoenix Canariensis")	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO78	31 Station Street, Fairfield (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO79	36 Station Street, Fairfield (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO80	43 Station Street, Fairfield (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO154	61 Station Street, Fairfield	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO190	St Paul's Anglican Church and Organ 88E Station Street Fairfield	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	Macleod								
HO62	Paying Patients Ward, Former Mont Park Hospital, Former Mont Park Hospital	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO64	Laundry Workers Block, Former Mont Park Hospital	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO66	Hospital Block, Former Mont Park Hospital	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO109	Female Convalescent Ward, Mont Park	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
	Northcote								
HO4	5 Auburn Avenue, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO5	8 Auburn Avenue, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO9	46 Bastings Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO113	58 Bastings Street, Northcote (House & Shop)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO10	Anglican Church 1-3 Bayview Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO11	13 Bayview Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO114	135 Bent Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO115	42 Bower Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO12	16-20 Candy Street, Northcote (Row Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO116	12-16 Christmas Street, Northcote (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO117	41-45 Christmas Street, Northcote (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO13	5-11 Clarke Street, Northcote (Row Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO14	106 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO118	108-110 Clarke Street, Northcote (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO15	107-109 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO119	127 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO16	151 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO17	155 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO120	157 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO18	178 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO20	212 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO21	215 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO22	219 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO23	224 Clarke Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO25	47 Cunningham Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO26	85 Cunningham Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO28	92 Dennis Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO121	33 Derby Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO180	Former Joshua Pitt tannery 52-60 Gadd Street, Northcote 1. 1907 Drying House 2. 1925 Drying House annex 3. remnant chimney	No	Yes – 1907 Drying house only	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO40	Helen Street Primary School, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO126	12-18 Helen Street Northcote (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO41	Former Wesleyan Manse, Helen Street (lot 1, TP845679E), Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

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HO42	74-76 Herbert Street, Northcote (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO127	Merri Creek Bridge, High Street Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO43	136-144 High Street, Northcote (Houses & Shops)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO129	329 High Street, Northcote (Shop & House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO130	466-468 High Street, Northcote (Shops & Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO44	RSL Hall 496 High Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO131	509-513 High Street, Northcote (Shops & Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO192	Baptist Church 540-542 High Street Northcote	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO132	581-599 High Street, Northcote (Shops & Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO133	607-617 High Street, Northcote (Croxton Park Hotel)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO52	25 Jackson Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO53	Presbyterian Church & Hall 40-42 James Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO177*	Former Northcote police station 43 James Street, Northcote. Incorporated plan:	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

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	City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022 2024)								I
HO54	36 James Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO55	51 James Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO56	57 James Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO57	68 James Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO58	69 James Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO140	34 Jenkins Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO141	36 Jenkins Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO193	Former Ensign Dry Cleaning 24 Leinster Grove Northcote	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO142	1-3 Leonard Street, Northcote (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO69	3 McLachlan Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO70	4-4a McLachlan Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO71	5 McLachlan Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO72	11 McLachlan Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO145	18 Mitchell Street, Northcote (Primitive Methodist Church, now Salvation Army Hall)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

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HO146	70 Mitchell Street, Northcote Shop (former) and residence	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO147	76-82 Mitchell Street, Northcote (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO191	Reserve - Johnson Park 12 Palmer Street Northcote	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO194	Northcote Cemetery 143 Separation Street Northcote	No	No	Yes - Italian Cypress	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO195	Northcote High School 19-29 St Georges Road Northcote	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO196	Reserve - Merri Park 33 St Georges Road Northcote	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO77	140 St George's Road, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO155	1 Thomson Street Northcote (Shop & House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO156	9-15 Union Street, Northcote (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO82	26 Urquhart Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO83	44 Urquhart Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO85	1-3 Walker Street, Northcote (Duplex Dwellings)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO86	7 Walker Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO87	Former Police Station 24 Walker Street, Northcote	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

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HO88	34 Walker Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO89	45 Walker Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO90	3 Wardrop Grove, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO197	Reserve - Oldis Gardens and Northcote Cricket Ground Westgarth Street Northcote	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO157	74 Waterloo Road, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO91	127 Westgarth Street, Northcote (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO158	153 Westgarth Street, Northcote (House, St. Helens)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	Preston								
HO198	Howard Park 172 Albert Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO199	Sacred Heart Catholic Church complex (Church, Rectory, Hall, School) 322 Bell Street Preston, 4-6 Clifton Grove & 89 David Street, Preston	Yes	Yes - church only	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO200	Preston Masonic Centre 382-4 Bell Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO201	House 392 Bell Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

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HO202	Former BP Service Station 548 Bell Street Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO203	House 634 Bell Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO204	House (Balleer) 648 Bell Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO205	House 664 Bell Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	Yes - Canary Island Palm (Phoenix canariensis)	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO206	House (La Rocque) 82 Bruce Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO207	Former Stables 43 Carlisle Street Preston Incorporated plan:	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

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	City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								
HO24	Preston Girls' High School Cooma Street Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO208	Houses (Sandland family) 36 & 40 Cooper Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes - Front Fence	No	No	No
HO209	House 93 Cramer Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO210	Preston City Oval & Band Hall 11-21 Cramer Street Preston	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO27	Former Salvation Army Hall 61 David Street, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO30	Former Bacon Curing Factory cnr Dundas St & Plenty Rd, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO211	House 7 Eastwood Avenue Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

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HO31	Newlands State Primary School, 2-26 Murphy Street, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO32	HCV Bachelor Flats, 15-17 Eric Street, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO212	West Preston Progress Hall 523 Gilbert Road Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO213	Houses 244-46 Gower Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022 2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO214	Reg Parker sculpture (Untitled 8/73) 266 Gower Street Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO215	Truby King Baby Health Centre 270 Gower Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO216	Junction Hotel 2-4 High Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO128	93-103 High Street, Preston (Howe Leather Factory)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO217	Shops & residences 107-109 High Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO218	Prince Alfred Hotel (former) & Shop 111-113 High Street Preston	No	Yes - staircase only	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO219	Fidelity Tent No. 75 of the Independent Order of Rechabites (former) 251-3 High Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

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HO220	Shop & residence 283 High Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO221	Shops & residences 306-08 High Street Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO50	Preston Town Hall & Municipal Offices 350 High Street, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO222	Shops 352-72 High Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO223	Commonwealth Bank 374-76 High Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO224	Metropolitan Fire Brigade - Preston (former) 378 High Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO225	All Saints Anglican Church complex 400 High Street Preston & 239 Murray Road Preston	Yes	Yes - church only	Yes - Bhutan Cypresses	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO226	Shop 435 High Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO227	Shops 471-73 High Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO228	J. Harvey Grocer (former) 626-628 High Street Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO229	House (Prestonia) 10 Hotham Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No



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HO230	House (Crawford) 12 Hotham Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO231	Preston South Primary School No. 824 56B Hotham Street Preston	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO51	56-82 Hotham Street, Preston (Builders Terrace)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO232	House (Rainhamville) 4 Hurlstone Avenue Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	Yes - Canary Island Palm	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO234	House and Shop 65 Jessie Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO235	House 65 May Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

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HO236	Miller Street Tramway Bridge Miller Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No (part Ref No H2031 refer HO144)	No	No
HO237	House 4 Mount Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO238	Houses (Yarraberb & Leura) 7 & 9 Mount Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO239	Preston West Primary School No. 3885 83 Murray Road Preston	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO179	House 418 Murray Road, Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO240	East Preston Tram Depot 211-243 Plenty Road Preston Incorporated plan:	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								
HO73	Bluestone Cottage & Shop 339 Plenty Road, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO241	Shops 519-541 Plenty Road Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO242	House, garage & doctor's surgery (former) 572 Plenty Road Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO243	State Savings Bank of Victoria (former) 600-606 Plenty Road Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO244	House 230 Raglan Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO245	Brickworks' Houses 227-45 & 259-63 Raglan Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO246	House 16 Regent Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022 2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO247	House (Cliveden) 18 Regent Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022 2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO248	House and Canary Island Palms 30 Regent Street, Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022 2024)	No	No	Yes - Canary Island Palms	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO249	Holy Name Catholic Primary School & Church 2-26 Robb Street Reservoir	Yes	Yes - church only	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO150	59B Roseberry Avenue, Preston (Preston Police Station)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO174	66 Spring Street, Preston (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO76	Oakover Hall 12 Stafford Street, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO250	Preston Technical College (Former) 77-89 St Georges Road Preston Incorporated plan:	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								
HO81	Preston East Primary School Sylvester Grove, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO251	Preston Primary School No. 1494 240 Tyler Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO252	House (Leura) 268 Tyler Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO253	Houses (Wahroonga & Leaholme) 297 & 299 Tyler Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO254	House 20 Winifred Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO92	131 Wood Street, Preston (Former Hospital)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO255	House 192 Wood Street Preston	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								III
HO256	House (St John's Villa) 282 Wood Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO94	Greek Orthodox Church Yann Street, Preston	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO257	House 8 Yann Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO258	House 17 Yann Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO259	Grandview Dairy (former) 16 Young Street Preston Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	Reservoir								
HO260	House and Fence 18 Barton Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes - Front Fence	No	No	No
HO261	St Mark's Anglican Church and Vicarage 19-21 Beatty Street Reservoir	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO262	House and fence 194 Edwardes Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes - Front Fence	No	No	No
HO263	Reserve - Edwardes Lake and Park 200A Edwardes Street Reservoir	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO264	Methodist Church 34 George Street Reservoir	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO265	Clydebank Dairy Trees 679 Gilbert Road Reservoir	No	No	Yes - Bhutan Cypress	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO266	House 685 Gilbert Road Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No



DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO267	House 689 Gilbert Road Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO268	House 40 Gloucester Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	Yes - Canary Island Palm	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO49	Uniting Church 648-656 High Street, Reservoir	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO271	Regent Baptist Church 726-734 High Street Reservoir	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO273	House 34 King William Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO274	House 59 King William Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO275	House (Annandale) 40 Leamington Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes - Front Fence	No	No	No
HO276	Reserve - F.G Pike Reserve 26 Mason Street Reservoir	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO277	House 34 Mason Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	Yes - Canary Island Palm	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO278	House (Rosehill) 7 Pellew Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO279	St George's Church of England 32-34 Ralph Street Reservoir	No	Yes - church only	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO280	St Gabriel's Catholic Church 237-243 Spring Street Reservoir	No	Yes - church only	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO281	House 9 Station Street Reservoir Incorporated plan:	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)								
HO282	House 1 Wild Street Reservoir Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	Thornbury								
HO176	Northcote Pottery 85a Clyde Street, Thornbury.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO29	82 Dundas Street, Thornbury (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO122	1 Flinders Street, Thornbury (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO33	1-4/6 Francis Grove, Thornbury (Flats)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO283	UFS Dispensary (former) 2 Gooch Street Thornbury	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO123	9 Gooch Street, Thornbury (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO284	Reserve - The Steps 1 Clarendon St, 12 & 19 Gooch St, 26 Flinders, 29 Rossmoyne St & 2A Raleigh St Thornbury	No	No	Yes - Canary Island Palms	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO124	9-11 Harold Street, Thornbury (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO134	703 High Street, Thornbury (Shop & House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO135	707 High Street, Thornbury (Shop & House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO285	Salvation Army Hall & Sunday School 710 High Street Thornbury	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO136	711 & 715 High Street, Thornbury (Shops & Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO46	St Mary's Church 718-730 High Street, Thornbury	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO137	731 High Street, Thornbury (Shop & House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO286	Shops 735-737 High Street Thornbury	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO138	759-761 High Street, Thornbury (Shops & Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO48	Thornbury Regent Theatre 859 High Street, Thornbury	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO287	Thornbury Primary School No. 3889 16-24 Hutton Street Thornbury	No	No	Yes - Italian Cypresses	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO139	21 Hutton Street, Thornbury (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO288	MMTB Substation 3-5 Martin Street Thornbury	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO143	34 Martin Street, Thornbury (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO148	2-4 Normanby Avenue, Thornbury (Houses)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO289	Electricity Substation Pender Street, Thornbury	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO290	Reserve - Penders Park 48A Pender Street Thornbury	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO149	66 Raleigh Street, Thornbury (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO291	Thornbury Uniting Church 7-15 Rossmoyne Street Thornbury.	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO151	28 Shaftesbury Parade, Thornbury (Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Vicarage and Parish Hall)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO152	40 Shaftesbury Parade, Thornbury (Former S.G. Tomkins Pty Ltd Dairy & House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO292	Front fence 47 Shaftesbury Parade Thornbury	No	No	No	Yes	Yes - front fence	No	No	No
HO153	52 Shaftesbury Parade, Thornbury (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO293	House (Hillside) 6 Speight Street Thornbury Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO294	Penders Grove Primary School No. 3806 370 Victoria Road Thornbury	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO84	Primary School Wales Street, Thornbury	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
HO159	54 Woolton Avenue Thornbury (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No


DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO93	60 Woolton Avenue Thornbury (House)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO319	331-333 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Former Residence) Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit exemptions (2022-2024) Statement of significance: 331-333 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Former Residence) Statement of Significance, September 2022	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO321	159-179 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Former Fairfield Hat Mills Complex [later Department of Aircraft Production branch]) Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022) Statement of significance: 159-179 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Former Fairfield Hat Mills Complex [later Department of Aircraft Production branch]) Statement of Significance, September 2022	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO322	257 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Residence) Incorporated plan:	No	No	No	Yes	Yes-masonry fence	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024) Statement of significance: 257 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Residence) Statement of Significance, September 2022								
HO323	273-289 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Northcote) Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022-2024) Statement of significance: 273-289 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Northcote) Statement of Significance, September 2022	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	441 Heidelberg Road, Fairfield (Marineuie Court) Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022) Statement of significance: 441 Heidelberg Road, Fairfield (Marineuie Court) Statement of Significance, September 2022	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO325	521 Heidelberg Road, Alphington (Residence) Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022) Statement of significance: 521 Heidelberg Road, Alphington (Residence) Statement of Significance, September 2022	No	No	No	Yes	Yes- masonry fence	No	No	No
HO326	607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington (Kia-Ora) Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2022 2024) Statement of significance: 607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington (Kia-Ora) Statement of Significance, September 2022	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No 
HO315	Preston Market, The Centreway, Preston Statement of significance: Preston Market, (RBA Architects and GJM Heritage, 2023) Heritage design guidelines: Heritage design guidelines: Preston Market (GJM Heritage, August 2023) Incorporated Plan:	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions: Preston Market, (GJM Heritage, 2023)								
HO327	326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury – Former Croxton Methodist Church Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2024) Statement of significance: Statement of Significance: Former Croxton Methodist Church, 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury (May 2024)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
HO328	390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury – Thornbury Church of Christ Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2024) Statement of significance: Statement of Significance: Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury (May 2024)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO329	220 High Street, Preston - Former Preston Church of Christ Incorporated plan:	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
	<p>City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2024)</p> <p>Statement of significance:</p> <p>Statement of Significance: Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street, Preston (May 2024)</p>								
HO330	<p>88-92 Cramer Street, Preston - Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque</p> <p>Incorporated plan:</p> <p>City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2024)</p> <p>Statement of significance:</p> <p>Statement of Significance: Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston (May 2024)</p>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
HO331	<p>16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury – Former Northcote Congregational Church</p> <p>Incorporated plan:</p> <p>City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2024)</p> <p>Statement of significance:</p> <p>Statement of Significance: Former Northcote Congregational Church, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury (May 2024)</p>	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

PS map ref	Heritage place	External paint controls apply?	Internal alteration controls apply?	Tree controls apply?	Solar energy system controls apply?	Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017?	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Aboriginal heritage place?
HO332	<p>66 St David Street, Thornbury - Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (Formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church)</p> <p>Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2024)</p> <p>Statement of significance: Statement of Significance: Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (Formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church), 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury (May 2024)</p>	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
HO333	<p>111 Blake Street, Reservoir – Reservoir Albanian Mosque</p> <p>Incorporated plan: City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan - Permit Exemptions (2024)</p> <p>Statement of significance: Statement of Significance: Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir (May 2024)</p>	No	No	Yes - Cypress trees	Yes	No	No	No	No

*Denotes interim controls apply

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

15/01/2024
VC249

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 72.04 INCORPORATED DOCUMENTS

1.0 Incorporated documents

15/01/2024
VC249 Proposed C222dare

Name of document	Introduced by:
5-9 Nisbett Street, Reservoir - September 2020	C193dare
29-31 Clingin Street, Reservoir - September 2020	C193dare
48-50 Clingin Street and 37-45 Nisbett Street, Reservoir - October 2020	C195dare
159-179 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Former Fairfield Hat Mills Complex (later Department of Aircraft Production branch) Statement of Significance, September 2022	C203dare
257 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Residence) Statement of Significance, September 2022	C203dare
273--289 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Northcote) Statement of Significance, September 2022	C203dare
331-333 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Former Residence) Statement of Significance, September 2022	C203dare
441 Heidelberg Road, Fairfield (Marineuie Court) Statement of Significance, September 2022	C203dare
521 Heidelberg Road, Alphington (Residence) Statement of Significance, September 2022	C203dare
607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington (Kia-Ora) Statement of Significance, September 2022	C203dare
Assessment of Trees for VPO Update in Mount Cooper, Bundoora 3 December 2009	C105
Assessment of Trees for VPO Update in Springthorpe Estate, Macleod 16 May 2010	C105
Biosciences Research Centre Incorporated Document, June 2008	C94
Chandler Highway Upgrade Incorporated Document, March 2016 (Amended December 2017)	GC80
City of Darebin Heritage Study Incorporated Plan – Permit Exemptions (2022-2024)	C203dare C222dare
Concept Plan and Building Envelope Plan, Northland Plan No 3, September 2000	C21
<i>Darebin Development Contributions Plan 2019</i> (Hill PDA, December 2023)	VC249
High Street, Reservoir Level Crossing Removal Project Incorporated Document, March 2018	GC86
Hurstbridge Rail Line Upgrade 2017 Incorporated Document, January 2017	GC60
Incorporated Plan – Preston Market Permit Exemptions (GJM Heritage, July 2023)	C182dare
Incorporated Document - Preston Residential Heritage Precincts Permit Exemptions, February 2008	C68
La Trobe Sports Park Stage 3 - September 2021	C201dare
Lancaster Gate Tree Protection Layout Plan – Stages 3 and 4 – 1 September 2003	C51
Lancaster Gate Tree Protection Plan – Stages 1 and 2 – 1 September 2003	C51
Preston Central Incorporated Plan March 2007 (as amended 2021)	C182dare

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

Name of document	Introduced by:
Heritage design guidelines: Preston Market (GJM Heritage, August 2023)	C182dare
Statement of Significance: Former Croxton Methodist Church, 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury (May 2024)	C222dare
Statement of Significance: Former Northcote Congregational Church, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury (May 2024)	C222dare
Statement of Significance: Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 high Street, Preston (May 2024)	C222dare
Statement of Significance: Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (Formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church) , 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury (May 2024)	C222dare
Statement of Significance: Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston (May 2024)	C222dare
Statement of significance: Preston Market (RBA Architects and GJM Heritage, 2020)	C182dare
Statement of Significance: Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir (May 2024)	C222dare
Statement of Significance: Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury (May 2024)	C222dare
Vegetation Survey – Former Kingsbury Centre Site, Bundoora - Map 2	C5

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

31/07/2018
VC148

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 72.08 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

1.0 Background documents

11/01/2024
C499dare Proposed C222dare

Name of background document	Amendment number - clause reference
<i>Asset Management Strategy 2013</i> (Darebin City Council, 2013)	C138
<i>Assessment of Trees for VPO Update in Springthorpe Estate</i> (Homewood Consulting Pty Ltd, 2010)	C105
<i>Bell Street Corridor Strategy</i> (Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd, 2006)	C087
<i>Beyond FIDO: Public Art Strategy 2006-2015</i> (Darebin City Council, 2006)	C138
<i>Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan 2013-2025</i> (Darebin City Council, 2012)	C138
<i>Central Creek Grassland (Ngarri-djarrang) 5 Year Works Plan</i> (Merri Creek Management Committee, 2010)	C138
<i>City of Darebin Citations for Individually Significant Buildings</i> (City of Darebin, Allom Lovell and Associates, 1996)	C55
<i>City of Darebin Heritage Study: Volume 3, Key Findings & Recommendations</i> (Context Pty Ltd, 2008)	C107
<i>City of Darebin Heritage Study: Volume 4a, Preston Central Heritage Assessment, Key Findings and Recommendations</i> (Context Pty Ltd, 2008)	C107
<i>City of Darebin Heritage Study, Volume 4b, Preston Central Heritage Place Citations</i> (Context Pty Ltd, 2008)	C107
<i>City of Darebin Retail Activity Centres Strategy</i> (Essential Economic Pty Ptd, Planning by Design and David Lock Associates, 2005)	C138
<i>Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan</i> (Pazit Taygfeld and Donovan Burton, 2009)	C138
<i>Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013</i> (City of Darebin, 2009)	C138
<i>Darebin Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011-2021</i> (Darebin City Council, 2011)	C138
<i>Darebin Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015</i> (Darebin City Council, 2012)	C138
<i>Darebin City Council Arts and Cultural Plan 2008-2013</i> (Darebin City Council, 2008)	C138
<i>Darebin Community Safety Strategy 2012-2016</i> (City of Darebin, 2012)	C138
<i>Darebin Creek Design and Development Guidelines</i> (David Lock Associates, 2000)	C015
<i>Darebin Cycling Strategy 2013-2018</i> (Darebin City Council, 2013)	C138
<i>Darebin Digital Strategy 2013-2018</i> (Darebin City Council, 2013)	C138
<i>Darebin Drainage Strategy</i> (Hyder Consulting, 1999)	C015
<i>Darebin Early Years Plan 2011-2021</i> (Darebin City Council, 2011)	C138
<i>Darebin Economic Land Use Strategy</i> (Darebin City Council, 2014)	C138
<i>Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2010-2014</i> (Darebin City Council, 2009)	C138
<i>Darebin Heritage Review Volumes 1, 2, & 3</i> (Andrew Ward, 2001)	C55
<i>Darebin Housing Strategy 2013</i> (Darebin City Council, revised 2015)	C147
<i>Darebin Litter Plan 2011-2014</i> (Sue Phillips, 2011)	C138

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

Name of background document	Amendment number - clause reference
<i>Darebin Neighbourhood Character Study</i> (Planisphere, 2007)	C88
<i>Darebin Open Space Strategy 2007-2017</i> (Darebin City Council, 2008)	C138
<i>Darebin Safe Travel Strategy 2010-2015: A New Approach to Road Safety</i> (Darebin City Council, 2010)	C138
<i>Darebin Waste and Litter Strategy 2015-2025</i> (Darebin City Council with assistance from Blue Environment, 2015)	GC42
<i>Darebin Development Contributions Plan 2019</i> (HillPDA Consulting, 2022)	C170dare
<i>Development Guidelines for Merri Creek</i> (Merri Creek Management Committee, 2004)	C015
<i>Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013</i> (Darebin City Council, 2009)	C138
<i>Fairfield Village Built Form Guidelines 2017</i> (amended 2019)	C161dare - Schedule 21 to Clause 43.02
<i>Fairfield Village Heritage Assessment 2017</i> (amended 2019)	C161dare - Schedule 1 to Clause 43.01
<i>Going Places – The Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027</i> (Darebin City Council, 2007)	C138
<i>Green Business Attraction Strategy 2012-2015</i> (Charter Keck Cramer, 2012)	C138
<i>GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy 2012-2020</i> (Darebin City Council, 2012)	C138
<i>Guidelines for the Application and Implementation of Travel Plans for New Development in Darebin</i> (PBA International Australia, 2005)	C68
<i>Heidelberg Road Heritage Assessment - Final Report, September 2020</i> (amended September 2022)	C203dare
<i>High Street Study Precinct Guidelines: Towards a Sustainable Spine for Darebin</i> (David Lock Associates & Planisphere, 2005)	C81
<i>High Street Study Urban Design Framework</i> (David Lock Associates & Planisphere, 2005)	C81
<i>Industrial Land Use Strategy: A Framework for Decision Making</i> (Darebin City Council, 2001)	C81
<i>Leisure Strategy 2010-2020</i> (Darebin City Council, 2010)	C138
<i>Lower Darebin Creek Concept Plan</i> (Melbourne Parks and Waterways, 1996)	C015
<i>Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 2009-2014</i> (Merri Creek Management Committee, 2009)	C138
<i>Northcote Activity Centre Medium and Low Change Residential Areas Precinct Guidelines</i> (Darebin City Council, 2008)	C81
<i>Northcote Activity Centre Structure Plan 2007</i> (Ecologically Sustainable Design Pty Ltd and Alpha Plan, 2007)	C095
<i>Northland Residential Neighbourhood Precinct Structure Plan</i> (Darebin City Council, 2014)	C147
<i>Places of Worship Heritage Assessment Volumes 1 and 2 (Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024)</i>	c222dare
<i>Playspace Strategy 2010-2020</i> (Darebin City Council, 2010)	C138
<i>Plenty Road Integrated Land Use and Transport Study</i> (Darebin City Council, 2013)	C138
<i>Preston Central Structure Plan</i> (Darebin City Council, 2006)	C068

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME

Name of background document	Amendment number - clause reference
<i>Preston Central Vision 2006</i> (Planning by Design and City of Darebin, February 2001)	C55
<i>Preston Market Heritage Interpretation Strategy</i> (Lookear, 2020)	C182dare
<i>Reservoir 2030: The Reservoir Structure Plan</i> (Darebin City Council, 2012)	C138
<i>Residential Built Form Guidelines</i> (Darebin City Council, 2014)	C153
<i>Responding to Housing Stress: A Local Action Plan</i> (Darebin City Council, 2010)	C138
<i>Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria</i> (Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2005)	C138
<i>Urban Design Charter for Victoria</i> (DELWP, 2010)	C138
<i>Urban Design Framework 2015: St Georges Road and Plenty Road Corridors</i> (Darebin City Council, 2017)	C137
<i>Urban Renewal Strategy: High Street and Plenty Road</i> (Charter Keck Cramer, 2011)	C138
<i>Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin - Darebin City Council Whole of Water Cycle Management Strategy 2015-2025</i> (Darebin City Council with assistance from E2Designlan, 2015)	GC42

DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION
 AMENDMENT C222dare



LEGEND

- HO - Heritage Overlay
- Local Government Area

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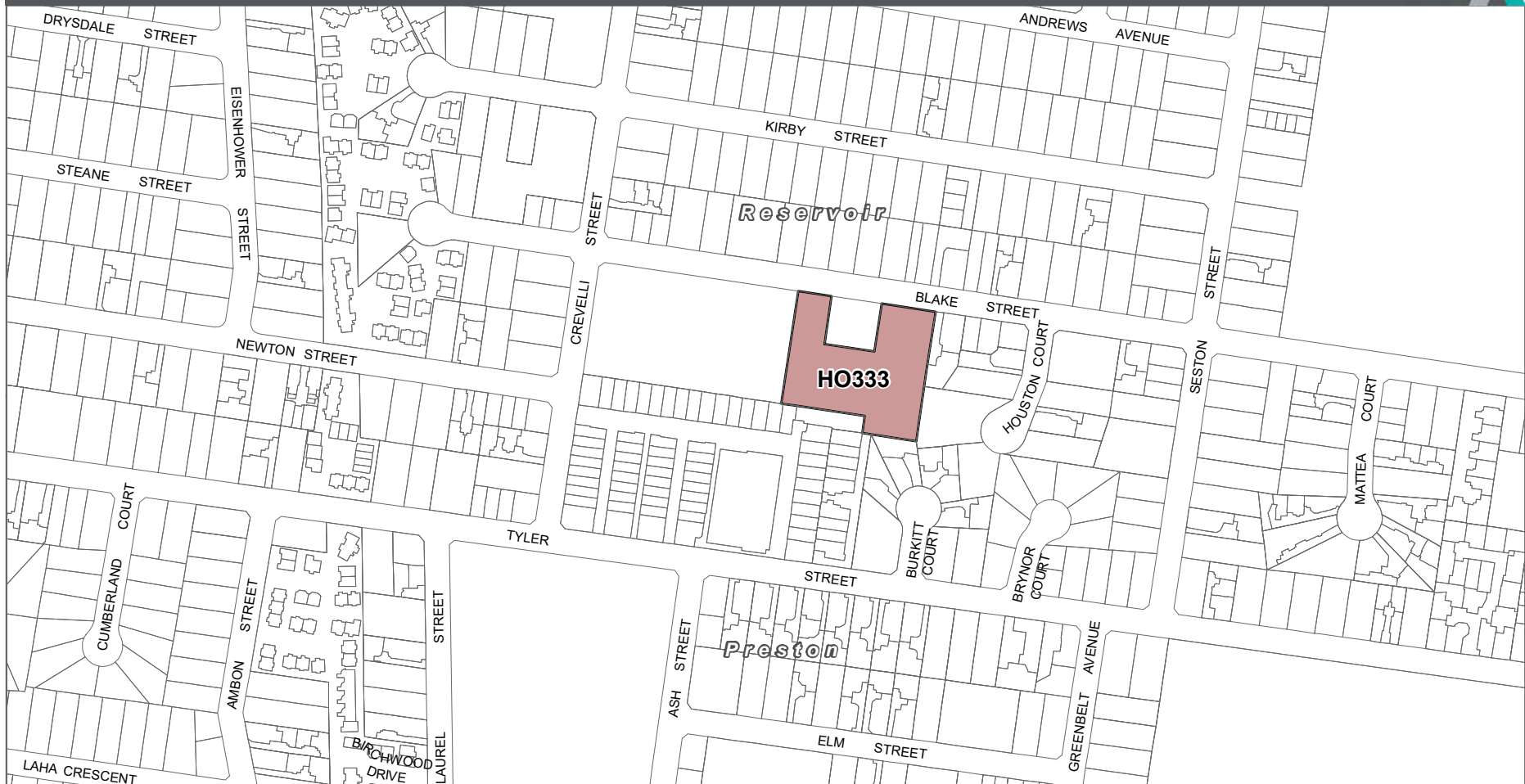
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DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION
 AMENDMENT C222dare



LEGEND

- HO - Heritage Overlay
- Local Government Area

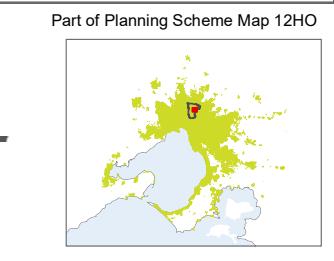
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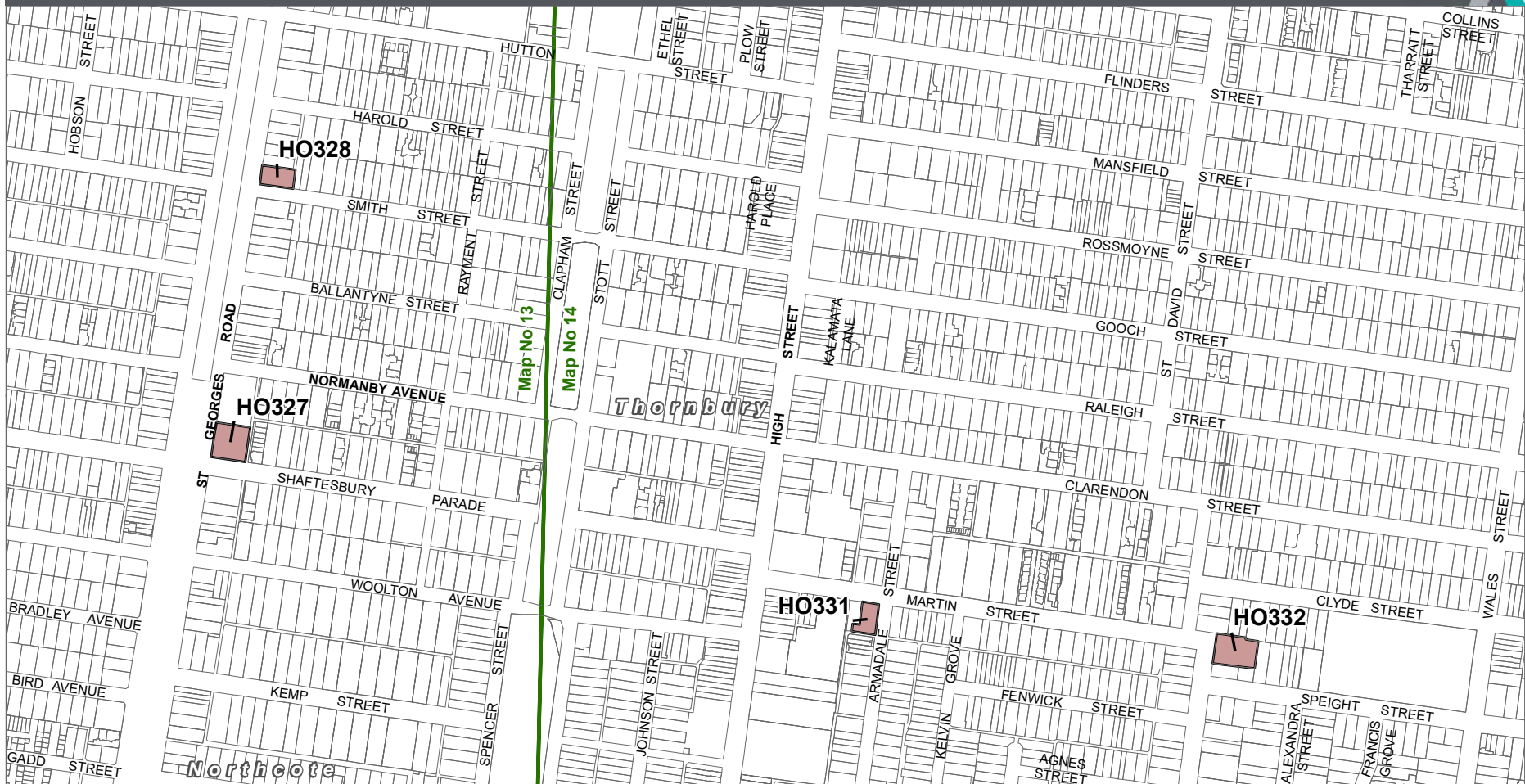
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DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME - LOCAL PROVISION
 AMENDMENT C222dare



LEGEND

- HO - Heritage Overlay
- Local Government Area

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Department of Transport and Planning

CITY OF DAREBIN HERITAGE STUDY INCORPORATED PLAN – PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (~~2022~~2024)

This incorporated plan sets out the permit exemptions from the provisions of the Heritage Overlay in accordance with Clause 43.01-2 that apply to specific heritage place and precincts assessed by:

- ~~the City of Darebin Heritage Study – Historic Heritage Places (2011), which were added to the Heritage Overlay by Amendment C108 (Part 1) to the Darebin Planning Scheme;~~
- ~~the Fairfield Village Heritage Assessment 2017, which were added to the Heritage Overlay by Amendment C161;~~
- ~~and the Heidelberg Road Heritage Assessment - Final Report September 2020 (Amended September 2022), which were added to the Heritage Overlay by Amendment C203 to the Darebin Planning Scheme; and~~
- ~~the Places of Worship Heritage Assessment Volumes 1 and 2 (2024) which were added to the Heritage Overlay by Amendment C222~~are to be added to the Darebin Planning Scheme.

Please refer to the relevant heritage place and precinct citations in:

- ~~the City of Darebin Heritage Study – Historic Heritage Places (2011);~~
- ~~the Fairfield Village Heritage Assessment, 2017; and~~
- ~~the Heidelberg Road Heritage Assessment - Final Report, September 2020 (Amended September 2022); and~~
- Places of Worship Heritage Assessment Volumes 1 and 2 (2024)

for further information about the significance of each place and precinct, including history, description and statements of significance. This information can also be accessed from the City of Darebin website or by contacting Darebin Council.

1 Application

These permit exemptions apply to places included within the Heritage Overlay as follows:

- Heritage precincts in the residential zones as specified in Table 3.1 (Section 3.1)
- Individual heritage places in the residential zones (Section 3.2)
- Heritage precincts in the business zones as specified in Table 3.2 (Section 3.3)
- East Plenty Tram Depot, 211-43 Plenty Road, Preston (Section 3.4)
- Whittlesea Railway Precinct (Section 3.5)
- Miller Road Tramway Bridge (Section 3.6)
- Northern Metropolitan Institute of Technology (Former Preston Technical School) (Section 3.7)
- House and former doctor's surgery, 572 Plenty Road, Preston (Section 3.8)
- St Andrew's Alphington and Fairfield Uniting Church, 85 Gillies St, Fairfield (Section 3.9) Fairfield Railway reserve. (Section 3.10)

This incorporated plan does not provide permit exemptions from a planning permit if required by any other provision of the Darebin Planning Scheme.

2 Definitions

The following definitions apply:

DEFINITIONS

<i>Heritage Place</i>	<i>Significant</i>	A <i>Significant</i> place is a single heritage place that has cultural heritage significance which may be independent of its context. These places may also contribute to the significance of a heritage precinct. <i>Significant</i> places within a heritage precinct will not usually have a separate Statement of Significance.
	<i>Contributory</i>	A <i>Contributory</i> place contributes to the significance of a heritage precinct, but would not be significant on their own.
	<i>Significant feature</i>	A <i>Significant feature</i> is any feature (building, tree, structure etc.) identified as contributing to the significance of a heritage place or precinct. <i>Significant features</i> are identified in the <i>City of Darebin Heritage Study 2008</i> , and the <i>Fairfield Village Heritage Assessment, 2017</i> <u>and <i>Places of Worship Heritage Assessment Volumes 1 and 2 (2024)</i></u> .
<i>Non Heritage Place</i>	<i>Non-contributory or or Not Significant</i>	<i>Non-contributory or Not Significant</i> places which do not contribute to the significance of a heritage precinct. In some instances, a <i>Significant</i> place may be considered <i>Non-contributory or Not Significant</i> within a precinct. For example, an important Modernist house within a Victorian era precinct.
<i>Maintenance</i>		<i>Maintenance</i> means the continuous protective care of a <i>place</i> , and its <i>setting</i> . <i>Maintenance</i> is to be distinguished from repair which involves <i>restoration or reconstruction</i> .

Significant, Contributory and *Non-contributory or Not Significant* places within heritage precincts are shown on the precinct maps that form part of this incorporated plan – see Attachment A.

3 No Planning Permit Required

3.1 Heritage precincts in the residential zones

This applies to the heritage precincts listed in Table 3.1, which are shown on the attached precinct maps. It does not apply to heritage places that are individually listed in the schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Refer to Section 3.2).

Table 3.1 – Heritage precincts

Precinct	Locality	HO No.
Broomfield Avenue	Alphington	HO297
Gladstone Avenue	Northcote	HO298
Carlisle Street	Preston	HO299
Garnet Street	Preston	HO300
Larne Grove and Roxburgh Street	Preston	HO302
Livingstone Parade	Preston	HO303

Milton Crescent	Preston	HO304
Edgar Street	Reservoir	HO306
Queen Street	Reservoir	HO308
Plow Street	Thornbury	HO310
Rossmoyne Street	Thornbury	HO311
Woolton Avenue	Thornbury	HO181

Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following development within the heritage precincts subject to the Heritage Overlay specified in Table 3.1:

Demolition and routine maintenance

- Demolition of a building or part of a building on a property shown as *Non-contributory* on the relevant precinct map.
- Demolition of a side or rear fence. This does not apply to a property located on a corner or if any part of the side or rear fence is identified as a *Significant feature*.
- Repairs or routine maintenance to a building that would change the appearance of that building on a property shown as *Non-contributory* on the relevant precinct map. This does not apply if the repairs or routine maintenance would result in an extension to the building.
- Repairs or routine maintenance or alterations to the wall of a building that faces the rear boundary that would change the appearance of that building on a property shown as *Contributory* on the relevant precinct map. This does not apply if the repairs or routine maintenance would result in an extension to the building, or to a property on a corner site.

Construction of and extensions to buildings, other structures, services and fences

- Construction of an outbuilding with a gross floor area not more than 10 square metres and a maximum building height not more than 3 metres above natural ground level within the rear yard as defined in Figure 1.
- Construction or extension of an open-sided pergola or verandah with a finished floor level not more than 800mm above natural ground level and a maximum building height not more than 3 metres above natural ground level within the rear yard as defined in Figure 1.
- Construction or extension of a deck with a finished floor level not more than 800mm above natural ground level within the rear yard as defined in Figure 1.
- Construction of an extension to a building on a property shown as *Contributory* on the relevant precinct map provided that all of the following conditions are met:
 - the building height¹ is not more than the building height of the original dwelling excluding any later extensions or additions;
 - The extension is sited within the rear yard as defined in Figure 1.
 - the setback from side boundaries is not less than the setback of the existing building.
- Construction of an extension to a building on a property shown as *Non-contributory* on the relevant precinct map provided that:
 - the building height¹ is not more than the building height of the existing building; and

¹ "Building height" as defined by Clause 72 General Terms in the Darebin Planning Scheme

- the setback from front or side boundaries is the not less than the setback of the existing building.
- Construction of a front fence not more than 1.2metres in height above natural ground level provided that this does not require the demolition of an existing front fence of a property shown as *Significant* or *Contributory* on the relevant precinct map or identified as a *Significant feature* within the precinct.
- Construction of a side or rear fence including the installation of lattice or trellis. This exemption does not apply to:
 - Side fences within 3 metres of the frontage; or
 - Side fences along the secondary frontage of a property on a corner site.
- Installation of domestic services normal to dwelling on any property that may be visible from a street or public park provided that the installation:
 - is not attached to the front wall of the building;
 - is not situated between the front wall of the building and the front property boundary;
 - if attached to the side wall of a building on a property shown as *Significant* or *Contributory* on the relevant precinct map, it is set back not less than 4 metres from the minimum front setback of the dwelling (See Note 1);
 - does not project above the highest point of the roof;
 - is not situated on that part of the roof that faces directly toward a street (including a side street); and if situated on part of a roof that faces a side boundary on a property shown as *Significant* or *Contributory* on the relevant precinct map, it is set back not less than 4 metres from the minimum front setback of the dwelling (See Note 1).
 - Construction or extension of a domestic swimming pool or spa and associated mechanical equipment and safety fencing on any property provided that the pool is situated within the rear yard as defined in Figure 1

3.2 Individual places in the residential zones

This applies to heritage places that are individually listed in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay, except for 572 Plenty Road, Preston (Refer to Section 3.8).

Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following development for individually listed heritage places within the residential zones subject to the Heritage Overlay:

Demolition and routine maintenance

- Demolition of or alterations to a building that is not specified as a *Significant feature*. This includes routine maintenance that would change the appearance of a building.
- Demolition of a side or rear fence. This does not apply to a property located on a corner or if any part of the side or rear fence is identified as a *Significant feature*.

Construction of and extensions to buildings and fences

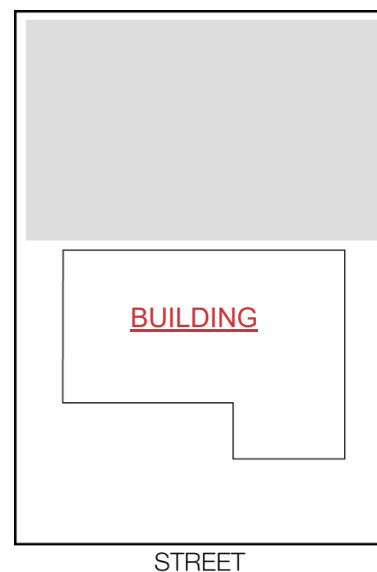
- Construction of an outbuilding with a gross floor area not more than 10 square metres and a maximum building height not more than 3 metres above natural ground level within the rear yard of a property as defined in Figure1. This does not apply if it would require the removal, demolition or alteration of a *Significant feature*.
- Construction or extension of an open-sided pergola or verandah with a finished floor level not more than 800mm above natural ground level and a maximum building height not more than 3 metres above natural ground level within the rear

yard as defined in Figure 1. This does not apply if it would require the removal, demolition or alteration of a *Significant feature*.

- Construction or extension of a deck with a finished floor level not more than 800mm above natural ground level within the rear yard as defined in Figure 1. This does not apply if it would require the removal, demolition or alteration of a *Significant feature*.
- Construction of a front fence not more than 1.2 metres in height above natural ground level provided that this does not require the demolition of an existing front fence that is identified as a *Significant feature*.
- Construction of a side or rear fence including the installation of lattice or trellis. This exemption does not apply to:
 - Side fences within 3 metres of the frontage; or
 - Side fences along the secondary frontage of a property on a corner site.
 - The installation of lattice or trellis on a fence identified as a *Significant feature*.
- Construction or extension of a domestic swimming pool or spa and associated mechanical equipment and safety fencing on any property provided that the pool is situated within the rear yard as defined on Figure 1. This does not apply if it would require the removal, demolition or alteration of a *Significant feature*.

NOTE 1: For the purposes of this exemption the front setback is measured to the original dwelling-building and not to any later extensions or additions such as garages or carports

FIGURE 1
The shaded area defines the rear yard for the purposes of this policy



3.3 Heritage precincts in the business zones

This applies to the heritage precincts listed in Table 3.2, which are shown on the attached precinct maps.

Table 3.2 – Heritage precincts

Precinct	Locality	HO No.
High Street, Preston	Preston	HO301
Plenty Road	Preston	HO305

High Street, Reservoir	Reservoir	HO307
High Street, Thornbury	Thornbury	HO309
Fairfield Village	Fairfield	HO315
159-179 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Former Fairfield Hat Mills Complex)	Northcote	HO321

Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following development within the heritage precincts subject to the Heritage Overlay listed in Table 3.2:

- Demolition of a building or part of a building on a property shown as *Non-contributory or Not Significant* on the relevant precinct map.
- Routine maintenance to a building that would change the appearance of that building on a property shown as *Non-contributory or Not Significant* on the relevant precinct map.
- Signage situated below verandah at ground floor level on a building on a property shown as *Non-contributory or Not Significant* on the relevant precinct plan.
- Above verandah signage on a building on a property shown as *Non-contributory* on the relevant precinct plan unless the building is adjacent to a *Significant* or *Contributory* building as shown on the relevant precinct map.
- Installation of an automatic teller machine on a building on a property shown as *Non-contributory or Not Significant* on the relevant precinct plan.
- The alteration to an existing building façade of a building on a property shown as *Non-contributory or Not Significant* on the relevant precinct plan provided that:
 - The alteration does not include the installation of an external roller shutter
 - At least 80 per cent of the building front at ground level is maintained as an entry or window with clear glazing.
- An awning on a building on a property shown as *Non-contributory or Not Significant* on the relevant precinct plan that projects over a public road reservation if it is authorised by the relevant public land manager.

3.4 East Preston Tram Depot

This applies to the East Preston Tram Depot at 211-243 Plenty Road, Preston (HO240). *Significant features* are listed in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 – East Preston Tram Depot significant features

Significant feature	Non-significant features
The offices, constructed by 1955, facing Plenty Road	Later alterations and additions
The covered tram storage shed, constructed by 1955, to the extent of the exterior walls and roof	Later alterations and additions

Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following demolition and buildings and works within HO240 (East Preston Tram Depot):

- Removal of, modifications and repairs to and replacement of overhead power lines.

- Repairs to and replacement of tramway tracks.
- Modifications and repairs to and replacement of any electric or electronic signalling equipment.
- Removal of, repairs to, installation or replacement of safety barriers, rubbish bins, seating, bicycle racks and other small items of furniture.
- Removal, installation, repair or replacement of non-commercial signage, security lighting, fire safety equipment provided it does not involve the removal or erection of a building or other structure.
- Resurfacing of existing paths and driveways.
- Removal, installation or replacement of garden watering, water recycling or drainage systems.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard 4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees.

3.5 Whittlesea Railway Precinct

This applies to all sites included within the Whittlesea Railway Precinct (HO295).

Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following demolition and buildings and works within HO295 (Whittlesea Railway Precinct):

- Removal of, modifications and repairs to and replacement of overhead power lines.
- Repairs to and replacement of railway tracks and sleepers including ballast.
- Modifications and repairs to and replacement of any electric or electronic signalling equipment.
- Removal of, repairs to, installation or replacement of ticket machines, passenger control gates, safety barriers, rubbish bins, seating, bicycle racks and other small items of platform furniture.
- Removal, installation, repair or replacement of non-commercial signage, security lighting, fire safety equipment provided it does not involve the removal or erection of a building or other structure.
- Resurfacing of existing paths and driveways.
- Removal, installation or replacement of garden watering, water recycling or drainage systems.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard 4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees.
- The construction or demolition of buildings and works and tree removal necessary to achieve compliance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002* in accordance with a plan for such works within the Heritage Overlay area which has been approved by the responsible authority.

3.6 Miller Street Tramway Bridge

This applies to the Miller Street Tramway Bridge (HO 236). *Significant features* are listed in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4 – Miller Street Tramway Bridge significant features

Significant feature	Non-significant features
Brick abutments either side of the railway	Post 1945 alterations and additions including

line	concrete deck, supporting piers and cyclone wire fencing.
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Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following demolition and buildings and works within HO236 (Miller Street Tramway Bridge):

- Alterations or additions, or routine maintenance to a structure that would change the appearance of that structure other than the *Significant features* of the structure listed in Table 3.4.
- Installation of or alterations and additions to trackwork, overhead wiring and associated infrastructure and the carrying out of associated works.

Former Preston Technical College (NMIT)

This applies to the former Preston Technical College (now NMIT) 77-89 St Georges Road, Preston (HO250). *Significant features* are listed in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5 – Former Preston Technical College (NMIT) significant features

Significant feature	Non-significant features
The former Preston Technical College designed by Percy Everett and constructed by 1937	Later alterations and additions including the additions to the north and south wings constructed c.1955. Landscaping and other buildings.

Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following demolition and buildings and works within HO250 (Former Preston Technical College):

- Demolition or alteration of non-significant buildings or features. Construction or demolition of buildings and works necessary to achieve compliance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* in accordance with a plan for such works within the Heritage Overlay area that has been approved by the responsible authority.
- Construction of a fence not more than 1.2 metres in height above natural ground level.
- Construction or extension of a deck with a finished floor level not more than 800mm above natural ground level.
- Removal of, repairs to, installation or replacement of safety barriers, rubbish bins, seating, bicycle racks and other small items of furniture.
- Removal, installation, repair or replacement of non-commercial signage, security lighting, fire safety equipment provided it does not involve the removal or erection of a building or other structure.
- Resurfacing of existing paths and driveways or construction of new paths or driveways.
- Removal, installation or replacement of garden watering, water recycling or drainage systems.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard 4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees.

3.7 House, garage and former doctor's surgery, 572 Plenty Road, Preston

This applies the house, garage and former doctor's surgery, 572 Plenty Road, Preston (HO242). *Significant features* are listed in Table 3.6.

Table 3.6 – House, garage and former doctor's surgery significant features

Significant feature	Non-significant features
The house and its interior designed by Harold Desbrowe Annear.	The interior of the garage.
The garage designed by Harold Desbrowe Annear.	The side and rear fencing other than the arched gateway and high rendered wall.
The arched gateway and high rendered wall adjoining the house facing Plenty Road	

Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for

the following buildings and works within HO242:

Interior

- Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.
- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- Installation, removal or replacement of curtain tracks, rods and blinds.
- Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted art.
- Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures including the original shower structure and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.
- Demolition or removal of non-original bathroom partitions and tiling, sanitary fixtures and fittings, kitchen wall tiling and equipment, lights, built-in cupboards and the like.
- Removal or replacement of non-original door and window furniture including, hinges, locks, knobsets and sash lifts.
- Installation of stud walls, which are removable, providing no alteration to the structure is required.
- Removal of tiling or concrete slabs in wet areas provided there is no damage to or alteration of original structure or fabric.
- Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and that the central plant is concealed.
- Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original servant's bells, light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in situ.
- Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- Installation of plant within the roof space.
- Installation of new built-in cupboards providing no alteration to the structure is required.

Demolition and routine maintenance

- Demolition of or alterations to a building that is not specified as a *Significant feature*. This includes routine maintenance that would change the appearance of a building.
- Demolition of the non-significant side or rear fence.

Construction of and extensions to buildings and fences

- Construction of an outbuilding with a gross floor area not more than 10 square metres and a maximum building height not more than 3 metres above natural ground level within the rear yard of a property as defined in Figure 1. This does not apply if it would require the removal, demolition or alteration of a *Significant feature*.
- Construction or extension of an open-sided pergola or verandah with a finished floor level not more than 800mm above natural ground level and a maximum building height not more than 3 metres above natural ground level within the rear yard as defined in Figure 1. This does not apply if it would require the removal, demolition or alteration of a *Significant feature*.

- Construction or extension of a deck with a finished floor level not more than 800mm above natural ground level within the rear yard as defined in Figure 1. This does not apply if it would require the removal, demolition or alteration of a *Significant feature*.
- Construction of a side or rear fence including the installation of lattice or trellis. This exemption does not apply to the installation of lattice or trellis on a fence identified as a *Significant feature*.
- Construction or extension of a domestic swimming pool or spa and associated mechanical equipment and safety fencing on any property provided that the pool is situated within the rear yard as defined on Figure 1. This does not apply if it would require the removal, demolition or alteration of a *Significant feature*.

3.8 St Andrew's Alphington and Fairfield Uniting Church, 85 Gillies St, Fairfield

This applies St Andrew's Alphington and Fairfield Uniting Church, 85 Gillies St, Fairfield, (HO314). *Significant features* are listed in Table 3.8

Table 3.8 – St Andrew's Alphington and Fairfield Uniting Church significant features

Significant feature	Non-significant features
The exterior and interior of the church as designed by Francis Bruce Kemp.	The existing picket fencing on the street boundaries The features located within the blue polygon on the aerial plan in Attachment B

Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following buildings and works within HO314:

Interior

- Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.
- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings. Installation, removal or replacement of curtain tracks, rods and blinds.
- Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted art.
- Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures including and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.
- Demolition or removal of non-original partitions and tiling, sanitary fixtures and fittings, wall tiling and equipment, lights, built-in cupboards and the like.
- Removal or replacement of non-original door and window furniture including, hinges, locks, knobsets and sash lifts.
- Installation of stud walls, which are removable, providing no alteration to the structure is required.
- Removal of tiling or concrete slabs in wet areas provided there is no damage to or alteration of original structure or fabric.
- Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and that the central plant is concealed.

- Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed.
- Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- Installation of plant within the roof space.
- Installation of new built-in cupboards providing no alteration to the structure is required.

Demolition and routine maintenance

- Demolition of or alterations to all features within the blue polygon shown in Figure 2. This includes routine maintenance that would change the appearance of a building.
- Demolition of the non-significant side or rear fences.
- Construction of and extensions to buildings and fences

FIGURE 2

*St Andrew's Alphington and Fairfield
Uniting Church, 85 Gillies St, Fairfield
The red line is the HO boundary and
the blue polygon is the area that is
appropriate for future development.*



3.9 Fairfield Railway Reserve

This applies to all land within the curtilage of the Fairfield Railway reserve as shown on the Fairfield Village Heritage Precinct map in Attachment A. Significant features are listed in Table 3.9.

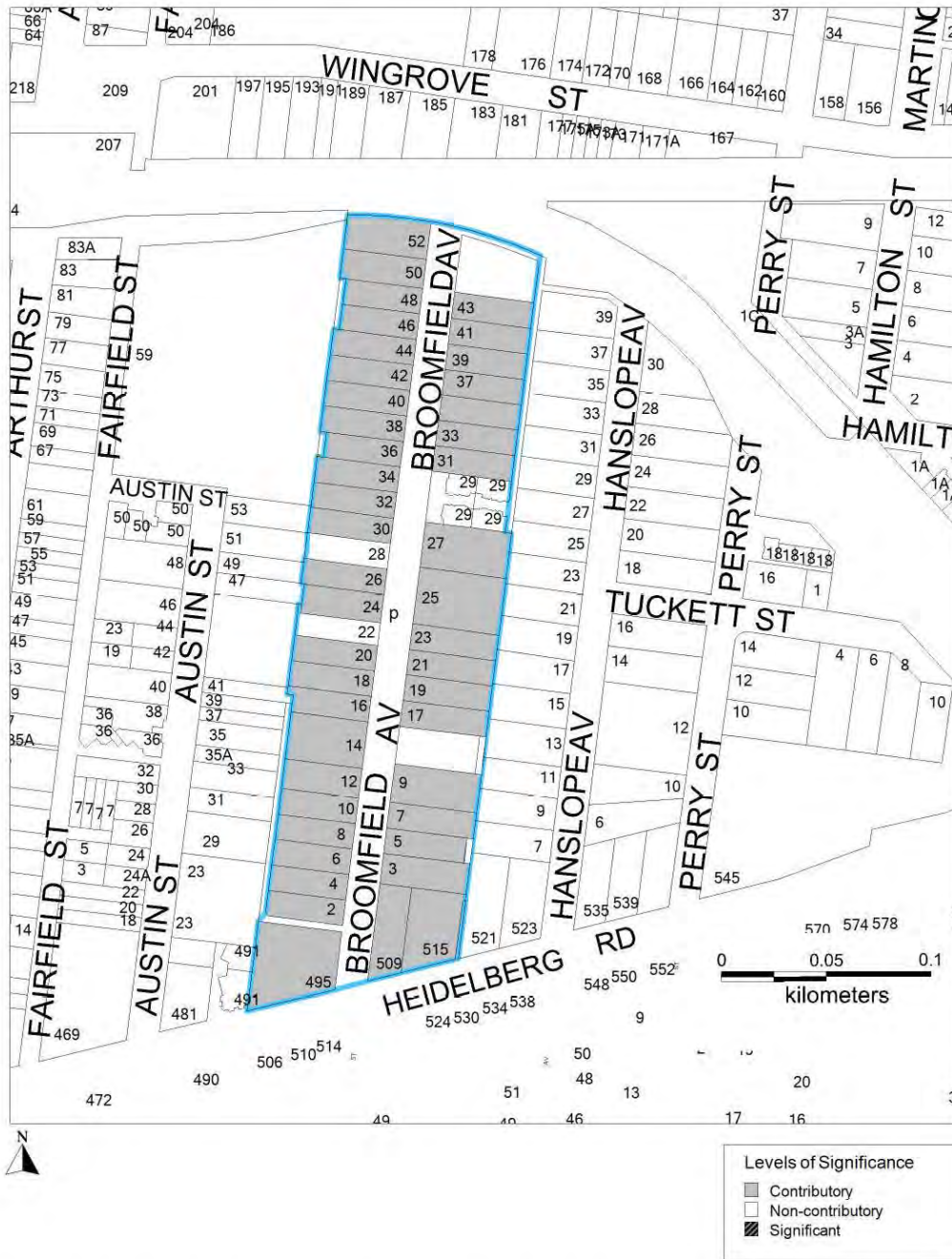
Table 3.9 – Fairfield Railway Reserve significant features

Significant feature	Non-significant features
The two mature palm trees at entrance to station from Railway Place	Wire mesh fencing
South side station building and verandah	Car park areas
North side station building and verandah	Gum trees
North and south platforms	FIDO art work
Timber pedestrian bridge	South side Protective Services Officer building and adjacent shelter
Signal Box, including timber staircase	

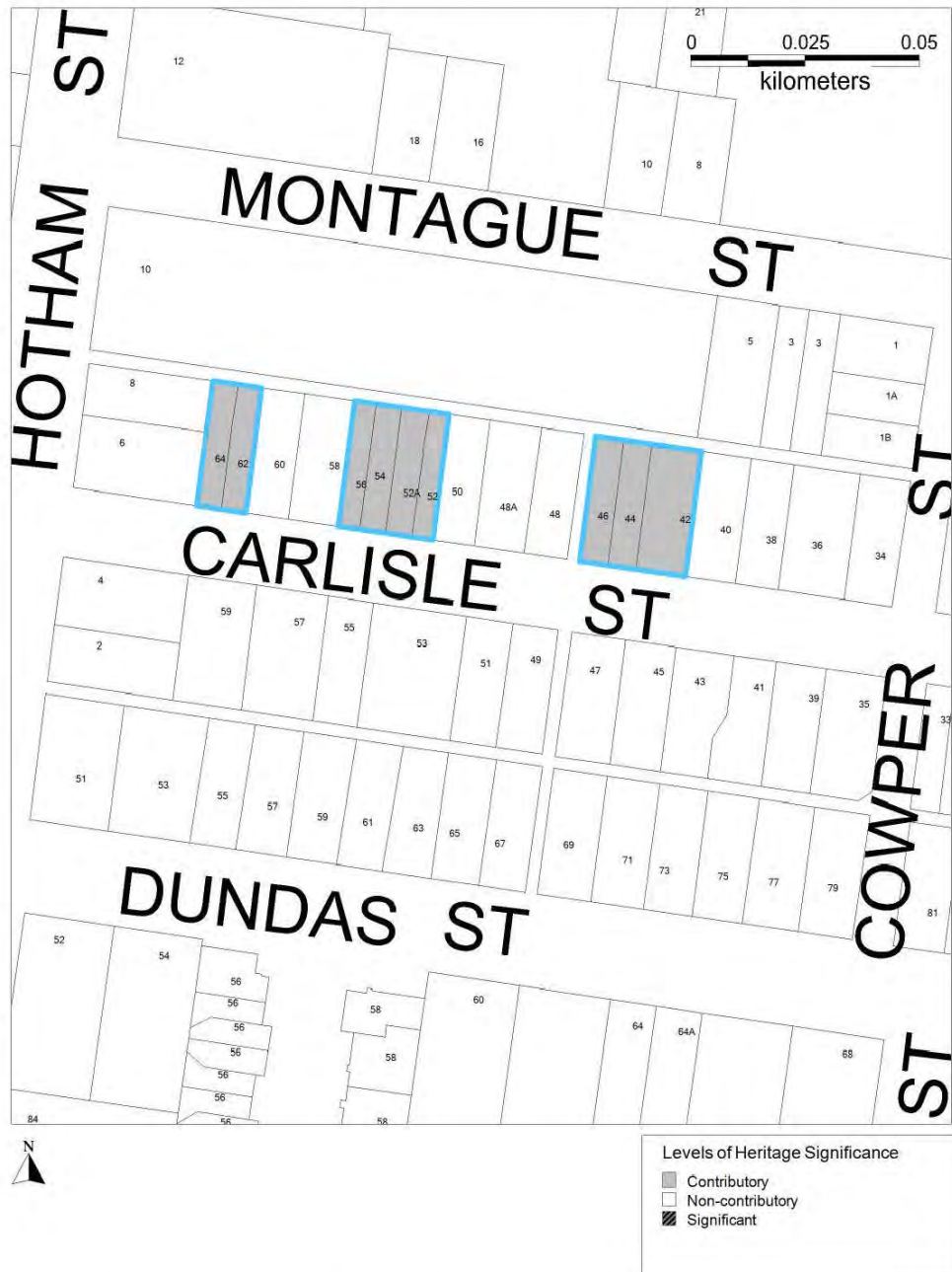
Under Clause 43.01-2 of the Planning Scheme, no planning permit is required for the following demolition and buildings and works within the Fairfield Railway Reserve within HO313:

- Removal of, modifications and repairs to and replacement of overhead power lines and associated support structures.
- Works, repairs and routine maintenance which change the appearance of a building, structure, tree or other item not identified as a significant feature in Table 3.9.
- Works, repairs and routine maintenance which do not change the appearance of a building, structure, tree or other item identified as a significant feature in Table 3.9.
- Repairs to and replacement of railway tracks and sleepers including ballast.
- Modifications and repairs to and replacement of any signaling or communications equipment.
- Removal of, repairs to, installation or replacement of ticket machines, passenger control gates, safety barriers, rubbish bins, seating, bicycle racks and other small items of platform furniture.
- Removal, installation, repair or replacement of non-commercial signage, security lighting and fire safety equipment provided it does not involve the removal or erection of a building or other structure.
- Demolition or removal of a fence
- Resurfacing of existing paths, platforms and driveways provided this is undertaken to the same details, specifications and materials.
- Removal, installation or replacement of garden watering, water recycling or drainage systems.
- Management of trees (except the two palm trees) in accordance with Australian Standard 4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees.
- The construction or demolition of buildings and works and tree removal necessary to achieve compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002, except for demolition or removal of any item identified as a significant feature in Table 3.9.

ATTACHMENT A - HERITAGE PRECINCT MAPS



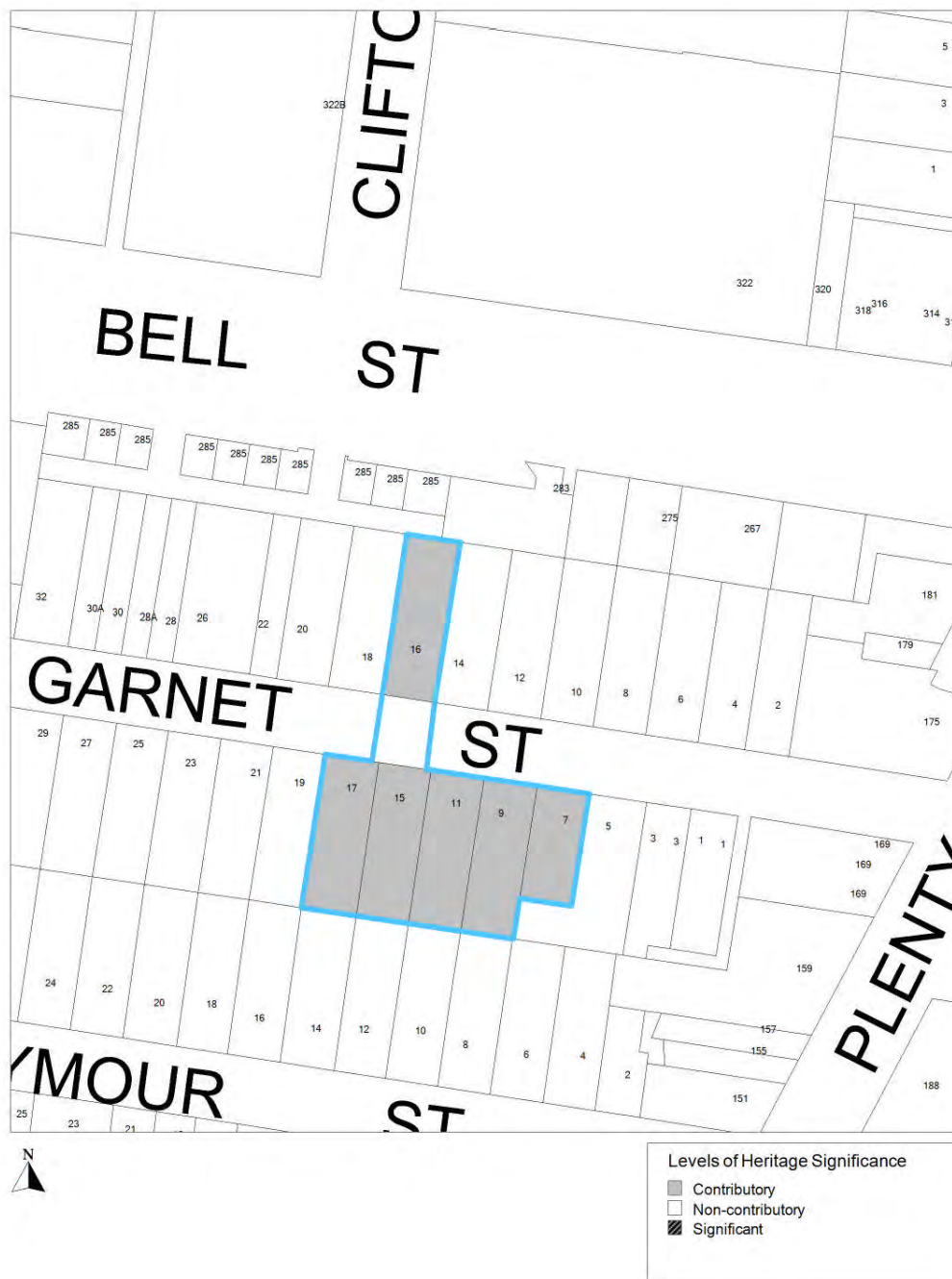
Broomfield Avenue Precinct, Alphington



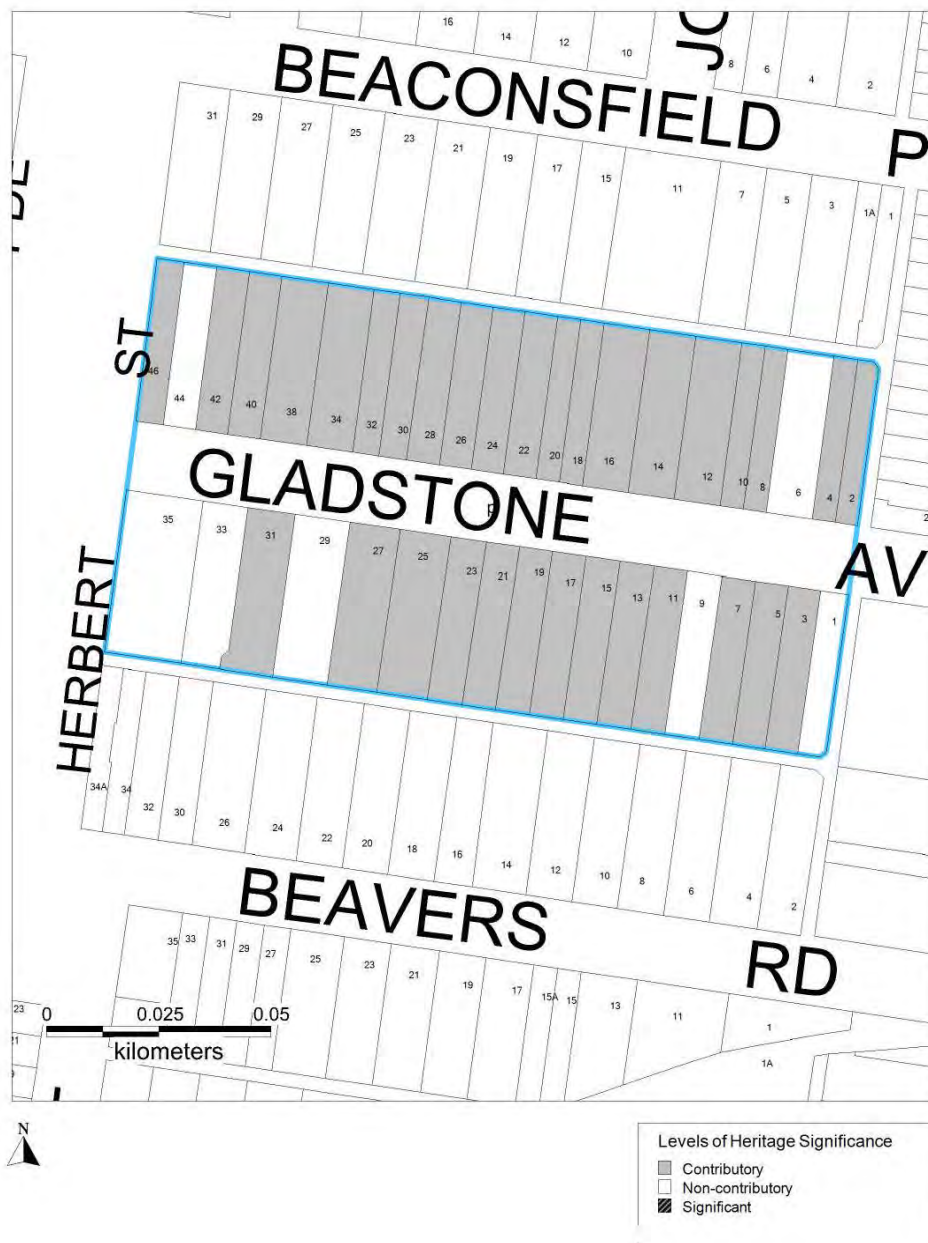
Carlisle Street Precinct, Preston



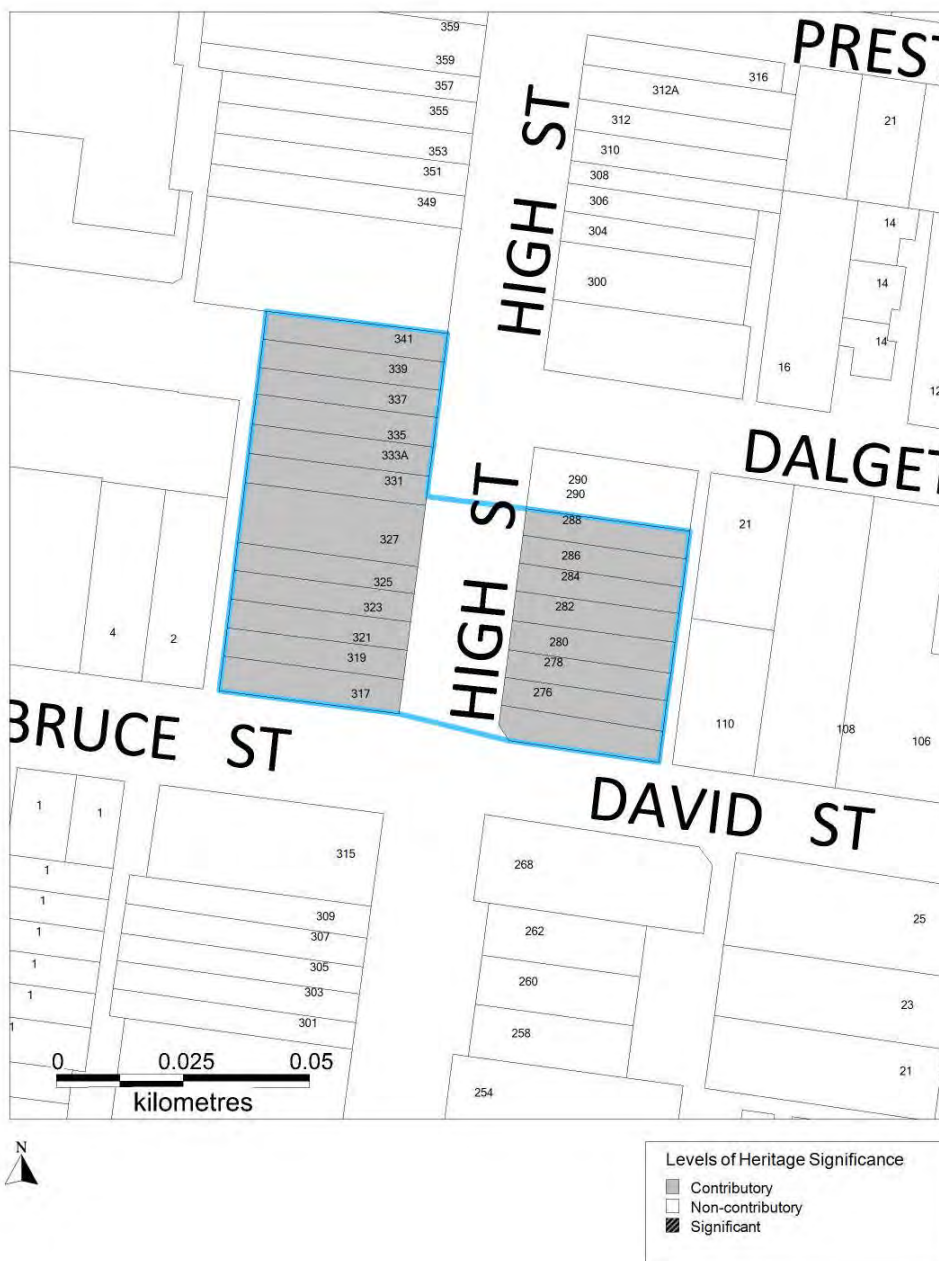
Edgar Street Precinct, Reservoir



Garnet Street Precinct, Preston



Gladstone Avenue Precinct, Northcote

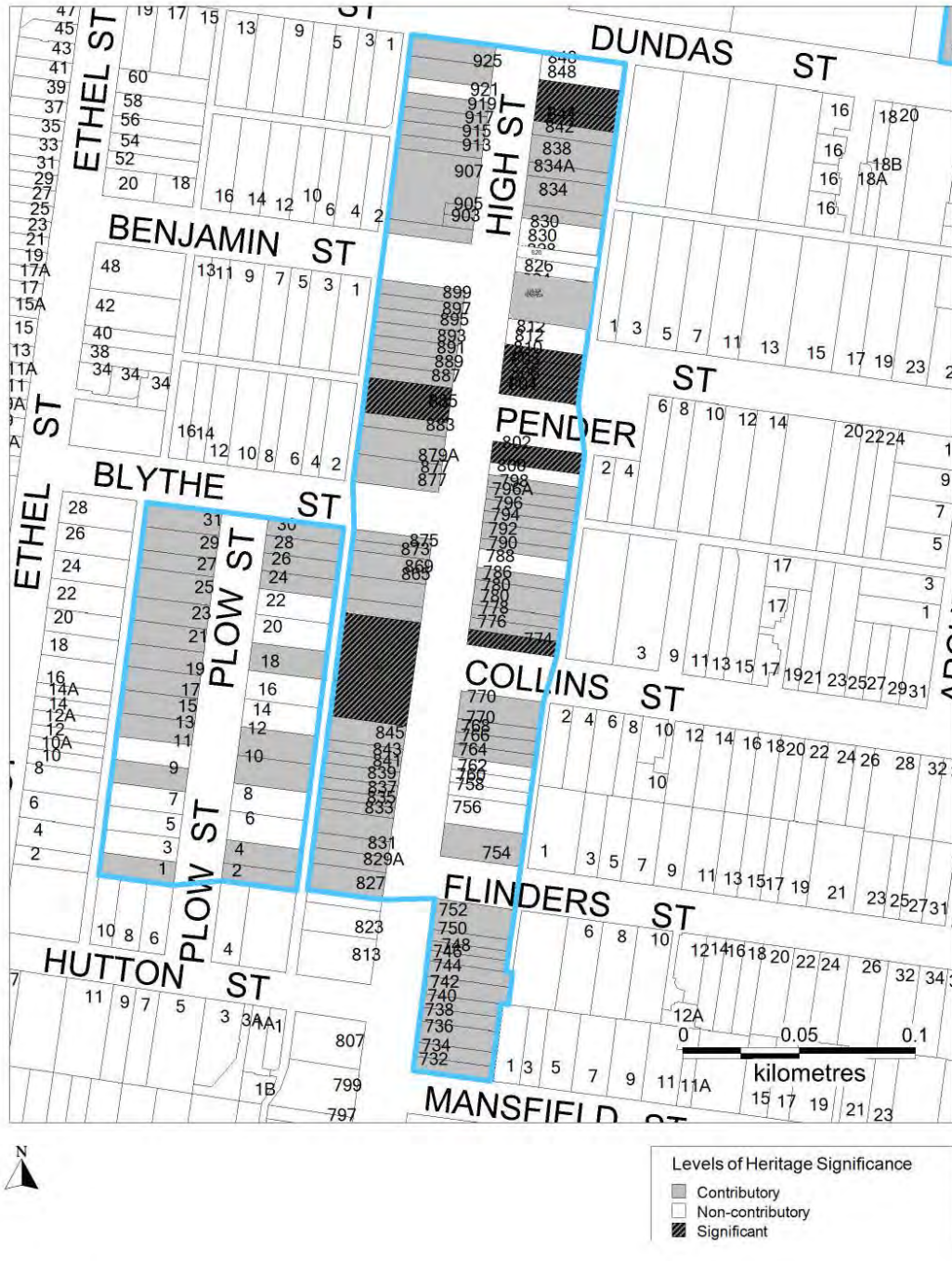


High Street, Preston

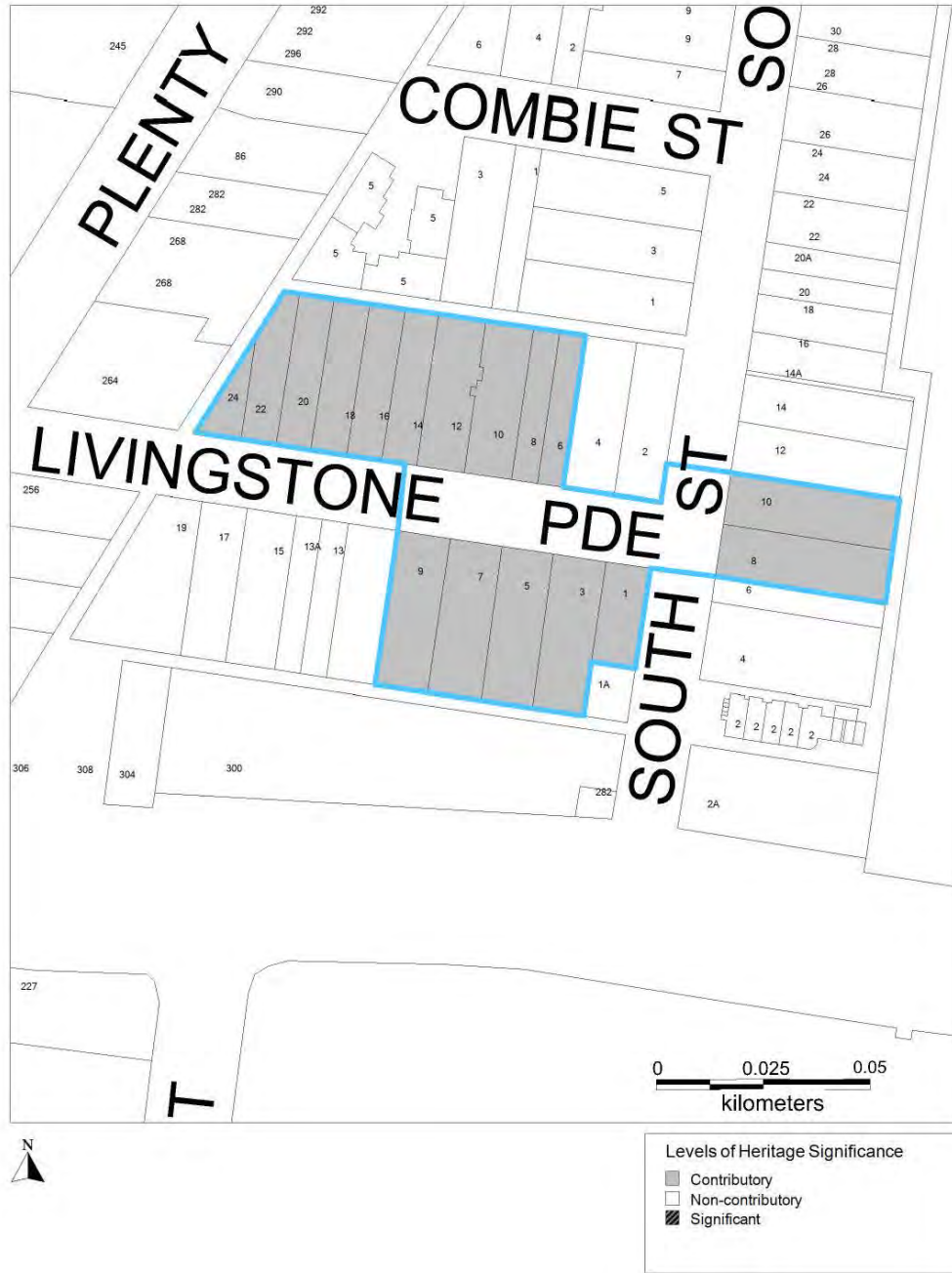


Levels of Heritage Significance	
Light grey square	Contributory
White square	Non-contributory
Hatched square	Significant

High Street, Reservoir



High Street, Thornbury



Livingstone Parade Precinct, Preston

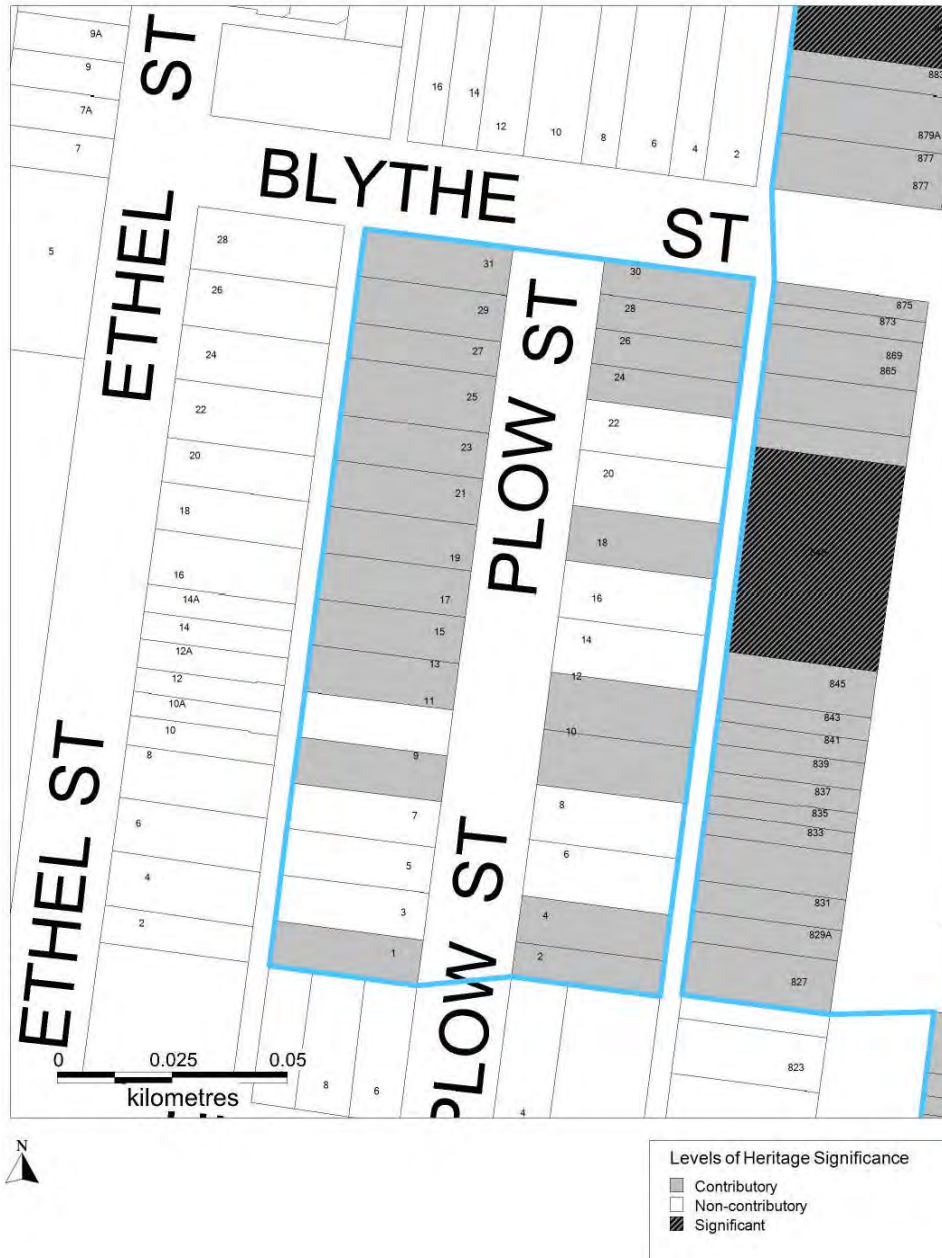


Levels of Heritage Significance	
■	Contributory
□	Non-contributory
▨	Significant

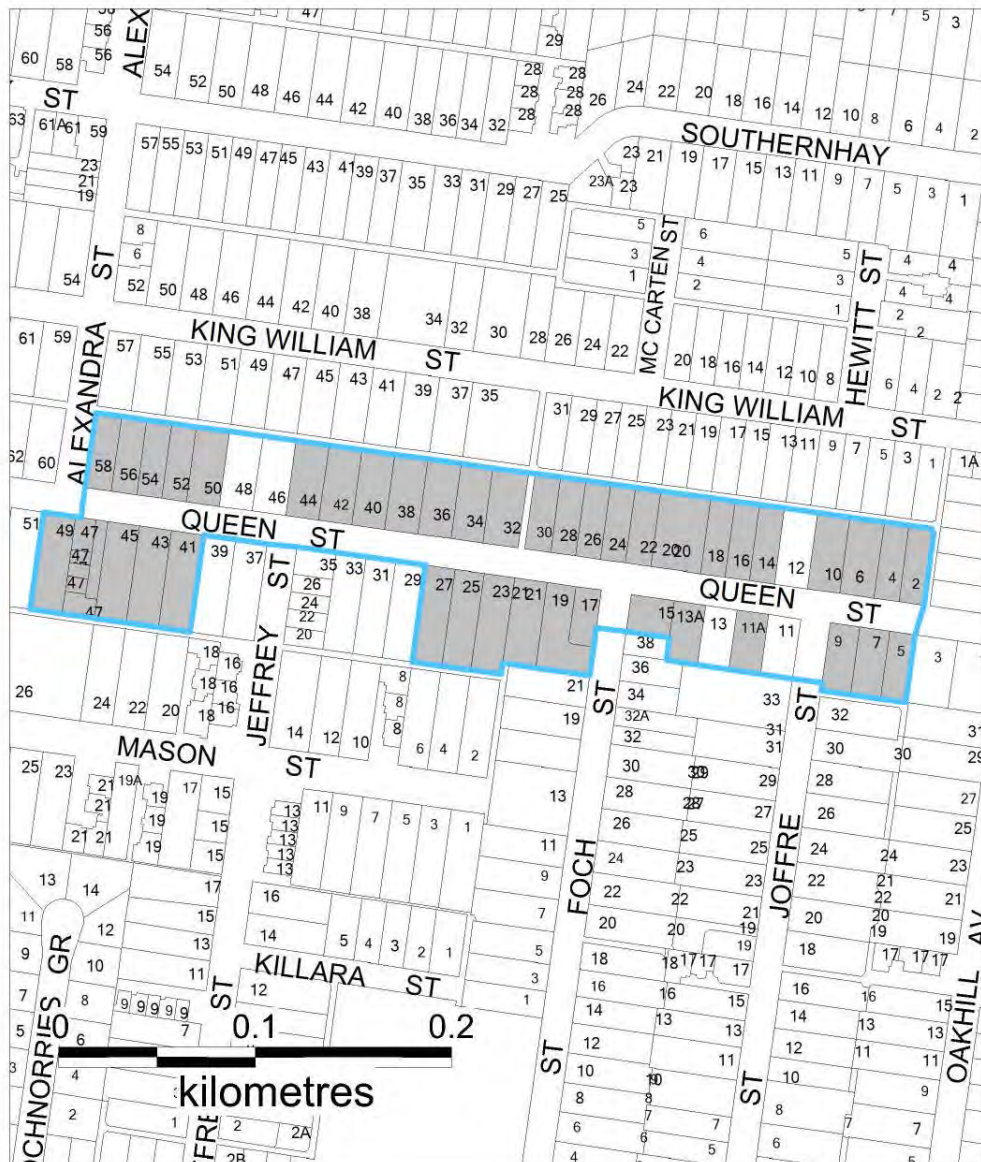
Milton Crescent Precinct & Larne Grove and Roxburgh Street Precinct, Preston



Plenty Road, Preston

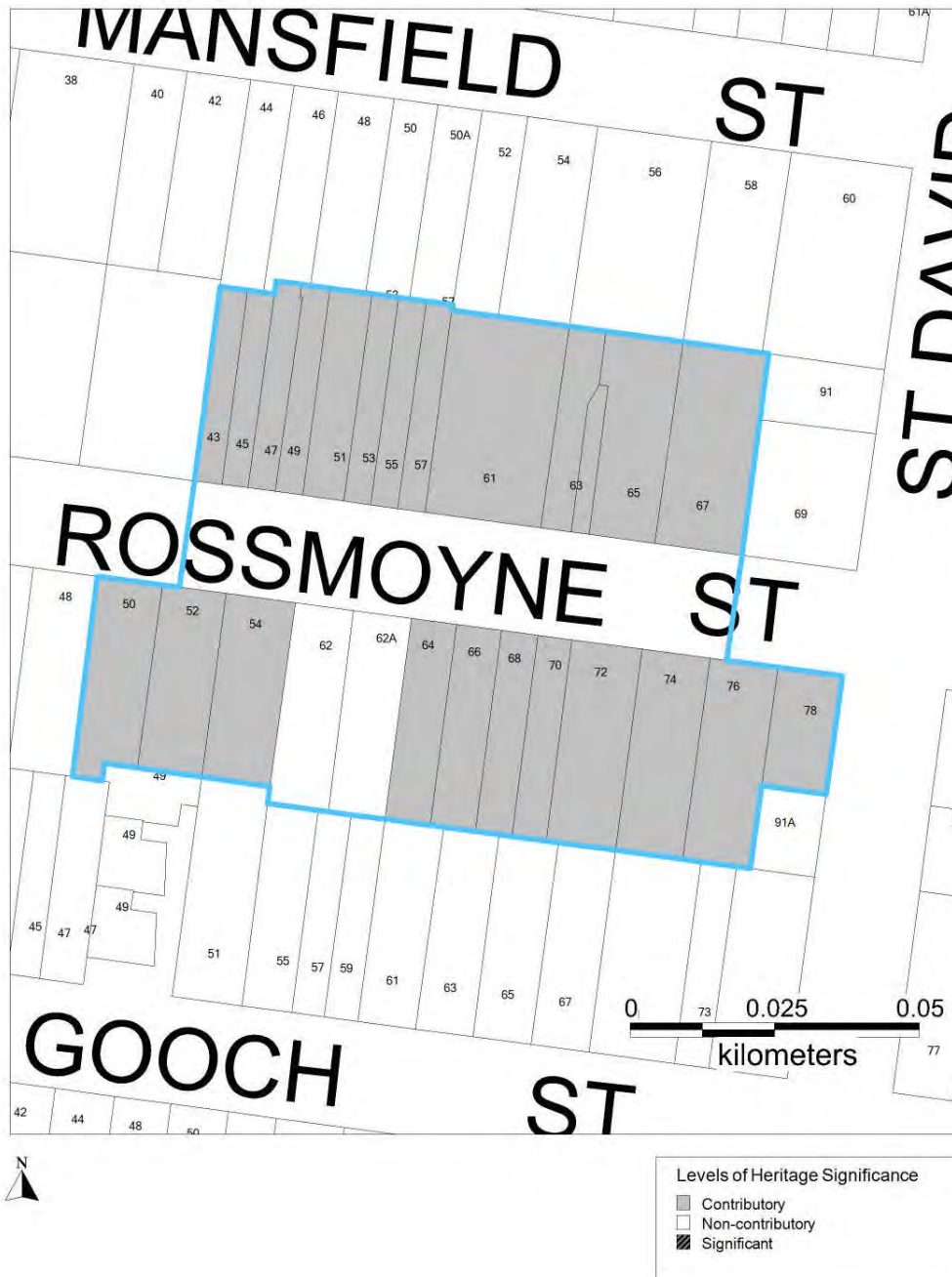


Plow Street Precinct, Thornbury

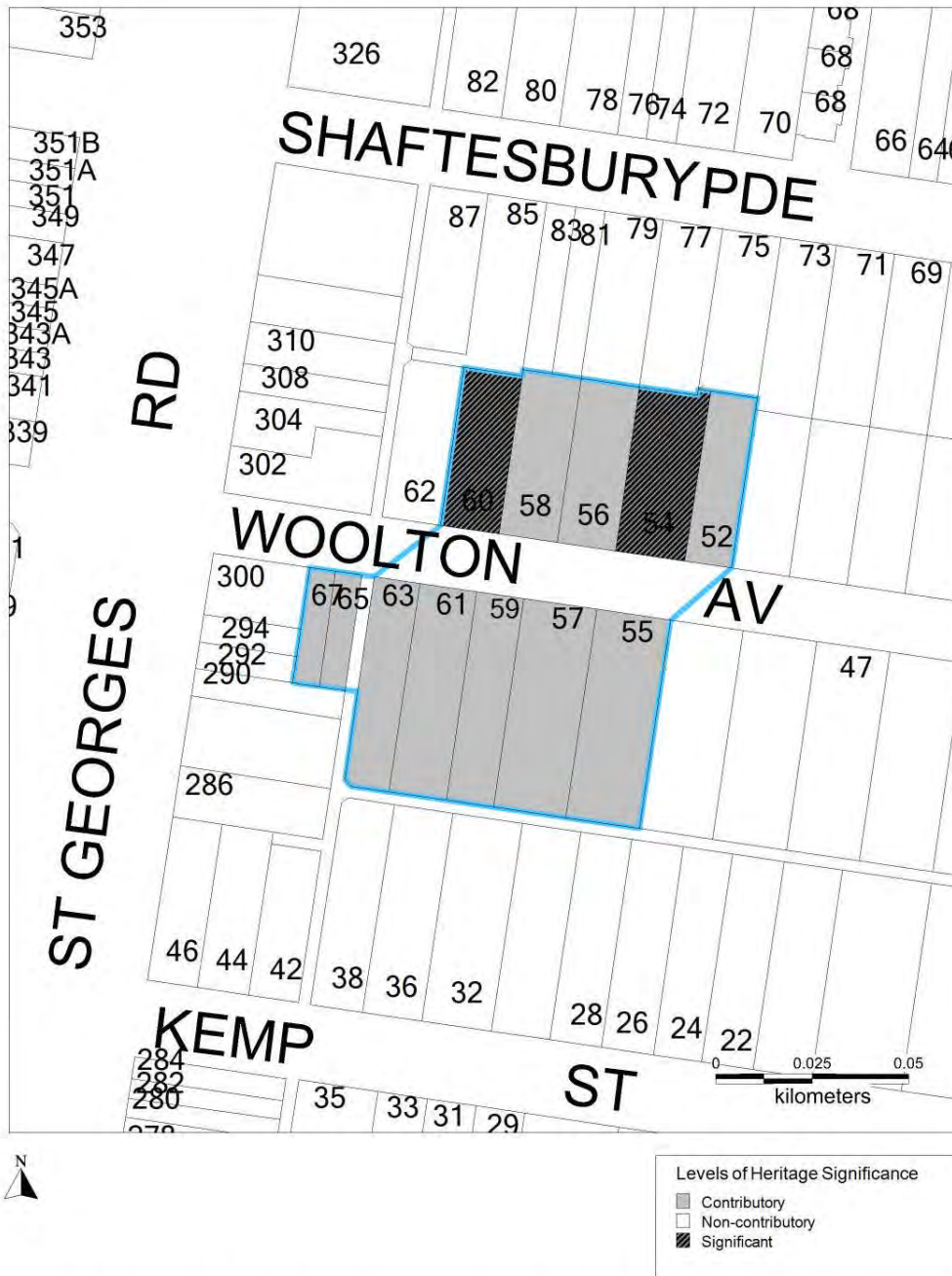


Levels of Heritage Significance	
■	Contributory
□	Non-contributory
▨	Significant

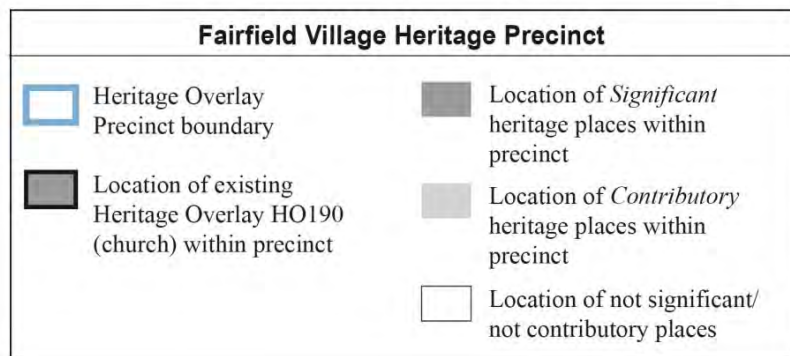
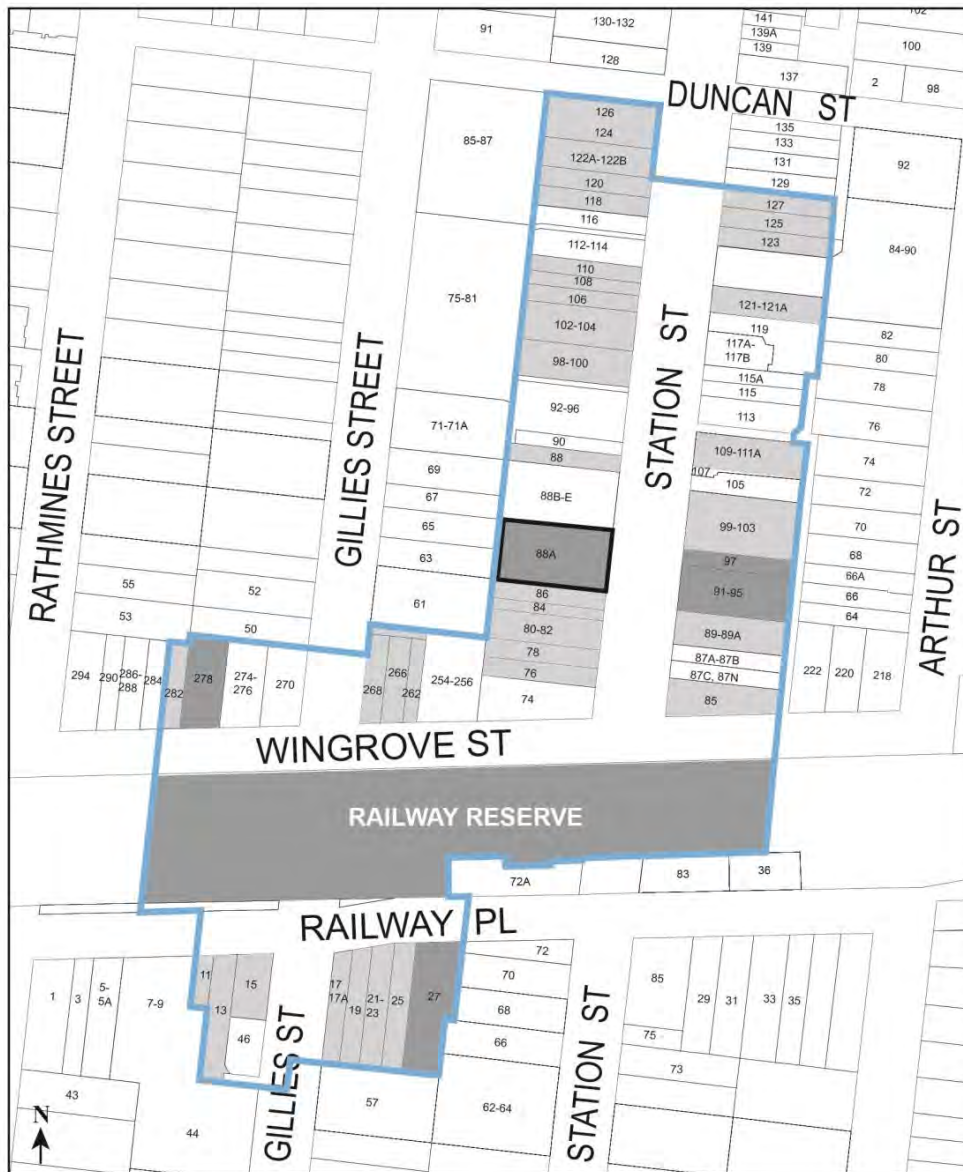
Queen Street Precinct, Reservoir



Rossmoyne Street Precinct, Thornbury



Woolton Avenue Precinct, Thornbury



Fairfield Village Heritage Precinct, Fairfield



Figure 26. Significance of individual elements of 159-179 Heidelberg Road, Northcote. (Source: Nearmap, with Context overlay)

159-179 Heidelberg Road, Northcote (Former Fairfield Hat Mills Complex)

Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church)

Heritage Place: Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex

HO Reference: HO332

Address: 66 St David Street, Thornbury

Citation status: Draft

Date Updated: 9 May 2024

Designer: unknown – 1903 Timber Church; A.S. Eggleston - 1923 Gothic Revival Church

Year of Construction: Timber Church (1903); Gothic Revival church (1923)

Builder: unknown



Oblique photograph of the front façade of the Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2024.

Location Map of the Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex.

Heritage Group: Religion

Key Theme: 2.2 Migrating to seek opportunity

Heritage Type: Church; Sunday School

Key Sub-theme: Post Second World War immigrants

Controls:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church), containing the original timber Methodist Church (1903), and the rendered brick Gothic Revival Greek Orthodox church, (1923), at 66 St David Street, Thornbury is significant. Specifically the scale, siting, form and original Gothic detailing as well as the later Greek Orthodox church style alterations of white render with blue accents, semicylindrical entrance portico and mural and later window and door detailing embellished with the motif of a gold two headed eagle are significant.

Other alterations and additions are not significant, including later additions to the rear of the complex.

How is it significant?

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex is of historical, representative and social significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Holy Church of St George Complex is of historical significance as a former nineteenth century Methodist Church complex that was later converted into a Greek Orthodox Church in the post-war period. The complex is a representative example of an early twentieth century church complex that is associated with two phases of development in Thornbury: suburban development in the early twentieth century and migration in the inter-war era. It's evolution and changing uses, as embodied in its post-war Eastern Orthodox church style alterations applied to a Gothic Revival Methodist church building, clearly demonstrate the growth and decline of Methodism in the Darebin municipality. Its use throughout the late twentieth century by the Greek Orthodox community is evidence of the cultural changes that took place in Thornbury in the post-war period, and reflects the cultural diversity of the suburb today. (Criterion A)

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex, constructed in 1923, is significant as a representative example of a modest brick Gothic Revival church which was erected in Darebin in the early twentieth century and transitioned into a church of another denomination in the mid twentieth century. Originally it was designed in a Gothic Revival style featuring characteristic elements including cross gabled hipped roof form with gabled facade, tetraconch arrangement, pointed arched windows, corner towers with crenellations and tracery patterning. The later transition to a Greek Orthodox church saw the implementation of design elements which are representative of a Greek Orthodox church and Greece including white exterior rendering with blue accents, a front semicylindrical portico, religious mural and window and door detailing. The church complex also incorporates an original weatherboard Methodist Church which is also significant as a representative example of a modest Federation era timber religious building with Gothic elements. Key features include the corrugated metal hipped roof punctuated with roof vents, gabled ends with plain barge boards, weatherboard façade with a central front entry vestibule containing large gothic arched timber windows on either side, a small central arched window to the vestibule and a large gable finial which mirrors the main finial of the primary façade gable. (Criterion D)

The Holy Church of St George Complex is of social significance as a church that has been known, used and valued by the local community for religious activities for over 100 years. The church has a special contemporary connection to the Greek Orthodox community of Darebin which continues to use the place. Cultural and spiritual ties are emphasized through the embellishment of the church with strong Greek Orthodox symbolism and nationalistic design. The exterior rendering and then painting of a blue and white colour scheme is reflective of the Greek national flag, as well as reflective of iconic buildings of the 'homeland', with white and blue buildings endemic to the Greek Islands. The front semicylindrical portico, reminiscent of a traditional Greek Orthodox dome, religious mural and gold double headed bird motif are all important symbols to the Greek Orthodox church. (Criterion G)

Heritage Citation

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex, 66 St David Street, Thornbury

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Former Croxton Methodist Church, 326-332 St George’s Road, Thornbury

Heritage Place: Church
Address: 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury

HO Reference: HO327
Citation status: Draft
Date: 15 April 2024

Designer: George A. Hiscox (Church), and FC Armstrong (Community Hall and Toilet Block)

Year of Construction: 1912, 1929, 1938, 1957

Builder: W. Cartwright (Church)



The Former Croxton Methodist Church.
 Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Location map and extent of the Former Croxton Methodist Church at 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury.

Heritage Group: Religion

Key Theme: 7. Community and Culture

Heritage Type: Church

Key Sub-theme: 7.1. Worshipping

Significance Level: Local

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alteration controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Include on Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences not exempt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The church complex at 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury (otherwise known as the Former Croxton Methodist Church), is significant. Specifically, the form, detailing, fenestration, particularly the fifteen original stained glass windows, and materials of the architect designed 1929 Church is of local heritage significance. The 1912 Church Hall, the 1938 Kindergarten, and the 1957 Community Hall contribute to the local significance of the place.

Later alterations and additions to the complex, comprising later signage, cyclone wire fencing and air conditioning units, are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Former Croxton Methodist Church is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Former Croxton Methodist Church is of historical significance to the City of Darebin as an example of the strength and prevalence of Methodism in Darebin in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The highly intact complex of ecclesiastical structures, including an early 1912 church, is historically illustrative of the prominence of religious institutions in community groups and education within the City of Darebin, as well as the broader emergence of the Methodist religion in working-class and middle-class communities. The Former Croxton Methodist Church is also noted for having served the local community for almost 115 years for various church functions and local events, in turn further cementing a clear and tangible link between religious traditions and community culture in the City of Darebin. (Criterion A)

The Former Croxton Methodist Church is of representative significance as a highly intact ecclesiastical church complex, comprising several structures onsite representative of the broader developmental patterns of Methodist churches in the City of Darebin. These patterns typically follow the same sequence, initially beginning with the founding of a Methodist Sunday School and the rapid introduction of an ephemeral Church Structure, typically broken down and re-erected onsite. Typically, funds are then gathered over several years for the construction of a more permanent Church, followed by a community hall or kindergarten. The Former Croxton Methodist Church as a complex features every structure representative of those distinct waves of development, from the initial construction of an ephemeral 1912 timber Church to the later substantial Architect-designed 1957 Community Hall. Further, the main 1929 Hiscox-designed Church is in itself of representative significance as a highly intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church, abiding by all elements associated with the Gothic Revival typology, including the use of projecting gables with steep roof pitching, pointed arched lancet windows, leadlight stained-glass windows and projecting buttresses. (Criterion D)

Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury

Heritage Place: Thornbury Church of Christ
Address: 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury
Designer: Victor G Cook (1926 church corner St Georges Road and Smith Street)
Builder: Unknown

HO Reference: HO328
Citation status: Draft
Date: 9 May 2024
Year of Construction: c1922, 1926



Thornbury Church of Christ, 390—398 St Georges Road, Thornbury, Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Location map and extent of HO

Heritage Group: Religion
Heritage Type: Church
Significance Level: Local

Key Theme: Community and culture
Key Sub-theme: Worshipping

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alteration controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences not exempt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The property at 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury (otherwise known as the Thornbury Church of Christ) is of local heritage significance, including the scale, siting, form, detailing and fenestration of the Gothic Revival style church building incorporating the original c 1922 church into the design of later church building constructed in 1927 .

Later alterations and additions are not significant, including the c 1954 additions and alterations.

How is it significant?

The Thornbury Church of Christ is of local historical, representative and social significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Thornbury Church of Christ is of historical significance as an early inter-war Church of Christ building. Its evolution as embodied in the incorporation of the modest brick church constructed in c1922 into the more impressive Gothic Revival style church constructed in 1927, to a design by local architect Victor G Cook, demonstrates the significant growth of Thornbury in the inter-war period through the increased attendance at the Church. (Criterion A)

The Thornbury Church of Christ is of representative significance as an intact church building which successfully integrated the original c 1922 church building into a later church constructed in 1927. Specifically, the church is of representative significance as an intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church featuring characteristic elements including the gabled roof form with a strong, vertical emphasis, terracotta tiled roof, arched lancet window and door openings, wall buttresses marking the structural bays; window tracery and red brick masonry. (Criterion D)

The Thornbury Church of Christ is of social significance for its special association with the congregation of the Church of Christ in Thornbury, as the centre of worship for over 100 years. The Church of Christ still operates from the church with church and prayer services and a food relief program regularly provided (as at April 2024). (Criterion G)

Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street, Preston

Heritage Place: Former Preston Church of Christ
Address: 220 High Street, Preston
Designer: Unknown
Builder: Unknown

HO Reference: HO329
Citation status: Draft
Date Updated: 9 May 2024
Year of Construction: 1911, 1953



Former Preston Church of Christ.



Location map and extent of HO

Heritage Group: Religion
Heritage Type: Church
Significance Level: Local

Key Theme: 7. Community and Culture
Key Sub-theme: 7.1 Worshipping

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy systems controls apply

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The property at 220 High Street, Preston (otherwise known as the Former Preston Church of Christ) is of local heritage significance, including the façade, scale, siting, form, detailing and fenestration of the Post-War, ultra-simplified version of a Gothic Revival church, incorporating the frame of the original 1911 church into the later church building constructed in 1953. Later alterations and additions are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Former Preston Church of Christ is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Former Preston Church of Christ is of historical significance as a post-war church building. Its evolution as embodied in the incorporation of the frame of the modest weatherboard church constructed in 1911 into the larger ultra simplified Gothic Revival style church constructed in 1953 demonstrates the significant growth of Preston in the early to mid-twentieth century. The Former Preston Church of Christ is also of historical interest as elements of the original church (the frame and corrugated iron roof) were retained when additions and alterations were made to the church in 1953, noting that the original weatherboard church built on the site in 1911 was said to be the first church in Australia 'built in one day' on 25 March 1911. (Criterion A).

The Former Preston Church of Christ is of representative significance as an intact church building which successfully integrated the frame and roof of the original church building into a later church constructed in 1953. Specifically, the church is of representative significance as an intact example of a Post-War, ultra-simplified version of a Gothic Revival church, incorporating simplified elements of the Gothic Revival style, featuring characteristic elements including the gable ended form, arched window and door openings, wall buttresses marking the structural bays and quality red brick masonry. (Criterion D)

Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston

Heritage Place: Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque
Address: 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston
Designer: Bates, Smart and McCutcheon
Builder: Unknown

HO Reference: HO330
Citation status: Draft
Date Updated: 9 May 2024
Year of Construction: 1975-6



Photograph of Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque (Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024).



Location map of the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque at 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston.

Heritage Group: Religion
Heritage Type: Mosque

Key Theme: 2.2 Migrating to seek opportunity
Key Sub-theme: Post Second World War immigrants, Places of worship that reflect post-war immigration

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The property at 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston (Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque), is significant. Specifically, the form, detailing, materials and fenestration of the post-war Modernist style Mosque, along with the 1984 dome addition and 1988 minaret addition, are of local heritage significance. Later alterations and additions to the property are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of local historical, representative and social significance to the City of Darebin. It is also of significance for its association with Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam, a prominent Muslim community leader in Darebin and the Grand Mufti of Australia from 2007 and 2011.

Why is it significant?

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of historical significance as a purpose-built multi-ethnic Mosque that was established by the Islamic Society of Victoria (ISV) in 1975-76 to address the needs of the growing diasporic Muslim population settling in Preston and the neighboring suburbs. Distinguished by Islamic architectural elements, including domes, minarets and arch motifs, that have been re-interpreted using modern materials and construction methods, the Mosque forms a tangible link to late twentieth century Muslim migration in the City of Darebin, which fortified the municipality as a place of rich cultural, ethnic and religious diversity. (Criterion A)

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of representative significance as a purpose-built late twentieth century Mosque that clearly exhibits all the elements associated with this typology. Although it is not without non-significant alterations and additions, it nevertheless retains its legibility as a late twentieth century Mosque that clearly showcases the primary features of this class, such as Islamic architectural elements re-interpreted using modern materials, including domes, minarets and arch motifs, along with rectilinear forms and smooth unadorned surfaces derived from the post-Modernist style. (Criterion D)

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of social significance for its clear and ongoing role as a place of worship, cultural gathering, and community meeting space for Darebin's Muslim community (Criterion G).

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of associative significance for its association with Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam, a prominent Muslim community leader in Melbourne and the Grand Mufti of Australia from 2007 and 2011, who spearheaded the establishment of the Mosque during his leadership of the Islamic Society of Victoria (ISV). Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam was not only integral to the Mosque's development, but also served as Head Imam of the Mosque. (Criterion H)

Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury

Heritage Place: Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex
Address: 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury
Designer: Grainger and Little (Brick church), Unknown (Timber building)
Builder: Mr. Jones (Brick Church), Unknown (Timber building).

HO Reference: HO331
Citation status: Draft
Date Updated: 9 May 2024
Year of Construction: Timber building - 1894, brick Gothic Revival style church - 1914



Former Congregational Church, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury viewed from the north. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd

Location map and extent of HO overlaid with grading of structures

Heritage Group: Religion	Key Theme: Community and Culture	
Heritage Type: Church Complex	Key Sub-theme: Worshipping	
Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls	

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The church complex at 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury (otherwise known as the Former Northcote Congregational Church), is significant. Specifically, the form, detailing and fenestration of the 1914 Grainger and Little designed Church is of local heritage significance. The timber church hall (c.1894) contributes to the local significance of the place.

Later alterations and additions to the complex, comprising replacement roofing, air conditioning units, later signage, later fencing, window bars and awnings are not significant. The kindergarten and toilet block are also not significant.

How is it significant?

The Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex is of historical significance to the City of Darebin as an example of the strength and prevalence of Congregationalism in Darebin in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The intact complex of ecclesiastical structures, including an early 1914 church, is historically illustrative of the prominence of religious institutions in community groups and education within the City of Darebin, as well as the broader emergence of the Congregational religion in working-class and middle-class communities. Further, it not only exemplifies the initial early twentieth century wave of suburban development in Darebin, but also evidences the growth of immigrant communities in Darebin during the mid to late twentieth century and the strong connection between some members of the immigrant community (including Greek immigrants) and their Christian faith. (Criterion A)

The Former Northcote Congregational Church is of representative significance as an intact ecclesiastical church complex, comprising multiple structures onsite representative of the more unique/less represented development patterns of Congregational churches in the City of Darebin and the broader Melbourne region. In a similar fashion to the Methodists, the Congregationalists followed a pattern involving the initial construction of a timber structure on site, used as a church and Sunday school to serve the needs of the local community whilst funds are accrued for the construction of a more permanent structure. This is represented onsite by the structures, comprising the timber hall and church. Further, the 1914 Grainger and Little designed brick Church is of representative significance as an intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church, featuring all elements associated with the Gothic Revival typology, including the use of projecting gables with steep roof pitching, lancet windows, stained glass windows and projecting stepped buttresses. (Criterion D).

The Former Northcote Congregational Church also is of social significance as a centre of worship and as a gathering place for the Congregational Church, the Greek Orthodox Church and now the Church of the Nazarene for over 100 years. On this basis, the Former Northcote Congregational Church is noted for having served the local community for over 110 years for various church functions and local events, in turn further cementing a clear and tangible link between religious traditions and community culture in the City of Darebin. The church is still in use with a very active and socially present congregation. (Criterion G)

Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir

Heritage Place: Reservoir Albanian Mosque
Address: 111 Blake Street, Reservoir
Designer: Cuma Pty Ltd
Builder: Unknown

HO Reference: HO333
Citation status: Draft
Date Updated: 9 May 2024
Year of Construction: 1993



Photograph of 111 Blake Street, Reservoir. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Location map of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque at 111 Blake Street, Reservoir. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

Heritage Group: Religion
Heritage Type: Mosque

Key Theme: 2.2 Migrating to seek opportunity
Key Sub-theme: Post Second World War immigrants, Places of worship that reflect post-war immigration

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque (c1993) at 111 Blake Street, Reservoir, is significant. Specifically the form, detailing, materials and fenestration of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque, including the dome and minaret are of local heritage significance. The Cypress trees which frame the entrance to the Reservoir Albanian Mosque from the street contribute to the significance of the place. The empty lot to the east and at grade car park are of no significance.

How is it significant?

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque at 111 Blake Street is of aesthetic and social significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

Constructed in c.1993 to a design by architect Eddie Cuma, the Reservoir Albanian Mosque is of aesthetic significance as a highly articulated and intact purpose-built mosque distinguished by high-quality masonry construction, a prominent dome, striking minaret, multi-paned arch windows, buttressing and its dynamic use of rectilinear and rounded forms. The siting of the mosque to the rear of the site with the entry framed by a row of Cypress trees also contributes to the overall aesthetic qualities of the place. (Criterion E)

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque is of social significance as a continuing place of worship, assembly and gathering space for the local and surrounding Albanian community, being operated by the community organisation Australian Albania Prespa Association Inc (at the time of writing in April 2024). The Reservoir Albanian Mosque is also of note for its strong and special association with the local Muslim community for social, cultural and religious associations. (Criterion G).

EXTENT



CITY OF DAREBIN

PLACES OF WORSHIP HERITAGE ASSESSMENT VOLUME 1: FINDINGS

Prepared for City of Darebin

May 2024 — V1



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Extent Heritage project no.:	324098
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Draft 01	[REDACTED]	9.05.2024	QA
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Project brief

Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (Extent Heritage) was commissioned by the City of Darebin (the Council) to undertake heritage assessments of a number of places of worship within the municipality. The project included an initial Preliminary Assessment and then preparation of heritage citations for all places recommended for the HO.

Initially Extent Heritage reviewed the following place and recommended its inclusion in the HO:

- Former Croxton Methodist Church. - 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury

Following the assessment of the Croxton Church an additional potential list of places was provided by the Council and supplied to Extent Heritage for further assessment, as follows:

- Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury;
- Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street, Preston;
- Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston;
- Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex, 16 -18 Martin Street, Thornbury;
- Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church), 66 St David Street Thornbury.

None of the places were ruled out following the preliminary assessment. An additional place was identified during the preliminary assessment as follows:

- Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir.

1.2. Limitations

The assessment was subject to the following limitations:

- Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study;
- Condition and site modification assessment for each place was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain; and
- The historical information provided in the citations are provided only to the extent necessary to enable assessment and should not be considered an exhaustive history of each place.
- Access was not available to the City of Darebin's building or planning records for the properties which have been assessed (except for planning records for 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston and rates records for 111 Blake Street, Reservoir which were provided).
- No community consultation was undertaken as part of the assessment.

1.3. Authorship

Staff	Role
Michelle Bashta, Associate	Project management, heritage assessment, drafting heritage review report and quality assurance review
Juliette Halliday	Research and heritage assessment
Vivian Lu, Heritage Advisor	Research and heritage assessment
Benjamin Petkov, Heritage Advisor	Research and heritage assessment
Larika Desai, Heritage Advisor	Research and heritage assessment
Melissa Harvey, Research Assistant	Research and heritage assessment support
Evangeline Mullins, Research Assistant	Research and heritage assessment support
Alexander Murphy, GIS Specialist	Mapping

1.1 Terminology

The terminology in this report follows definitions presented in the *Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS 2013). Article 1 provides the following definitions:

Place means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric*, setting, *use*, *associations*, *meanings*, records, *related places* and *related objects*.

Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place including elements, fixtures, contents, and objects.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of a *place* and its *setting*.

Maintenance is to be distinguished from repair which involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

Preservation means maintaining a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing elements without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material.

Adaptation means changing a *place* to suit the existing *use* or a proposed use.

Use means the functions of a *place*, including the activities and traditional and customary practices that may occur at the place or are dependent on the place.

Compatible use means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Setting means the immediate and extended environment of a *place* that is part of or contributes to its *cultural significance* and distinctive character.

Related place means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another place.

The terminology in this study also follows the definitions below, adopted from Heritage Victoria's reference materials and other guidance documents:

- DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning). 2018. Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay. Melbourne: DELWP.

Contributory Element: Contributory Elements are those that contribute to the significance of the Heritage Place. These should be identified in the Statement of Significance or other heritage assessment document, such as a heritage study. Note that some Heritage Places covered by an Individual HO surrounded by an Area HO may be Contributory Elements, while others might not.

Serial Listing: Places that share a common history and/or significance but which do not adjoin each other or form a geographical grouping may be considered for treatment as a single heritage place. Each place that forms part of the group might share a common statement of significance; a single entry in the Heritage Overlay Schedule and a single Heritage Overlay number.

- Heritage Victoria. 2007. The Heritage Overlay Guidelines: Glossary of Terms. Melbourne: Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Heritage Overlay: A Heritage Overlay is applied to a Heritage Place to conserve its cultural heritage values.

Heritage Place: Under the Victoria Planning Provisions, a Heritage Place can be a: building (e.g. house, shop, factory etc.), structure (e.g. memorial, bridge or tram poles), features (e.g. mine shafts and mullock heaps, street gutters and paving), private garden or public park, single tree or group of trees such as an avenue, group of buildings or sites, landscape, geological formation, fossil site, or habitat or other place of natural or Cultural Heritage Significance and its associated land.

Heritage Study: A Heritage Study is a research and survey based document prepared by a suitably qualified professional that identifies Heritage Places of Cultural Heritage Significance based on a defined range of criteria.

Individual HO: An Individual HO is a single Heritage Place that has Cultural Heritage Significance independent of its context. Some places covered by an Individual HO also make a contribution to the significance of an Area HO. There should be a Statement of Significance for every Individual HO.

Non-contributory Element: Elements that do not make a contribution to the significance of the Heritage Place covered by an HO.

Statement of Significance: A guide to understanding the Cultural Heritage Significance of a place. These are often divided into three parts: what, how and why.

- DELWP (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning). August 2017. Review of Heritage Provisions in Planning Schemes. Advisory Committee Report. The Way Forward for Heritage. Melbourne: DELWP.

Threshold: The level of cultural significance that a place must have before it can be recommended for inclusion in the planning scheme. The question to be answered is 'Is the place of sufficient import that its cultural values should be recognised in the planning scheme and taken into account in decision-making?' Thresholds are necessary to enable a smaller group of places with special architectural values, for example, to be selected out for listing from a group of perhaps hundreds of places with similar architectural values.

1.2 Abbreviations

A number of abbreviations have been used for the Heritage Assessment. These are outlined below.

Table 1. Summary of abbreviations.

Abbreviation	Full term
C	Contributory
HERCON	National Heritage Convention
HO	Heritage Overlay
NC	Non-contributory
S	Significant
VHD	Victorian Heritage Database
VHI	Victorian Heritage Inventory
VHR	Victorian Heritage Register

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Best practice resources

This heritage review was prepared by consulting with best practice documentary resources, including the following:

- Australia ICOMOS. 2013. The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance. Burwood, Vic.: Australia ICOMOS.
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). 2018. Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay. Melbourne: DELWP.
- Heritage Victoria. 2010. Heritage Victoria Model Consultants Brief for Heritage Studies. Melbourne: DELWP.
- Heritage Victoria. 2007. The Heritage Overlay Guidelines: Glossary of Terms. Melbourne: Department of Sustainability and Environment.

2.2. Preliminary Review

2.2.1. Fieldwork

Fieldwork was undertaken for all places. This component of the project provided opportunity to ground-truth any existing data and to capture new, previously unrecorded information. All inspections were undertaken from the public domain, via vehicle and on foot.

2.2.2. Research

Extent Heritage carried out considered research of each place and precinct utilising a range of resources and research avenues, as outlined below.

Archival research

- Primary and secondary sources were reviewed from organisations such as the State Library of Victoria, Public Records Office Victoria, collections in the Darebin local library and National Trust of Australia (Victoria). Information gained from these resources included previous assessments and research, histories, early maps, architectural plans, newspaper articles, and other documentary evidence such as the Sands & McDougall Directory. It is noted that the City of Darebin's building and planning records for the properties which have been assessed were not available as part of the archival research (apart from planning records for 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston and rates records for 111 Blake Street, Reservoir which were provided).

Previous heritage studies and consultant reports

Extent Heritage undertook a preliminary, high level review of aspects of relevant heritage studies and consultant reports as part of the Preliminary Review Report where relevant to extract information about specific places that would be useful in the detailed assessment.

HERMES

To further understand previous research and assessment that may have been undertaken on the identified places and precincts, Extent Heritage reviewed HERMES database records. While most previous studies were provided by Council, further relevant material can occasionally be found on the HERMES database.

Thematic Environmental History

Extent Heritage reviewed the contents of the *City of Darebin Draft Thematic Environmental History* (Context Pty Ltd, 2008) to understand the development of religion and places of worship within the municipality.

2.2.3. Comparative analysis

A high-level comparative analysis was undertaken for each place and precinct to establish whether it met the threshold for significance, and to understand its representative and rarity value.

The existing Schedule to the Heritage Overlay in the Darebin Planning Scheme includes a number of precincts and individual places listed mostly for their local heritage value. In most cases, a high-level comparative analysis of the nominated places against those already captured in the HO and associated documentation on HERMES, the Victorian Heritage Database (VHR) and/or previous heritage studies provided an indication of comparative value. Where necessary, and if no appropriate comparative places could otherwise be located in the Darebin HO, places proposed to be affected by the HO in Darebin were referenced.

Where no comparative examples were identified in the HO, this was noted in the assessment and then followed up with further research outside of the municipality. This strategy aimed to assess the comparative value of heritage places in other council areas and, in a case where it was a new type of listing, to assess any precedents for listing places of a particular type.

2.2.4. Assessment of significance

Establishing an understanding of significance

For the Preliminary Assessment each nomination was assessed against the HERCON criteria after the research and fieldwork data had been gathered. The place needed to meet at least one criterion to meet the threshold for local significance to Darebin. It should be noted that meeting more than one criterion does not make a place more significant, it simply means that the place is significant for a variety of reasons.

The National Heritage Convention (HERCON) criteria are defined as follows:

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (*historical significance*).

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (*rarity*).

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (*research potential*).

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (*representativeness*).

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (*aesthetic significance*).

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (*technical significance*).

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (*social significance*).

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (*associative significance*). (DELWP 2018, 1–2)

Assessment of intactness and integrity

The 'intactness' and 'integrity' of a building are often used as a threshold indicator. While interpretations of these terms in heritage assessments do vary, for the purposes of this Study the following definitions set out on pp.16-17 of the Panel Report for Latrobe Planning Scheme Amendment C14 have been adopted:

For the purposes of this consideration, the Panel proposes the view that intactness and integrity refer to different heritage characteristics.

Intactness relates to the wholeness of (or lack of alteration to) the place. Depending on the grounds for significance, this can relate to a reference point of original construction or may include original construction with progressive accretions or alterations.

Integrity in respect to a heritage place is a descriptor of the veracity of the place as a meaningful document of the heritage from which it purports to draw its significance. For example a place proposed as important on account of its special architectural details may be said to lack integrity if those features are destroyed or obliterated. It may be said to have low integrity if some of those features are altered. In the same case but where

significance related to, say, an historical association, the place may retain its integrity despite the changes to the fabric (Structural integrity is a slightly different matter. It usually describes the basic structural sufficiency of a building).

Based on this approach it is clear that whilst some heritage places may have low intactness they may still have high integrity – the Parthenon ruins may be a good example. On the other hand, a reduction in intactness may threaten a place’s integrity to such a degree that it loses its significance.

It is important to note that integrity and intactness is not the only factor taken into consideration when assessing the overall significance of a place. There may be instances where a place that is deemed to be ‘individually significant’ is of moderate or even low integrity. An example may be a site which has retained a significant use over time but has been heavily changed. The gradings are a guide only and must be subject to consideration on a site-by-site basis.

For the purposes of this study, the following gradings of integrity were applied:

Table 2. Gradings of integrity.

Integrity	Description	Significance level guide
High	The building appears to be very intact externally with little change to the principal elevations (i.e., façade, visible roof form, and side walls). Most, if not all, of the other original detailing is intact. Other features that contribute to the setting of the place, such as fences and garden plantings, may be intact.	Contributory or Individually Significant
Moderate	Minor alterations have been made, but much of the original form and detailing remains intact. Where materials or detailing have been replaced, similar or ‘like-for-like’ materials have often been used. Where changes have been made, they are often reversible. Where additions have been made, they are designed to respect and not overwhelm the original building.	Contributory
Low	Major alterations or additions have been made to the building, often to the extent that the original form and style is hard to recognise. Many of the changes are not readily reversible.	Non-contributory

Assessment of condition

Another important aspect in assessing the significance of a property is a consideration of overall condition. Condition assessments can assist in identifying significant fabric and what maintenance or repair work may be required to maintain that significance. Condition assessments were undertaken through public domain inspections, assessment of photographs and reviews of previous relevant reports, if available. A condition grading was provided for each place or precinct based on the definitions outlined below.

Table 3. Grading of condition.

Condition	Description
Good	Little to no maintenance and repair works required
Fair	Some maintenance and repair works required
Poor	Significant maintenance and repair works required

2.3. Preparation of citations

2.3.1. Research and comparative analysis

Further research and comparative analysis to confirm the findings of the Preliminary Assessment was undertaken for all places and incorporated into the citations as relevant.

2.3.2. Assessment of each place against the HERCON criteria

Each place was assessed for its potential to meet the one or more of the HERCON criteria.

Where a criterion was met, the reasons for this were provided as relevant to the specific criterion being addressed. The results of the tabulated assessment were used to formulate the full Statement of Significance and to confirm the level of significance.

With regard to the application of Criterion G specifically, if evidence of an active and identifiable community (e.g. a congregation) with a long term (20 year plus) connection to a place was identified during the course of research Criterion G was generally applied. The specific reasons are enumerated in each relevant citation. It is noted that no direct community consultation was undertaken to inform this assessment and the assessment relied on desktop resources and fieldwork which often demonstrated these places in active use.

2.3.3. Statements of significance

Following an assessment of each place against the HERCON criteria, a Statement of Significance was developed following guidelines of Planning Practice Note 1 which states:

What is significant?

This section should be brief, usually no more than one paragraph or a series of dot points. There should be no doubt about the elements of the place that are under discussion. The paragraph should identify features or elements that are significant about the place, for example, house, outbuildings, garden, plantings, ruins, archaeological sites, interiors as a guide to future decision makers. Clarification could also be made of elements that are not significant. This may guide or provide the basis for an incorporated plan which identifies works that may be exempt from the need for a planning permit.

How is it significant?

Using the heritage criteria above, a sentence should be included to the effect that the place is important. This could be because of its historical significance, its rarity, its research potential, its representativeness, its aesthetic significance, its technical significance and/or its associative significance. The sentence should indicate the threshold for which the place is considered important.

Why is it significant?

The importance of the place needs to be justified against the heritage criteria listed above. A separate point or paragraph should be used for each criterion satisfied. The relevant criterion reference should be inserted in brackets after each point or paragraph, for example '(Criterion G)'. (DELWP 2018, 2)

2.3.4. Assessment of Schedule to the Heritage Overlay controls



An assessment for the requirement for additional scheduled controls was undertaken for all places assessed. Tree controls are recommended for one place, external paint controls are recommended for one place and solar energy system controls are recommended for most place unless the roof form is such that a solar energy system would have no visible impact. These recommendations were made in the context of the relevant guidance of PPN01.




2.3.5. Curtilage assessment



Heritage curtilages were dictated by the legal property boundary for individual places. This is particularly the case for the subject sites where it is more practical from a planning perspective to nominate the whole parcel of land. For larger, more complex sites with various buildings, the curtilage plans were updated to include a grading of key elements on the site, either as 'contributory' or 'non-contributory'.

3. KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Places recommended for the HO

Proposed HO number	Place Name	Address	Significance	Schedule to the HO controls	Image
HO327	Former Croxton Methodist Church	326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury	Local	Apply solar energy system controls and designate outbuildings/fences as not exempt.	
HO328	Thornbury Church of Christ	390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury	Local	Apply solar energy system controls	

Proposed HO number	Place Name	Address	Significance	Schedule to the HO controls	Image
HO329	Former Preston Church of Christ	220 High Street, Preston	Local	Apply solar energy system controls	
HO330	Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque	88-92 Cramer Street, Preston	Local	N/A	
HO331	Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex	16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury	Local	Apply solar energy system controls	

Proposed HO number	Place Name	Address	Significance	Schedule to the HO controls	Image
HO332	Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (formerly Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church)	66 St David Street, Thornbury	Local	Apply external paint controls and solar energy system controls	
HO333	Reservoir Albanian Mosque	111 Blake Street, Reservoir	Local	Apply tree controls (row of Cypress) and solar energy system controls	

3.2. Implementation of this report

Darebin Heritage Overlay

It is recommended that Darebin City Council implements the findings of this assessment by preparing and exhibiting an amendment to the Darebin Planning Scheme that would apply the HO on a permanent basis to the following places:

- HO327 - 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury – Former Croxton Methodist Church
- HO328 - 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury – Thornbury Church of Christ
- HO329 - 220 High Street, Preston - Former Preston Church of Christ
- HO330 - 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston - Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque
- HO331 - 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury - Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex
- HO332 - 66 St David Street, Thornbury - Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church)
- HO333 - 111 Blake Street, Reservoir – Reservoir Albanian Mosque

3.3. Future consultation and community engagement

Noting that a number of the places considered in this assessment were identified as being of social significance due to an established and ongoing connection to a congregation/identified community it is recommended that consultation with the relevant organisation and communities which are associated with the places identified and assessed in this report is undertaken. This would not only aid in the application of the HO but also in the long term management of the places, noting there is a standing exemption in Clause 43.01-3 to internally alter a church for liturgical purposes if the responsible authority is satisfied that the alterations are required for liturgical purposes.

It is recommended that as part of any amendment process direct engagement is undertaken with all affected property owners to understand whether any refinement to specific controls is required to be able to best manage these places for the communities they serve.

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EXTENT



CITY OF DAREBIN

PLACES OF WORSHIP HERITAGE ASSESSMENT VOLUME 2: CITATIONS

Prepared for City of Darebin

May 2024 — V1



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Former Croxton Methodist Church, 326-332 St George’s Road, Thornbury

Heritage Place: Church
Address: 326-332 St Georges Road,
 Thornbury

HO Reference: HO327
Citation status: Draft
Date: 15 April 2024

Designer: George A. Hiscox (Church), and
 FC Armstrong (Community Hall and Toilet
 Block)

Year of Construction: 1912, 1929, 1938,
 1957

Builder: W. Cartwright (Church)



The Former Croxton Methodist Church.
 Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Location map and extent of the Former Croxton Methodist Church at 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury.

Heritage Group: Religion

Key Theme: 7. Community and Culture

Heritage Type: Church

Key Sub-theme: 7.1. Worshipping

Significance Level: Local

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alteration controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Include on Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences not exempt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The church complex at 326-332 St Georges Road, Thornbury (otherwise known as the Former Croxton Methodist Church), is significant. Specifically, the form, detailing, fenestration, particularly the fifteen original stained glass windows, and materials of the architect designed 1929 Church is of local heritage significance. The 1912 Church Hall, the 1938 Kindergarten, and the 1957 Community Hall contribute to the local significance of the place.

Later alterations and additions to the complex, comprising later signage, cyclone wire fencing and air conditioning units, are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Former Croxton Methodist Church is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Former Croxton Methodist Church is of historical significance to the City of Darebin as an example of the strength and prevalence of Methodism in Darebin in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The highly intact complex of ecclesiastical structures, including an early 1912 church, is historically illustrative of the prominence of religious institutions in community groups and education within the City of Darebin, as well as the broader emergence of the Methodist religion in working-class and middle-class communities. The Former Croxton Methodist Church is also noted for having served the local community for almost 115 years for various church functions and local events, in turn further cementing a clear and tangible link between religious traditions and community culture in the City of Darebin. (Criterion A)

The Former Croxton Methodist Church is of representative significance as a highly intact ecclesiastical church complex, comprising several structures onsite representative of the broader developmental patterns of Methodist churches in the City of Darebin. These patterns typically follow the same sequence, initially beginning with the founding of a Methodist Sunday School and the rapid introduction of an ephemeral Church Structure, typically broken down and re-erected onsite. Typically, funds are then gathered over several years for the construction of a more permanent Church, followed by a community hall or kindergarten. The Former Croxton Methodist Church as a complex features every structure representative of those distinct waves of development, from the initial construction of an ephemeral 1912 timber Church to the later substantial Architect-designed 1957 Community Hall. Further, the main 1929 Hiscox-designed Church is in itself of representative significance as a highly intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church, abiding by all elements associated with the Gothic Revival typology, including the use of projecting gables with steep roof pitching, pointed arched lancet windows, leadlight stained-glass windows and projecting buttresses. (Criterion D)

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i>	The Former Croxton Methodist Church is of historical significance to the City of Darebin as a clear example of the strength and prevalence of Methodism in Darebin in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The highly intact complex of
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		ecclesiastical structures, including an early 1912 church, is historically illustrative of the prominence of religious institutions in community groups and education within the City of Darebin, as well as the broader emergence of the Methodist religion in working-class and middle-class communities. The Former Croxton Methodist Church is also noted for having served the local community for almost 115 years for various church functions and local events, in turn further cementing a clear and tangible link between religious traditions and community culture in the City of Darebin.
B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
D	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i>	The Former Croxton Methodist Church is of representative significance as a highly intact ecclesiastical church complex, comprising several structures onsite representative of the broader developmental patterns of Methodist churches in the City of Darebin. These patterns typically follow the same sequence, initially beginning with the founding of a Methodist Sunday School and the rapid introduction of an ephemeral Church Structure, typically broken down and re-erected onsite. Typically, funds are then gathered over several years for the construction of a more permanent Church, followed by a community hall or kindergarten. The Former Croxton Methodist Church as a complex features every structure representative of those distinct waves of development. Further, the main 1929 Hiscox-designed Church is in itself of representative significance as a highly intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church, abiding by all elements associated with the Gothic Revival typology, including the use of projecting gables with steep roof pitching,

		pointed arched lancet windows, leadlight stained-glass windows and projecting buttresses.
<i>E</i>	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
<i>F</i>	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
<i>G</i>	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
<i>H</i>	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.

Description

• Physical Analysis

The Former Croxton Methodist Church at the corner of St George's Road and Shaftesbury Parade comprises four distinct structures all constructed at different points of the site's history. In combination, they form a highly cohesive complex of suburban ecclesiastical structures.

1912 Church Hall

The 1912 Church Hall located on the corner of St George's Road and Shaftesbury Parade is a conventional Federation-era timber community hall. The structure was originally transported to the site for use as the Croxton Methodist Church, later replaced by the current brick Church in 1929. The Hall is a rectilinear structure with a gabled roof form oriented north-south with weatherboard cladding. Originally timber, the original timber weatherboards have been covered with plastic cladding. A small nave acts as an entrance to the façade of the Hall, with two decorative lancet windows flanking either side of the nave. The windows are set with decorative coloured glass in timber mullions. Three additional unadorned windows are located on both the eastern and western sides of the hall, with a side entrance on the eastern elevation. The eaves of the Hall are highly original and intact, with timber cladding and holes cut through for the circulation of air.

1929 Methodist Church

The 1929 Methodist Church is a cruciform-oriented interwar-era Gothic Revival suburban church. Designed to the two frontages on Shaftesbury Parade and St. George's Road, the Church is constructed around a cruciform design with four decorative projecting gables facing north, south, east and west. The gables on the northern, western and southern elevations are decorated with a substantial stained-glass window set in a pointed lancet arch with two

additional smaller windows flanking the larger central one. Stepped buttresses further speak to the Gothic Revival idiom, and at the apex of each gable is a circular stained-glass window in a quatrefoil cement setting. There are fifteen stained-glass windows of varying size present within the church, several depicting the Biblical lessons of The Good Shepherd, St Paul and the disciples, St Mark, St Luke and St John.

The roof of the church is constructed with a steep pitch in line with the Gothic Revival style, but clad in Marseille terracotta tiles in keeping with the Federation and early interwar-era. The projecting gables also form a tall parapet, concealing the ends of the roof. The point of each parapet is surmounted by a cast cement finial. The eaves of the church are deep, with exposed timber trusses highlighting the popularity of the Arts and Crafts movement in the interwar period.

At each corner of the church is a transept, smaller than the main form of the church, with an unconventional castellated parapet. The transepts on the western elevation of the church both have entrances, establishing this elevation as the primary façade of the church. The eastern elevation of the church is different from the other three, comprising the vestry in a rear rectilinear extension decorated in keeping with the transepts by use of a castellated parapet.

1938 Kindergarten

The 1938 Kindergarten is a small and unassuming brick masonry structure in the northeastern corner of the complex, fronting the eastern laneway on the boundary of the site. The structure is an interwar gabled building with a tall parapet at each gable end concealing a corrugated metal roof. Four slanted windows are present on its eastern elevation as viewed from the lane, with protective wire screens installed over them. A small lavatory amenities block is situated directly south of the Kindergarten, with a skillion roof form. Both structures are built using clinker bricks.

1957 Community Hall

The 1957 Community Hall has the largest footprint of all the structures present onsite, covering approximately 510m². The structure is a single-storey Interwar Functionalist style hall, constructed in clinker bricks with steel-framed industrial windows on its primary façade fronting St George's Road. Six windows are present on the façade, the frames set in cement dressings, contrasting with the red-clinker colour of the hall. The primary form of the hall is rectangular, with side entrance fronting the Church to the south, recessed inside a stepped and elevated porch. Brown, fluted glass windows in square panes are set in timber mullions covering the entire entrance wall on both sides of the double door. Two leader heads are affixed to the façade of the structure approximately half a metre below the top of the parapet, indicating the presence of a concealed box gutter.

• Alterations and Additions

- The 1912 Church roof has been replaced in red metal sheeting, and the original roof vents have been lost in the process.
- The 1912 Church has been clad in plastic weatherboard sheeting.
- New flashing has been installed on the gabled parapets of the 1929 Church.
- The doors of the 1929 Church have been painted white.
- Extensive signage is present on the façade of the 1957 Community Hall.

History

• Methodism in the City of Darebin

As established in section 7.1 of the City of Darebin Thematic Environmental History, Methodism was the earliest and most prolific Christian denomination represented in terms of membership and associated church construction in Darebin and its associated suburbs in the nineteenth century, especially in Preston (Context, 2008, 99). Historically, the Methodist church was established on the teachings of Charles and John Wesley, gaining an immense following amongst the poor and lay people of eighteenth-century Ireland, England and Wales. Because of the prevalence of miners who emigrated from these countries in the nineteenth century in search of wealth on the Victorian Goldfields, Methodism was in turn transported into Australia.

So as to ensure their children were trained and instructed in the relevant denomination, it was mandated that every Methodist church had an associated Sunday School (Context, 2008, 100). In Preston, an Irish Wesleyan Methodist named Samuel Jeffrey founded the Preston Wesleyan Methodist Church in his barn in 1852, later building a wooden chapel in 1854. The founding of the Preston Wesleyan Methodist Church marks the strong possibility that the first church established in Darebin was Methodist. Following Jeffrey's wooden chapel were several subsequent Methodist churches founded and constructed across Darebin, including but not limited to the Alphington Uniting Church constructed in 1859, as well as the Northcote Primitive Methodist Church and Northcote Wesleyan Methodists which were both founded in 1854.

By the end of the nineteenth century, several substantial and imposing Methodist churches were present within the City of Darebin. These include: the Primitive Methodist Church (HO145) at 18 Mitchell Street, Northcote, constructed in 1889; the Wesleyan Methodist Church (HO94) at 2 Yann Street, Preston, constructed in 1888-89; the Northcote Uniting Church (Significant graded in HO97) at 249 High Street, Northcote, constructed in 1869, and; the Preston Methodist Church (HO49) constructed on the corner of High and Tyler Streets, Preston, in 1863. On this basis, the high density of Methodist churches represented within the municipality by the late nineteenth century is a broader representation of the strength of the Methodist church in Darebin during this period.

Within the City of Darebin in the early twentieth century, the Methodist Church recognised the need to follow urban development for religious expansionism. This is highlighted in an article published in *The Age* in 1913, stating:

The extension of the outer suburbs of the metropolis is creating conditions calling for statesmanship on the part of church leaders, and the Methodist Church is taking advantage of this movement of the population to follow into these growing suburbs the people of its church with the ordinances of religion. (The Age, 15 August 1913, 9).

Methodism in 20th century Australia was radically changed through the unifying of all separate divisions of the church in 1902— those being the Primitive Methodists, the Bible Christian Church, the United Methodist Free Church, Methodist Connexion Church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The unified church was renamed the Methodist Church of Australasia (Lewis, 1991, 10). Development and construction of Methodist churches in the City of Darebin continued through the early twentieth century and interwar years, particularly as suburban development expanded throughout the municipality, as evidenced by the Croxton Methodist

Church constructed at the corner of St George's Road and Shaftesbury Parade in 1929, and the Reservoir Methodist Church constructed at 34 George Street, Reservoir, in 1934 (HO264). The Methodist Church of Australasia merged with the Presbyterian and Congregational Union of Australian Churches in 1977, in turn forming the Uniting Church of Australia. (The Age, 15 August 1913, 9).

- **Place History**

The Croxton Methodist Church was first established onsite at the corner of St Georges Road and Shaftesbury Parade in 1909, with the initial construction of a Sunday School. The same year, the 1909 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works plan shows no structures present in early 1909, prior to the construction of the Sunday School. However, the updated 1909 MMBW plan records the Sunday School present onsite, fronting Shaftesbury Parade, simply marked "Methodist Church" (Figure 1).

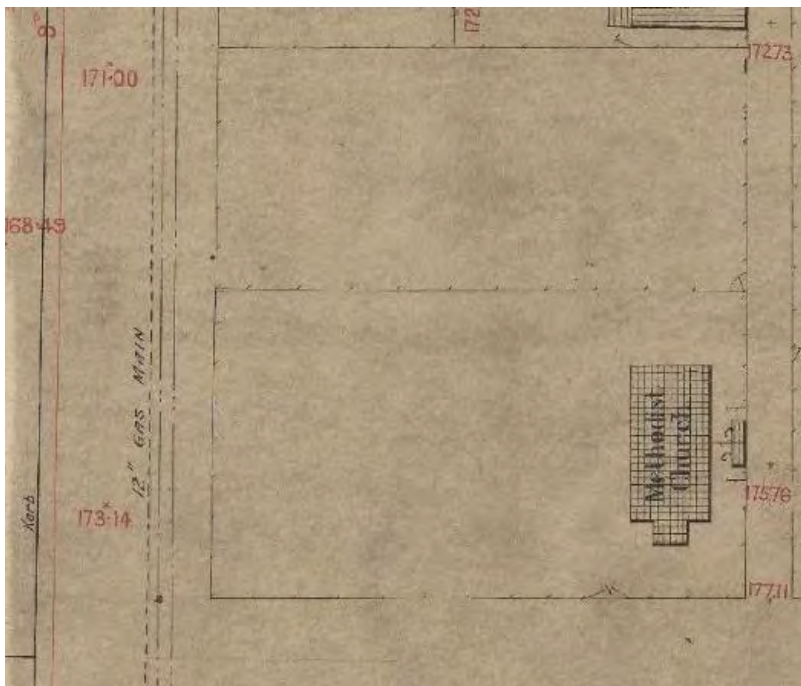


Figure 1. Revised MMBW plan, updated in August 1909, showing the presence of the Methodist Sunday School onsite. *Source:* Public Record Office Victoria, Map No. 12538.

The construction and early development of the site is outlined in Reverend C. Irving Benson's 1935 book, *A Century of Victorian Methodism*, where he establishes:

'At St. George's Road, a church was opened for worship on 30th June, 1891, a class having been established in the preceding month by Mr. Jensen. In a small, weatherboard building, purchased for the purpose, a cause was established at Croxton in 1909, the first services being held on 10th October of that year. More accommodation was soon required, and in August, 1912, a building which had been purchased from the High Street Trust was removed and re-erected.' (Benson, 1935, 406).

Several years later in 1917, the Northcote Leader published that the 'Croxton Methodist Sunday School, corner St. George's Road and Shaftesbury Parade', would be celebrating their seventh anniversary (Northcote Leader, 24 Nov 1917, 2). The Sands and McDougall directory for 1910 does not record the presence of the School, however later in 1915, the Directory notes the presence of a 'Methodist School Hall-Methodist Church' (Sands and McDougall, 1915). This establishes that the 1909 Sunday School served alongside the additional 1912 structure which was re-erected onsite, providing both a Sunday School and a Church for a Methodist congregation. This is further corroborated by an article published by The Age in 1913, three years after the construction of the Sunday School, which states:

'Buildings, that will ultimately serve as school halls, have been, or are being, built on approved sites of ground at Garden Vale, Croxton, Pender's-grove, Ballarat-road and Barclay-street, Footscray, and at West Coburg...' (The Age, 15 August 1913, 9).

Further still, in 1914 the Northcote Leader published:

'CROXTON METHODIST CHURCH – BAZAAR FOR EXTENSION FUND. – Like other congregations in this progressive district the Croxton Methodists are preparing for extension. Some time back they purchased a piece of land adjoining their church, and a bazaar has been arranged with a view of raising funds to pay for it. The bazaar was opened on Thursday evening in the presence of good assemblage, the pastor, Rev. A.M. Thomson introducing the Mayor (Cr. Tharratt) to perform the ceremony...' (Northcote Leader, 5 Dec 1914, 5).

The Church continued to operate from the Sunday School for nineteen years, until enough funds had been donated for the construction of a new church. The foundation stone for the Croxton Methodist Church was laid on the 27th July 1929, with The Age reporting:

'Much interest in Methodist church circles was shown in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Croxton church on Saturday afternoon. It is claimed the building will be among the finest in the denomination's suburban churches. A special feature will be the fifteen stained glass windows severally presented by church members. The women's guild has undertaken to supply a pulpit, and more than £300 has been promised for church furnishings. The foundation stone was laid by the senior trustee, Major Olver, who was supported by other prominent churchmen, in the presence of a large number of church members and friends.' (The Age, 29 Jul 1929, 15).

Following this, on the 23rd of November 1929, The Argus published that two new Methodist churches were to be opened on the 24th, being the former Methodist church at the corner of Balwyn Road and Erica Street designed by Anglican Architect Louis Williams (HO264), and the new Croxton Methodist Church at the corner of St Georges Road and Shaftesbury Parade (The Argus, 23 Nov 1929, 28). The Herald further describes the Church as such:

'Planned to seat approximately 300 people, the new Methodist Church on the corner of St George's Road and Shaftesbury Parade, Croxton, has been completed and will be opened on Saturday afternoon. The church is notable

for stained glass figures which include: The Good Shepherd; St Paul and the disciples; St Mark; St Luke and St John. These windows were designed and erected in Melbourne. Other special features are the pulpit, panelled in fiddleback mountain ash, with communion table, font and choir screen of the same timber, and a candelabrum of hand-wrought iron as a central lighting unit. The site, which is well suited for a church, gains much by its proximity to the new beautification scheme along St. George's Road. Councillor Wm. Olver, of Northcote, is chairman of the committee under whose direction the building was erect. A dedication hymn has been written by Mr. Alex Smith, to be sung at the opening ceremony' (The Herald, 20 Nov 1929, 20).



Figure 2. 1929 view of the Church. Source: The Herald, 20 Nov 1929, 20.



Figure 3. C. 1930s view of the Croxton Methodist Church, looking north. Note the vents on the roof of the Sunday School. *Source:* Social media post (Facebook, Croxton Uniting Church).

The Church was designed by architect G.A. Hiscox. Little can be identified concerning Hiscox, other than his partnership with the preeminent Ballarat firm of Clegg and Miller in the early 1910s. Acting as a representative for the firm out of Horsham, the partnership between Hiscox, Clegg and Miller was dissolved in 1912 (*The Horsham Times*, 9 Aug 1912, 5). No further information concerning Hiscox as an architect can be identified, other than his involvement designing the Croxton Methodist Church.

Occurring concurrently with the construction of the new Church, was the removal and re-erection of both the 1909 Sunday School and 1912 Church. Both buildings were moved to the rear of the property and joined, with the former Church located to the position it now occupies, and the Sunday School adjoining it to the rear (where the toilet block is now located). These works are shown on the blueprints for the works, drawn in 1929 to support the permit application (Figure 4 and Figure 5).

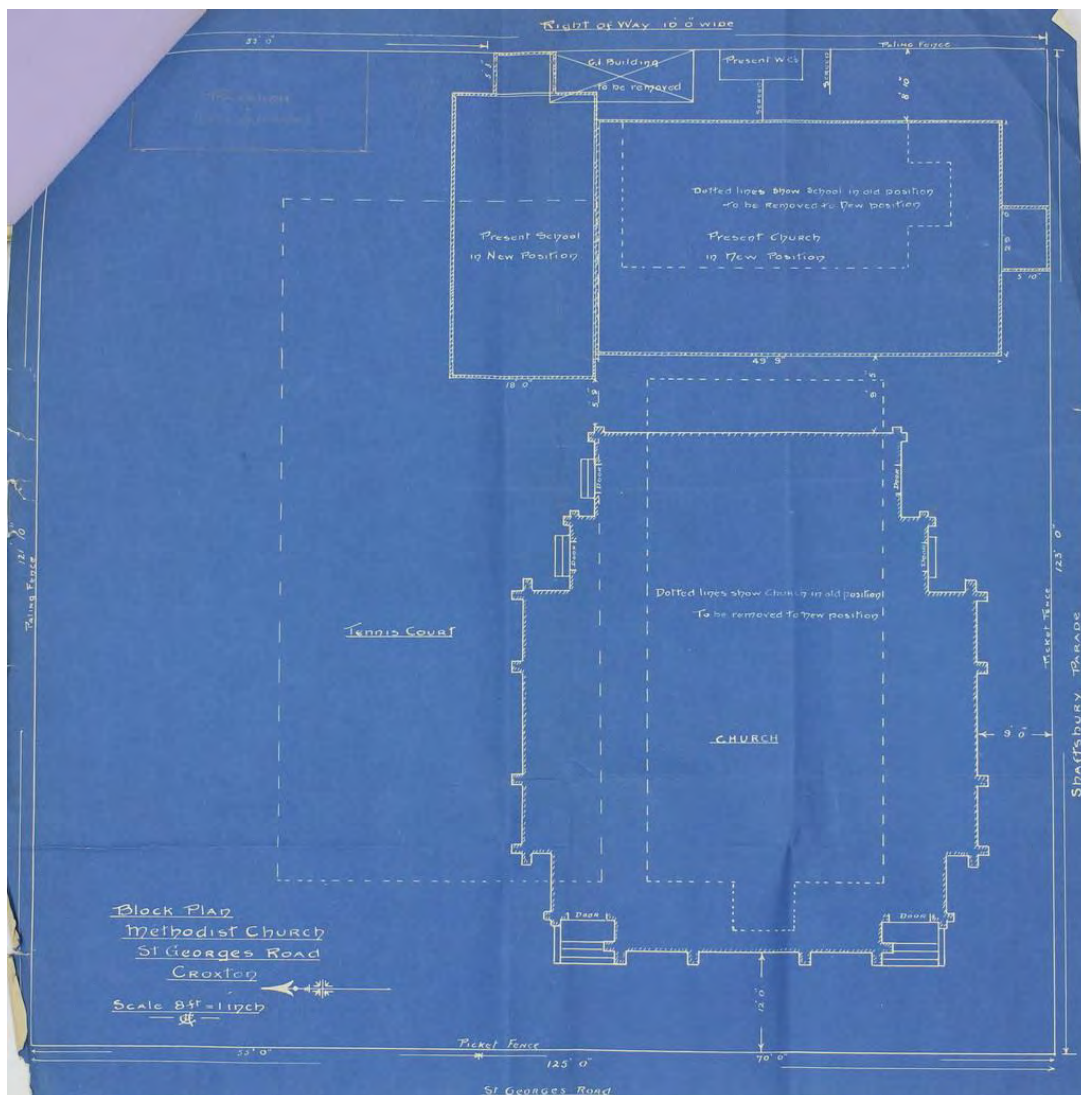


Figure 4. The 1929 plans for removing and re-erecting the 1909 Sunday School and 1912 Church, showing the new footprint of the Church. Source: Public Records Office of Victoria, VPRS 7882/P0001, 2955

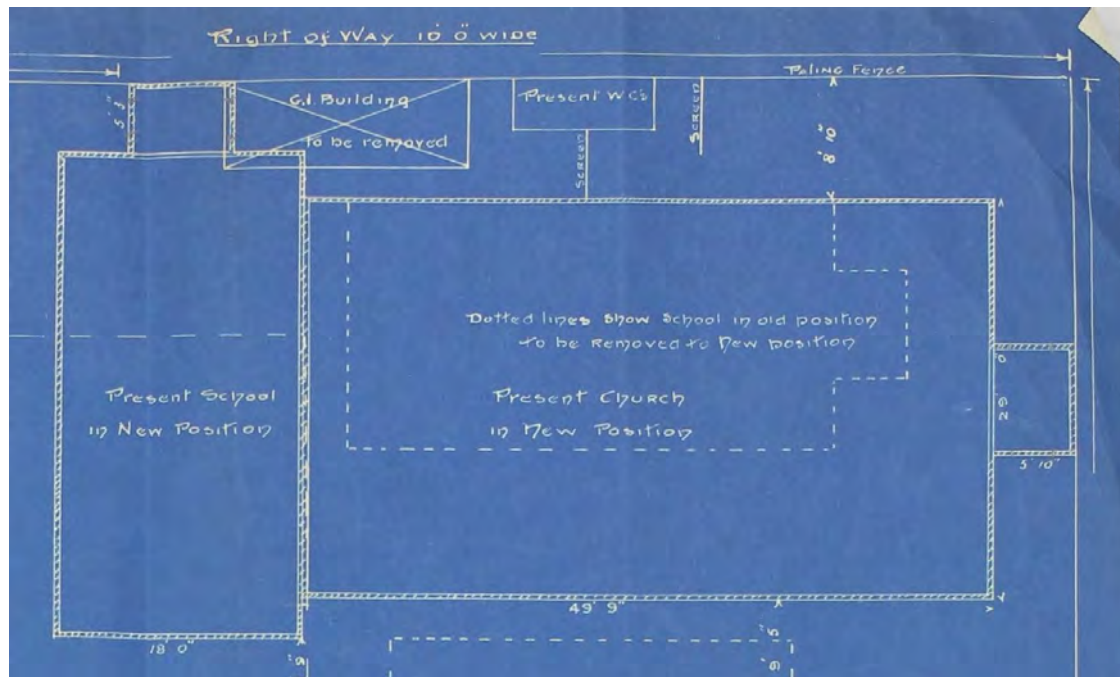


Figure 5. The 1929 plans for removing and re-erecting the 1909 Sunday School and 1912 Church. Source: Records Office of Victoria, VPRS 7882/P0001, 2955

On the 31st July 1938, a new kindergarten was opened onsite behind the Sunday School. The Age published:

'New Kindergarten Opened – Yesterday afternoon a new kindergarten hall was opened for the Croxton Methodist church in St. George's-road, Croxton. The building cost £420, and of this amount about £300 has been paid. The money was raised by the young people of the church. The hall was opened by Rev. E.G. Lechte, now of Shepparton, who was minister at Croxton for five years. The hall has been called the E.G. Lechte memorial hall.' (The Age, 1 Aug 1938, 8).

The Kindergarten is a modestly-sized brick masonry gabled structure located at the rear of the Sunday School. Both the Kindergarten, Sunday School and former Church, and 1929 Church are shown in an aerial photo of the site in 1945 (Figure 6)



Figure 6. December 1945 aerial photo of the site showing the 1929 Church on the corner, with the 1909 and 1912 Hall behind it fronting Shaftesbury Parade, and the newly completed 1938 Kindergarten directly north of the Hall. Source: Landata.

The Croxton Methodist Church, Sunday School and Kindergarten continued to operate successfully from the corner position, in turn expanding further in 1957 with the completion of an additional community hall on the site. The foundation stone reads, 'To the Glory of God this Strong was laid by Rev. H. Palmer Phillips on 13th October 1957'. The hall was designed by Frederick Clarence Armstrong of Mitcham, who would later become known for his hospital designs and ongoing work with the Methodist Church. Designs of the Hall show it including seven classrooms, a stage and a broader hall space (Figure 7). In 1958, the 1909 Sunday School behind the original church building was demolished and an additional toilet block was constructed in its place to designs prepared by FC Armstrong (Figure 8).

The Croxton Methodist Church was subsumed by the Uniting Church following the founding of the Uniting Church of Australia in 1977, which saw the merger of the majority of Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregationalist Union congregations. The Church is still in use by the Uniting Church, who use all structures onsite.

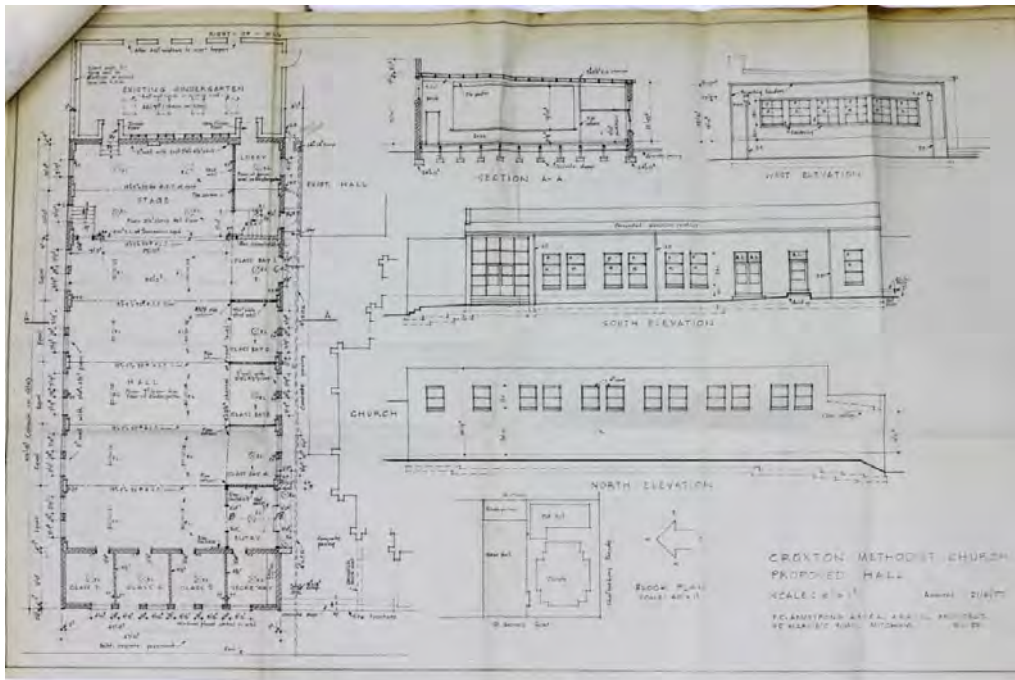


Figure 7. Plans for the 1957 Community Hall. Source: Methodist Sunday School St Georges Road; Croxton, PROV, VPRS 7882/P0001, 2955

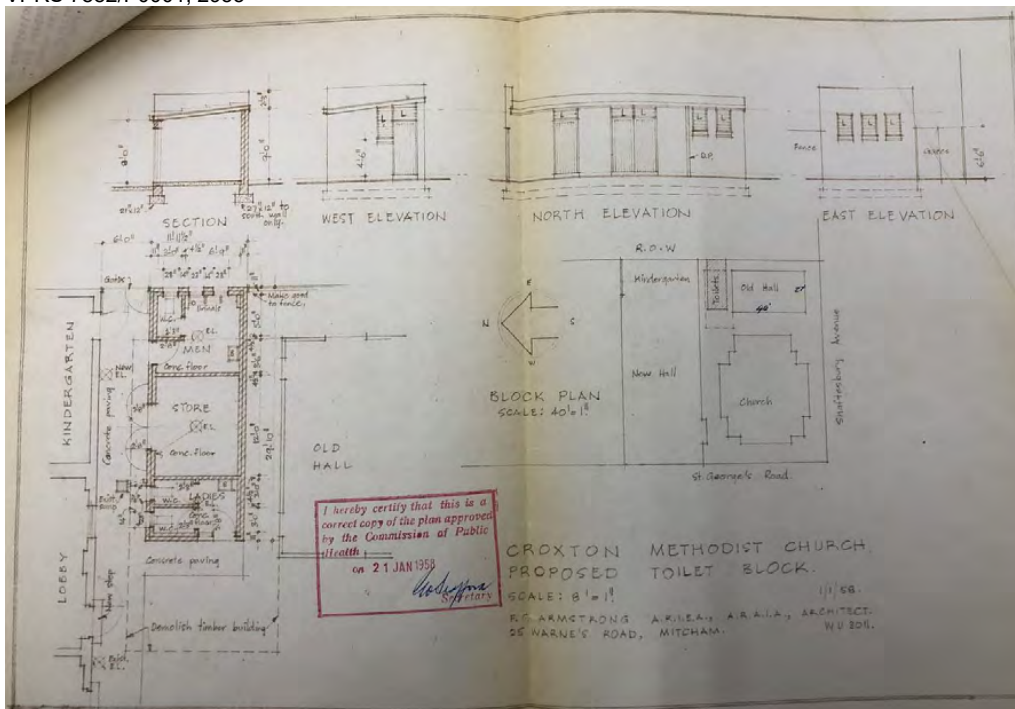


Figure 8. Plans for the 1958 Toilet Block. Source: Methodist Sunday School St Georges Road; Croxton, PROV, VPRS 7882/P0001, 2955

Heritage Citation
Former Croxton Methodist Church, 326-332 St George's Road, Thornbury

Comparative Analysis

The below comparative analysis has been established to draw on other Church of England churches and associated church complexes protected both locally by the City of Darebin Heritage Overlay, as well as unprotected, in order to establish the thresholds for this form of ecclesiastical typology. Comparable examples include:

- **St Paul's Anglican Church and Organ, 88A Station Street, Fairfield (HO190).** The St Paul's Anglican Church and Organ at 88E Station Street, Fairfield, are protected under HO190 for their local significance the City of Darebin. The church is a substantial 1916 Federation-era Gothic Revival church, constructed in red brick masonry with concrete dressings on the bay window and lancet windows. The structure follows the orthodox conservative form of a central gabled hall with two transepts on the western side of the Church. The building compares well with the Former Croxton Methodist Church as two early twentieth century Church of England churches within the City of Darebin, located on major thoroughfares. The Former Croxton Methodist Church however can be considered to better represent the development of twentieth century church complexes in the municipality due to the retention of larger complex of buildings and corner siting, comprising four structures from four distinct waves of development.
- **Thornbury Uniting Church Complex, 7-15 Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury (HO291).** The Thornbury Uniting Church Complex on Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury, is locally significant to the City of Darebin as an intact ecclesiastical complex comprising a Harry Norris Gothic Revival church (1924), a kindergarten (1917-1919) and a former Sunday school hall (1914). The site compares well with the Former Croxton Methodist Church as two ecclesiastical complexes comprising multiple buildings, representing multiple waves of development onsite. Additionally, the main church halls compare as two examples of early 20th century Federation-era Gothic Revival churches. Differences in form relate to the scale of both churches, with the Thornbury Uniting Church constructed around a central gabled hall with projecting transept, where the Croxton church is established around a cruciform layout, with three projecting gables, two of which address the intersection of Shaftesbury Parade and St George's Road. Both sites are considered to be of similar integrity and architectural significance, although the Thornbury example is distinguished through the association with noted architect of the era Harry Norris.
- **Uniting (Former Methodist) Church, 797,799,801-809 Heidelberg Road, Alphington (HO38).** The Uniting Church on Heidelberg Road, Alphington, is locally protected on the City of Darebin Planning Scheme (HO35) as an intact early twentieth century church site with an earlier 1859 bluestone church located onsite. The 20th century church has internally been converted into a private residence with a substantial rear extension. Both buildings compare well as intact face brick former Methodist churches in the City of Darebin. However, the Uniting Church is of lower integrity than the Croxton Church, yet the Uniting Church is of greater architectural significance on account of its elaborate tower.
- **St Georges Greek Orthodox Church, 16 Martin Street, Thornbury.** Also identified in the 2007 City of Darebin Heritage Study Vol. 3. for further investigation, St Georges Greek Orthodox Church, formerly Methodist Church, on the corner of Martin and Armadale Streets Thornbury, is comparable with the Former Croxton Methodist Church as two examples of Former Methodist churches located within Thornbury. Neither church is currently afforded heritage protections. St Georges Greek Orthodox Church has several alterations, including

a new narthex and apse, potentially constructed as part of conversions for its use as a Greek Orthodox Church. However, the rear timber hall is of high integrity. Yet, as two ecclesiastical complexes, the Former Croxton Methodist Church is of higher integrity and architectural significance as an example of Methodist Church due to its cruciform orientation and massing and prominent corner siting on a major thoroughfare. It is acknowledged that the Orthodox Church may be of local heritage significance as an example of a conversion of a church to serve new communities in the municipality in the post-war era, however this separate analysis has not been undertaken.

- **Anglican Church of the Epiphany (Former), 3 Bayview Street, Northcote (HO10).** The former Anglican Church of the Epiphany, designed by the preeminent Anglican Church Architect Louis Williams, is a substantial and aesthetically striking interwar church constructed in 1931 in the Old English Modern Gothic style. The Church establishes the high threshold for ecclesiastical sites within the City of Darebin, with the former Anglican Church representing a high degree of integrity and architectural prominence, located on a raised site with a substantial oblique tower. Projecting gables and a long gabled nave, constructed in clinker bricks with terracotta tiling are key design traits associated with Williams' style. Comparatively, the Former Croxton Methodist Church is considerably more conservative aligning itself more closely with typical typological adherence to the Gothic Revival style. However, both sites are of equal integrity and condition, and though the former Anglican Church is significantly larger, the Former Croxton Church is more closely aligned with a smaller community church. Additionally, both churches occupy prominent settings on major thoroughfares. However, of the two, due to the associative significance of the church with Louis Williams and his interwar Modern Gothic style, the former Anglican Church is considered to be of greater significance than the Former Croxton Church.

The above comparative analysis demonstrates the historical prevalence of Methodist and Church of England congregations in the City of Darebin in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Two of the five above church sites include ephemeral structures relating to the early development of the church complexes, with later additions and expansion also represented. However, none of the sites compare to the integrity and extent of representation the Croxton Methodist Church does, through the intact representation of multiple phases of development - being the 1912 Church, 1929 Church, 1938 Kindergarten and 1957 Community Hall. While several churches within the City of Darebin display more impressive landmark qualities, in contrast, the Croxton Uniting Church demonstrates a highly intact and expressive example of a smaller suburban church complex. While other churches in the municipality may have associations with well-known architects, the Croxton Uniting Church is of equal integrity to these examples and is also architect designed. The church complex provides a notable representative example of the expansion, presence and strength of the Methodist community in Darebin in the early twentieth century.

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NEW CHURCH AT CROXTON. (1929, July 29). *The Age (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954)*, p. 15.

New Kindergarten Opened (1938, August 1). *The Age (Melbourne, Vic. : 1854 - 1954)*, p. 8.

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Limitations

1. Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain as well as desktop resources.
3. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.

Images

1912 Former Church Hall



Northwestern view of the 1912 Former Church Hall. *Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.*



Northwestern view of the Church Hall, showing eastern elevation. *Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.*



Northwestern view of the Church Hall, showing entrance. *Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.*



Northeastern view of the Church Hall, showing covered entrance. *Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.*



Western lancet window on the Church Hall façade. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Eastern lancet window on the Church Hall façade. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

1929 Former Methodist Church



Overview of the Former Croxton Methodist Church façade, looking east. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Oblique overview of the church complex, looking northeast. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Entrance to the Methodist Church, looking southeast. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Entrance to the Methodist Church, looking northeast, showing the western and southern gables. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Detail view of northwestern entrance, looking southeast. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Oblique view of the northern gable. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Stained-glass leadlight window on the façade (western elevation) of the Church. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Stained-glass leadlight window on the façade (western elevation) of the Church. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Stained-glass leadlight window on the southern elevation of the Church. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Oblique overview of the southern elevation and rear of the church. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

Stained-glass leadlight window on the southern elevation of the Church. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Foundation stone for the church located on the façade. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

1938 Kindergarten – ‘E.G. Lechte Memorial Hall’



Oblique overview of the Kindergarten and 1958 toilet block, looking northwest. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Oblique overview of the Kindergarten looking northwest. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Oblique overview of the Kindergarten gable looking northwest. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Oblique overview of the Kindergarten looking southwest. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

1957 Community Hall



Oblique overview of the 1957 Community Hall and the 1929 Church, looking southeast. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Direct view of the Community Hall façade, looking east. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Oblique view of the Community Hall façade, looking northeast. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Overview of the Community Hall entrance, looking northeast. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



View of the Community Hall entrance glazing. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



View of the Community Hall foundation stone. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

Authors

Extent Heritage, 2024.

Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury

Heritage Place: Thornbury Church of Christ
Address: 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury

HO Reference: HO328
Citation status: Draft
Date: 9 May 2024

Designer: Victor G Cook (1926 church corner St Georges Road and Smith Street)
Builder: Unknown

Year of Construction: c1922, 1926



Thornbury Church of Christ, 390—398 St Georges Road, Thornbury, Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Location map and extent of HO

Heritage Group: Religion
Heritage Type: Church

Key Theme: Community and culture
Key Sub-theme: Worshipping

Significance Level: Local

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alteration controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences not exempt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The property at 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury (otherwise known as the Thornbury Church of Christ) is of local heritage significance, including the scale, siting, form, detailing and fenestration of the Gothic Revival style church building incorporating the original c 1922 church into the design of later church building constructed in 1927 .

Later alterations and additions are not significant, including the c 1954 additions and alterations.

How is it significant?

The Thornbury Church of Christ is of local historical, representative and social significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Thornbury Church of Christ is of historical significance as an early inter-war Church of Christ building. Its evolution as embodied in the incorporation of the modest brick church constructed in c1922 into the more impressive Gothic Revival style church constructed in 1927, to a design by local architect Victor G Cook, demonstrates the significant growth of Thornbury in the inter-war period through the increased attendance at the Church. (Criterion A)

The Thornbury Church of Christ is of representative significance as an intact church building which successfully integrated the original c 1922 church building into a later church constructed in 1927. Specifically, the church is of representative significance as an intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church featuring characteristic elements including the gabled roof form with a strong, vertical emphasis, terracotta tiled roof, arched lancet window and door openings, wall buttresses marking the structural bays; window tracery and red brick masonry. (Criterion D)

The Thornbury Church of Christ is of social significance for its special association with the congregation of the Church of Christ in Thornbury, as the centre of worship for over 100 years. The Church of Christ still operates from the church with church and prayer services and a food relief program regularly provided (as at April 2024). (Criterion G)

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i>	The Thornbury Church of Christ is of historical significance as an early inter-war Church of Christ building. Its evolution as embodied in the incorporation of the modest brick church constructed in c 1922 into the more impressive Gothic Revival style church constructed in 1927 to a design by local architect Victor G Cook clearly demonstrates the significant growth of the Thornbury in the inter-war period.
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B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i>	The place does not meet this criterion
C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history</i>	The place does not meet this criterion
D	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i>	The Thornbury Church of Christ is of representative significance as an intact church building which is an example of a church which successfully integrated the original c 1922 church building into a later church constructed in 1927. The church is of representative significance as a reasonably intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church featuring characteristic elements including the gabled roof form with a strong, vertical emphasis, arched lancet window and door openings; wall buttresses marking the structural bays; window tracery and red brick masonry.
E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	The place does not meet this criterion
F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</i>	The place does not meet this criterion
G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions</i>	The Thornbury Church of Christ has social significance for its special association with the congregation of the Church of Christ in Thornbury for social and spiritual reasons as the centre of worship for the Church of Christ congregation in Thornbury for over 100 years, noting that the Church of Christ still operates from the church with church and prayer services and a food relief program regularly provided (as at April 2024).
H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i>	The place does not meet this criterion

Description

• Physical Analysis

The Church of Christ, located at 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury comprises two attached structures constructed at different points in the 1920s. Together they form a cohesive ecclesiastical structure.

Church of Christ (c 1922)

On the east side of the site (facing Smith Street) is a rectilinear red brick building, constructed in c 1922, with a gable roof form, oriented south with a red galvanized iron roof, a central arched doorway flanked by minimalist red brick columns and lancet arched windows. These windows have simple white geometric window transoms and mullions and rendered window sills painted white, reinterpreting Gothic style motifs in a minimalist manner. The words 'Church of Christ' are painted in white on the front façade of the c 1922 building in a minimalist font, in keeping with the minimalist design of the c1922 building.

Church of Christ (1927)

In 1927, a larger building (attached to the western side of the c 1922 building) was constructed on the site. It is a masonry structure with a gabled roof clad in Marseilles terracotta tiles typical of the early inter-war era. The building is distinguished by its broad, gable fronted form derived from the Gothic Revival idiom, having lancet arched windows, red brick construction, columns to the north and south corners surmounted with crenulated finishes and buttresses. The façade of the gable ended building (facing St George's Road) is distinguished by its central arched leadlight window, flanked by two smaller arched leadlight windows, all having cement rendered tracery in simple geometric shapes, adding decorative detail and richness to the façade and creating a sense of verticality to the building. A central door to the front façade is covered with a porch and there is an arched entrance door to the side (south elevation). The cement render tracery and other cement rendered elements of the building are painted white. The side elevation (to Smith Street) retains its red brick finish and is characterised by buttresses and consistently spaced lancet arched windows with leadlight glass. The cement rendered elements are painted white, contrasting with the red brick masonry.

The buildings are surrounded by concrete paving to the street, with some street trees in Smith Street filtering views towards the building from the south-west. Prominently located on a corner, the building fronts St Georges Road to the west and Smith Street to the south. The building is in good condition and is of modest integrity overall.

• Alterations and Additions

- New front door to 1927 building on west elevation (c 1954);
- New front porch and awning to 1927 building on west elevation (date unknown);
- Brick extension 1927 church (c 1954);
- Metal awning to north side of 1927 church (date unknown);
- Cement wheelchair ramp to access southern side of 1927 building (date unknown);
- New front door and cement wheelchair ramp to c 1922 building (date unknown);
- New porch to entrance to c1922 building (date unknown).

History

• Historical Context

The area presently known as the City of Darebin is the traditional home of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. Formerly characterised by pre-contact grassy and flowering woodlands, and basalt rocky banks of the Merri Creek (Merri Merri), the abundant habitat provided Traditional Owners access to a range of water, plant and animal resources integral to their way of life. The onset of colonialism had a devastating impact on the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, and by 1840, all of the land comprising present day Darebin had been taken up by graziers or land prospectors (City of Darebin 2024).

Despite decades of ongoing dispossession, the rich cultural heritage of the Traditional Owners in Darebin has enduring presence to this day. Through continued resistance and the passing down of Indigenous knowledge, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people maintain ongoing connection to, and care for Country.

European colonial settlement in what would become the suburb of Thornbury grew gradually following the 1838-40 Crown Land Sales, which saw the area on either side of the Merri Creek subdivided into long, narrow allotments for farming purposes (Lemon 1983). While Melbourne's 1880s land boom saw urban boundaries pushed out and the erection of a bridge with vehicular access over the Merri Creek at St George's Road in 1886, dense residential and commercial development in Thornbury only truly gained momentum in the early twentieth century following the opening of the direct railway line from Melbourne to Thornbury in 1904 and the subsequent establishment of brickworks in the area and the neighboring suburbs of Preston and Northcote (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 28).

More significant population growth took place following World War I, as shops along High Street began to merge with those in Croxton and the northern extent of Northcote (City of Darebin 2024). Residential development rapidly ballooned during this period, and was accompanied by the establishment of more ornate Church buildings and associated religious institutions. These buildings either replaced more modest structures dating from the late nineteenth century, or comprised entirely new developments to accommodate the suburb's growing population (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 69-71). Irrespective, they tended to reflect Thornbury's prevailing English, Irish and Scottish demographic of the period.

Population growth and migration in the post-war period not only saw further transformation to Thornbury's streetscapes in the form of infill development, but also in the form of new Church buildings and congregations that were established by the suburb's growing Italian and Greek communities (City of Darebin 2024). This trend was replicated again during the 1970s-90s, which saw further diversification stemming from migration from Eastern Europe, West Asia and South Asia, and the subsequent emergence of late twentieth century places of worship associated with their respective religious beliefs (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 24-25).

The congregation of the Church of Christ was a minority in Darebin, and it was late to establish its churches in comparison with other denominations. The Churches of Christ was an evangelical revivalist denomination of American origin (Context Pty Ltd, 103). In Australia, the earliest congregations of the Church of Christ were formed in South Australia in the mid nineteenth century. They were part of the Stone-Campbell movement, which advocated

Christian unity through the restoration of New Testament practice and which sought independence from denominations and religious creeds (Churches of Christ). In the early twentieth century, Churches of Christ in Australia grew considerably. There were just 24, 000 members in the 1901 census. By 1921, their numbers had increased to 54,500, peaking as a percentage of the Australian population at one percent (Churches of Christ).

In 1902, the Church of Christ formed a church in Preston. In 1911, the members expressed the enthusiasm of the new age through the American tradition of building a church in one day (Context Pty Ltd, 103). On Saturday 23 March, 150 people worked on building a timber Church of Christ chapel in High Street, Preston, and by midnight it was finished. The first service was held the following morning. It is believed to be the first church in Australia to be built in a day (Context Pty Ltd, 103). A Church of Christ was also built in Northcote on the corner of Bastings Street and Prospect Grove (now demolished). It was the church in which the Aboriginal pastor and activist Dough Nicholls, a significant figure in the history of Darebin was converted to Christianity. In 1939, Nicholls became a Church of Christ pastor, and began his Ministry to the Fitzroy Aboriginal community (Context Pty Ltd, 104).

- [Place History](#)

The Thornbury Church of Christ was founded in c1922, with the construction of a brick church facing Smith Street (The Age. 17 April 1926, 19). The first brick church appears to have been constructed generally to plans approved by the Board of Health Department in 1922, as depicted at Figure 1 below.

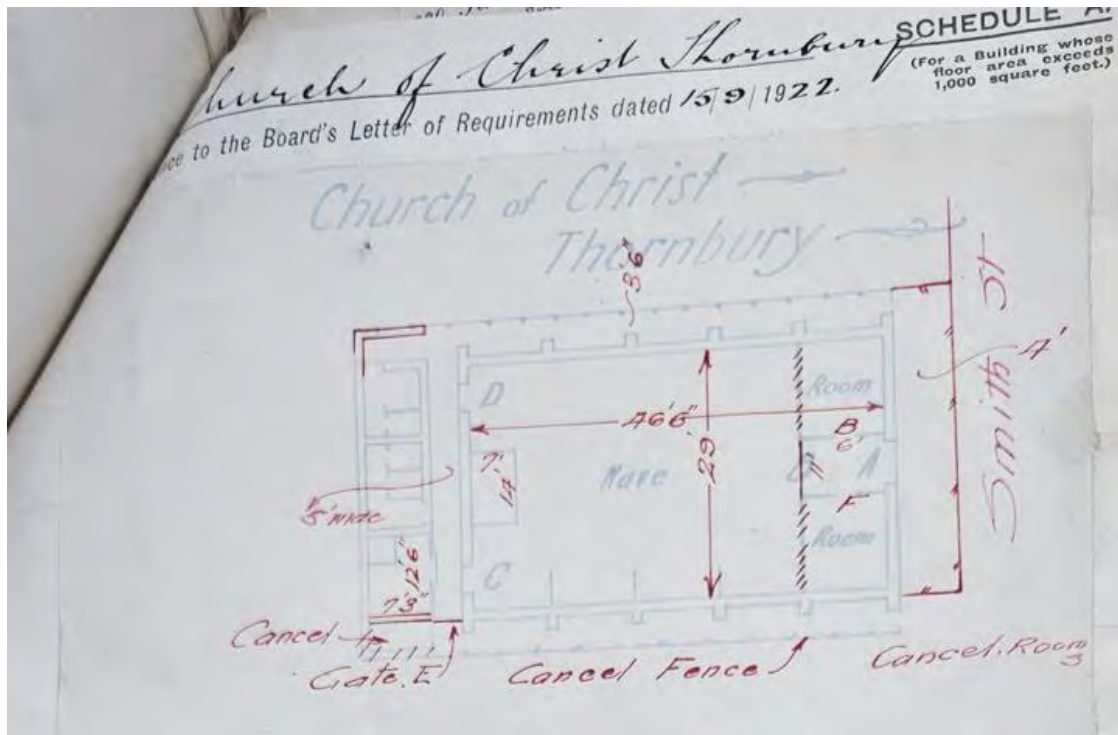


Figure 1 Plan showing layout of the first Church of Christ Thornbury dated 15 September 1922. Source Public Records Office VPRS 782/P0001, 5928.

On the first Sunday after the Church of Christ was established at Thornbury, there were twenty-four scholars in the Sunday School (*The Age*. 27 June 1925, 15). Five years later the Church of Christ at Thornbury had a membership of almost 200, with over 300 children in Sunday school (*The Argus*. 20 April 1926, 5). In response to the growing membership, a new brick Church of Christ building was proposed in 1926, as the original c1922 church became inadequate for their needs (*The Argus*. 14 December 1926, 20). The existing brick church on the site was not pulled down. Instead, it was incorporated into the new church which was designed by architect Victor G Cook.

As shown in the extract from the original floor plan drawn by Victor G Cook at Figure 2, the new church designed by Victor G Cook incorporated vestries, a supper room and internal access to the existing building via folding doors. It was attached to the western side of the existing church, as depicted in Figure 2 below. In 1927 the work was completed (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001, 5928), and it was reported that 'The foundation stone of a new Church of Christ at Thornbury (Vic) was laid recently' (*Construction and Local Government Journal*. 30 March 1927, 18). The front and south elevations of the church extension drawn by Victor G Cook are shown at Figure 3 and Figure 4 below.

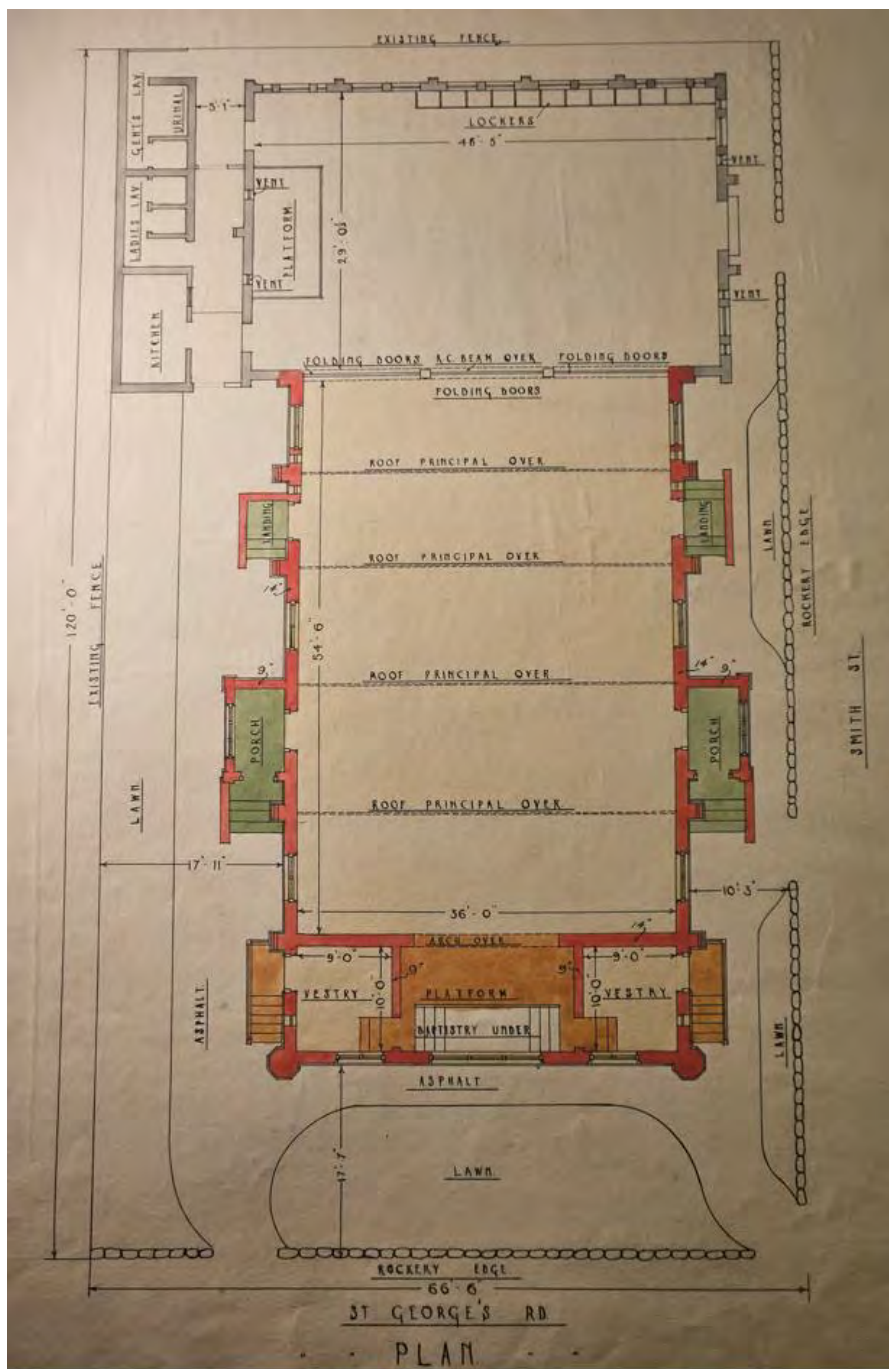


Figure 2 Extract from Floor Plan of Church of Christ, Thornbury, 1926, by Victor G Cook showing Church of Christ church (outlined in grey) constructed in c 1922 and church extension (outlined in colour). Source: State Library of Victoria.

Heritage Citation
 Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury



Figure 3 Front Elevation of the Church of Christ, Thornbury, 1926, by Victor G Cook showing Church of Christ church. Source: State Library of Victoria.



Figure 4 Side (south) Elevation of the Church of Christ, Thornbury, 1926, by Victor G Cook showing the Church of Christ constructed in c 1922 without colour and the 1927 extension designed by Victor G Cook in colour. Source: State Library of Victoria.

In c1928, alterations were made to the Thornbury Church of Christ including construction of a kitchen to the northern side of the first building (see Figure 5 and Figure 6), and in 1929, part of the building was used for the purposes of a kindergarten and gymnasium (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001, 5928) as well as for worshipping.

In 1946, the Thornbury Church of Christ celebrated its 25th anniversary. A newspaper article detailing the celebrations stated that 'The church has had a successful history. The property is paid for and the church plans to spend 5000 pounds soon in building extensions' (The Herald. 29 May 1946, 6).

Internal and external alterations proposed to the buildings in the mid-twentieth century included an application in 1949 to build a three storey structure to the rear (east) of the second church (as depicted at Figure 7 below). This proposal was rejected due to its height and impact on surrounding residential properties (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001, 5928).

As depicted at Figure 8, Figure 9 and Figure 10 below, in c1954 more modest alterations and additions were made to the building to a design of architect J Wallings including:

- the construction of new front steps and a new doorway entrance with porch above on the front (western) facade of the 1927 part of the building;
- additions to the north of the 1927 part of the building comprising a 'mothers room' and store;
- additions to the northern side of the c 1922 part of the building including a kitchen, and bathrooms.

The sketch plan at Figure 11 shows the layout of the church in 1955, following mid twentieth century additions and alterations.

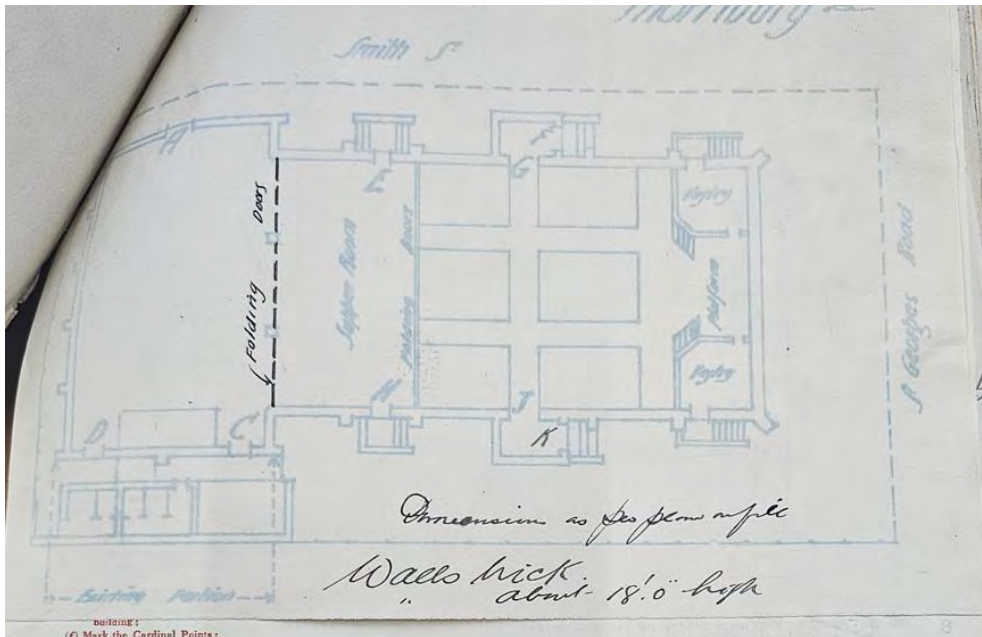


Figure 5 Plan showing layout of the extension to the Church of Christ Thornbury. Source Public Records Office VPRS 7882/P0001, 5928

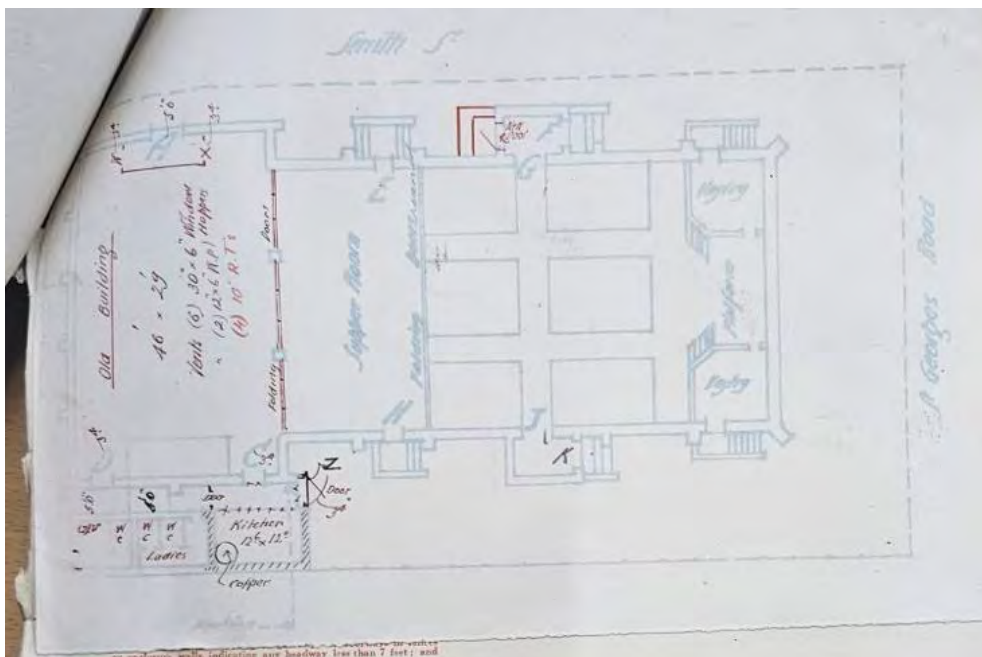


Figure 6 Plan c 1928 showing kitchen proposed for construction on the north side of the first Church of Christ, Thornbury (north is to the bottom of the page). Source Public Records Office VPRS 7882/P0001, 5928

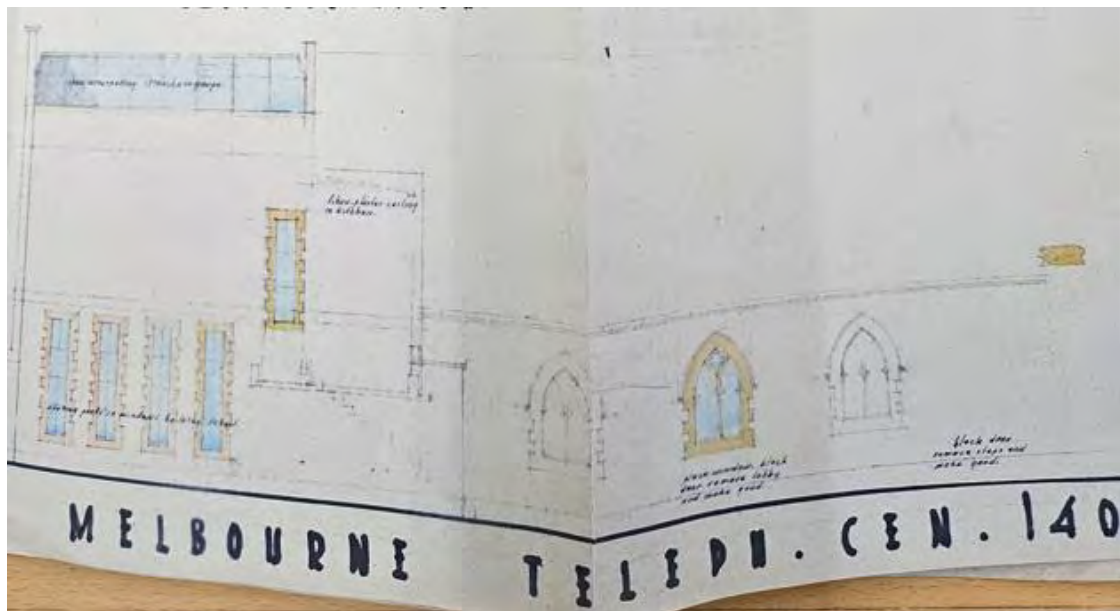


Figure 7 Plan of 1949 proposal for a three storey addition to Church of Christ, Thornbury (later rejected). Source Public Records Office VPRS 782/P0001, 5928.



Figure 8 West elevation of c 1954 proposal for alterations to front (west) façade of the Church of Christ, Thornbury. Source Public Records Office VPRS 782/P0001, 5928.

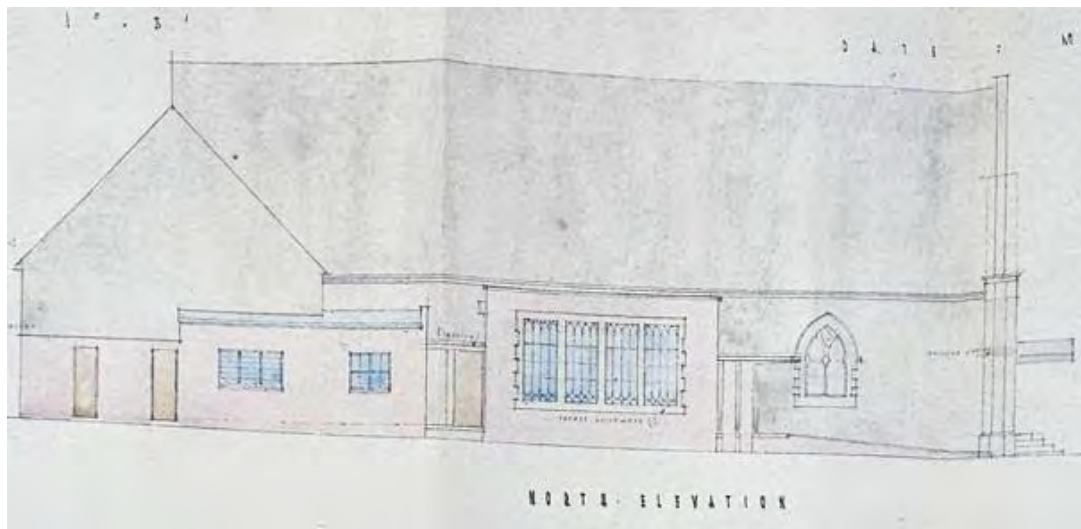


Figure 9 North elevation of c 1954 proposal for alterations to the northern façade of the Church of Christ, Thornbury. Source Public Records Office VPRS 782/P0001, 5928.

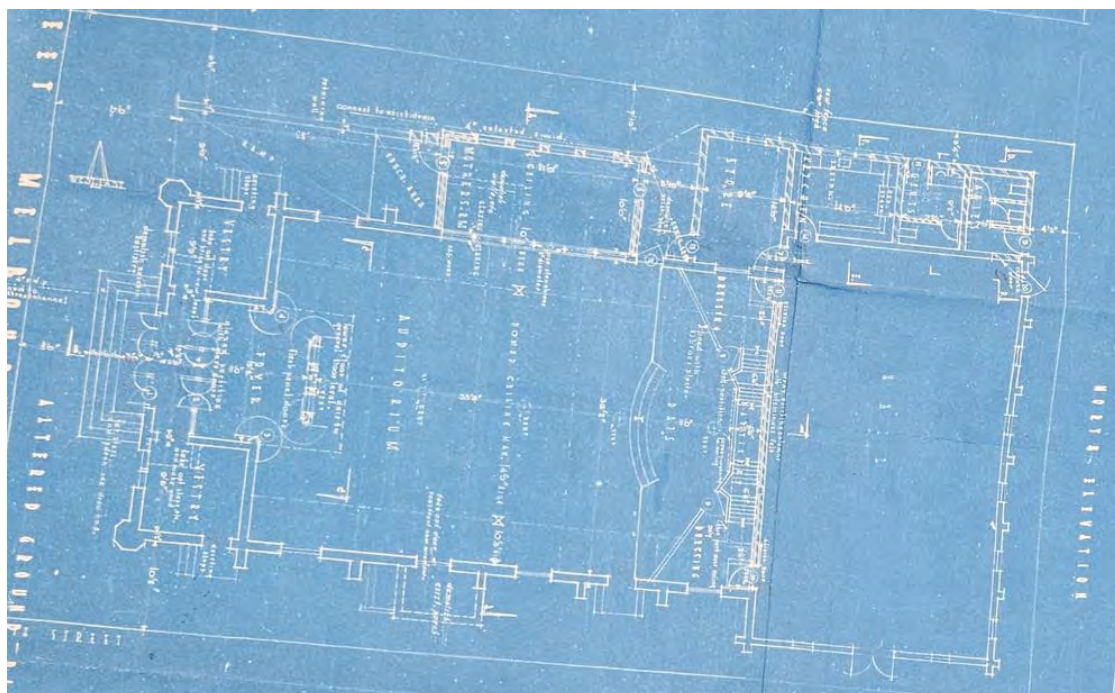


Figure 10 Floor plan showing of c 1954 proposal for alterations to front (west) façade and additions on north elevation (north is to the top of the page), Church of Christ, Thornbury. Source Public Records Office VPRS 782/P0001, 5928.

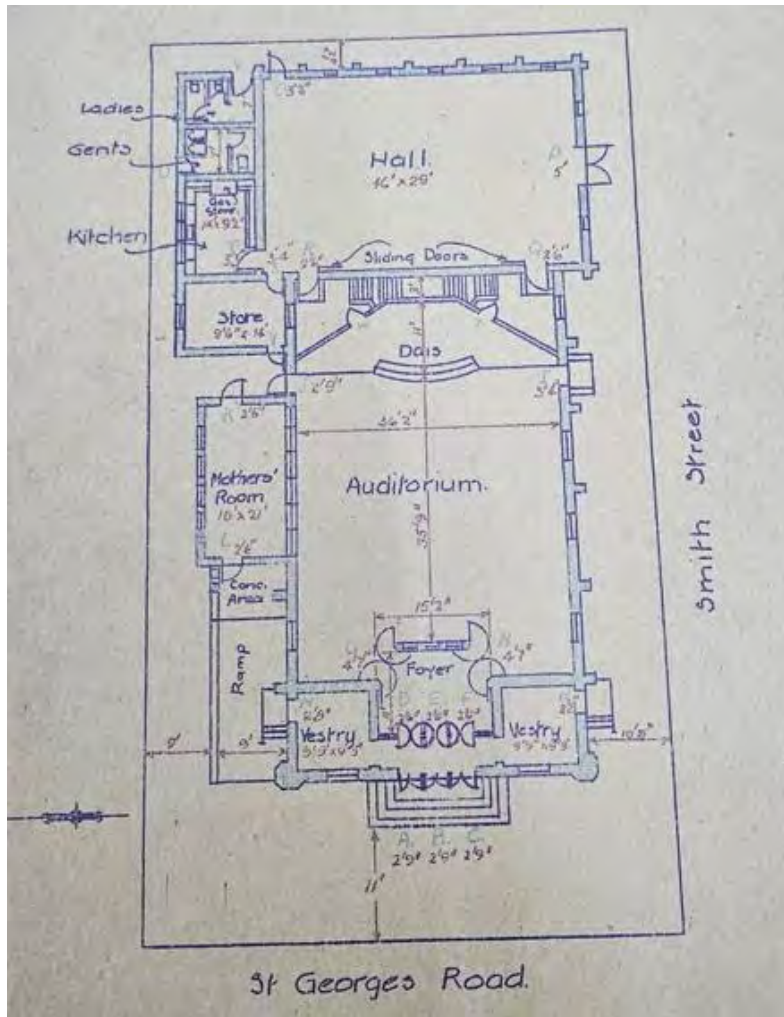


Figure 11 1955 sketch plan showing layout of the Church of Christ, Thornbury. Source Public Records Office VPRS 782/P0001, 5928.

Further (undated) alterations have been made to the buildings including construction of porches to the front entrance door on the western elevation, and the easternmost entrance on the southern elevation, together with the construction of a metal awning on the northern side of the building, visible from St Georges Road and wheelchair access ramps.

As of 2024, the building continues to remain in use by the Church of Christ, with church and prayer services and a food relief program regularly provided. A non-profit social enterprise trailer café is located at the front of the Church of Christ with profits being used for community meals programs (as at April 2024).

- **Victor G. Cook**

Victor G Cook (1889-1977) was a long-time Essendon resident. His parents Robert and Martha Cook lived in Essendon from the 1850s. It appears that Victor G Cook started his career as an engineer, assisting architect Leslie Perrott with the design of a concrete house in Essendon in 1914. In 1924 he designed the New Ascot Theatre on Union Road, Ascot Vale, and in 1925 the Southern Cross Theatre and Church of Christ, both in Essendon. In 1927 he designed the new Broadmeadows Shire Office (now demolished (Hermes Orion, South Essendon).

Comparative Analysis

The Church of Christ Thornbury is an ecclesiastical building which is prominently located on the corner of St Georges Road and Smith Street in Thornbury. It is distinguished by its broad gable fronted façade to St Georges Road together with the smaller gable fronted façade to Smith Street. While it is simply detailed (see comparative examples below) its evolution from a small, simple church building constructed in c 1922 into a larger church as embodied in the construction of the 1927 church (together with the mid twentieth century alterations) which clearly demonstrate the growth of the Church of Christ in Thornbury during the inter-war period, and its ongoing role as a place of worship into the twenty-first century.

The Church of Christ, Thornbury can be compared to the following:

- **St Pauls Anglican Church and Organ, 88E Station Street, Fairfield (HO190).** The St Pauls Anglican Church generally compares with the Church of Christ Thornbury in terms of form, materials and style. As with the Church of Christ Thornbury, it is an early twentieth century church in the Gothic Revival idiom, constructed in 1916 with a gable roof clad in slate tile. The street facing elevation is brick and a parapet conceals the church's roof. It features windows with stone dressings and a stained glass window in the Gothic-Revival style. There are cement mouldings around the arched lancet window and door openings. It also features cement rendered buttresses and an arched doorway to access the building. The building compares with the Church of Christ Thornbury as an example of an early twentieth century churches prominently located on major thoroughfare and characterised by a gabled roof form with a strong, vertical emphasis, arched lancet window and door openings, wall buttresses marking the structural bays, window tracery and red brick masonry.
- **Thornbury Uniting Church Complex, 7-15 Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury (HO291).** The Thornbury Uniting Church Complex is locally significant as an intact ecclesiastical complex comprising a Harry Norris Gothic Revival church (1924), a kindergarten (1917-1919) and a former Sunday School Hall (1914). The 1924 brick church generally compares with the Church of Christ Thornbury, in terms of form, materiality and style. As with the 1926 element of the Church of Christ, Thornbury, the 1924 brick church at the Thornbury Uniting Church Complex has steeply pitched front facing gables, wall buttresses marking the structural bays, pointed arches to the windows and doors, terracotta tiled roof cladding and prominent leadlight windows. Differences in form relate to the decorative elements of the porch present at the Thornbury Uniting Church. As a small church complex, the Thornbury Uniting Church Complex is representative of the expansion of the Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church in the City of Darebin in the early twentieth century in three separate buildings. Whilst of

comparable significance to the Thornbury Uniting Church complex, the original brick Church of Christ building at Thornbury (constructed c1922) was incorporated into the overall structure of Church of Christ, Thornbury constructed in 1927, representing the expansion of the Church of Christ within the City of Darebin in the early twentieth century in one single building, rather than in a small complex of buildings (as is the case at the Thornbury Uniting Church Complex).

- **Essendon Church of Christ, 52 Buckley Street, Essendon (Moonee Valley City HO410).** The Essendon Church of Christ comprises a red brick church constructed in c.1924-1925 to designs by local architect Victor G Cook in the Gothic Revival style. It compares to the Thornbury Church of Christ in terms of its form, style, materiality and architect. The Essendon Church of Christ and the 1927 element of the Church of Christ Thornbury both feature similar steeply pitched front facing gables with a vertical emphasis, buttresses to the walls, pointed arches to the windows, high quality red brick masonry and prominent decorative leadlight windows. Differences in form relate to the integration of the original church constructed in c1922 into the design of the expanded Church of Christ, Thornbury constructed in 1927. Of the two, the Thornbury Church of Christ appears to be less intact owing to alterations and additions carried out in the mid-twentieth century and the porches on the west and south elevations over the doors to the entrances.

Considering the above, the Church of Christ, Thornbury not only retains its legibility as an early twentieth century Church of Christ building, but it is of particular interest due to its capacity to illustrate the urban settlement patterns in the City of Darebin, including the rapid growth of Thornbury in the early twentieth century. The Church of Christ, Thornbury is also of interest due to its capacity represent an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church featuring characteristic elements including the gabled roof form with a strong, vertical emphasis, arched lancet window and door openings, wall buttresses marking the structural bays, window tracery and red brick masonry. The Church of Christ, Thornbury also retains its legibility as an active place of worship and Christian ministry having retained this role in Thornbury for over 100 years, in circumstances where declining church attendance has made many churches in Darebin redundant.

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Hermes Orion, Statement of Significance for Former South Essendon Primitive Methodist Church and Halls Church of Christ, 52 Buckley Street, Essendon (website: https://orion.heritage.vic.gov.au/places/196403/historical_notes).

Heritage Citation

Thornbury Church of Christ, 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury

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The Age. *Churches*. 27 June 1925, 15.

The Argus. *Church News*. 20 April 1926, 5.

The Argus. *New Church at Thornbury*. 14 December 1926, 20.

The Herald. *Thornbury Church Anniversary*. 29 May 1946, 6

Limitations

1. Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.

Further Images



View from Smith Street of south elevation of Thornbury Church of Christ.



View from Smith Street (south) of façade of original Thornbury Church of Christ constructed c 1922.



View from Smith Street of south elevation of Thornbury Church of Christ. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



View from Smith Street showing the original element of the place constructed in c 1922 in foreground. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



View from south of south elevation of showing fenestration. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Wider angle view from south of south elevation of showing fenestration. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



View from south showing column on the south corner surmounted with crenulated finishes. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.



View from north showing column on the north corner surmounted with crenulated finishes. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.

Authors

Citation prepared by: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street, Preston

Heritage Place: Former Preston Church of Christ

Address: 220 High Street, Preston

Designer: Unknown

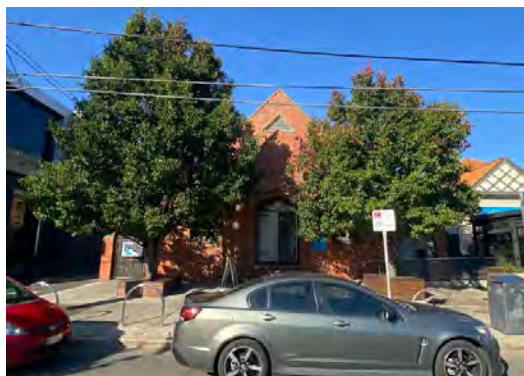
Builder: Unknown

HO Reference: HO329

Citation status: Draft

Date Updated: 9 May 2024

Year of Construction: 1911, 1953



Former Preston Church of Christ.



Location map and extent of HO

Heritage Group: Religion

Heritage Type: Church

Significance Level: Local

Key Theme: 7. Community and Culture

Key Sub-theme: 7.1 Worshipping

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy systems controls apply

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The property at 220 High Street, Preston (otherwise known as the Former Preston Church of Christ) is of local heritage significance, including the façade, scale, siting, form, detailing and fenestration of the Post-War, ultra-simplified version of a Gothic Revival church, incorporating the frame of the original 1911 church into the later church building constructed in 1953. Later alterations and additions are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Former Preston Church of Christ is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Former Preston Church of Christ is of historical significance as a post-war church building. Its evolution as embodied in the incorporation of the frame of the modest weatherboard church constructed in 1911 into the larger ultra simplified Gothic Revival style church constructed in 1953 demonstrates the significant growth of Preston in the early to mid-twentieth century. The Former Preston Church of Christ is also of historical interest as elements of the original church (the frame and corrugated iron roof) were retained when additions and alterations were made to the church in 1953, noting that the original weatherboard church built on the site in 1911 was said to be the first church in Australia 'built in one day' on 25 March 1911. (Criterion A).

The Former Preston Church of Christ is of representative significance as an intact church building which successfully integrated the frame and roof of the original church building into a later church constructed in 1953. Specifically, the church is of representative significance as an intact example of a Post-War, ultra-simplified version of a Gothic Revival church, incorporating simplified elements of the Gothic Revival style, featuring characteristic elements including the gable ended form, arched window and door openings, wall buttresses marking the structural bays and quality red brick masonry. (Criterion D)

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i>	The Former Preston Church of Christ is of historical significance as a Post-War Church of Christ building. Its evolution as embodied in the incorporation of the frame of the original 1911 church into the ultra simplified Gothic Revival style church constructed in 1953 clearly demonstrates the significant growth of Preston in the early to mid twentieth century.
B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i>	The place does not meet this criterion
C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history</i>	The place does not meet this criterion

Heritage Citation

Former Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street, Thornbury

Page | 2

D	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i>	The Former Preston Church of Christ is of representative significance as an intact church building which is an example of a church which successfully integrated the frame and roof of the original c 1911 church building into a later church constructed in 1953. The church is of representative significance as an intact example of a pared back, Post War ultra-simplified Gothic Revival style church featuring characteristic elements including the gabled ended form, arched window and door openings; wall buttresses marking the structural bays and good quality red brick masonry.
E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	The place does not meet this criterion
F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</i>	The place does not meet this criterion
G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions</i>	The place does not meet this criterion
H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i>	The place does not meet this criterion

Description

• Physical Analysis

The Former Preston Church of Christ is a mid-twentieth century church building, constructed in the Post-War ultra-simplified Gothic Revival idiom. The building presents a modest, rectangular massing and extends to the rear with a lower pitched roof section and an even lower L-shaped section. The structure is characterised by its symmetrical front façade, face red brick, corrugated iron pitched roofs, open gable, and projecting front porch.

The projecting front porch exhibits a unique design with a pitched roof which steps and slopes down to its sides and a front brick wall which follows the line of the roof, forming the shape of a half star. The front wall extends beyond the width of the front porch and the extended sections house a doorway on each side. The doorways comprise wrought iron gates that provide entry down the sides of the building. The porch itself comprises a central doorway approached by a

stepped entry with metal balustrades and flanked by a window on either side. The door, windows and doorways all conclude with a Tudor arch. The central doorway is framed by expressed brick detailing that culminates at the top with a triangular arch and a deeply inset double door with a finely detailed transom window. The windows are timber framed, multipaned double hung sash windows with transom windows similar in design to that over the central door.

The large open gable of the church building is situated behind the front porch and is characterised by two buttressed piers and a triangular gable window. Similar to the front brick wall of the porch, the gable wall is extruded slightly beyond the rectangular form of the remainder of the building. The side elevations of the front section include equally spaced buttressed piers with equally distanced narrow, multipaned, lancet arch windows in between.

The lower pitched roof section of the building is enveloped to the north and east by the L-shaped section. The portions visible from the rear laneway include the southern elevation with its multipaned sash windows and the eastern elevation with a rectangular gable window. The L-shaped section is the lowest in height and includes a flat roof, stepped parapet, multipaned sash windows to its northern elevation and smaller fixed windows to its eastern and southern elevations.

The building is setback from High Street with a paved concrete area comprising two trees with planter box seating. A ramp has been added to the north of the building whilst a metal awning connects the building to the neighbouring house to the south. Besides the minor contemporary additions as listed below, the building overall is in good condition and of high integrity.

- **Alterations and Additions**

- Internal alterations to church building (1983).
- Addition of a ramp to the north (date unknown).
- Addition of varied, miscellaneous signage to the front façade (date unknown).
- Landscape works to the front, including the addition of the two trees (c.2009).
- Addition of a shutter door behind the wrought iron gate to the south (to the right in terms of the front façade) (c.2014).
- Addition of a ramp to the front of the site, extending to the neighbouring property (2019).
- Addition of solar panels to the pitched and flat roofs to the rear (2017 and 2022).

History

- **Historical Context**

The area presently known as the City of Darebin is the traditional home of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. Formerly characterised by pre-contact grassy and flowering woodlands, and basalt rocky banks of the Merri Creek (Merri Merri), the abundant habitat provided Traditional Owners access to a range of water, plant and animal resources integral to their way of life. The onset of colonialism had a devastating impact on the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, and by 1840, all of the land comprising present day Darebin had been taken up by graziers or land prospectors (City of Darebin 2024).

Despite decades of ongoing dispossession, the rich cultural heritage of the Traditional Owners in Darebin has enduring presence to this day. Through continued resistance and the passing

down of Indigenous knowledge, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people maintain ongoing connection to, and care for Country.

European colonial settlement in what would become the suburb of Preston grew gradually following the 1838-40 Crown Land Sales, which saw the area on either side of the Merri Creek subdivided into long, narrow allotments for farming purposes (Lemon 1983). Development gradually took off during Melbourne's 1880s land boom, which saw urban boundaries pushed out, farms subdivided, and the establishment of a railway line from Collingwood to Whittlesea via Preston in 1889 (City of Darebin 2024).

While development was stalled by the 1890s Depression, the establishment of brickworks and other industry in the suburb during the early twentieth century culminated in significant growth in Preston by the interwar period (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 28). Residential and commercial development rapidly ballooned during this period, and was accompanied by the establishment of more ornate Church buildings and their associated religious institutions. These buildings typically replaced more modest structures dating from the late nineteenth century, or comprised entirely new developments to accommodate the suburb's growing population (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 69-71). Irrespective, they tended to reflect Preston's prevailing English, Irish and Scottish demographic of the period.

Population growth and migration in the post-war period not only saw further transformation to Preston's streetscapes in the form of infill development, but also in the form of new Church buildings and congregations that were established by the suburb's growing Italian and Greek communities (City of Darebin, 2024). This trend was replicated again during the 1970s-90s, which saw further diversification stemming from migration from Vietnam, Eastern Europe, West Asia and South Asia, and the subsequent emergence of late twentieth century places of worship associated with their respective religious beliefs (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 24-25).

The MMBW detail plan from 1908 shows the change which took place in Preston by the early twentieth century (at Figure 1). The Former Preston Church of Christ is not depicted on this plan, as it was erected in 1911.

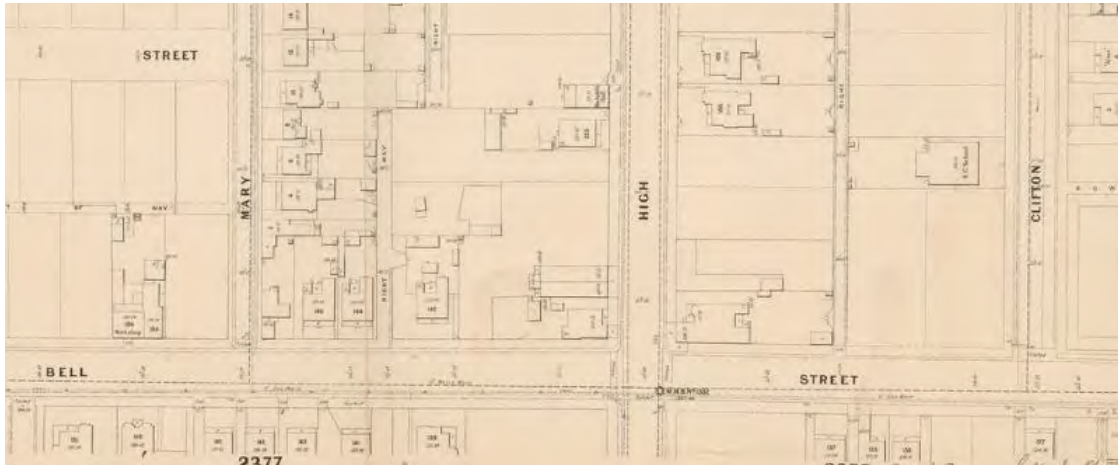


Figure 1 Extract from Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Detail Plan No 2381. Source: State Library of Victoria.

Churches in Darebin

In nineteenth century Darebin, Methodism was the most prolific Christian denomination in terms of church buildings with Anglicans also strongly represented. Presbyterians and Roman Catholics were also present, but in lesser numbers (Context Pty Ltd, 99). The congregation of the Church of Christ was a minority in Darebin, and was late to establish its churches in comparison with other denominations. The Churches of Christ was an evangelical revivalist denomination of American origin (Context Pty Ltd, 103). In Australia, the earliest congregations of the Church of Christ were formed in South Australia in the mid nineteenth century. They were part of the Stone-Campbell movement, which advocated Christian unity through the restoration of New Testament practice and which sought independence from denominations and religious creeds (Churches of Christ). In the early twentieth century, Churches of Christ in Australia grew considerably. There were just 24, 000 members in the 1901 census. By 1921, their numbers had increased to 54, 500, peaking as a percentage of the Australian population at one percent (Churches of Christ).

The Church of Christ held their first church services in Preston as early as 1902 and had bought land in 1903 (Forster, 71). As well as the Church of Christ in Preston, other Churches of Christ were constructed including the Thornbury Church of Christ at 390-398 St Georges Road, Thornbury (constructed in c 1922 and extended to a design of Victor G Cook in 1927) (Extent Heritage Pty Ltd). A Church of Christ was also built in Northcote on the corner of Bastings Street and Prospect Grove (now demolished). It was the church in which the Aboriginal pastor and activist Dough Nicholls, a significant figure in the history of Darebin was converted to Christianity. In 1939, Nicholls became a Church of Christ pastor, and began his Ministry to the Fitzroy Aboriginal community (Context Pty Ltd, 104).

- **Place History**

In 1911 the members of the Church of Christ in Preston expressed their enthusiasm through the American tradition of building a church in one day (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001, 754, Context Pty Ltd, 103). On Saturday 25 March 1911, 150 people worked from first light until 11pm under the

direction of Mr A. Graham to erect the first chapel in Australia built in one day (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001, Forster, 72). The first service was held the following morning (Context Pty Ltd, 103).



Figure 2 Photograph of the construction of the original Preston Church of Christ, constructed in a day on 25 March 1911. Source: Nancy Garth (Ed.). Preston Church of Christ Book of Memories.

The 1911 Preston Church of Christ was a gable structure constructed with weatherboard walls and a corrugated iron roof (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001, 754), as shown in the photograph at Figure 3. It was erected generally to the floor plan depicted at Figure 4 below (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001, 754).

In 1923, alterations and additions were made for a 'kindergarten hall' to the eastern side of the existing church (as depicted in Figure 5 below), and in 1931 porches were added to the original building as wind breaks for the kindergarten as shown in Figure 6 below (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001, 754).

In 1953 alterations and additions were proposed to the Church, to be carried out under the supervision of H.W. Tinning, Building Surveyor for the City of Preston who came into the matter after 'the well intentioned Church members... commenced the work of veneering' the building (PROV, VPRS 7882/P0001, 754 file note 23 July 1953). The floor plan for the 1953 additions and alterations refers to the 'frame from existing building' which appears to have been retained as part of the Post-War alterations and additions to the existing weatherboard church, which included a Ministers room; boardroom; chapel; kitchen; hall; four classrooms; a study; store room and bathrooms (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001). The drawings at Figure 7, Figure 8 and Figure 9 show the design of the alterations and additions and refer to the 'existing corr. galv. iron' roof which appears to have been retained and incorporated as part of the alterations and additions (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001). The detail of the window frames on the front elevation is shown at Figure 10. Red 'brick veneer' was used for the construction of the walls constructed as part of the alterations and additions (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001).

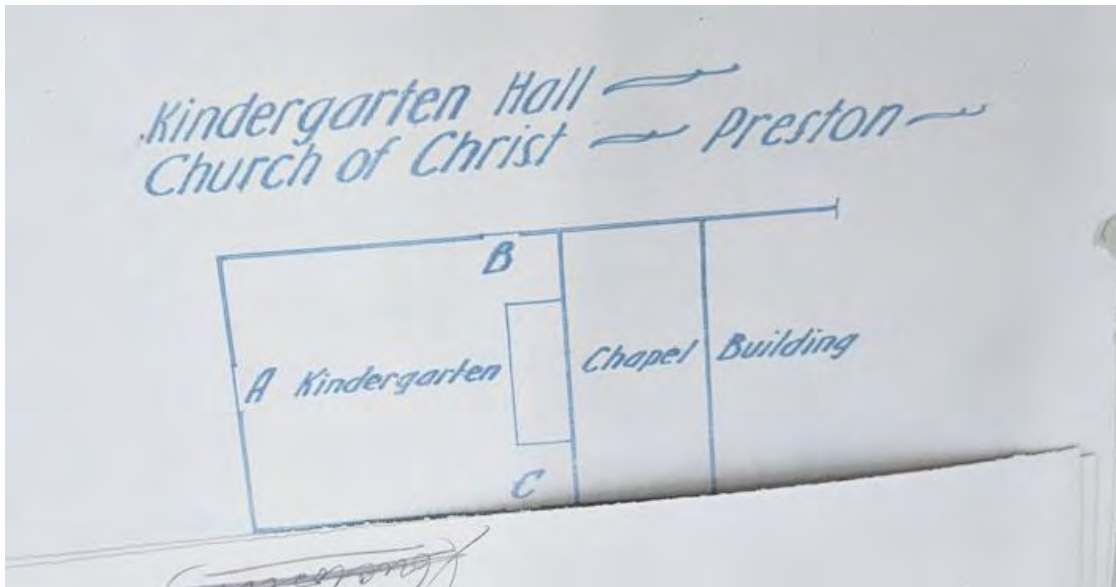


Figure 5 Sketch plan dated 1923, showing layout of the kindergarten hall extension to the Preston Church of Christ. Source: Public Records Office of Victoria VPRS 7882/P0001, 754.

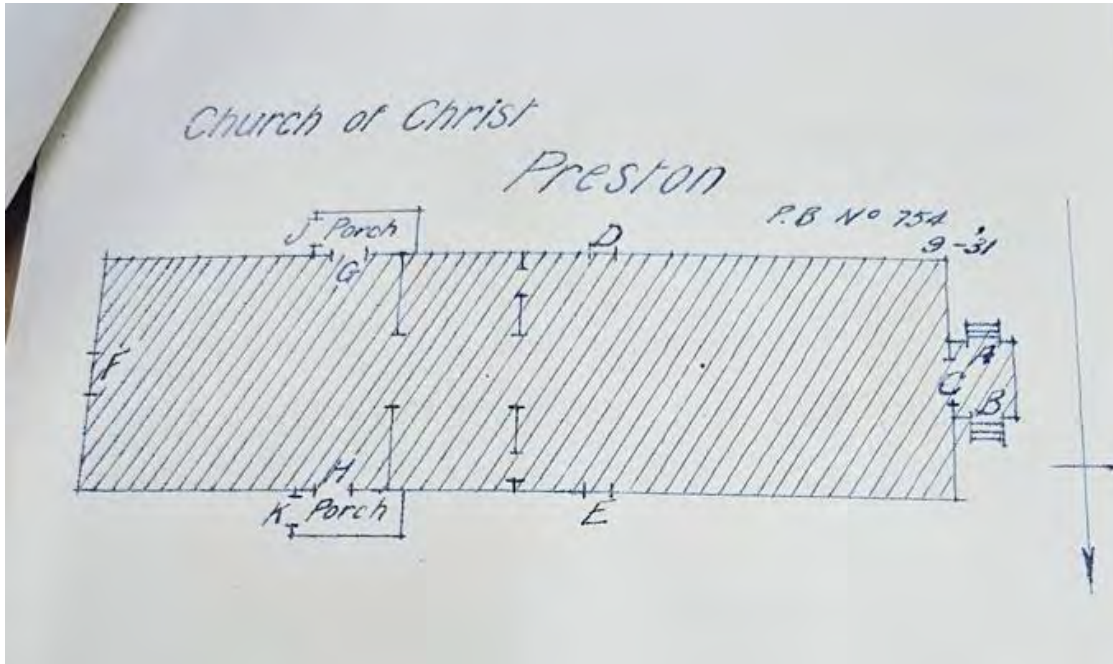


Figure 6 Sketch plan dated 1931, showing layout of the Preston Church of Christ and porches for the kindergarten hall. Source: Public Records Office of Victoria VPRS 7882/P0001, 754.

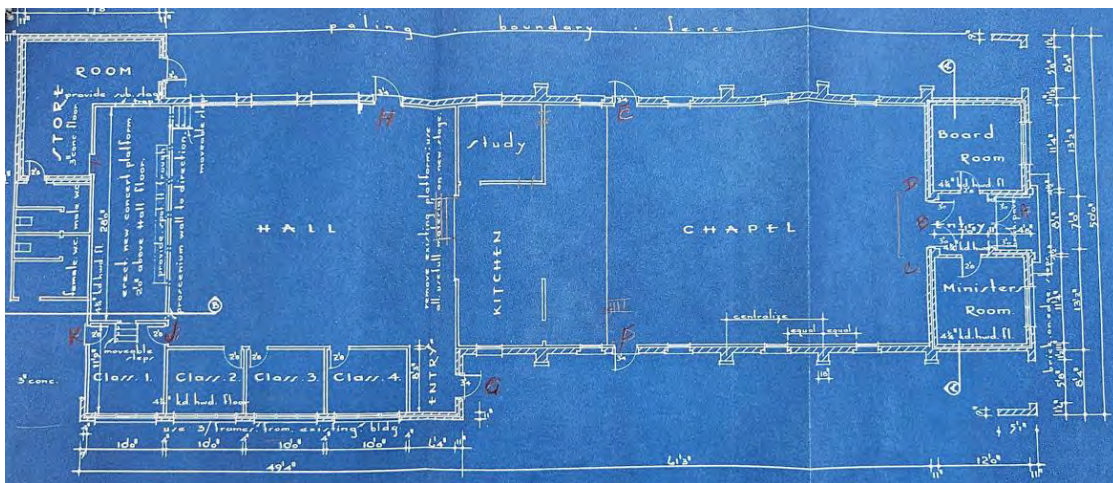


Figure 7 c 1953 floor plan of proposed alterations and additions to 1911 Preston Church of Christ referring to 'frame from existing building' which appears to have been used for the 1953 alterations and additions. Source: PROV VPRS 7882/P0001.

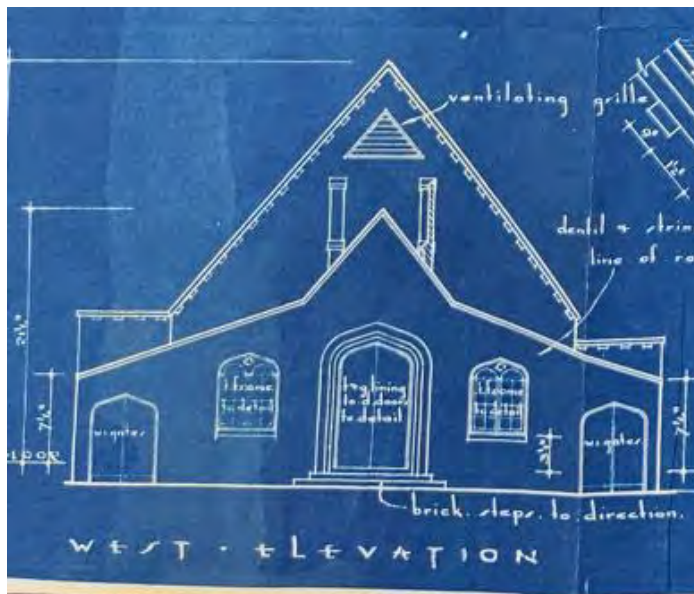


Figure 8 c 1953 west elevation showing proposed alterations and additions to 1911 Preston Church of Christ. Source: PROV VPRS 7882/P0001.

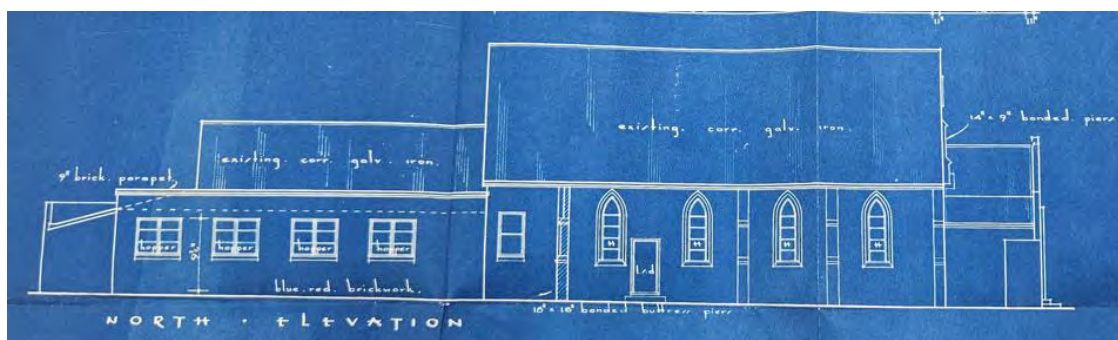


Figure 9 c 1953 north elevation showing proposed alterations and additions to 1911 Preston Church of Christ and referring to existing corr. galv. iron' roof. Source: PROV VPRS 7882/P0001.



Figure 10 c 1953 detail of window frames on west elevation of the Church of Christ, Preston. Source: PROV VPRS 7882/P0001

The photograph at Figure 11 below shows the porch of the 1911 church being removed in preparation for the 1953 additions, and the photograph at Figure 12 shows the Former Church of Christ Preston, following the alterations and additions. The sketch plan at Figure 13 shows the church following the alterations and additions undertaken in c 1953, which were described as 'as a great improvement and stopped the building swaying in the wind, as well as making it look better' (Garth, N).



Figure 11 Photograph of front porch of 1911 weatherboard church being removed for c 1953 alterations to the Church of Christ, Preston. Source: Nancy Garth (Ed.). Preston Church of Christ Book of Memories.



Figure 12 Preston Church of Christ, 220 High Street following alterations and additions c 1953. Source: Garth, Nancy (ED). Preston Church of Christ Book of Memories.

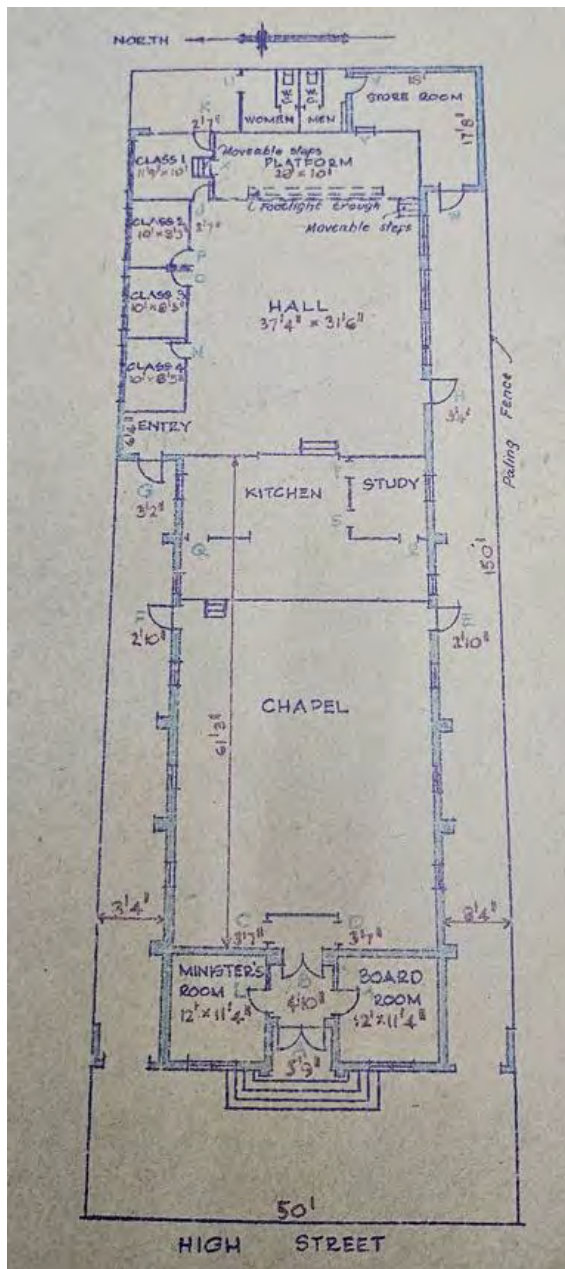


Figure 13 1954 sketch plan showing layout of Church of Christ, Preston following the Post-War alterations and additions. Source: PROV VPRS 7882/P0001

In 1983, alterations were carried out to the interior of the church, including demolition of internal platforms and steps and construction of a new timber floor (PROV VPRS 7882/P0001). As listed above, other minor contemporary additions have been made to the building since.

The Former Preston Church of Christ was sold to the Council in 2000, enabling the buildings to be used by Preston Neighbourhood House (Garth, N, Introduction). As of 2024 the church is in use as a place of worship by the Hand of God Tamil Church, the Congregation of Christians in Australia, as well as for a Dance School.

Comparative Analysis

During the period of post-war austerity, architectural styles for buildings were largely restrained. Elaborate Gothic Revival architectural styles were too expensive but there was also some hesitancy to adopt the Modernist style for church buildings. This led to the development of the Post-War Ecclesiastical style which includes several strands, ranging from simplified versions of the medieval church (with face brickwork and elements of Gothic Revival) to radical styles exploring unorthodox plan shapes with the intention of involving the congregation more closely with the clergy and rituals being enacted within the church.

The 1953 major alterations to the Former Preston Church of Christ were undertaken in an ultra-simplified Gothic Revival style. Given that the style continued interwar era trends in church design (rather than more radical strands of the Post-War Ecclesiastical style), the Former Preston Church of Christ can be compared to relevant examples of interwar era church buildings in that were designed in the Gothic Revival style. The following comparative analysis includes examples of such churches subject to the Heritage Overlay in the City of Darebin:

- **All Saints Anglican Church Complex, 400 High Street and 239 Murray Road, Preston (HO225).** The interwar brick church within the All Saints Anglican Church complex at Preston, was constructed in 1930, to a design by Architect Louis Williams. The church was modified in the post-war era with the addition of a porch and tower. Although larger in scale, it is comparable to the Former Preston Church of Christ as a brick church building displaying elements of the Gothic Revival idiom. Both churches feature a pitched roof form, open gables, clinker and face red brickwork, projecting porches with Tudor arches, and brick detailing. The All-Saints Anglican Church Complex is comparatively more visually prominent, owing to its corner siting and degree of stylistic articulation.
- **Former Methodist Church, 34 George Street, Reservoir (HO264).** Constructed in 1934, the Former Methodist Church in Reservoir was designed by Raymond G. Wilson. The building compares well with the Church of Christ as an example of a simply designed Gothic Revival church characterised by a rectangular form, symmetrical layout, pitched roof, open gables, face red brick, projecting front porch, piers and Tudor arched doors and windows. Both properties have been extended to the rear but comprise very intact church buildings.

While the immediate post-war era saw relatively modest changes in church design, by the 1960s changes in doctrine and modern movements saw new church design embrace Modernism and develop a more radical post-war Ecclesiastical style. There are several examples of this later approach to church design in the City of Darebin including:

- St Gabriel's Catholic Church Complex, 237-243 Spring Street, Reservoir (HO280).**
 The post-war Modernist church at the St Gabriel's Catholic Church Complex was constructed in 1960. The church was designed by Architect S. J. Moran and builder F. O. Dixon. Key comparable attributes of the two sites include pitched roof form, open gables, brick construction, stepped entry, and arched windows. St Gabriels Catholic Church is larger and differs in terms of its asymmetrical form, corner angled siting, tower, cream brick, and use of white tiles and dark brick for detailing. The church design also draws heavily from the Modernist style, especially with its window proportions and framing, as opposed to the Former Preston Church of Christ's more evident Gothic Revival influence.

The examples of more radical post-war Ecclesiastical style tended to comprise unorthodox plan shapes and can be seen at **St George's Anglican Church, 32-34 Ralph Street, Reservoir (HO79)** and **Holy Name Catholic Primary School and Church Complex (HO249)**.

The above comparative analysis firmly places the Former Preston Church of Christ as an intermediary design between the interwar and the more radical Post-War era Ecclesiastical design trends. The church is a fine example of the earlier approach to the Post-War Ecclesiastical style, incorporating Gothic Revival style elements such as the gabled roof form, good quality brickwork, lancet windows and doors and brick buttresses. The building not only readily compares to the existing examples on the Heritage Overlay of both time periods but is also an important transitional example with no other examples of 1950s churches currently included in the HO within the City of Darebin.

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Limitations

1. Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.

Further Images



View of façade of Former Church of Christ, Preston from south. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.



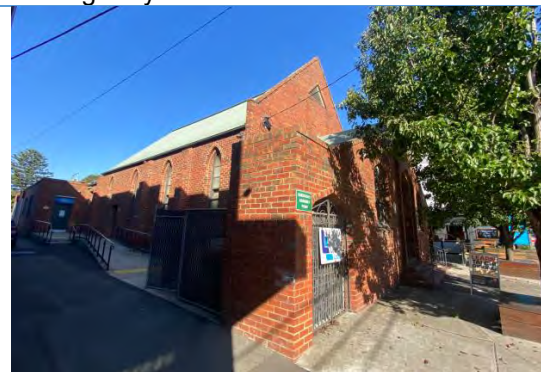
View of façade of Former Church of Christ, Preston from south. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.



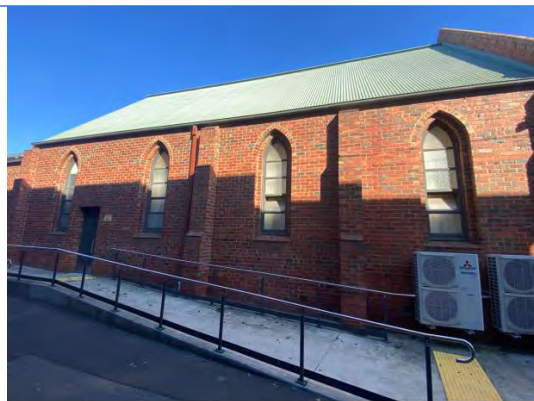
View of façade of Former Church of Christ, Preston from north-west. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.



View of façade of Former Church of Christ, Preston from north. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.



View of Former Church of Christ, Preston from north-west. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.



View of northern façade of Former Church of Christ, Preston showing wall buttresses and lancet arched windows. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.



View of Former Church of Christ, Preston from the side laneway to the north. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.



Detail view of wrought iron gate and doorway to the front façade. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.

Authors

Updated citation prepared by: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd

Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston

Heritage Place: Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque
Address: 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston
Designer: Bates, Smart and McCutcheon
Builder: Unknown

HO Reference: HO330
Citation status: Draft
Date Updated: 9 May 2024
Year of Construction: 1975-6



Photograph of Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque (Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024).



Location map of the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque at 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston.

Heritage Group: Religion
Heritage Type: Mosque

Key Theme: 2.2 Migrating to seek opportunity
Key Sub-theme: Post Second World War immigrants, Places of worship that reflect post-war immigration

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The property at 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston (Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque), is significant. Specifically, the form, detailing, materials and fenestration of the post-war Modernist style Mosque, along with the 1984 dome addition and 1988 minaret addition, are of local heritage significance. Later alterations and additions to the property are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of local historical, representative and social significance to the City of Darebin. It is also of significance for its association with Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam, a prominent Muslim community leader in Darebin and the Grand Mufti of Australia from 2007 and 2011.

Why is it significant?

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of historical significance as a purpose-built multi-ethnic Mosque that was established by the Islamic Society of Victoria (ISV) in 1975-76 to address the needs of the growing diasporic Muslim population settling in Preston and the neighboring suburbs. Distinguished by Islamic architectural elements, including domes, minarets and arch motifs, that have been re-interpreted using modern materials and construction methods, the Mosque forms a tangible link to late twentieth century Muslim migration in the City of Darebin, which fortified the municipality as a place of rich cultural, ethnic and religious diversity. (Criterion A)

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of representative significance as a purpose-built late twentieth century Mosque that clearly exhibits all the elements associated with this typology. Although it is not without non-significant alterations and additions, it nevertheless retains its legibility as a late twentieth century Mosque that clearly showcases the primary features of this class, such as Islamic architectural elements re-interpreted using modern materials, including domes, minarets and arch motifs, along with rectilinear forms and smooth unadorned surfaces derived from the post-Modernist style. (Criterion D)

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of social significance for its clear and ongoing role as a place of worship, cultural gathering, and community meeting space for Darebin’s Muslim community (Criterion G).

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of associative significance for its association with Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam, a prominent Muslim community leader in Melbourne and the Grand Mufti of Australia from 2007 and 2011, who spearheaded the establishment of the Mosque during his leadership of the Islamic Society of Victoria (ISV). Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam was not only integral to the Mosque’s development, but also served as Head Imam of the Mosque. (Criterion H)

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i>	The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of historical significance as a purpose-built multi-ethnic Mosque that was established by the Islamic Society of Victoria (ISV) in 1975-76 to address the needs of the
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		growing diasporic Muslim population settling in Preston and the neighbouring suburbs. Distinguished by Islamic architectural elements, including domes, minarets and arch motifs, that have been re-interpreted using modern materials and construction methods, the Mosque forms a tangible link to late twentieth century Muslim migration in the City of Darebin, which fortified the municipality as a place of rich cultural, ethnic and religious diversity.
B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
D	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i>	The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of representative significance as a purpose-built late twentieth century Mosque that clearly exhibits all the elements associated with this typology. Although it is not without non-significant alterations and additions, it nevertheless retains its legibility as a late twentieth century Mosque that clearly showcases the primary features of this class, such as Islamic architectural elements re-interpreted using modern materials, such as domes, minarets and arch motifs, along with rectilinear forms and smooth unadorned surfaces derived from the post-Modernist style.
E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions</i>	The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of social significance for its clear and ongoing role as a place of worship, cultural gathering, and community meeting for Darebin's Muslim community.

H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i>	The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is of associative significance for its association with Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam, a prominent Muslim community leader in Melbourne and the Grand Mufti of Australia from 2007 and 2011, who spearheaded the establishment of the Mosque during his leadership of the Islamic Society of Victoria (ISV). Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam was not only integral to the Mosque's development, but also served as Head Imam of the Mosque.
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Description

• Physical Analysis

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque at 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston, is a substantial multi-ethnic Mosque covering an approximate footprint of 1,442m². The earliest portions of the Mosque were constructed in 1975-6 to designs prepared by Bates, Smart and McCutcheon and include the main central form and Musalla. In 1984 a central dome clad with interlocking paneling and surmounted by a brass-coloured crescent finial was constructed, and in 1988 an additional substantial cylindrical minaret was constructed. The minaret features a wraparound balcony where call to prayers are issued. The minaret has a domed roof further surmounted by a crescent finial.

The Musalla (place for prayer) is an original element of the Bates, Smart and McCutcheon design, comprising a substantial rectilinear hall set obliquely, with the qibla facing Mecca. The Musalla is constructed in cream brick in keeping with the minaret, and is only decorated through the use of repeated arched fanlights on the northern, eastern and southern elevations.

Contemporary additions to the site include extensions made in 2021-22 with the ground floor expanded south by 977m² to accommodate multipurpose meeting areas, funeral spaces, lecture hall and a kitchen. The contemporary extension fronts Cramer Street and is built in similar masonry materials used for the original elements of the Mosque. Other alterations and additions include the expansion of the southern elevation wing for the accommodation of a cafe, an upper addition to the southern elevation wing, and the expansion of the northern elevation fronting the carpark. Between December 2021 and February 2022 much of the roofing material was replaced, and the originally clear dome was reclad in a non-transparent green material. The entire roof form of the Mosque is a flat design, save for the central dome, and is largely covered with solar panels.

The broader developmental context of the Mosque is that of a largely residential area. The Mosque is set fronting Cramer Street, with the Musalla oriented facing west towards Ford Street. The northern elevation of the Mosque faces onto an internal carpark. There are limited plantings, save for several juvenile palm trees.

• Alterations and Additions

- Glazed dome addition over central wing (1984)

- Minaret addition (1988)
- Morgue addition (1988)
- Render removed from exterior surfaces (after 1987)
- Ancillary services added to roof of Musalla (after 2019)
- Ground and first floor expanded by 977 square meters in style consistent with original building (2021-22)
- Expanded ground and first floor fitted out with kitchen, multipurpose and meeting areas, funeral spaces and lecture hall additions (2021-22)
- Expanded ground floor on the southern and northern elevations (2021).
- Upper floor added to southern elevation wing (2021-22)
- Building re-roofed (2021-22).
- Dome re-roofed with green paneling (2021-22).
- External surfaces overpainted (2021-22).
- Masonry retaining wall along southern elevation replaced with aluminum fencing (after 2021).

History

• Historical Context

The area presently known as the City of Darebin is the traditional home of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. Formerly characterised by pre-contact grassy and flowering woodlands, and basalt rocky banks of the Merri Creek (Merri Merri), the abundant habitat provided Traditional Owners access to a range of water, plant and animal resources integral to their way of life. The onset of colonialism had a devastating impact on the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, and by 1840, all of the land comprising present day Darebin had been taken up by graziers or land prospectors (City of Darebin 2024).

Despite decades of ongoing dispossession, the rich cultural heritage of the Traditional Owners in Darebin has enduring presence to this day. Through continued resistance and the passing down of Indigenous knowledge, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people maintain ongoing connection to, and care for Country.

European colonial settlement in what would become the suburb of Preston grew gradually following the 1838-40 Crown Land Sales, which saw the area on either side of the Merri Creek subdivided into long, narrow allotments for farming purposes (Lemon 1983). Development gradually took off during Melbourne's 1880s land boom, which saw urban boundaries pushed out, farms subdivided, and the establishment of a railway line from Collingwood to Whittlesea via Preston in 1889 (City of Darebin 2024).

While development was stalled by the 1890s Depression, the establishment of brickworks and other industry in the suburb during the early twentieth century culminated in significant growth in Preston by the interwar period (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 28). Residential and commercial development rapidly ballooned during this period, and was accompanied by the establishment of more ornate Church buildings and their associated religious institutions. These buildings typically replaced more modest structures dating from the late nineteenth century, or comprised entirely new developments to accommodate the suburb's growing population (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 69-71). Irrespective, they tended to reflect Preston's prevailing English, Irish and Scottish demographic of the period.

Population growth and migration in the post-war period not only saw further transformation to Preston's streetscapes in the form of infill development, but also in the form of new Church buildings and congregations that were established by the suburb's growing Italian and Greek communities (City of Darebin 2024). This trend was replicated again during the 1970s-90s, which saw further diversification stemming from migration from Vietnam, Eastern Europe, West Asia and South Asia, and the subsequent emergence of late twentieth century places of worship associated with their respective religious beliefs (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 24-25).

- **Darebin's Muslim Community**

Twentieth century Muslim migration to Victoria can chiefly be traced back to the immediate post-war period, which saw large numbers of white European Muslims from the Balkan region, particularly from Cyprus, Bosnia and Albania, arrive in Australia as part of post-war immigration schemes (Haveric 2019). However the emergence of a cohesive and visible Muslim community in the City of Darebin would only begin to take shape during the 1960s and 1970s, which not only saw Turkish and Lebanese Muslims arrive in Preston and as part of the gradual dismantling of Australia's White Australia Policy, but also the establishment of the Islamic Society in Victoria's (ISV) premises in Preston in 1976 (Haveric 2017, 21; Context Pty Ltd 2008, 25).

The municipality's Muslim demographic was further bolstered by Kurish migration to Darebin during the 1990s, particularly in the suburbs of Preston and Reservoir (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 25). These successive waves of Muslim migration and settlement not only diversified Darebin's social and cultural fabric, but also had an enduring impact on the municipality's built form. Today, this impact is most evident at religious centres, such as the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque in Preston and the Albanian Mosque in Reservoir, ethnic community centers, and commercial businesses concentrated around the commercial and residential streetscapes of Preston and Reservoir.

- **Place History**

The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque at 88-92 Cramer Street, Preston was constructed between 1975 and 1976 for the Islamic Society of Victoria (ISV) to designs by the noted architectural firm Bates, Smart and McCutcheon (Context Pty Ltd 2018, 8). Led by Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam, the ISV commissioned the purpose-built Mosque to accommodate the needs of the rapidly growing Muslim population from Lebanon and Turkey who were settling in Preston and Melbourne more broadly (Islamic Society of Victoria 1976). According to the ISV, funds to construct the mosque were raised by both the local and overseas Muslim community, including the growing Bosnian and Arab community in Darebin, and the Saudi Arabian government (Islamic Society of Victoria 2020).

Interviews conducted by historian Dr Dzavid Haveric with the Muslim community in 2017 reveal that the mosque was erected on the site of an old weatherboard house located on 90 Cramer Street, Preston, which was being tenanted by members of the ISV from 1967 for use as an multiethnic Islamic Centre for the purpose of cultural 'get-togethers' amongst Shia and Sunni Muslim individuals from a variety of ethnic backgrounds (Muslimovic and Dellal 2017).

The building was completed and formally opened in 1976, and comprised a masonry building distinguished by a mixture of rectilinear and curved massings, flat roof forms, smooth, unadorned surfaces, arched clerestory windows along the western wing and large, fixed

rectilinear windows (Islamic Society of Victoria Archives, see Figure 1). A landscaped area supported by a low retaining masonry wall, along with an entrance way paved with tiling, also featured along the southern elevation fronting Cramer Street (Islamic Society of Victoria Archives, see Figure 1). Meanwhile, the interior of the Mosque's central wing featured archways, a central wudu fountain surrounded by open classrooms and an open prayer area (Islamic Society of Victoria Archives; Figure 2 and Figure 3).



Figure 1. 1976 photograph of the opening of Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque. *Source:* Unknown. 1976. Photograph of the opening of the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque. Photograph, Islamic Society of Victoria Archives. Facebook (website). Accessed 8 May 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=369363792087405&set=a.254634060227046>.



Figure 2. 1978 view of Mosque interior. *Source:* Unknown. 1978. Photograph of the interior of the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque showing the central fountain. Photograph, Islamic Society of Victoria Archives. Facebook (website). Accessed 8 May 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=260469909643461&set=a.254634060227046>



Figure 3. 1976 photograph of the Mosque interior under construction. *Source:* Unknown. 1976. Photograph of the interior of the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque during construction. Photograph, Islamic Society of Victoria Archives. Facebook (website). Accessed 8 May 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1694771367371633&set=a.265769606938490>.

The inauguration ceremony was held on October 1976 and presided over by Sheikh Fehmi Naji El-Imam, who gave a speech on the day thanking donors and other supporters (Islamic Society of Victoria Archives 2023; Al Manar Newspaper 1976). Considered a 'turning point in the history of Islam in Victoria', the opening celebrations were regarded by Fehmi as a 'big day, a massive day', and attendees included Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, the Saudi Arabian Ambassador Saikh Muhammed Safwat al-Saqqa Ameen, the Australian media, representatives from the Preston Council, the Catholic Bishop and members of the Victorian Muslim community (Habib, cited in Haveric 2017, 27). The opening was attended by 400-500 people, with Whitlam opening the mosque and providing a speech (Habib, cited in Haveric 2017, 27; Haveric 2017).

Unlike the existing 1960 Albanian Mosque in Shepparton and the 1969 Sunni-Albanian Mosque in Carlton, the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque was of note as the first-full scale mosque in Victoria to conduct 'full' Islamic funerals, host weddings, weekend school classes and community events (Dabliz 2020). Headed by the ISV, it was also of note for being governed by a multi-ethnic board and membership, which rendered it distinct from contemporaneous purpose-built mosques established on ethno-linguistic lines, such as the Albanian Mosque in Carlton and the Camii Turkish Mosque in Dallas (Dabliz 2020, 29).



Figure 4. 1976 photograph of Dr E. Ebrahim, Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Saikh Muhammed Safwat, Mr. Ashfaque Ahmed, Mr J. Deen. *Source:* Unknown. 1976. Photograph of officials attending the opening of the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque. Photograph, Islamic Society of Victoria Archives. Facebook (website). Accessed 8 May 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1880470318801736&set=a.1484235778425194>.

In addition to providing a place for prayer, the Mosque was also used as an Islamic Sunday School, which has since been regarded as a 'staple of the Muslim community' (Islamic Society of Victoria Archives 1976, Islamic Society of Victoria 2021). Keeping with the tradition of the former multiethnic Islamic Centre on the site, the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque was notable as a 'multi-national' space that attracted Muslim groups of different ethnic backgrounds from a number of areas in Melbourne (Cuma Pty Ltd v City of Preston 1988).

The building underwent a number of changes throughout the 1980s, the most noted of which included the addition of a glazed dome over the central wing in 1984, and the addition of a minaret and morgue in 1988 (VCAT P970/2015). These changes not only reflect the Congregation's growing numbers by the 1980s, which consisted of over 3000 members by 1985, but also the changing needs and expanding functions of the Mosque by this period (The Canberra Times 1985, 7).



Figure 5. 1987 photograph of glazed dome addition. *Source:* Hage, F E.. 1988. *The celebration of Id El Fitr at Preston Mosque, 1987.* Digitised photograph. In collection: Fouad El Hage Photographs. Accession No : H92.250/1338

The most substantial changes took place in 2021-22, which saw the Mosque redeveloped to plans by WH Architects to accommodate the Mosque's continued growth. As part of these works, the ground and first floor of the building, primarily along the northern and southern elevations, was expanded to include an additional floor area of 977 square metres in a style consistent with the existing building (The Islamic Society of Victoria Incorporated v Darebin City Council VCAT P970/2015) (see Figure 6-Figure 7). The expanded area was subsequently fitted out with a larger kitchen, multipurpose and meeting areas, additional funeral spaces, and a lecture hall for functions (The Islamic Society of Victoria Incorporated v Darebin City Council VCAT P970/2015). By this period, the Mosque was noted for being a substantial place of worship, with over 200 children attending the weekend Arabic School, and between hundreds to

thousands community members attending the Friday prayers and festivals (The Islamic Society of Victoria Incorporated v Darebin City Council VCAT P970/2015).

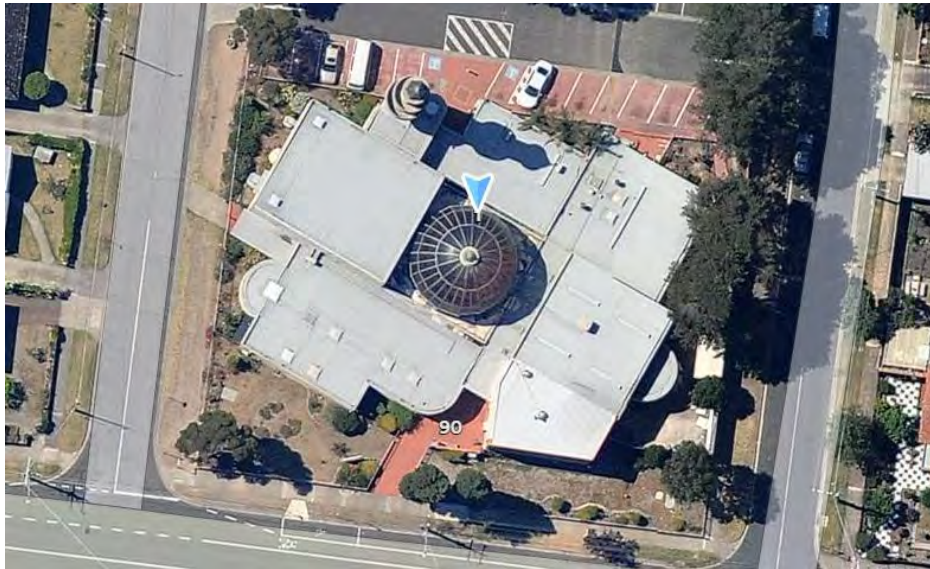


Figure 6. 2009 aerial of the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque. Source: Nearmap, 2009.



Figure 7. 2022 aerial of the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, showing enlarged footprint. Source: Nearmap, 2022.

As of 2024, the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque continues to remain in use as a prominent place of worship, gathering, cultural meeting and community space for Darebin and Metropolitan Melbourne's Muslim community.

Comparative Analysis

Constructed in 1976, the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque comprises one of Victoria's first purpose-built mosques, and Victoria's first purpose-built full-scale mosque. Distinguished by its striking post-war features and long and continuing association with the City of Darebin's Muslim community, the building is not only of note as a key community focal point and cultural gathering space, but also as a tangible emblem of West Asian and Arab migration to the City of Darebin during the late twentieth century. These values are reflected in its use, as well as its built fabric, which feature distinct Islamic architectural elements, including domes, minarets and arch motifs, that have been re-interpreted using modern materials and construction methods. Within Victoria, there are only a handful of other comparable purpose-built mosques on the Heritage Overlay. These include:

- **Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir (recommended for inclusion on the Heritage Overlay).** While constructed at a later date in 1993, the Reservoir Mosque compares to the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque as a purpose-built twentieth century mosque distinguished by minarets, cylindrical in design with wraparound balconies, a pointed roof and crescent finial, masonry construction, rectilinear forms and central domes. While it is evidently more intact, it lacks the historical interest associated with Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque's development as the first purpose-built mosque in the municipality. It is also distinct from the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque in terms of its development history, with its later construction date reflecting the latter wave of Muslim migration to the municipality in the final decades of the twentieth century.
- **Albanian Mosque, 765-769 Drummond Street, Carlton (City of Yarra HO326).** Constructed in 1967, The Albanian Mosque is of local historical, social and architectural significance to the locality of Carlton North and the City of Yarra, demonstrating the social importance of places built for particular religious groups in the area. It similarly comprises a late twentieth century purpose-built mosque located along a residential streetscape and distinguished by a striking minaret addition. As with the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, it has similarly undergone a number of alterations and additions, including the addition of a projecting entrance porch to the façade and a rear extension. It is evidently less substantial in scale than the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, and differs historically as an ethnically specific Mosque that was established by Melbourne's Albanian Muslim Community.
- **Camii Turkish Mosque 45-55 King Street, Dallas (Hume City Council HO232).** The Camii Turkish Mosque is of local architectural, historical and social significance to the City of Hume owing to its unusual and distinctive form, and demonstrating of the postwar growth of Islam as a religion in the City of Hume. As with the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, it similarly consists of a purpose-built late twentieth century Mosque distinguished by tall minarets and arched motifs. While more intact it lacks the stylistic articulation demonstrated at the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque. As with the Albanian Mosque in Carlton, it also differs historically as an ethnically specific Mosque that was established by Melbourne's Turkish Islamic Community.
- **Albanian Mosque, 8 Acacia Street, Shepparton (Victorian Heritage Register VHR H2425).** Constructed between 1956 and 1960, the Albanian Mosque in Shepparton

comprises the first purpose-built mosque in Victoria. It is of note for demonstrating the history of Muslim migration to Victorian during the post-war era, as well as the subsequent successive waves into the twenty-first century. While originally constructed by and for the Albanian Sunni community in 1956-60, it is now attended by Muslims from a range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. While it differs from the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque in terms of its regional context, it nevertheless similarly compares as a Modernist style Mosque that features re-interpreted Islamic architectural elements, including rectilinear forms, masonry construction, domes, arches and a crenelated parapet.

Compared with the above, the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque emerges as a substantial, large-scale purpose-built mosque with a historically noteworthy multi-ethnic congregation. It not only distinct from the above examples in terms of its scale of services, but also measures up in terms of its clear association with the local Muslim community. Its fusion of Modernist architectural forms with re-interpreted Islamic architectural elements are also particularly compelling, and as with the above examples, similarly exemplify Muslim diasporic culture and religions in the post-war City of Darebin context.

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Accessed 8 May 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=260469909643461&set=a.254634060227046>

Limitations

1. Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.

Further Images



Figure 8. 1988 photograph of prayers taking place at the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque. Source: Santos, E. 1988. *Prayers at the Preston mosque*. Digitised photograph. In collection: Lebanese community photographs by Emmanuel Santos. Accession No: H92.250/1079.



Figure 9. Overview of south-western elevation from Cramer Street. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Figure 10. Detail view of upper floor addition to southern wing. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Figure 11. Oblique overview of western elevation from Ford Street. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Figure 12. Overview of upper floor addition to southern wing along the western elevation. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Figure 13. Oblique overview of western elevation and rear from Ford Street. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Figure 14. View of minaret and exterior of Musalla. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Figure 15. Detail view of minaret. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

Authors

Updated citation prepared by: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd.

Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury

Heritage Place: Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex
Address: 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury

HO Reference: HO331

Citation status: Draft

Date Updated: 9 May 2024

Designer: Grainger and Little (Brick church), Unknown (Timber building)

Year of Construction: Timber building - 1894, brick Gothic Revival style church - 1914

Builder: Mr. Jones (Brick Church), Unknown (Timber building).



Location map and extent of HO overlaid with grading of structures

Former Congregational Church, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury viewed from the north. *Source:* Extent Heritage Pty Ltd

Heritage Group: Religion

Key Theme: Community and Culture

Heritage Type: Church Complex

Key Sub-theme: Worshipping

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The church complex at 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury (otherwise known as the Former Northcote Congregational Church), is significant. Specifically, the form, detailing and fenestration of the 1914 Grainger and Little designed Church is of local heritage significance. The timber church hall (c.1894) contributes to the local significance of the place.

Later alterations and additions to the complex, comprising replacement roofing, air conditioning units, later signage, later fencing, window bars and awnings are not significant. The kindergarten and toilet block are also not significant.

How is it significant?

The Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex is of historical significance to the City of Darebin as an example of the strength and prevalence of Congregationalism in Darebin in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The intact complex of ecclesiastical structures, including an early 1914 church, is historically illustrative of the prominence of religious institutions in community groups and education within the City of Darebin, as well as the broader emergence of the Congregational religion in working-class and middle-class communities. Further, it not only exemplifies the initial early twentieth century wave of suburban development in Darebin, but also evidences the growth of immigrant communities in Darebin during the mid to late twentieth century and the strong connection between some members of the immigrant community (including Greek immigrants) and their Christian faith. (Criterion A)

The Former Northcote Congregational Church is of representative significance as an intact ecclesiastical church complex, comprising multiple structures onsite representative of the more unique/less represented development patterns of Congregational churches in the City of Darebin and the broader Melbourne region. In a similar fashion to the Methodists, the Congregationalists followed a pattern involving the initial construction of a timber structure on site, used as a church and Sunday school to serve the needs of the local community whilst funds are accrued for the construction of a more permanent structure. This is represented onsite by the structures, comprising the timber hall and church. Further, the 1914 Grainger and Little designed brick Church is of representative significance as an intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church, featuring all elements associated with the Gothic Revival typology, including the use of projecting gables with steep roof pitching, lancet windows, stained glass windows and projecting stepped buttresses. (Criterion D).

The Former Northcote Congregational Church also is of social significance as a centre of worship and as a gathering place for the Congregational Church, the Greek Orthodox Church and now the Church of the Nazarene for over 100 years. On this basis, the Former Northcote Congregational Church is noted for having served the local community for over 110 years for various church functions and local events, in turn further cementing a clear and tangible link between religious traditions and community culture in the City of Darebin. The church is still in use with a very active and socially present congregation. (Criterion G)

HERCON Criteria Assessment

<p>A</p>	<p><i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i></p>	<p>The Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex is of historical significance to the City of Darebin as an example of the strength and prevalence of Congregationalism in Darebin in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The intact complex of ecclesiastical structures, including an early 1914 church, is historically illustrative of the prominence of religious institutions in community groups and education within the City of Darebin, as well as the broader emergence of the Congregational religion in working-class and middle-class communities. Further, it not only exemplifies the initial early twentieth century wave of suburban development in Darebin, but also evidences the growth of immigrant communities in Darebin during the mid to late twentieth century and the strong connection between some members of the immigrant community (including Greek immigrants) and their Christian faith.</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i></p>	<p>This place does not meet this criterion.</p>
<p>C</p>	<p><i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history</i></p>	<p>This place does not meet this criterion.</p>
<p>D</p>	<p><i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i></p>	<p>The Former Northcote Congregational Church is of representative significance as an intact ecclesiastical church complex, comprising multiple structures onsite representative of the more unique/less represented development patterns of Congregational churches in the City of Darebin and the broader Melbourne region. In a similar fashion to the Methodists, the Congregationalists followed a pattern involving the initial construction of a timber structure on site, used as a church and Sunday school to serve the needs of the local community whilst funds are accrued for the</p>

		construction of a more permanent structure. This is represented onsite by the structures, comprising the timber hall and church. Further, the 1914 Grainger and Little designed brick Church is of representative significance as an intact example of an early twentieth century Gothic Revival church, featuring all elements associated with the Gothic Revival typology, including the use of projecting gables with steep roof pitching, lancet windows, stained glass windows and projecting stepped buttresses.
E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions</i>	The Former Northcote Congregational Church is of social significance as a centre of worship and as a gathering place for the Congregational Church, the Greek Orthodox Church and now the Church of the Nazarene for over 100 years. On this basis, the Former Northcote Congregational Church is noted for having served the local community for over 110 years for various church functions and local events, in turn further cementing a clear and tangible link between religious traditions and community culture in the City of Darebin. The church is still in use with a very active and socially present congregation.
H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.

Description

- Physical Analysis

The Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex at the corner of Martin Street and Armadale Street comprises two ecclesiastical structures representing a cohesive suburban small-scale church complex.

Heritage Citation

Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury

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Timber Church Hall (c.1894)

The original timber church hall is a simple single-storey painted weatherboard building with little ornamentation. The hall features a gabled roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel. The building is situated at the rear of the 1914 brick Gothic Revival style church, oriented north-south with a gable fronting Armadale Street comprising a simple and unadorned projecting porch. The structure occupies a footprint of approximately 120m², and has solar panels fitted on its northern roof plane. Contemporary awnings have been installed on the northern side of the hall, connecting it to the rear of the brick church and the carport on the western side of the property.

1914 Church

The 1914 Former Congregational Church is a brick Gothic Revival suburban church. Designed to address the corner frontage on Martin and Armadale Street, the church is a rectilinear gabled hall with a narthex on the northern elevation and a rear brick sanctuary constructed in the 1960s at the rear. The gabled roof is clad in terracotta Marseille tiles.

The church was constructed to the designs of architects Grainger and Little and contracted to one Mr. Jones, with the foundation stone laid in February 1914. The church features a gable roof, lancet windows, hood moulds and stepped buttresses, characteristic of the Gothic Revival style in the early twentieth century. The brick walls have rendered banding with additional rendered detailing around wall openings and at the top of buttresses, emphasized by white painting.

The Martin Street elevation features stained glass windows and a flying gable with a simple crucifix finial. The narthex projects from the primary façade with a centralized entrance. Later extensions either side of the narthex have made the entrance the same width as the church. The entrance is flanked by windows and projecting buttresses. The entryway features cement architrave and gable detailing contrasting with the red masonry, with a sunburst motif set above the entrance. Stained glass lancet windows are evenly distributed along the building's external side elevations.

1917 Kindergarten and toilet block

The 1917 kindergarten comprises a rear brick extension adjoining the timber church hall. The kindergarten is simple rectilinear gabled structure built in red brick masonry. A raised gable parapet on the southern elevation fronts the laneway, featuring two small timber sash windows. Both windows are constructed with reinforced concrete lintels contrasting with the red brick masonry. The structure has no eaves, and has a corrugated asbestos roof with a contemporary extraction fan vent. Adjoining the kindergarten is an additional brick extension on the western side constituting the toilet block, erected by 1920. The structure fronts a laneway on the southern boundary of the property, separated from the fence by a wooden porch attachment.

• Alterations and Additions

- The church hall roofing has been replaced with contemporary zincalume corrugated sheeting, and solar panels have been installed. Aluminium framed windows have been installed in the church hall. The brick church roof has been replaced on the central body.
- Rear sanctuary / altar constructed (1966)

- Alterations and extensions to front porch including construction of office and replacement of internal brick work with panels (1966).
- Kindergarten extension (1917)
- Toilet block adjoining the kindergarten (1966)
- Porch structures between the timber building and the 1914 brick church have been constructed. Porch structure extensions have been constructed at the rear of the timber structure attached to the back fence. The porch addition extends on the western side as a contemporary carport.
- Alterations have been made to the 1914 brick church over time including the addition of unsympathetic front doors. This alteration appears to be reversible.
- Electrical additions including installation of external lights and switchboard (1978)
- Replacement of timber floorboards with concrete floor (by 1976)
- Installation of handrails to external steps (c.1970)
- Alteration to provide ventilation (not less than 90 net square inches) to the altar area.

History

• Historical context

The area presently known as the City of Darebin is the traditional home of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. Formerly characterised by pre-contact grassy and flowering woodlands, and basalt rocky banks of the Merri Creek (Merri Merri), the abundant habitat provided Traditional Owners access to a range of water, plant and animal resources integral to their way of life. The onset of colonialism had a devastating impact on the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, and by 1840, all of the land comprising present day Darebin had been taken up by graziers or land prospectors (City of Darebin 2024).

Despite decades of ongoing dispossession, the rich cultural heritage of the Traditional Owners in Darebin has enduring presence to this day. Through continued resistance and the passing down of Indigenous knowledge, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people maintain ongoing connection to, and care for Country.

European colonial settlement in what would become the suburb of Thornbury grew gradually following the 1838-40 Crown Land Sales, which saw the area on either side of the Merri Creek subdivided into long, narrow allotments for farming purposes (Lemon 1983). While Melbourne's 1880s land boom saw urban boundaries pushed out and the erection of a bridge with vehicular access over the Merri Creek at St George's Road in 1886, dense residential and commercial development in Thornbury only truly gained momentum in the early twentieth century following the opening of the direct railway line from Melbourne to Thornbury in 1904 and the subsequent establishment of brickworks in the area and the neighboring suburbs of Preston and Northcote (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 28).

More significant population growth took place following World War I, as shops along High Street began to merge with those in Croxton and the northern extent of Northcote (City of Darebin 2024). Residential development rapidly ballooned during this period, and was accompanied by the establishment of more ornate Church buildings and associated religious institutions. These buildings either replaced more modest structures dating from the late nineteenth century, or

comprised entirely new developments to accommodate the suburb's growing population (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 69-71). Irrespective, they tended to reflect Thornbury's prevailing English, Irish and Scottish demographic of the period.

Population growth and migration in the post-war period not only saw further transformation to Thornbury's streetscapes in the form of infill development, but also in the form of new Church buildings and congregations that were established by the suburb's growing Italian and Greek communities (City of Darebin 2024). This trend was replicated again during the 1970s-90s, which saw further diversification stemming from migration from Eastern Europe, West Asia and South Asia, and the subsequent emergence of late twentieth century places of worship associated with their respective religious beliefs (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 24-25).

- [Places of worship in the City of Darebin: the transition from Congregationalism to post-war immigrant communities](#)

Congregationalism historically arose as a Christian movement that emerged in England in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It occupies a theological position somewhere between Presbyterianism and the more radical Protestantism of the Baptists and the Quakers. In the nineteenth century, Congregationalists often called their churches 'Independent', such as those formerly at St Kilda, Windsor and on Collins Street in Melbourne. The popularity of the Congregationalist Church declined during the late nineteenth century and throughout the twentieth century.

However, the second half of the twentieth century brought a marked change to the religious character of Darebin, with the arrival of immigrants from Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The cultural expansion of this period brought religious traditions which up until that point were not represented within Darebin, in particular Eastern Orthodox Christian churches and Islamism.

The 1970s saw a period of change to religious congregations and church attendance in Darebin. A decline in attendance in traditional English-speaking churches was coupled with the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia in 1977, which saw the amalgamation of Congregationalist, Methodist and the majority of Presbyterian churches. This made multiple churches within Darebin redundant or surplus to needs, which were quickly taken up by immigrant communities including Macedonian, Bulgarian and Greek.

The Greek community became a prolific part of Darebin and established Greek Orthodox churches in and around Northcote and Thornbury. Commencing its services in Carlton in 1956, The Holy Church of St. George served the Greek Orthodox community of post-war migrants. The Church relocated to Thornbury in 1966, initially operating from the site on the corner of Martin and Armadale Street. The Holy Church of St. George relocated to St. David Street, following the purchase of the Former Prince of Wales church in the 1970s. The Former Northcote Congregational Church was then taken up by a new congregation of the Greek Orthodox community by c.1972.

The transition of occupancy from the stronghold of non-conformist Protestant English-speaking churches to the array of immigrant multi-cultural denominations, reflects a transition and celebration of diversification within the greater Darebin community.

- **Place History**

The Preston Leader published on the 16th September 1916 that the Northcote Congregational Church would be celebrating its 25th anniversary in September of that year and 26th anniversary in September 1917 (Preston Leader, 16 September 1916, 3; Northcote Leader, 22 September 1917, 3). This establishes that the Church was operating from this property in some form from the early 1890s. However, the 'Congregational church' was first recorded in the suburban directory in 1895, on Armadale St – West side, after 'Darebin St' (Sands & McDougall 1895).

The Northcote Congregational Church was recorded as a place for worship and marriage ceremonies, carried out by Rev. George Falkingham, by 1898 (The Age, 19 Feb 1898, 5). Rev. Falkingham, previously of the Congregational Church in Windsor, was listed as the Reverend in the 1900 Northcote directory (Sands & McDougall 1900). By 1905, Rev. A. Isaac was the leader of the Northcote Congregational Church (Sands & McDougall 1905). In 1906, The Age recorded the 'Northcote Congregational Church and Sunday School' (The Age, 30 Oct 1906, 10). By 1907 Rev. Otho Bryant was leading the Northcote Congregational Church (*The Age*. About People. 11 Sept 1907, 7).

It is unclear what structure was present on site by 1907 due to discrepancies between the Sands and McDougall directories and the 1908 MMBW plan which records the site as vacant several years after the church is first recorded as operating from the site (Figure 1). Further, the date of construction of the timber church hall cannot be confirmed through available archival research.

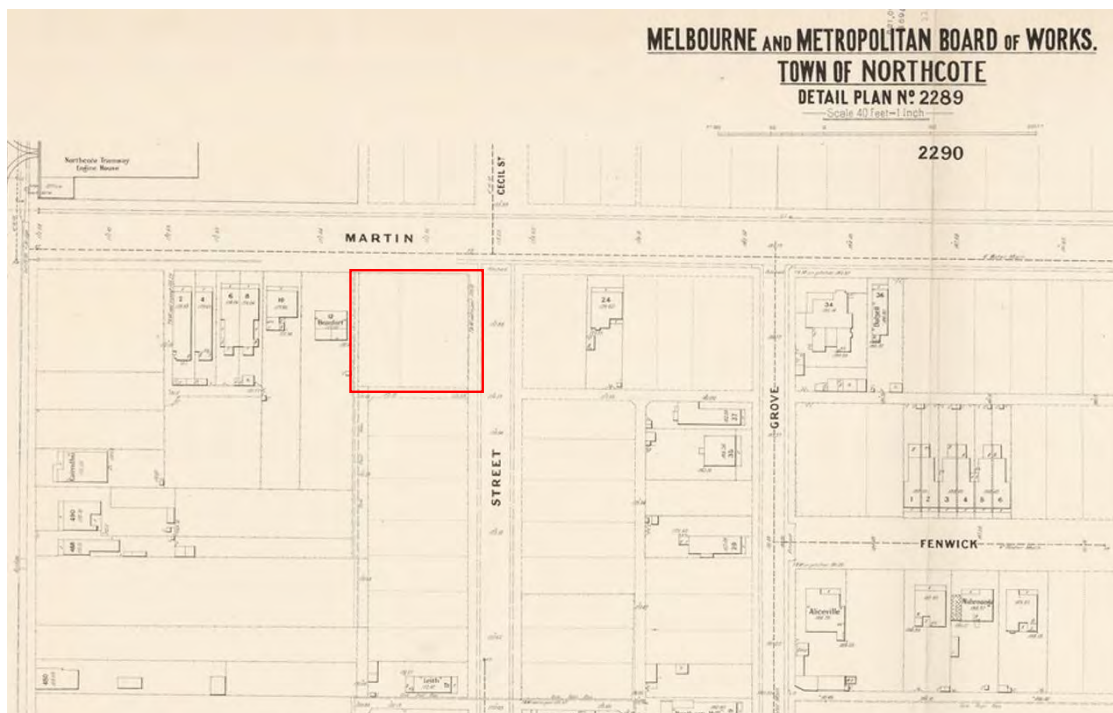


Figure 1. MMBW Plan No. 2289 from 1908 depicts an empty block on the corner of Martin and Armadale Streets. Source: MMBW Plan, State Library of Victoria.

On April 21st 1914, the architects Grainger & Little notified the Public Health Department of the completion of the building and the intention to be open for services the following week. However, at this time, the classrooms at the rear, marked on the plans, had not been built. The fittings on all the doors except two (D & E), had been finished. These depictions of the early narthex / porch indicate it underwent extensions during the twentieth century.

Following the opening of the new brick church, the original timber church appears to have continued its use as a Sunday school hall. The Church also hosted congregational activities, events and suppers in the hall, including its 21st anniversary celebrations in 1915 (Preston Leader. Congregational Church. 11 Sep 1915, 2; Preston Leader. Congregational Church. 16 September 1916, 2). In 1916, owing to overcrowding, funds were being raised by the Northcote Congregational Church to 'enlarge the building', (*Preston Leader*. Congregational Church. 16 September 1916,2). Funds raised by the friends of the Northcote Congregational Church during a fair were to 'be devoted to the extension of the kindergarten room and church vestry' (*Northcote Leader*. Northcote Congregational Church. 18 Nov 1916, 2).

The Northcote Congregational Church remained a vibrant community center during the twentieth century. In 1966, the Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex was purchased by the Greek Orthodox Community for £8000 (GOCMV). The Holy Church of St. George's (also known as St Georges Greek Orthodox Church) operated from the Martin Street Church Complex until relocating to nearby St. David Street c.1986. During this time, the Greek Orthodox Church completed a number of alterations and extensions to the Church Complex buildings. Plans from 1966 (Figure 4) depict proposed extensions to the 1914 solid brick Church comprising the extant Altar on the southern end and a proposed office in the western side. However, other plans from 1966 (Figure 5) depict the office on the north-east corner, which is more consistent with the extant state. The former plans also detail alterations to the northern façade (Martin Street) involving the replacement of brick work with panels. As seen in the plans, the western extensions to the early timber building were present by 1966.

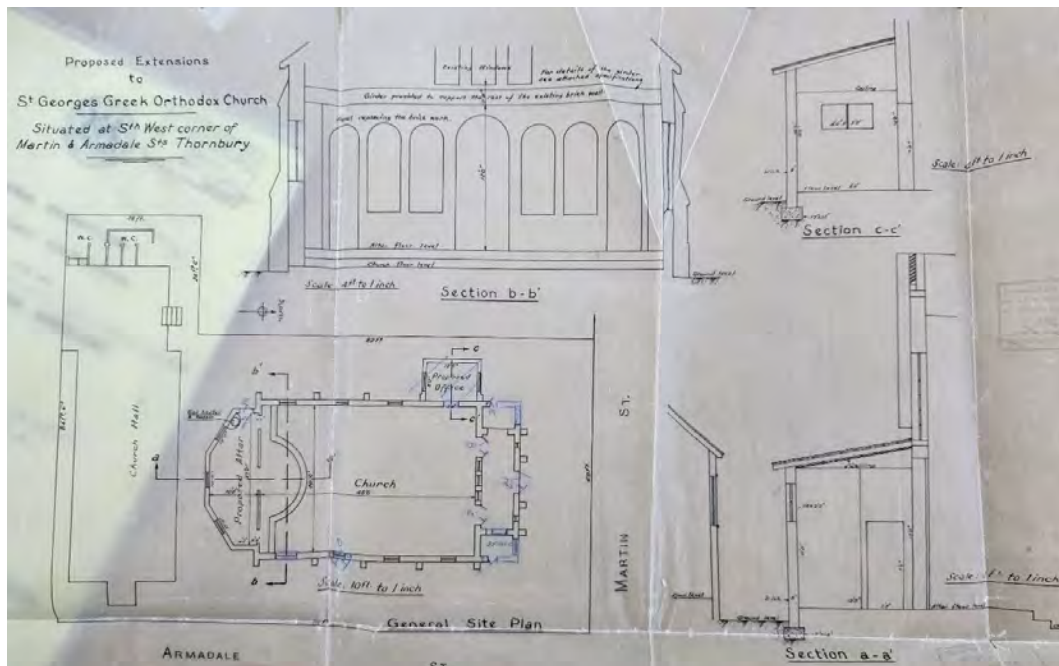


Figure 4. 1966 plans showing proposed extensions to the 1914 Church. Source: PROV.

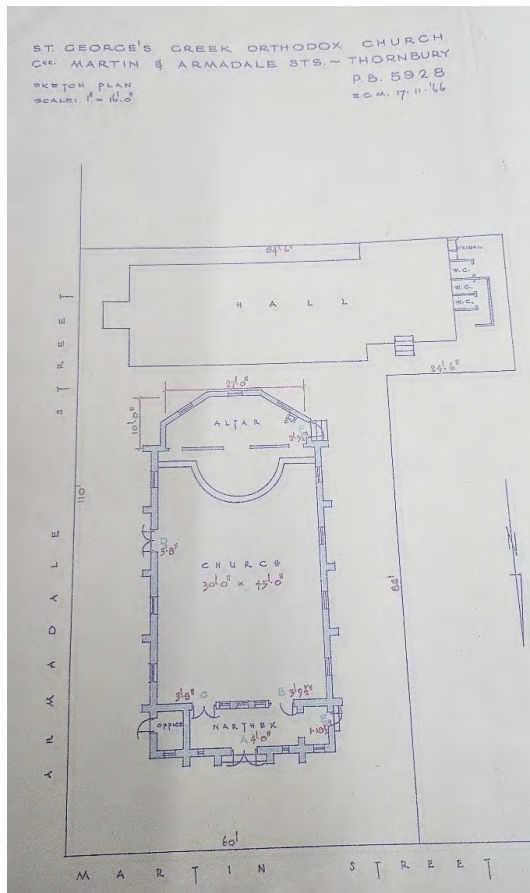


Figure 5. Sketch Plan of Church and Hall, E.G.M. 1966. Source: PROV.

The Greek Orthodox Church purchased the nearby church on St David Street in 1972. Correspondence with the Public Health Department indicates they were still on the Armadale/Martin Street site in 1974 and it is likely they did not relocate to their current site until c.1986, when the The Church of Nazarene commenced at the Former Northcote Congregational Church. The Church of Nazarene is a Christian denomination that emerged from within Methodism in North America during the 19th century, first establishing itself in Australia in 1846. The Thornbury Community Church, of the Church of Nazarene, remain as the current co-occupants *in conjunction with the Oracle Full Gospel Church*.



Figure 6. View of the Church complex from the corner of Martin and Armadale Streets, 1982. Source: City of Darebin.

Comparative Analysis

The below comparative analysis has been established to draw on other churches and church complexes protected both locally by the City of Darebin Heritage Overlay, as well as unprotected, in order to establish the thresholds for this form of ecclesiastical typology.

Comparable examples include:

- **St Pauls Anglican Church and Organ, 88A Station Street, Fairfield (HO190).** The St Paul's Anglican Church comprises a substantial 1916 Federation-era Gothic Revival church, constructed in red brick masonry with concrete dressings on the bay window and lancet windows. The structure follows the orthodox conservative form of a central gabled hall with two transepts on the western side of the Church. It compares well with the 1914 brick church at the Former Northcote Congregational Church site as an intact early twentieth century gabled church distinguished by red brick masonry and dressings. The Former Congregational Church Complex is of additional significance due to its rarity in Darebin as a surviving example of a Congregational church, and the retention of the complex of two buildings that demonstrate two structures from separate eras of development.
- **Thornbury Uniting Church Complex, 7-15 Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury (HO291).** The Thornbury Uniting Church Complex comprises a Harry Norris Gothic Revival church (1924), a kindergarten (1917-1919) and a former Sunday school hall (1914). The site compares well with the Former Congregational Church as both are two ecclesiastical complexes comprising multiple buildings, representing multiple waves of development. The brick Gothic Revival style churches on each site compare favourably as examples of early 20th century architect designed churches drawing on Gothic Revival features, such as gable roofs forms, lancet windows, hood moulds and buttresses. The earlier buildings on each site are also comparable in terms of their simple gable ended roof form and unadorned timber materiality. Both places are considered to be of similar integrity and architectural significance.
- **Holy Church of St Georges Greek Orthodox Church, 64-66 St David Street, Thornbury.** Also identified in the 2007 City of Darebin Heritage Study Vol. 3. for further investigation, St

Heritage Citation

Former Northcote Congregational Church Complex, 16-18 Martin Street, Thornbury

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Georges Greek Orthodox Church (formerly a Wesleyan Methodist Church) is comparable with the former Congregational Church as both are church complexes which developed in stages in Thornbury. It is also comparable as a former Methodist church building that was later converted for use as a Greek Orthodox Church, however the Holy Church of St David has undergone a series of more explicit alterations in its conversion to an Orthodox Church, including extensive rendering, replacement of windows, construction of a new porch, installation of an Orthodox Christian mosaic over the entrance and the painting of the façade in the colours of the Greek flag. On this basis, though both churches have been altered to reflect changing denominational use, the Former Northcote Congregational Church is of higher integrity than the Holy Church of St George with regard to its original design. Neither church complex is currently afforded heritage protection under the Darebin Planning Scheme.

The above comparative analysis contextualizes the significance of the Former Northcote Congregational Church as an example of an early twentieth century Congregationalist church in the City of Darebin. The analysis shows there are other churches which exhibit the same developmental narrative as that recorded onsite at Martin Street, with the initial construction of a timber hall followed by a more substantial brick Church. However, the analysis also highlights the impact and importance of post-war migration on the City of Darebin, and the rapidly changing spiritual landscape of the municipality through the conversion of previously Protestant churches into places of worship for the Greek Orthodox community and Church of Nazarene. The analysis highlights that the significance is not only attributable to the original Congregationalist design of the Church and timber Church Hall, but also to the alterations denoting its changing use for the Greek Orthodox Church followed by the Church of Nazarene. On this basis, the comparative analysis establishes that the Former Northcote Congregational Church is of significance to the City of Darebin.

References

City of Darebin. Darebin Libraries. Digital image of 16 Martin Street, Thornbury, Church of the Nazarene. 1982 (website accessed May 2024: . <https://darebin.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/ARCENQ/34644647/27541320,1>)

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https://old.greekcommunity.com.au/gocmv_public/index.php/en/churches/saint-george

Limitations

1. Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.

Further Images



Eastern elevation of the Church Hall and Church. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd 2024.



Eastern elevation of the Church. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd 2024.



Oblique view of the Church Hall's northern elevation. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd 2024.



Oblique view of the Church's western elevation. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd 2024.



Façade and entrance of the Church and Narthex. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd 2024.



Oblique view of the Church Hall looking north. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd 2024.

Authors

Citation prepared by: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church)

Heritage Place: Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex

HO Reference: HO332

Address: 66 St David Street, Thornbury

Citation status: Draft

Date Updated: 9 May 2024

Designer: unknown – 1903 Timber Church; A.S. Eggleston - 1923 Gothic Revival Church

Year of Construction: Timber Church (1903); Gothic Revival church (1923)

Builder: unknown



Oblique photograph of the front façade of the Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2024.

Location Map of the Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex.

Heritage Group: Religion

Key Theme: 2.2 Migrating to seek opportunity

Heritage Type: Church; Sunday School

Key Sub-theme: Post Second World War immigrants

Controls:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex (formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church), containing the original timber Methodist Church (1903), and the rendered brick Gothic Revival Greek Orthodox church, (1923), at 66 St David Street, Thornbury is significant. Specifically the scale, siting, form and original Gothic detailing as well as the later Greek Orthodox church style alterations of white render with blue accents, semicylindrical entrance portico and mural and later window and door detailing embellished with the motif of a gold two headed eagle are significant.

Other alterations and additions are not significant, including later additions to the rear of the complex.

How is it significant?

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex is of historical, representative and social significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

The Holy Church of St George Complex is of historical significance as a former nineteenth century Methodist Church complex that was later converted into a Greek Orthodox Church in the post-war period. The complex is a representative example of an early twentieth century church complex that is associated with two phases of development in Thornbury: suburban development in the early twentieth century and migration in the inter-war era. It's evolution and changing uses, as embodied in its post-war Eastern Orthodox church style alterations applied to a Gothic Revival Methodist church building, clearly demonstrate the growth and decline of Methodism in the Darebin municipality. Its use throughout the late twentieth century by the Greek Orthodox community is evidence of the cultural changes that took place in Thornbury in the post-war period, and reflects the cultural diversity of the suburb today. (Criterion A)

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex, constructed in 1923, is significant as a representative example of a modest brick Gothic Revival church which was erected in Darebin in the early twentieth century and transitioned into a church of another denomination in the mid twentieth century. Originally it was designed in a Gothic Revival style featuring characteristic elements including cross gabled hipped roof form with gabled facade, tetraconch arrangement, pointed arched windows, corner towers with crenellations and tracery patterning. The later transition to a Greek Orthodox church saw the implementation of design elements which are representative of a Greek Orthodox church and Greece including white exterior rendering with blue accents, a front semicylindrical portico, religious mural and window and door detailing. The church complex also incorporates an original weatherboard Methodist Church which is also significant as a representative example of a modest Federation era timber religious building with Gothic elements. Key features include the corrugated metal hipped roof punctuated with roof vents, gabled ends with plain barge boards, weatherboard façade with a central front entry vestibule containing large gothic arched timber windows on either side, a small central arched window to the vestibule and a large gable finial which mirrors the main finial of the primary façade gable. (Criterion D)

The Holy Church of St George Complex is of social significance as a church that has been known, used and valued by the local community for religious activities for over 100 years. The church has a special contemporary connection to the Greek Orthodox community of Darebin which continues to use the place. Cultural and spiritual ties are emphasized through the embellishment of the church with strong Greek Orthodox symbolism and nationalistic design. The exterior rendering and then painting of a blue and white colour scheme is reflective of the Greek national flag, as well as reflective of iconic buildings of the ‘homeland’, with white and blue buildings endemic to the Greek Islands. The front semicylindrical portico, reminiscent of a traditional Greek Orthodox dome, religious mural and gold double headed bird motif are all important symbols to the Greek Orthodox church. (Criterion G)

HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i>	The Holy Church of St George Complex is of historical significance as a former nineteenth century Methodist Church complex that was later converted into a Greek Orthodox Church in the post-war period. The complex is a representative example of an early twentieth century church complex that is associated with two phases of development in Thornbury: suburban development in the early twentieth century and migration in the inter-war era. It's evolution and changing uses, as embodied in its post-war Eastern Orthodox church style alterations applied to a Gothic Revival Methodist church building, clearly demonstrate the growth and decline of Methodism in the Darebin municipality. Its use throughout the late twentieth century by the Greek Orthodox community is evidence of the cultural changes that took place in Thornbury in the post-war period, and reflects the cultural diversity of the suburb today.
B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
D	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i>	The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex, constructed in 1923, is significant as a representative example of a modest brick Gothic Revival church which was erected in Darebin in the early

		<p>twentieth century and transitioned into a church of another denomination in the mid twentieth century. Originally it was designed in a Gothic revival style featuring characteristic elements including cross gabled hipped roof form with gabled facade, tetraconch arrangement, pointed arched windows, corner towers with crenellations and tracery patterning. The later transition to a Greek Orthodox church saw the implementation of design elements which are representative of a Greek Orthodox church and Greece including white exterior rendering with blue accents, a front semicylindrical portico, religious mural and window and door detailing. The church complex also incorporates an original weatherboard Methodist Church which is also significant as a representative example of a modest Federation era timber religious building with Gothic Revival elements. Key features include the corrugated metal hipped roof punctuated with roof vents, gabled ends with plain barge boards, weatherboard façade with a central front entry vestibule containing large Gothic arched timber windows on either side, a small central arched window to the vestibule and a large gable finial which mirrors the main finial of the primary façade gable.</p>
E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions</i>	The Holy Church of St George Complex is of social significance as a church that has been known, used and valued by the local community for religious activities for over 100 years. The church has a special contemporary connection to the Greek Orthodox community of Darebin which continues to use the place. Cultural and spiritual ties are emphasized through the embellishment of the church with strong

		<p>Greek Orthodox symbolism and nationalistic design. The exterior rendering and then painting of a blue and white colour scheme is reflective of the Greek national flag, as well as reflective of iconic buildings of the 'homeland', with white and blue buildings endemic to the Greek Islands. The front semicylindrical portico, reminiscent of a traditional Greek Orthodox dome, religious mural and gold double headed bird motif are all important symbols to the Greek Orthodox church.</p>
<p>H</p>	<p><i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i></p>	<p>This place does not meet this criterion.</p>

Description

- Physical Analysis

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex is comprised of two churches setback from St David Street. The timber church located to the southern boundary of the site, built in 1903, is a modest weatherboard Federation era timber church with Gothic elements, featuring a corrugated metal hipped roof punctuated with roof vents, and gabled ends with plain barge boards. The weatherboard façade has a central front entry vestibule with large Gothic arched timber windows on either side. The vestibule has a small central arched window and large gable finial which mirrors the main finial of the primary façade gable. The northern elevation faces the former Methodist Church and has three matching large Gothic arched timber windows. The southern side has a later, single storey concrete addition which follows the length of the church and extends outwards to the southern boundary. The rear of the building has a large extension which connects to a later extension to the rear of the brick Greek Orthodox church (formerly the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church).

The larger brick church fronting St David Street is distinct as a modest Gothic Revival church which has had later Greek Orthodox alterations, including external rendering, white paint scheme with blue accents, and a cross gable terracotta tiled roof. The church has an unusual tetraconch arrangement with side transepts, nave and square ambulatory of equal dimensions. The front façade of the church includes a gabled end with three gothic revival windows with square towers either side. Alterations associated with the Greek Orthodox church include a new central entrance vestibule with a semi-cylindrical parapet extending over the main stairs, and a mural above the entrance doorway. The softly arched timber windows of the vestibule mirror those on the original building, noting that these windows were originally side entrances to the Methodist church. Stepped back from the façade, the transoms extend to the north and south, and are much more decoratively detailed with gothic plaster panels, corbelled moldings and small turrets with crenulations.

Alterations and Additions

Changes to the Holy Church of St. George Complex include:

- Alterations to transform into a Greek Orthodox church including rendering and painting of the exterior, new entry vestibule and stairs, blocking of old side entrances, window and door detailing with Greek Orthodox motifs, metal cross at the top of the façade gable. (c.1970s)
- All surrounding concrete hardscaping
- Side gates and fencing
- External lighting, speakers, air conditioning, electrical conduit and guttering are new additions
- Rear eastern addition (articulated with contrasting roofing)
- Rear shed

Alterations to the original weatherboard Methodist Church include:

- New paint scheme
- Concrete ramp and railing to the northern entrance
- Concrete extension to the southern boundary
- External lighting, air conditioning, electrical conduit and guttering are new additions.
- Rear extensions (articulated with contrasting roofing)

History

• Historical Context

The area presently known as the City of Darebin is the traditional home of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. Formerly characterised by pre-contact grassy and flowering woodlands, and basalt rocky banks of the Merri Creek (Merri Merri), the abundant habitat provided Traditional Owners access to a range of water, plant and animal resources integral to their way of life. The onset of colonialism had a devastating impact on the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, and by 1840, all of the land comprising present day Darebin had been taken up by graziers or land prospectors (City of Darebin 2024).

Despite decades of ongoing dispossession, the rich cultural heritage of the Traditional Owners in Darebin has enduring presence to this day. Through continued resistance and the passing down of Indigenous knowledge, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people maintain ongoing connection to, and care for Country.

European colonial settlement in what would become the suburb of Thornbury grew gradually following the 1838-40 Crown Land Sales, which saw the area on either side of the Merri Creek subdivided into long, narrow allotments for farming purposes (Lemon 1983). While Melbourne's 1880s land boom saw urban boundaries pushed out and the erection of a bridge with vehicular access over the Merri Creek at St George's Road in 1886, dense residential and commercial development in Thornbury only truly gained momentum in the early twentieth century following the opening of the direct railway line from Melbourne to Thornbury in 1904 and the subsequent establishment of brickworks in the area and the neighboring suburbs of Preston and Northcote (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 28).

More significant population growth took place following World War I, as shops along High Street began to merge with those in Croxton and the northern extent of Northcote (City of Darebin 2024). Residential development rapidly ballooned during this period, and was accompanied by the establishment of more ornate Church buildings and associated religious institutions. These buildings either replaced more modest structures dating from the late nineteenth century, or comprised entirely new developments to accommodate the suburb's growing population (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 69-71). Irrespective, they tended to reflect Thornbury's prevailing English, Irish and Scottish demographic of the period.

Population growth and migration in the post-war period not only saw further transformation to Thornbury's streetscapes in the form of infill development, but also in the form of new Church buildings and congregations that were established by the suburb's growing Italian and Greek communities (City of Darebin 2024). This trend was replicated again during the 1970s-90s, which saw further diversification stemming from migration from Eastern Europe, West Asia and South Asia, and the subsequent emergence of late twentieth century places of worship associated with their respective religious beliefs (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 24-25).

- **Greek Migration to the City of Darebin**

The first European settlers were predominantly English and Irish Protestants who established small farming communities. Many land owners did not settle in the area but rather intended to make their fortune buying and selling land. Later German and Chinese market gardeners moved to the area c1880, however by the end of the Second World War, the area was almost entirely of British or Irish origin. The area saw its greatest growth in the post-war immigration period where large numbers of Italians, Greeks and Macedonians settled in the area. Many immigrants who had initially settled in inner Melbourne were later drawn to the outer suburbs, attracted by Northcote's factories and cheap housing (Context 2008, 78). By 1981, almost one third of Northcote's population were born overseas in places other than Britain and Ireland (Context 2008, 24).

This period of migration and the impact on the built form of the area is described as follows:

"They changed the landscape of the Merrilands estate with concrete, brick veneer homes and mini farms in their backyards with chooks, fruit and vegetable gardens, homemade vino, salsa, pasta e salsicce. They recycled everything before it was fashionable. The agrarian foods they ate and still prepare today are now part of our gourmet food culture (www.decc.org.au)."

The changes brought about by Post War immigration to Darebin were manifested in area's shops, restaurants and community institutions. Part of the Little Sisters of the Poor buildings in St George's Road, became a Greek Orthodox monastery. The Northcote Theatre became the Italia Hall reception centre in the 1960's and the Westgarth Theatre began showing Greek films in the 1970s. The adaptation of the former Prince of Wales Methodist Church to a Greek Orthodox church in the 1970s was similarly a result of cultural and demographic shifts in the area (Context 2008, 24).

- **Place History**

Prior to the construction of the timber Methodist church on the intersection of St David Street and Speight Street, in 1891 the congregation belonged to an earlier church which was located nearby on the corner of Fenwick and St David Streets. On 10 August 1896, an attempt to buy

neighboring land and expand the church was made, however the high cost meant efforts were redirected towards buying a larger nearby property (Darebin Libraries 2024). Whilst the move was made with the view of moving the pre-existing church, the building was instead relocated to the Holy Trinity Anglican Church at 28 Shaftsbury Parade, Thornbury, and the weatherboard church was burnt down during a 1932 fire which decimated the site (The Herald 1932, 3).

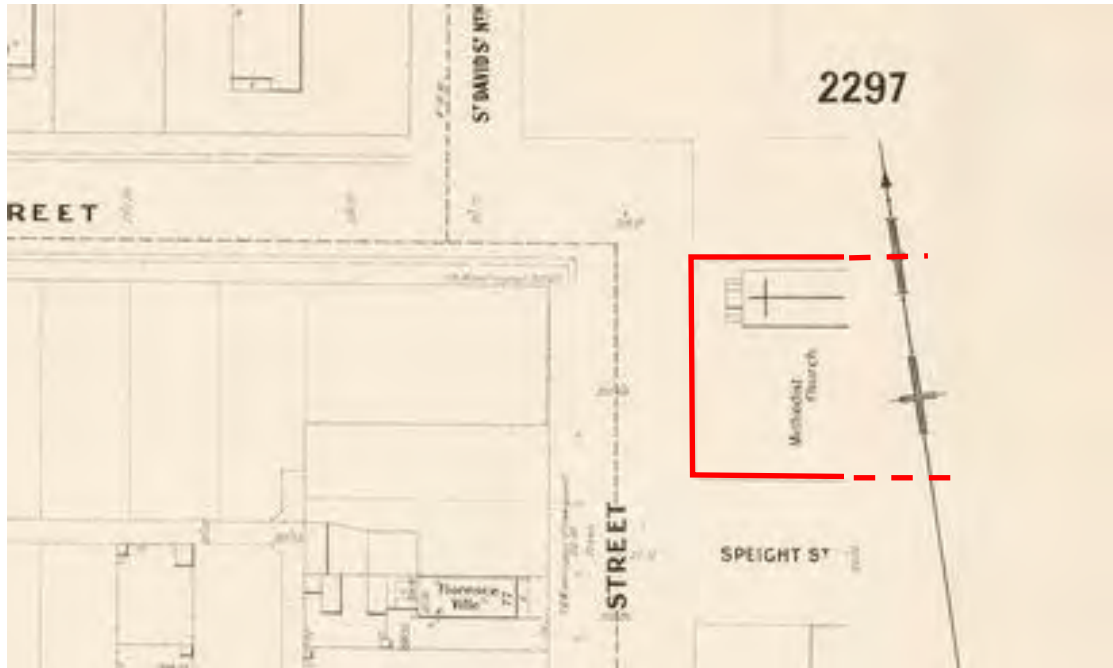


Figure 1. Extract from 1908 Metropolitan Board of Works plan showing the former Methodist Church at the intersection of St David Street and Speight Street, indicated in red. Source: Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. 1908. 'Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works detail plan 2298, Municipality of Northcote'. Cartographic material. Accessed 3 May 2024. <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/127241>

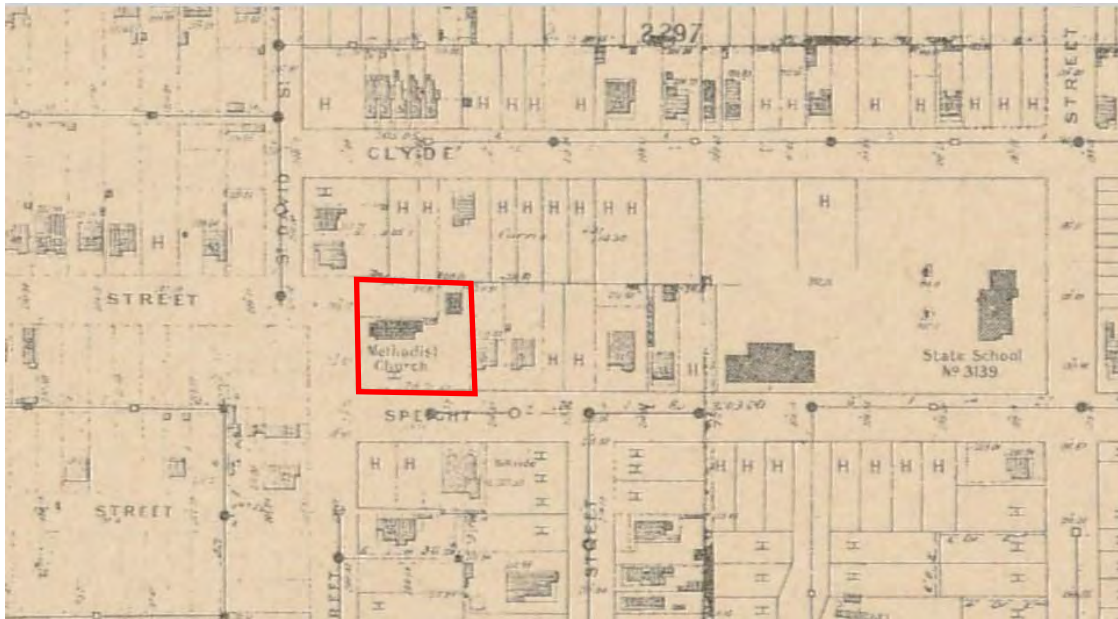


Figure 2. MMBW plan of 66 St David Street c.1920. The image shows the site of the former Methodist Church and the block to the north which would become the site of the new Gothic Revival church by A.C. Eggleston in 1923, indicated in red. Source: Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW). 1933-1950. 'MMBW plan, scale 400 feet to 1 inch. No.106, Northcote & Heidelberg'. Cartographic material. Accessed 3 May 2024. <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/142444>

A new timber Federation era timber Methodist Church with Gothic elements was opened on the current site in 1903, and remains standing today as part of the Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex. More land was eventually purchased to the north of the site with visions of expansion; During the early 1900s, the Methodist church was growing both globally and locally, with the congregation noting that "their present accommodation is quite inadequate, especially for the Sunday School, and strenuous and persistent efforts are being made to get sufficient funds to erect a church in keeping with the district" (Preston Leader 1917, 3). A number of churches in the Thornbury district at the time were built of brick, giving their sector a more substantial presence in the landscape and local society. These churches included the Holy Trinity Church complex, the Presbyterian Church and Hall and St Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

In 1918, plans were submitted to council for the building of a new brick Methodist Church by Alec Stanley Eggleston, a local Melbourne Architect who designed a number of residential, commercial and religious buildings in the early to mid twentieth century. The new church was completed in 1923 and consisted of a large brick and stone tetraconch church in the Gothic Revival style. The church was set back from St David Street with its entrances located to the side of the primary gabled frontage.



Figure 3. Overview of the former Prince of Wales Park Methodist Churches in 1982, showing the later brick Methodist Church prior to alterations in the late twentieth century. Source: Butler, Graeme. 1982. 'St David St Uniting Church, Northcote CS 1982- sheet 1906'. Flickr (website). Accessed 3 May 2024. [Flickr.com/photos/7849945@N02/27030529623](https://www.flickr.com/photos/7849945@N02/27030529623)

In 1977, the Methodist Church became part of the Uniting Church parish, with the congregation amalgamating and leaving the St David Street churches redundant (DHS stage 3, 1010, 142). In 1972 members of the Antioch community began renting out the Prince of Wales Park Methodist Church and eventually purchased the property in the early 1980s, renaming it the St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church (Darebin Libraries, 2024). The transition of a Methodist church to another denomination was not unusual in the area as a number of other churches also became redundant into the later twentieth century. This shift also included the transition of St Nikola in Tyler Street and St Mark's in Gilbert Road. These churches show the transition of Darebin from the domination of non-conformist Protestantism to a multicultural society following post war immigration (Volume 1, 2007, 112).

The congregation of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church had originally commenced its services in Carlton in 1956, with services held in a rented property also belonging to the Methodist Church on the corner of Lygon and Queensberry streets. The church then relocated to Thornbury in 1966, with the committee agreeing to purchase a property on the corner of Martin and Armadale Streets. The church was then later moved to the current site of 66 St. David Street, which was purchased in the 1970s (Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria 2024).

Renovations were made to the former Methodist Church following the purchase by the St George Greek Orthodox congregation. These changes were reflective of typical Greek Orthodox

design as well of Greek nationalism. The exterior rendering and then painting of a blue and white colour scheme was reflective of the Greek national flag, as well as reflective of iconic buildings of the “homeland”, with white and blue buildings endemic to the Greek Islands. The design also incorporated a new entry vestibule with a semicylindrical portico. The inclusion of the semicylindrical portico, painted blue, is likely referential to the traditional architecture of the Greek islands where dome construction was easy and inexpensive, eventually becoming an architectural characteristic of Greek design. The dome is also important to the design of Greek Orthodox churches, however as the Holy Church of St. George incorporated a previously Methodist church, a constructed central dome was not possible. The dome has a long historical importance to the Greek Orthodox, as it combined church design with more mystical geometry; in particular a dome would determine a vertical axis and invite symbolic identification with the “dome” of heaven (Greek Orthodox Archdioceses of America 2024). The mural above the doorway is an interpretation of Saint George, the patron saint of the Greek Orthodox Church at 66 St. David Street. The icon is represented as a young beardless saint on horseback slaying a dragon, portraying triumph with sin and death trampled upon (Saint George and the Dragon, 2021). Further characteristics of Greek nationalism are present in the application of the motif of a gold two headed eagle, featured in window and door detailing, based on imagery from the Greek Orthodox flag.

Comparative Analysis

Designed in a Gothic Revival derived style, the Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox is a representative example of a modest brick church erected in Darebin in the early twentieth century designed in a Gothic revival style of unique design with interesting detailing such as the crenelations to the porch turrets. The below comparable sites have been chosen as churches with similar architectural qualities, associations with the architect A.S. Eggleston or as comparable ecclesiastical complexes comprising of multiple buildings that represent multiple waves of development in Darebin. Comparable examples are:

- **St Pauls Anglican Church and Organ, 88E Station Street, Fairfield (HO190).** The St Pauls Anglican Church and Organ comprises a substantial 1916 Federation era Gothic Revival Church, constructed in red brick masonry with concrete dressings on the bay window and lancet windows. The structure follows the orthodox conservative form of a central gabled hall with two transepts on the western side of the Church. The building compares well with the Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex, as both are examples of two early twentieth century Church of England churches featuring Gothic Revival style features. Of the two, the Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex is more notable due to the retention of two church buildings within the complex from the early twentieth century (and possibly earlier), and incorporation of Tudor Revival detailing such as crenelations to the corner turrets of the porches.
- **Thornbury Uniting Church Complex, 7-15 Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury (HO291).** The Thornbury Uniting Church Complex comprises an intact ecclesiastical complex including a Harry Norris Gothic Revival Church (1924), a kindergarten (1917-1919) and a former Sunday School Hall (1914). The site compares well with the Holy Church of St George Complex as they are both examples of ecclesiastical complexes comprising multiple buildings, representing multiple waves of development in Darebin, including the first modest

timber structures constructed on each site, followed by substantial Gothic-style brick churches, built to the designs of well-known architects. Whilst both sites have comparable Gothic Revival elements including pitched gable roofs and gabled ends with pointed arched windows, 66 St. David Street has been adapted for the use of another Christian denomination with physical adaptations that are emblematic to the subsequent denomination including white render with blue detailing, the introduction of a new entrance portico and mural (the entrance resulting in the closure of the original side tower doorways) and door and window detailing. Comparatively, 7-15 Rossmoyne Street is in private ownership, has not been adapted to another use, and does not have ongoing social and cultural ties.

- **St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church/ Former Mt Erica Methodist Church and Sunday School, 362-380 High Street, Windsor.** The St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church/ Former Mt Erica Methodist Church comprises an intact ecclesiastical complex comprising of a Romanesque church and a former Sunday School Hall built in 1889 which was later converted into a Greek Orthodox Church in 1963. The site compares well with the Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex as they are both examples of ecclesiastical complexes comprising of multiple buildings which have undergone change over time to respond to multiple waves of immigration and development in their respective areas. The transitions from Methodist to Greek Orthodox churches on each site illustrates the substantial influx of Greek settlement in both areas in the post-war period, and the resulting impact the diversification in demographics had on the built landscape.

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox complex, Thornbury, is of particular interest as an early twentieth century Gothic Revival Methodist Church building complex which has been transitioned into a different Christian denomination but which retains its original architectural legibility, including gabled roof, pointed arched windows, towers with crenelations and tracery. In its physical fabric and history, the church also has the capacity to illustrate multiple waves of urban settlement patterns in the City of Darebin, including the initial colonial settlements and the later immigration of eastern Europeans to the area during the post-war period. As a Greek Orthodox church, the Holy Church of St George maintains strong social ties to the community, having maintained its role as an active place of worship and gathering for over 100 years, in circumstances where declining church attendance has made many churches in Darebin redundant.

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Limitations

1. Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.

Further Images



Overview of Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox primary façade facing St David Street (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024).



Oblique view of Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex, including the original Methodist church. (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024)



Oblique views of Greek Orthodox Church and with timber Methodist church to right source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024).



View of main entrance of Holy Church of St George (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024).

Heritage Citation

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex, 66 St David Street, Thornbury



Oblique view of the original timber Methodist Church (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024).



Detail oblique view of the southern façade of the Greek Orthodox Church and its relationship to the original Methodist Church (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024).



Detail view of the main entrance to the Greek Orthodox Church (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024).



Detail view of the northern boundary of the site including the northern transept of the Greek Orthodox Church (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024).

Authors

Updated citation prepared by: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd

Heritage Citation

The Holy Church of St George Greek Orthodox Complex, 66 St David Street, Thornbury

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Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir

Heritage Place: Reservoir Albanian Mosque
Address: 111 Blake Street, Reservoir
Designer: Cuma Pty Ltd
Builder: Unknown

HO Reference: HO333
Citation status: Draft
Date Updated: 9 May 2024
Year of Construction: 1993



Photograph of 111 Blake Street, Reservoir. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.



Location map of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque at 111 Blake Street, Reservoir. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2024.

Heritage Group: Religion
Heritage Type: Mosque

Key Theme: 2.2 Migrating to seek opportunity
Key Sub-theme: Post Second World War immigrants, Places of worship that reflect post-war immigration

Controls:	<input type="checkbox"/> External paint controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy system controls

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque (c1993) at 111 Blake Street, Reservoir, is significant. Specifically the form, detailing, materials and fenestration of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque, including the dome and minaret are of local heritage significance. The Cypress trees which frame the entrance to the Reservoir Albanian Mosque from the street contribute to the significance of the place. The empty lot to the east and at grade car park are of no significance.

How is it significant?

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque at 111 Blake Street is of aesthetic and social significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

Constructed in c.1993 to a design by architect Eddie Cuma, the Reservoir Albanian Mosque is of aesthetic significance as a highly articulated and intact purpose-built mosque distinguished by high-quality masonry construction, a prominent dome, striking minaret, multi-paned arch windows, buttressing and its dynamic use of rectilinear and rounded forms. The siting of the mosque to the rear of the site with the entry framed by a row of Cypress trees also contributes to the overall aesthetic qualities of the place. (Criterion E)

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque is of social significance as a continuing place of worship, assembly and gathering space for the local and surrounding Albanian community, being operated by the community organisation Australian Albania Prespa Association Inc (at the time of writing in April 2024). The Reservoir Albanian Mosque is also of note for its strong and special association with the local Muslim community for social, cultural and religious associations. (Criterion G).

HERCON Criteria Assessment

	Criterion	Assessment
A	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
D	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	Constructed in c.1993 to a design by architect Eddie Cuma, the Reservoir Albanian Mosque is of aesthetic significance as a highly articulated purpose-built mosque distinguished by high-quality masonry construction, a

Heritage Citation
Reservoir Albanian Mosque, 111 Blake Street, Reservoir

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	Criterion	Assessment
		prominent dome, striking minaret, multi-paned arched windows, buttressing and its dynamic use of rectilinear and rounded forms. It also compares well to existing late twentieth century examples in terms of intactness and aesthetic distinction.
F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions</i>	The Reservoir Albanian Mosque is of social significance as a continuing place of worship, assembly and gathering space for the local and surrounding Albanian community. It is also of note for its strong and special association with the local Albanian Muslim community for social, cultural and religious associations.
H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.

Description

• Physical Analysis

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque is located to the rear of the site at 111 Blake Street, Reservoir, in a particularly community focused area within a broader residential area, which includes the local Blake Street Kindergarten and the Preston Community Health Medical Centre. The site is a cleaver shaped property, the Kindergarten partially obscuring the Mosque which is located to the rear of the property. The entrance to the site fronts Blake Street, with a simple brick and metal bar fence and central gate which opens to a large concreted at grade carparking space lined with a row of mature Cypress trees. The Reservoir Albanian Mosque's orientation is aligned along a north-west axis in the direction of Mecca, the revered religious site to the Islamic faith located in Saudi Arabia.

The building itself is a refined modernist-inspired large orange brick structure with a singular brick minaret with a surround balcony and silver zinc conical roof, partially expressed from the main building's external facade, and adjacent is a large low white dome atop a brick base with large multipaned arched windows and external buttressing running the height of the wall. Together, these elements define the façade of the building from the street. Extending from the dome to the south east is a large rectilinear meeting hall. The entrance to the Reservoir Albanian Mosque is adjacent to the minaret, defined by three arched openings separated with large brick buttresses (Figure 3). Unlike traditional Mosque architecture, the building does not have a Sahn (courtyard), however functions which would typically occur in the Sahn have been internally relocated within the rectilinear form, including spaces for ablutions (ritual cleansing).

- **Alterations and Additions**

Minor works have been carried out including:

- The re-rendering and repainting of the dome (c.2018)
- The removal of the white metal balustrading to the entry steps and to the staircase to the side of the minaret tower (c.2020)
- New landscaping to garden beds abutting the building (c.2020)

History

- **Historical Context**

The area presently known as the City of Darebin is the traditional home of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. Formerly characterised by pre-contact grassy and flowering woodlands, and basalt rocky banks of the Merri Creek (Merri Merri), the abundant habitat provided Traditional Owners access to a range of water, plant and animal resources integral to their way of life. The onset of colonialism had a devastating impact on the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, and by 1840, all of the land comprising present day Darebin had been taken up by graziers or land prospectors (City of Darebin 2024).

Despite decades of ongoing dispossession, the rich cultural heritage of the Traditional Owners in Darebin has enduring presence to this day. Through continued resistance and the passing down of Indigenous knowledge, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people maintain ongoing connection to, and care for Country.

European colonial settlement in what would become the suburb of Reservoir grew slowly following the 1838-40 Crown Land Sales, which saw large allotments sold to a handful of land speculators during Melbourne's initial land boom (Lemon 1983). Unlike the more inner suburbs of Darebin, Reservoir's remoteness from Melbourne meant that development in the area did not take off until the interwar period.

Fueled by the extension of the Whittlesea Railway Line to Reservoir in 1921, residential and commercial development during this interwar period was gradual and primarily marked by the development of freestanding housing dating to the 1920s, 30s and early 1940s (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 71-75). Accompanying this was the establishment of Church buildings and associated religious institutions that reflected Reservoir's prevailing English, Irish and Scottish demographic of the period.

The most pronounced wave of development in Reservoir would take place in the mid to late twentieth century period, which not only saw residential and commercial development associated with the significant influx of post-war migrants from European countries such as Italy, Greece, and former Yugoslavia, but also migrants from West Asia and South Asia during the late twentieth century (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 24-25). As with their predecessors, these new migrant communities established new places of worship and congregations associated with their respective religious beliefs.

- **Darebin's Muslim Community**

Twentieth century Muslim migration to Victoria can chiefly be traced back to the immediate Post-War period, which saw large numbers of European Muslims from the Balkan region,

particularly from Cyprus, Bosnia and Albania, arrive in Australia as part of post-war immigration schemes (Haveric 2019). However, the emergence of a cohesive and visible Muslim community in the City of Darebin would only begin to take shape during the 1960s and 1970s, which not only saw Turkish and Lebanese Muslims arrive in Preston as part of the gradual dismantling of Australia's White Australia Policy, but also the establishment of the Islamic Society in Victoria's (ISV) premises in Preston in 1976 (Haveric 2017, 21; Context Pty Ltd 2008, 25).

The municipality's Muslim demographic was further bolstered by Kurdish migration to Darebin during the 1990s, particularly in the suburbs of Preston and Reservoir (Context Pty Ltd 2008, 25). These successive waves of Muslim migration and settlement not only diversified Darebin's social and cultural fabric, but also had an enduring impact on the municipality's built form. Today, this impact is most evident in the mosque, ethnic community centers, and commercial businesses concentrated around the commercial and residential streetscapes of Preston and Reservoir.

- **Place History**

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque was built on the site c. 1993 for the Australian Albanian Islamic community as a place of worship for local residents and those outside of the Reservoir area (VCAT, 1993). The design of the place by Cuma Architects Pty Ltd was for a place of worship erected in a landscaped setting, with an open air paved area to be used for recreational purposes as well as off-street parking. The design prominently features a dome and Minaret tower, which functions as a powerful visual reminder of the presence of Islam on the landscape.

In 1996, the Australian Albanian Prespa Association Inc. was founded. Lake Prespa is a region in Albania located at the tripoint of Albania, Greece and Macedonia. The Association is very active and continues to operate the Reservoir Albanian Mosque today.

Aerial imagery comparisons show no notable alterations to the building between 2017 – 2024, emphasizing the high integrity of the place. Some minor works have been carried out in the maintenance of the property, including the re-rendering and painting of the dome post 2017, and landscaping works c2020 which includes the renovation of side gardens and the removal of white metal balustrading to the entrance and tower side stairway (Figure 3 & 4).



Figure 1. Oblique aerial image from 2017, of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque at 111 Blake Street, Reservoir. Source: Nearmap.



Figure 2. Oblique aerial image from 2020, of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque at 111 Blake St, Reservoir, showing landscaping works. Source: Nearmap. .



Figure 3. Oblique aerial image from 2024 of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque at 111 Blake Street, Reservoir. Source: Nearmap. 2024. '111 Blake Street, Reservoir'. Digitized photograph. Nearmaps (website).

Comparative Analysis

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque is a building which is used as a place of worship located at Blake Street, Reservoir. It is distinguished by its refined materiality and clear expression of form, where integral traditional design elements such as the Minaret and dome are emphasized. Whilst it is simply detailed, the refined architectural expression as well as use of common Australian brick materiality, demonstrate the prominence of Islam within the area of Reservoir, and its integration as a local place of worship in the late twentieth century into the twenty-first century. The Reservoir Albanian Mosque is the second purpose built mosque in the City of Darebin, with the first constructed in Cramer St, Preston in 1975-6.

The Reservoir Albanian Mosque can be compared to the following:

- **Albanian Mosque, 765-769 Drummond Street, Carlton (City of Yarra HO326).**
Constructed in 1967, The Albanian Mosque in Carlton compares to the Reservoir Albanian Mosque as a mosque that was purpose built for Islamic worshippers in the second half of the twentieth century. Although erected a few decades earlier, the Carlton Albanian Mosque shares similarities with the Reservoir Albanian Mosque in terms of scale, arched windows and the presence of visually prominent minarets. As with the Reservoir Albanian Mosque, it not only forms a distinctive element along a residential streetscape, but similarly serves as a focal point for associated migrant communities in the area and surrounds. Of the two, the Reservoir Albanian Mosque is more intact and aesthetically articulated owing to its high-quality masonry finish and prominent dome.

- **Albanian Mosque, 8 Acacia Street, Shepparton (Victorian Heritage Register VHR H2425).** Constructed between 1956 and 1960, the Albanian Mosque at 8 Acacia Street, Shepparton is the earliest purpose-built mosque in Victoria. While it is more historically notable at the state level than the Reservoir Albanian Mosque as the earliest surviving purpose-built mosque in Victoria, it nevertheless compares as a purpose-built late twentieth century brick masonry mosque for Islamic worshippers that has continued to serve as a cultural and social focal point for its respective Muslim community.
- **Camii Turkish Mosque 45-55 King Street, Dallas (Hume City Council HO232).** The Camii Turkish Mosque is of local architectural, historical and social significance to the City of Hume owing to its unusual and distinctive form, and capacity to demonstrate the post-war growth of Islam as a religion in the City of Hume. Constructed in 1985, it compares to the Reservoir Albanian Mosque as an example of distinctive, purpose-built late twentieth century mosque distinguished by masonry construction, prominent minarets and arched windows. Of the two, the Reservoir Albanian Mosque is more visually striking owing to its multi-pane windows, distinct dome and buttresses.
- **Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque, 88 Cramer Street, Preston.** The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque in Preston is the earliest constructed mosque in the Darebin Municipality, first constructed in 1975-6 to designs prepared by Bates, Smart and McCutcheon. The Reservoir Albanian Mosque compares favorably with the Mosque on Cramer Street as both are late twentieth century mosques built in the City of Darebin. Stylistically, both mosques feature Ottoman-informed minarets, cylindrical in design with wraparound balconies, a pointed roof and crescent finial. Both structures also feature domes, though the dome on the Reservoir Albanian Mosque is designed with a shallower pitch than that featured on the Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque. Further, the Reservoir Albanian Mosque utilizes buttresses and a strong functionalist form not represented at the Cramer Street Mosque. The Reservoir Albanian Mosque is of a significantly higher level of integrity too, retaining all original features. The Omar Bin El Khattam Mosque is not currently afforded heritage protections, however it is currently in the process of being assessed for its local heritage significance. Though older than the Reservoir Albanian Mosque, both mosques are of local significance as intact and legible mosques in the City of Darebin.

The above comparative analysis demonstrates the impact post-war migration had on the local spiritualism and community groups in the City of Darebin. Specifically, the analysis highlights how post-war immigration, and the resulting changes in social demographics has physically impacted the landscape through the building of places of Islamic worship. Further, the above analysis highlights the common architectural features associated with the mosque typology and some places currently afforded protections. The common features include an Ottoman-informed cylindrical minaret with a pointed turret roof form surmounted by a crescent finial. The use of a light coloured brick masonry (although often rendered) is also a common theme, as is an oblique setting demonstrating the importance of orienting the Qibla and Musalla facing the Kaaba in Mecca. On this basis, the Reservoir Albanian Mosque at 111 Blake Street, Reservoir is considered to meet the threshold for local significance.

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Limitations

1. Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.
4. Place specific history is limited to the availability of digitized documents

Further Images



View of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque from Blake Street. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2024.



Oblique view of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque from Blake Street. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2024



View of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque from across Blake Street, showing minaret. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2024.



View of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque from Blake Street, where views of the building have been obscured by the Kindergarten building in front.



Oblique view of the Reservoir Albanian Mosque from the west, showing the line of mature trees which obscure views of the building except for the Minaret. Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd. 2024.

Authors

Updated citation prepared by: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd

10. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

Nil

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

11.1 FUTURE DECISIONS REGARDING 2 WINGROVE STREET ALPHINGTON

Councillor: Emily DIMITRIADIS

NoM No.: 15/2024

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 May 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes that under the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) transparency of Council decisions, actions and information must be ensured.*
- (2) *Confirms Council's ongoing commitment to Darebin's Public Transparency Policy 2020 requires that the work of the Council is:*
 - (a) *Conducted openly;*
 - (b) *Accompanied by information made freely and proactively available to the community and stakeholders; and*
 - (c) *Supportive of participation in decision making.*
- (3) *Notes that there has been public interest in the future of the site at 2 Wingrove Street Alphington and that the public has raised concerns about the confidential decisions and asked questions about transparency regarding this site.*
- (4) *Notes that Council has made some decisions confidentially about the 2 Wingrove Street site and that this has been for reasons necessary to meet Council's obligations and in line with the Local Government Act.*
- (5) *Note that at its meeting on 12 February 2024 Council decided to make publicly available all decisions regarding the Melbourne Innovation Centre at 2 Wingrove Street Alphington, from any Council meeting this term, while withholding any details which are required to remain confidential.*
- (6) *Notes that at its meeting of 25 January 2023, Council delegated authority to the CEO to determine the best short to mid-term use of 2 Wingrove St Alphington.*
- (7) *Directs that future decisions related to short, mid and long term use of at 2 Wingrove Street Alphington be reported to Council meetings for decision rather than being made under delegation as follows:*
 - (a) *Decisions relating to the future use of the site including establishment or conclusion of leases or licences.*
 - (b) *Decisions at key stages of the work towards master planning including approval of the project plan (and scope), approval of the community engagement plan, receiving the feasibility study and decisions about outcome of any future EOI process.*
 - (c) *For avoidance of doubt, other currently delegated functions relating to this site are unchanged.*

Rationale:

Many community members have raised concerns about the confidential decisions that have been made and a lack of transparency that has been occurring about decisions regarding 2 Wingrove Street Alphington. Given public concerns and to avoid reputational damage, this motion ensures that future decisions are made publicly by Council and not under delegation.

Notice Received: 12 May 2024

Notice Given to Councillors 12 May 2024

Date of Meeting: 27 May 2024

Attachments

Nil

11.2 CULTURAL DIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT PROFILE DATA**Councillor: Gaetano GRECO****NoM No.: 16/2024**

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 27 May 2024, it is my intention to move:

That Council

- 1) *Notes the Welcoming Cities Reference Group meeting on Tuesday 27 February, again requested diversity data relating to the make-up of Darebin City Council's workforce, particularly workforce data on cultural diversity.*
- 2) *Notes workforce cultural diversity information has been sought by the committee on numerous occasions since it was first established over four years ago.*
- 3) *Notes workforce cultural diversity data is still not currently collected and analysed by Council on a periodic basis.*
- 4) *Notes the specific information committee members are seeking is consistent with achieving the Welcoming Cities Charter standard of employing a workforce that is inclusive, diverse and reflects the cultural diversity of the community it serves.*
- 5) *Receives a report at the August Council meeting on how periodic workforce cultural diversity information can be obtain and used by the Council to:*
 - a. *Identify and address barriers and unconscious bias, which may limit cultural diversity and inclusion in employment practices.*
 - b. *Highlight the value of a culturally diverse workforce and encouraging applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply.*
 - c. *Explore innovative ways of promoting job opportunities to reach a broad and culturally diverse range of potential applicants.*
 - d. *publicly reports on Council's progress in relation to workplace cultural equality.*
 - e. *redress disadvantage, address stigma, stereotyping, prejudice and accommodate people of different cultural background by way of structural change.*

Notice Received: 13 May 2024**Notice Given to Councillors 13 May 2024****Date of Meeting: 27 May 2024****Rationale**

Local government is the closest level of government to the people which makes it even more essential for its workforce to better reflect the community it serves, especially in a demographically diverse and proud city like Darebin. Collecting and analysing workforce cultural diversity data provides a necessary foundation to determine the actual composition of Darebin's workforce. Such base line information will facilitate the development of strategies for achieving workplace cultural diversity equality which will help enhance the economic and social participation of community members from different cultural backgrounds.

The Welcoming Cities Advisory Committee has sought this base line information on numerous occasions from the time the committee was first established. However, this remains an outstanding matter the committee is seeking to resolve in order to gain Council's commitment on achieving one of the key Welcoming Cities standards, i.e. ensure council employs a workforce that is inclusive, culturally diverse and more representative of the community it serves.

Attachments

Nil

12. URGENT BUSINESS


13. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.


14. CLOSE OF MEETING

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