



MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

4 MARCH 2026



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MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 4 MARCH 2026



Welcome

Welcome to this Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council.

Council Meetings are an important way to ensure that your democratically elected representatives are working for you in a fair and transparent way. They also allow the public to be involved in the decision-making process of Council.

About this meeting

There are a few things to know about tonight's meeting. The first page of tonight's Agenda itemises all the different parts to the meeting. Some of the items are administrative and are required by law. In the agenda you will also find a list of all the items to be discussed this evening.

Each report is written by a Council officer outlining the purpose of the report, all relevant information and a recommendation. Council will consider the report and either accept the recommendation or make amendments to it. All decisions of Council are adopted if they receive a majority vote from the Councillors present at the meeting.

Public Question Time and Submissions

Provision is made at the beginning of the meeting for general question time from members of the public.

All contributions from the public will be heard at the start of the meeting during the agenda item 'Public Questions and Submissions.' Members of the public have the option to either participate in person or join the meeting virtually via Teams to ask their questions live during the meeting.

If you would like to address the Council and /or ask a question on any of the items being discussed, please submit a 'Request to Speak form' by midday on the day of the meeting via Council's website:

[Request to speak at a Council meeting - City of Port Phillip](#)





MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

To Councillors

Notice is hereby given that a **Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council** will be held in **St Kilda Town Hall and Virtually via Teams** on **Wednesday, 4 March 2026 at 6:30 PM**. At their discretion, Councillors may suspend the meeting for short breaks as required.

AGENDA

- 1 **APOLOGIES**
- 2 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**
[Minutes of the Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council 18 February 2026.](#)
- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
- 4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS**
- 5 **COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME**
- 6 **PETITIONS, JOINT LETTERS & DEPUTATIONS**
Nil
- 7 **PRESENTATION OF CEO REPORT**
Nil
- 8 **A HEALTHY AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY**
Nil
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The information contained in the following Council reports is considered to be Confidential Information in accordance with Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2020.

- 17.1 *Collaborative HVHR - Parking Infringement Management Services*
3(1)(a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.*

Reason: This report presents the findings of the Tender Evaluation Panel for the collaborative HVHR procurement conducted jointly with the Cities of Stonnington and Glen Eira. While the evaluation process was undertaken collaboratively, each Council is required to make its own independent decision regarding the tender outcome. To protect the integrity of the procurement process and prevent any Council's decision from influencing the others, this information must remain confidential until all three Councils have formally awarded the tender.

- 17.2 *HR Solution Project*
3(1)(a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.*

Reason: This report is required to remain confidential as it forms part of an active procurement and tender process for selecting a new HR system. Releasing its contents at this stage could disadvantage Council and may compromise the integrity of Council's procurement activities.

- 17.3 *South Melbourne Town Hall – Funding and Contract Variation*
3(1)(a) *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.*

Reason: This report contains contractual information, including project and construction contract contingency provisions, that if released at this time would disadvantage Council in its ability to manage its construction contract in the best interests of the community.



1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the minutes of the [Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council held on 18 February 2026](#) be confirmed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND SUBMISSIONS

5. COUNCILLOR QUESTION TIME

6. PETITIONS, JOINT LETTERS & DEPUTATIONS

7. PRESENTATION OF CEO REPORT

8. A HEALTHY AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY

9. AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CITY

9.1 *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan*..... 6



9.1 ELSTER CREEK LITTER ACTION PLAN

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: BRIAN TEE, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY: JULIAN DONLEN, PRINCIPAL SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the final *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* (ECLAP) for Council endorsement following community engagement.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan (ECLAP) represents a collaborative, catchment-wide approach to reducing litter in the Elster Creek catchment through source reduction, infrastructure improvements, and ongoing monitoring.
- 2.2 Developed with input from key stakeholders and community groups, the Action Plan aligns with Council's strategic objectives and climate response commitments.
- 2.3 Following a period of community engagement, changes have been made to improve the final draft Action Plan, which is presented for endorsement.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the Community Engagement report on the draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan. (**Attachment 1**).
- 3.2 Notes the changes to the draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan following community engagement.
- 3.3 Thanks the community members involved in the development of the Action Plan, and the group of organisations in the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration.
- 3.4 Endorses the Elster Creek Litter Action Plan (**Attachment 3**) for implementation.
- 3.5 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate to make minor amendments to the plan that do not materially alter its intent.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The Elster Creek Litter Action Plan (ECLAP) has been developed in response to increasing community concern about litter generation and accumulation within the Elster Creek Catchment.
- 4.2 This five-year plan is a collaborative initiative developed in partnership with Melbourne Water, Bayside City Council, Glen Eira City Council, City of Port Phillip, EPA Victoria, and community groups.
- 4.3 The ECLAP sets out a strategic framework to reduce litter at its source, actively remove litter from the catchment, and monitor progress through robust data collection and community involvement.
- 4.4 The 5-year Elster Creek Litter Action Plan has three outcomes:



1. *Prevention*
Litter generation is reduced at the source through awareness, education, and changes to systems and behaviours.
 2. *Removal*
Litter that has entered the catchment is actively removed and managed to stop it reaching Port Phillip Bay.
 3. *Monitoring*
Litter in the Elster Creek Catchment is actively monitored and assessed to measure progress and identify priority areas of improvement.
- 4.5 Progress on the three outcomes of the ECLAP will be measured by:
1. *Prevention*
% reduction in litter volume (kg or m³) collected by community groups and stakeholders
 2. *Removal*
Total kg or m³ of litter removed
 3. *Monitoring*
% composition of litter by type identified
- 4.6 There are 34 actions in the draft Action Plan including 17 short-term (0-2 years) and 17 long-term (3-5 years).
- 4.7 Responsibility for actions are divided between different stakeholders. Most actions in the ECLAP that are infrastructure related are led by City of Glen Eira and Melbourne Water. Other actions involve community education, advocacy and process improvement.
- 4.8 Key actions led by City of Port Phillip are:
- 2.4 Develop a business case for a Litter Enforcement Officer (LEO) and create clear enforcement guidelines based on best practices.
 - 3.5 Identify opportunities to improve street sweeping practices and maintenance frequencies.
 - 6.1 Promote community-led cleanups and citizen science at litter hotspots and accumulation zones.
 - 7.1 Adopt a consistent data collection method to allow for comparative analysis, improve data accuracy and promote existing resources.

Changes made to the draft ECLAP following community engagement

- 4.9 The main changes to the Draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan following community engagement include:
- 4.9.1 A new long-term (3-5 year) action that explicitly targets businesses in activity centres. City of Port Phillip would lead this action with the City of Glen Eira.
Action 2.5 Work with businesses in activity centres to improve litter management, including improving compliance and adoption of best-practice litter reduction practices.
 - 4.9.2 Specific reference to microplastics pollution as an impact of litter, in the section '*Our shared waterway and its challenges*'.
 - 4.9.3 Specific reference to previous studies on litter in Port Phillip Bay, to supplement the litter analysis completed to inform development of the Action Plan.



*Progress will be measured against a baseline estimation of litter in the catchment, established using data from the Elster Creek Litter Analysis and **supplemented by research from the Clean Bay Blueprint and Plastic Free Bay reports**. Each project will have its own metrics aligned with best-practice methodologies to ensure consistency and comparability.*

- 4.10 The Draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan for community engagement is attached as **Attachment 1**. Changes to the draft ECLAP are detailed in **Attachment 2**.
- 4.11 Following changes to the draft ECLAP based on community engagement, the final ECLAP (**Attachment 3**) has been prepared for endorsement.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Two targeted deliberative engagement workshops in March and July 2025 shaped the development of the draft ECLAP. Representatives from the following community groups attended, from across the Elster Creek Catchment:
- Elwood Canal Action Team
 - Beach Patrol
 - Love Our Street
 - Port Phillip EcoCentre
 - Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network
 - Glen Eira Climate Action Network
- 5.2 A broad community engagement and communications campaign was undertaken in November – December 2025 to gather further feedback, raise awareness of litter issues, and inform the final ECLAP.
- 5.3 Collaborative engagement was conducted by all partners in the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration. The same content was shared by Glen Eira, Melbourne Water, Bayside and Port Phillip.
- 5.4 Promotion of the engagement was via posters, flyers, Council newsletters, Council's digital channels, and targeted outreach through community and stakeholder networks.
- 5.5 The Draft ECLAP was exhibited on Council's Have Your Say page from 6 November to 14 December 2025. Feedback was provided through an online survey on the actions within the Plan and reporting litter 'hotspots' on a map.
- 5.6 The attached Community Engagement summary report (**Attachment 4**) has collated and analysed the community's feedback across City of Port Phillip and the Catchment.
- 5.7 The collaborative community engagement received:
- More than 330 community interactions across surveys, pop-ups, social mapping and voting activities.
 - More than 4,300 views on Glen Eira's and Port Phillip's Have Your Say platforms
 - More than 270 downloads of the draft Action Plan and background documents
 - 61 submissions from Glen Eira and 14 submissions from Port Phillip across the survey and social map activity.
 - Over 260 pop-up conversations, 264 voting-ball contributions and 16 social-map submissions identifying local litter hotspots at engagement pop ups.



- 5.8 Feedback from our residents, community groups and stakeholders across the Elster Creek catchment consistently highlighted the significance of litter as an environmental, amenity and flooding issue. Across all engagement activities, participants expressed strong concern about the extent of litter in their neighbourhoods:
- The majority of 'pop-up' activity participants rated litter as a serious (55 votes) or very serious (91 votes) issue.
 - Survey respondents—in Port Phillip, 56 per cent rated it as a 'very serious issue'; in Glen Eira, 44 per cent described litter as a 'noticeable issue'.
 - There were widespread concerns and mentions about cigarette butts, dumped rubbish, construction waste, stormwater pollution and litter around schools, railway stations and shopping strips.
- 5.9 Many participants expressed willingness to be part of local solutions:
- 63 per cent of Port Phillip and 60 per cent of Glen Eira respondents want to be involved in reducing litter.
 - Top ways to participate include reporting litter, joining clean-ups, staying informed via council newsletters and collecting and reporting on data.
 - 18 residents expressed interest in joining a future community panel.
- 5.10 Demographic snapshot
- The majority of respondents of the survey were **aged 55+** (Port Phillip **89 per cent**, Glen Eira 60 per cent).
 - The majority identified as **women** (Port Phillip **78 per cent**; Glen Eira 58 per cent)
 - **Elwood residents** provided the largest share of responses (34 per cent).
- 5.11 Overall, community feedback shows positive support for the draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan and affirms the need for **coordinated, catchment wide action**.
- 5.12 There was clear expectation for councils and partners to focus on prevention, infrastructure investment, regulation, and evidence-based approaches. Feedback highlighted a need for transparent progress reporting and more visible shared action to restore and protect waterways.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Elster Creek Litter Action Plan addresses key risks by targeting litter's impact on waterway health, biodiversity, and public amenity, including the risk of flooding and pollution in Port Phillip Bay.
- 6.2 The Plan responds to high community expectations and statutory compliance requirements, helping safeguard Council's reputation. Financial and resource pressures are managed through prioritisation and annual review, ensuring actions remain cost-effective and adaptable. Effective governance and collaboration through the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration underpin delivery, accountability, and continuous improvement.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 An assessment of the budget required for each partner is shown in Table 1 below. This has identified a total of approximately \$45,810 over 5 years for City of Port Phillip.



Table 1. Budget required for implementation of Elster Creek Action Plan

	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 28/29	Total
Total Overall	\$16,667	\$121,872	\$199,356	\$178,190	\$87,912	\$603,997
Glen Eira	\$14,111	\$66,445	\$100,613	\$114,373	\$44,373	\$339,915
Melbourne Water	\$1,033	\$37,612	\$57,456	\$47,984	\$36,678	\$180,763
Port Phillip	\$4,011	\$9,058	\$21,019	\$6,167	\$5,556	\$45,810
Bayside	\$0	\$11,859	\$20,269	\$4,667	\$1,306	\$38,100

- 7.2 The larger budget required by City of Glen Eira and Melbourne Water reflects their leadership in delivery of infrastructure related actions. EPA Victoria is not included in financial calculations as their contribution will solely be via internal staff time. The calculations assume that for each action, the leads share 80 percent of the total cost of that action, with supporting organisations sharing the remaining 20 percent of the cost.
- 7.3 The estimated budget for City of Port Phillip to deliver its actions is approximately \$45,810 over 5 years. This estimate includes actions added to the draft ECLAP.
- 7.4 Budget for community actions involving City of Port Phillip in 25/26 and all future years can be allocated from the existing Community Sustainability Programs budget (\$4k of total \$90k) with no new allocation of funding.
- 7.5 No new staff resources are required to deliver the Action Plan.
- 7.6 Should the Action (2.4) to 'Develop a business case for a Litter Enforcement Officer (LEO)' recommend that a LEO should be employed, this will be a financial decision for Council to make at a future Council meeting.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 Elster Creek is the primary waterway collecting rainwater from streets across the municipality of Glen Eira and parts of Port Phillip, Bayside and Kingston. Most of the catchment is in City of Glen Eira. The Creek winds through suburbs like Elsternwick, Carnegie and Bentleigh, before draining into Port Phillip Bay via the Elwood Canal.
- 8.2 Litter is more than just a visual pollutant, it poses a threat to waterway health, especially in urban environments like the Elster Creek Catchment. The wellbeing of Elster Creek is closely linked to the health of Port Phillip Bay.
- 8.3 Litter continues to threaten the health of Elster Creek, despite long-standing recognition of the issue by environmental organisations and government bodies alike. While previous efforts have achieved some success, persistent pollution highlights the need for renewed and coordinated action.
- 8.4 Progress on the 3 outcomes of the ECLAP will be measured by:
- Prevention
% reduction in litter volume (kg or m³) collected by community groups and stakeholders
 - Removal
Total kg or m³ of litter removed



- Monitoring
% composition of litter by type identified

SOCIAL IMPACT

- 8.5 During the development of the ECLAP, it was evident that local community groups and individuals play a vital role in protecting the catchment. Their involvement helps ensure that the ECLAP reflects the local knowledge and values, and that actions are supported by the people who live and work in the area.
- 8.6 Promotion and involvement in litter clean-ups and citizen science activities by residents, schools, and Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC) partner organisations is expected to generate awareness and ownership of the need to prevent litter in Elster Creek catchment.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The ECLAP has been developed after local residents formed the Elster Creek Action Team (ECAT) to highlight the litter issue in 2024. After ECAT removed many kilograms of litter from Elster Creek drain to prevent this from entering the Bay, City of Port Phillip support to address the issue and collaborate on an Action Plan was sought and approved.
- 9.2 Actions in the ECLAP have been developed in collaboration engaged community groups, i.e. Elwood Canal Action Team, Port Phillip EcoCentre, Beach Patrol / Love Our Street, Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Group (PECAN), along with partners City of Glen Eira, Melbourne Water, Bayside City Council and EPA Victoria.
- 9.3 Engagement has focussed on actions involving community members more than actions relating to improved infrastructure. This is because the ECLAP requires effective community ownership to achieve changes in awareness and behaviour.
- 9.4 Several key objectives in the ECLAP are targeted at harnessing community involvement.

Objective 1: The community changes their behaviour to reduce the amount of litter in the catchment and understand their role and the ECLC's role in improving our waterways.

Objective 4: Achieve litter reduction by securing strong leadership, improving state policies and supporting community-led solutions.

Objective 6: Community groups, individuals, stakeholders and external asset managers are mobilised to participate in litter cleanups while cultivating a sense of ownership and raising awareness of litter sources.

Objective 8: The ECLC and community groups have established ongoing monitoring techniques to understand the composition of litter within the catchment.

- 9.5 Involvement of community groups and individuals will help to ensure that the Plan reflects the local knowledge and values, and that actions are supported by the people who live and work in the area.

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 A Gender Impact Assessment has been completed for delivery of the Action Plan by City of Glen Eira, on behalf of the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration, and in consultation with all partners.



11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 11.1 The Elster Creek Action Plan aligns with the Council Plan Strategic Objective of 'An Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient City'.
- 11.2 The rationale for the ECLAP is underpinned by recent analysis and community feedback, which identified significant litter hotspots and accumulation zones, as well as gaps in previous management approaches. The plan's objectives and actions are designed to address these challenges, restore public confidence, and protect the health of Elster Creek and Port Phillip Bay.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

- 12.1.1 Following endorsement of the ECLAP, the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration and ECLAP officer will direct the identified leads for short-term actions to commence short-term (1-2 year) actions, as per the ECLAP Implementation Plan.
- 12.1.2 Partners leading longer term (3-5 year) actions may require budget submissions for actions delivered in 26-27 and beyond.

12.2 COMMUNICATION

- 12.2.1 Community Information Sessions will be held every 6 months to inform the community on progress with the Elster Creek Litter Action Plan, and other projects within the Elster Creek Catchment. A Community information Session will be scheduled in March 2026.
- 12.2.2 The final endorsed Elster Creek Litter Action Plan will be published on Council's 'Have Your Say' page with notification included in the Engagement newsletter.
- 12.2.3 A news article on the endorsed Elster Creek Litter Action Plan will be published in communications channels of the partner Councils and Melbourne Water, including websites, newsletters and social media.

13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

- 13.1 The officer involved in the preparation of this report has declared the following general interest in the matter. Principal Sustainability Partnerships Officer, Julian Donlen, is the co-organiser of a volunteer clean-up group within the Elster Creek catchment (Love Our Street 3162), based in City of Glen Eira.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan - for engagement  
2. Changes to Draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan - post engagement  
3. Elster Creek Litter Action Plan - for endorsement  
4. Elster Creek Litter Action Plan Engagement Report  



ELSTER CREEK LITTER

ACTION PLAN



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL



Proudly supported by



Acknowledgment of Country

This collaboration acknowledges the Boon Wurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to land and waterways. We extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We honour the rich histories and cultures of First Nations peoples and recognise and value the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in caring for Country and water and enriching our community.

This is Country that always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Caring for Elster Creek is Caring for Country

For thousands of years, the area known as Elster Creek was an open waterway with wetlands, swamps and a lively riparian habitat. Only recently has the creek been hidden below the surface in stormwater pipes or constrained to a man-made canal, making it hard to see or recognise. Although it may seem challenging to connect these ancient waterways to the concrete channels that exist today, doing so solidifies the importance of improving waterway health in the Elster Creek Catchment.

Litter reflects a disconnect between individual actions and collective responsibility, yet it also presents an opportunity to foster a stronger sense of stewardship. Elster Creek, despite the pressures of urban development, continues to offer vital environmental and community benefits. By nurturing a shared commitment to its care, we can transform everyday choices into meaningful contributions to the health and wellbeing of the catchment and its connected ecosystems.

The Elster Creek Litter Collaboration is committed to upholding the values of Caring for Country and protecting Port Phillip Bay, a vital part of sea Country. This commitment is integrated into this *Plan*, which seeks to respect traditional practices and align with the custodianship of Boon Wurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation while engaging in meaningful conversation.

Acknowledgements

The development of the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* was led by Glen Eira City Council with support from the partners of the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration — Melbourne Water, Bayside City Council, City of Port Phillip and EPA Victoria. Many thanks to the community participants who provided their insight and commentary; to Melbourne Water for proposing the *Action Plan* and providing funding; and to the partner organisations and individuals working towards a healthier Elster Creek.

Accessibility

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For more information contact

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List of abbreviations

CE	Circular economy
CDS	<i>Container Deposit Scheme</i>
ECAT	Elwood Canal Action Team
ECLC	Elster Creek Litter Collaboration
IWM	Integrated water management
GECAN	Glen Eira Climate Emergency Action Network
PECAN	Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network
WSUD	Water sensitive urban design

Executive summary

The *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* is a collaborative cross-catchment initiative developed by Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Bayside councils, Melbourne Water, EPA Victoria, community environment groups and engaged individuals. It provides a strategic framework for reducing litter across the Elster Creek Catchment.

Litter continues to threaten the health of Elster Creek, despite long-standing recognition of the issue by environmental organisations and government bodies alike. While previous efforts have achieved some success, persistent pollution highlights the need for renewed and coordinated action.

This five-year *Plan* outlines tangible, measurable steps to reduce litter in the catchment. It is informed by stakeholder input, community consultation and the joint research efforts of the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC). It should be read alongside the *2024 Elster Creek Litter Analysis*, which identifies key litter 'hotspots' and 'accumulation zones' and infrastructure gaps.

The wellbeing of Elster Creek is closely linked to the health of Port Phillip Bay. By supporting this *Plan*, we move toward a future where the creek flows clean and litter-free, contributing to a thriving marine environment for generations to come.

This document sets out clear objectives and initiatives aimed at achieving three primary outcomes. Success will depend on available resources, prioritisation and ongoing collaboration among stakeholders and community members. Continued dialogue and engagement are essential to ensure effective implementation and lasting impact.

Outcome #1: Prevention
Litter generation is reduced at the source through awareness, education and changes to systems and behaviours.

Outcome #2: Removal
Litter that has entered the catchment is actively removed and stopped from reaching Port Phillip Bay.

Outcome #3: Monitoring
Litter in the Elster Creek Catchment is actively monitored and assessed to measure progress and identify priority areas of improvement.

Our shared waterway and its challenges

The Elster Creek Catchment is an urbanised area that drains through the Elster Creek into Port Phillip Bay. This catchment area spans four local councils — Glen Eira, Bayside, Port Phillip and Kingston — and covers 40 square kilometres. It connects directly to Port Phillip Bay through a network of more than 10,000 drains and pipes that twist along the path of the historic Elster Creek.

In all urban catchments, litter management is an ongoing challenge, with litter from shopping strips, parklands, construction sites and industrial areas being carried by rainfall or winds into local drains that meet our waterways.

A littered environment has many consequences,¹ not all of which may be immediately detectable.

1. **Litter can block drains and cause flooding:** When rubbish enters the stormwater systems, it stops water from flowing properly and can lead to flooding or pooling around drains.
2. **It pollutes land and water:** Litter, such as plastics, can poison soil, rivers and oceans, harming the environment.
3. **It harms animals and reduces biodiversity:** Wildlife can get tangled in or eat litter, which can injure or kill them. This disrupts food chains and can contribute to declining native species populations.
4. **It can make public places feel unsafe and encourage vandalism:** Littered areas can attract graffiti or other bad behaviours and make people feel it's acceptable to further damage a space.
5. **It weakens our connection to nature and community:** Litter makes it harder for people to enjoy and feel proud of their local parks or waterways, especially as cities grow and green spaces shrink.

Litter — What is it?

Litter is the improper disposal of waste. Common litter items are cigarette butts, takeaway containers, drink containers (metal and plastic), coffee cups, polystyrene, and pieces of paper.

Every waterway is shaped by the landscape it flows through and Elster Creek is no exception. Nestled within a highly urbanised environment, it presents a distinctive case for litter management and waterway protection. Unlike many natural waterways, Elster Creek runs almost entirely underground within the Melbourne Water drainage system, lacking traditional banks and vegetation. Although residents can catch glimpses of the natural waterway in Elwood and at open channel locations throughout the catchment, most of it is hidden, which can make the issue of litter less visual and consequently less urgent to address. Despite these challenges, Elster Creek continues to provide valuable environmental and community benefits, demonstrating the resilience of urban waterways and the importance of tailored approaches to their care.

¹ EPA NSW (Environmental Protection Agency New South Wales) (2022) *NSW Litter Prevention Strategy 2022–30*.

How litter connects to water management, climate change and our choices

Litter is more than just a visual pollutant — it poses a serious threat to waterway health, especially in urban environments like the Elster Creek Catchment. To tackle it properly, we need to think about the bigger picture: how we manage water, how we prepare for climate change and how we deal with waste in our daily lives.



Integrated water management (IWM) looks after all parts of the water cycle — stormwater, drinking water and wastewater — to keep our water safe and our environment healthy. Within this framework, litter management plays a vital role. IWM tools, such as water sensitive urban design (WSUD), incorporate elements that trap litter or filter out gross pollutants before they reach the waterway. WSUD facilities have multiple benefits beyond litter and can increase overall water quality, supporting cleaner waterways and healthier ecosystems. That’s why an IWM perspective is so important to keep in mind — because litter projects can turn into water projects when planned together.

Climate change is making storms heavier and more frequent, which increases the risk of flash flooding, a known vulnerability for Elster Creek. When litter blocks drains and pipes, it makes flooding worse. That’s why this *Plan* aligns closely with the *Elster Creek Flood Management Plan*, ensuring litter reduction efforts also contribute to flood mitigation and climate adaptation.

The way we consume and how we dispose of things is also linked to litter. In today’s throwaway culture, cheap and disposable products are readily available, while sustainable options are often

overlooked. This creates more waste and in turn, more litter. But there's a chance to do things differently. By shifting toward a culture of care — where individuals, businesses and governments take shared responsibility for the full lifecycle of products — we can reduce waste at its source. Encouraging reuse, supporting circular economy (CE) initiatives and advocating for better product design and packaging are all part of the solution.

A Plan for litter management

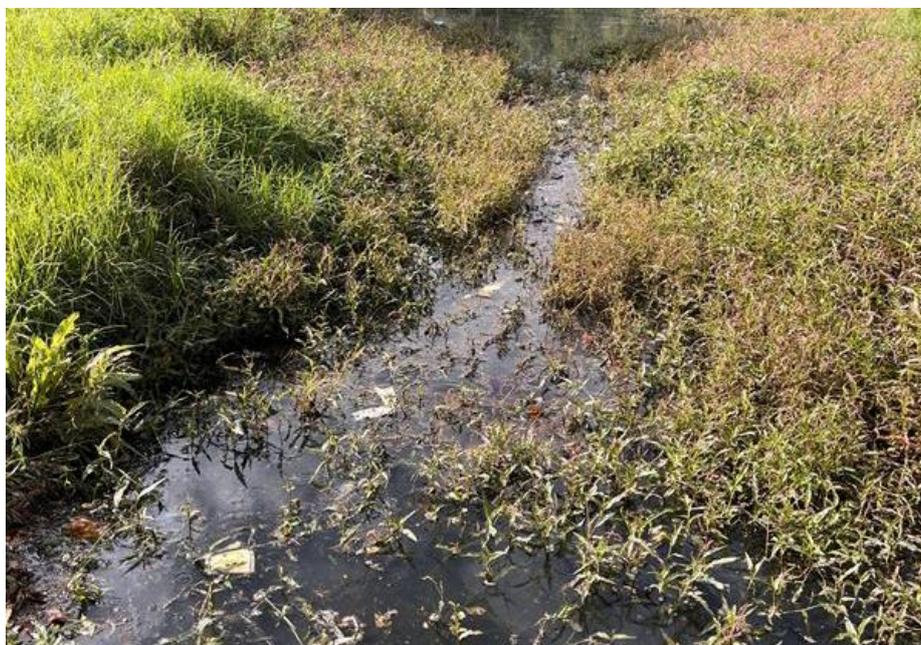
What is this Plan?

The *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* is a living document to guide work over the next five years that will reduce and prevent the amount of litter entering Port Phillip Bay through the Elster Creek Catchment. It is supported by the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC) that will coordinate litter reduction actions across the catchment and prioritise and plan the future actions needed for lasting litter reduction within the waterways.

Although this *Plan* focuses on the Elster Creek Catchment, the actions it proposes can be applied across all areas of the three participating councils of Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Bayside. These councils, Melbourne Water and EPA Victoria share responsibility for protecting the Elster Creek Catchment and working together is the best way to make a real impact.

How was this Plan developed?

This plan was collaboratively developed by Glen Eira City Council and the other members of the ECLC, with the help of interested community groups.



The Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC)

These organisations work together through the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration with participants from:

- Glen Eira City Council
- Port Phillip City Council
- Bayside City Council
- Melbourne Water
- EPA Victoria

The ECLC's role is to coordinate efforts and oversee the implementation of the projects in this *Plan* (see Appendix B for governance structure).

Glen Eira City Council is the lead organisation in this collaboration because more than 70 per cent of the catchment lies within its boundaries and more than 85 per cent of the runoff that contributes from the catchment comes from the municipality. As a result, many of the proposed actions are led by Glen Eira.



Working with community groups

During the development of this *Plan*, it became clear that local community groups and individuals play a vital role in protecting the catchment. Their involvement helps ensure that the *Plan* reflects the local knowledge and values, and that actions are supported by the people who live and work in the area.

There is ongoing consultation with the following community groups and organisations:

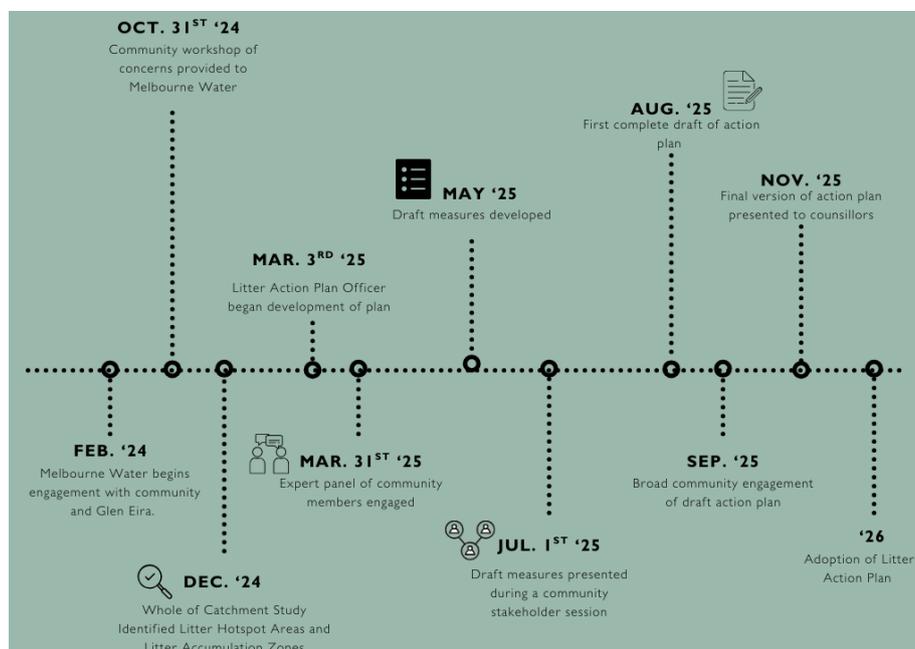
- Beach Patrol
- Elwood Canal Action Team (ECAT)
- Glen Eira Climate Emergency Action Network (GECAN)
- Love Our Streets
- Port Phillip EcoCentre
- Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN)

In the future, the *Plan* aims to involve more community organisations beyond those listed above. Expanding these partnerships will help build broader support and ensure the *Plan* reaches more people.

Plan development timeline

This *Plan* is a product of stakeholder input provided during workshops, professional meetings and investigations into best practices. Melbourne Water initiated the *Action Plan* development process with the *Elster Creek Catchment Litter Analysis* that identified litter hotspots and accumulation zones within the catchment (see Appendix C). Using this as a basis for understanding of litter within the catchment, further community consultation and research has been done to identify best practices moving forward.

A summarised timeline of activities that contributed to the development of this *Action Plan* is below and more details can be found in Appendix A.



Strategic context

State and regional litter management policies

This *Plan* supports existing state and regional efforts to tackle litter and aligns with the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.² Under Section 25 of the *Act*, everyone in Victoria — including councils and Melbourne Water — has a legal duty to reduce the risk of harm to people and the environment *so far as reasonably practicable*. The General Environmental Duty (GED) applies to anyone creating or depositing litter and there are additional penalties for people who deposit litter unlawfully.

General Environmental Duty (GED):
 Everyone has a duty to reduce risk to human health and the environment from pollution and waste.
 – EPA Victoria

Other strategies of which this *Plan* aligns with are:

- the *Water Act 1989*
- *Healthy Waterways Strategy (HWS)* regional performance objectives [26](#) and [27](#)
- *Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan* measures 3 and 4
- *Elster Creek Flood Management Plan*
- *Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027 (EMP)*.

Local strategies and plans

The councils that are members of the ECLC also have their own internal plans and policies that align with this *Action Plan*.

Bayside	Glen Eira	Port Phillip
<i>Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2018–2027)</i>	<i>Integrated Water Management Plan/Dhumbali W’urneet Gadhaba</i>	<i>‘Act & Adapt’ — Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023–2028 (Themes 1 and 5)</i>
	<i>Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025–2029</i>	<i>Don’t Waste It! Waste Management Strategy 2022–2025</i>
	<i>Circular Economy Plan 2022–2026</i>	

What will this Plan do?

Strategic outcomes

The *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* contains three strategic outcomes with eight overall objectives. The objectives seek to simplify the prioritisation of resources to more effectively communicate and evaluate what is necessary to achieve each outcome. Each objective has actions for delivery.

² <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/general-environmental-duty>

33 Actions

17 Short-term actions

16 Long-term actions

Short term
(0–2 years)

Long term
(3–5 years)

How will this plan succeed?

The *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* is designed to be adaptive and responsive over its five-year implementation period. Progress will be tracked with annual reviews and ongoing evaluation of individual projects. As specific initiatives are developed under each action, tailored indicators will be created to measure their effectiveness and guide continuous improvement. These indicators will complement the overarching measures outlined below, which provide a broader view of the *Plan's* impact across the catchment.

Implementation approach

Each action in the *Plan* will follow a structured four-phase process:

1. Investigate: Understand the issue and gather relevant data.
2. Pilot: Test potential solutions on a small scale.
3. Invest: Allocate resources to scale successful initiatives.
4. Evaluate: Measure outcomes and refine approaches.

This approach ensures that actions are implemented effectively and adaptively over time.

Prioritising actions

Given that implementation depends on available resources, the ECLC has developed a prioritisation matrix to guide funding and delivery. Actions are assessed using the following criteria:

1. Cost and benefit: High-benefit, low-cost actions are prioritised for short-term delivery.
2. Allocated resources: Actions with existing funding or support may be fast tracked.
3. Alignment with strategic objectives: Actions align with existing stakeholders plans and strategies.
4. Community preferences: Interested parties were engaged at multiple times during the development of this action plan and their suggestions are considered.

Tracking overall progress

In addition to project-specific key performance indicators (KPIs) (to be developed later), the *Action Plan* includes overarching measures to track its overall impact. These indicators will be reviewed annually to assess progress toward key outcomes.

Table 1: Measures of progress

Outcome	Measures of progress
#1 — Prevention	% reduction in litter volume (kg of m ³) collected by community groups and stakeholders over time
#2 — Removal	Total kg or m ³ of litter removed
#3 — Monitoring	% composition of litter by type identified

Ongoing communications

The ECLC recognises that transparent, up-to-date information builds public trust and shared responsibility. A centralised platform will be used to regularly communicate progress, share data and celebrate successes with the community and decision-makers.

Action Plan

2026–2031

Short term
(0–2 Years)

Long term
(3–5 Years)

Outcome #1 — Prevention

Litter generation is reduced at the source through awareness, education and changes to systems and behaviours

Prevention is key to solving the litter issue in the long term. Prevention efforts need to include general waste reduction support by all community members and a change in consumer behaviour. The combined efforts of individuals, groups, businesses, councils and state government are necessary to ensure lasting change. This *Plan* seeks to improve information sharing, education and outreach, circular economy concept implementation and upstream waste prevention through a collaborative process amongst catchment stakeholders.

Objective 1: The community changes their behaviour to reduce the amount of litter in the catchment and understand their role and the ECLC's role in improving our waterways

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
1.1 Create a communications and engagement strategy to support catchment-wide campaigns and create an identity for the Elster Creek Catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Strategy produced > Identity created 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water EPA Victoria Community groups
1.2 Develop a communications campaign targeted at residents in litter hotspot areas and high use public spaces, including parks and sporting grounds, to support source reduction and encourage behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Data gathered to inform source reduction priorities > Incorporate the standards created in 1.1.1 to messaging > Engagement messaging is delivered in targeted locations > Source reduction plans trialled at hotspots 	Glen Eira City Council Community groups	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water

1.3 Develop a litter reduction education program (using resources from Melbourne Water, Sustainability Victoria and partner organisations) and trial the program in interested learning centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Existing educational material is synthesised > Education toolkit is developed and trialed 	Glen Eira City Council City of Port Phillip Community groups	Bayside City Council Melbourne Water
1.4 Identify and support opportunities for councils to launch litter programs that actively involve and empower local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Options for new litter programs investigated > Feasibility study on specific programs created 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip
1.5 Continue to support circular economy initiatives that focus on source reduction for individuals, businesses and the broader community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support existing initiatives by stakeholders that promote waste reduction 	Council partners	Melbourne Water EPA Victoria

Objective 2: Apply comprehensive enforcement and public reporting tools to reduce the amount of litter entering the waterways

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
2.1 Explore the development of a community-informed litter enforcement approach in commercial litter hotspots, aiming to support greater public compliance with local waste regulations through trial initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Enforcement plan created and trial conducted 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip EPA Victoria
2.2 Collaborate with EPA Victoria to align compliance procedures with council processes, ensuring clear use of Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLEs) and other resources to support council enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > EPA Victoria processes are united with the council enforcement scheme 	Council partners EPA Victoria	Melbourne Water
2.3 Monitor construction related littering to inform the development of further controls for managing on-site construction waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Construction littering is investigated > Controls are identified 	Glen Eira City Council	Community groups EPA Victoria

2.4 Develop a business case for a Litter Enforcement Officer (LEO) and create clear enforcement guidelines based on best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Case for LEO created > Case used to decide whether a LEO is hired 	City of Port Phillip	Glen Eira City Council EPA Victoria Bayside City Council
Objective 3: Existing stakeholder processes are reviewed to improve litter maintenance and assist in selecting new programs for litter prevention			
Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
3.1 Audit waste management practices at a key litter hotspot to identify source reduction opportunities and apply the findings to other priority locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Current waste practices are reviewed in one location > Lessons learned are used in another location 	Council partners	Community groups EPA Victoria Melbourne Water
3.2 Improve hard rubbish collection by building on current program knowledge, updating collection rules and reviewing effectiveness of pickups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Guidelines investigated and monitored for compliance > Updates are provided where needed 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip
3.3 Explore just-in-time technology to improve maintenance response times to litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Business case developed for just-in-time technology > Technology installed and trialled 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water
3.4 Explore ways to limit organic litter (e.g. leaves, grass clippings, garden waste) in stormwater system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Impacts of organic litter are investigated > Case study conducted and evidence provided for future changes 	Council partners	Melbourne Water EPA Victoria Community groups
3.5 Identify opportunities to improve street sweeping practices and maintenance frequencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Existing street sweeping programs are reviewed > Practices are updated per findings 	Council partners	Community groups

3.6 Review current waste management guidance for new developments and explore options to strengthen compliance monitoring and add litter reduction measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Review of existing method > Audit approach for future developments created and trialled 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip
Objective 4: Achieve litter reduction by securing strong leadership, improving state policies and supporting community-led solutions			
Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
4.1 Advocate for expanding the <i>Container Deposit Scheme</i> (CDS) at litter hotspots using data from litter cleanups, council reports and citizen science initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support is provided to existing efforts for advocacy > CDS sites are expanded 	Glen Eira City Council	City of Port Phillip Bayside City Council Community groups
4.2 Advocate for a continuous role that establishes leadership and accountability for the implementation of the <i>Elster Creek Litter Action Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Development of business case for action plan implementation officer 	Melbourne Water Glen Eira City Council	City of Port Phillip Bayside City Council EPA Victoria
4.3 Advocate to the Victorian Government for additional state-wide source reduction initiatives, in partnership with community groups and sustainability ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Development of advocacy priorities > Advocacy conducted to other stakeholders and levels of government to support this <i>Plan</i> 	Council partners	Community groups

Outcome #2 — Removal**Litter that has entered the catchment is actively removed and stopped from reaching Port Phillip Bay**

Although prevention is the ultimate method to protect our waterways, the removal of litter from our community is essential to reduce the immediate threat and harm caused by this litter. Removal of litter is a collective effort with councils, state government and individuals all having the power to clean up our catchment.

Objective 5: Existing infrastructure is improved and/or new methods are deployed that increase the removal of litter from the stormwater system and waterways

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
5.1 Review the design and performance of current stormwater management systems and upgrade standard guidelines as necessary to effectively prevent land-based litter from entering the stormwater system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Audit of existing stormwater management standards > Existing council WSUD guidelines updated with findings 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip
5.2 Review recommendations from the <i>Elster Creek Litter Analysis Report</i> about litter hotspots and accumulation zones and develop a priority list of locations for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Prioritisation matrix developed > Priority projects selected 	Melbourne Water Council partners	N/A
5.3 Continue to assess the performance of existing assets that capture litter in the Elster Creek main drainage channels and use the findings to guide improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Existing infrastructure assessed > Information presented to community > Alternative solutions investigated 	Melbourne Water	Community groups

Objective 6: Community groups, individuals, stakeholders and external asset managers are mobilised to participate in litter cleanups while cultivating a sense of ownership and raising awareness of litter sources			
Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
6.1 Promote community-led cleanups and citizen science at litter hotspots and accumulation zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Citizen science and cleanup programs identified and promoted > Data collected by citizen science is combined with other efforts in hotspots 	Council partners	Community groups Melbourne Water
6.2 Support and scale up existing litter cleanup activities, such as working bees and <i>Glen Eira Play</i> events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Existing cleanup activities are identified and supported 	Council partners	Community groups
6.3 Request that Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) install signage on roads it manages to highlight penalties for littering and illegal dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > DTP engaged > Possible signage locations identified 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip EPA Victoria
6.4 Engage with DTP to advocate for the increased maintenance of roadsides and major road swales where litter accumulates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > DTP engaged to increase maintenance 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water
6.5 Identify opportunities for employees of ECLC organisations to take part in volunteer catchment cleanup projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Opportunities found for employee participation > Activities planned and implemented 	Council partners	Melbourne Water
6.6 Work with Metro Trains and VicTrack to increase litter management and removal on rail lines and at stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Landowners engaged to increase their maintenance 	Glen Eira City Council	City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water EPA Victoria

Outcome #3 — Monitoring

Litter in the Elster Creek Catchment is actively monitored and assessed to measure progress and identify priority areas of improvement

To tackle litter effectively, we first need to understand its scale and nature. While it's clear that litter accumulates in streets and travels downstream, accurately measuring the problem is challenging. We can see litter in streets and waterways but it's hard to measure the full extent of the problem. That's why it's important to invest in identifying not just how much litter exists, but also what types and sources are most common. This knowledge will allow us to establish a baseline to track progress over time, target interventions where they're needed most and support long-term catchment-wide solutions.

Objective 7: A monitoring system based on a standardised methodology is created to evaluate the progress of this Action Plan

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
7.1 Adopt a consistent data collection method to allow for comparative analysis, improve data accuracy and promote existing resources, such as LitterWatch Victoria	> Various methods to use between partners are investigated > Method adopted	Council partners Melbourne Water	Community groups
7.2 Adopt a shared litter monitoring tool that can be used by all partners and stakeholders	> Monitoring system selected and adopted	Glen Eira City Council	N/A
7.3 Adopt a consistent method for auditing litter after routine maintenance to validate existing data and support ongoing improvement of council's waste collection activities	> Auditing methodology identified and tested > Method implemented into council processes	Council partners Melbourne Water	Community groups
7.4 Create a reporting dashboard to help stakeholders visualise ongoing issues and track current actions	> Dashboard created and updated regularly	Glen Eira City Council Melbourne Water	N/A

Objective 8: The ECLC and community groups have established ongoing monitoring techniques to understand the composition of litter within the catchment			
Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
8.1 Monitor upstream locations along Elster Creek to better understand litter at entry points	> Litter loads are identified at a minimum of two upstream locations	Melbourne Water Glen Eira City Council	Community groups Council partners
8.2 Investigate the extent of stormwater pollution generated from industrial areas within the upper catchment of Elster Creek, in partnership with key stakeholders, to inform the priority of further actions, such as targeted enforcement or education programs	> Stormwater pollution is monitored in industrial areas > Responsible stakeholder is engaged	Glen Eira City Council EPA Victoria	Melbourne Water

Appendices

Appendix A: Timeline and outcomes of the Action Plan development process

2024

- **March 2024, Melbourne Water responds to community desires for litter management** — The project plan was initiated for the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* after vocal community members engaged Melbourne Water to act on the litter management problem in Elster Creek.
- **April 2024, Elster Creek Litter Collaboration Established** — After need was identified for a catchment-wide approach to the litter problem, Melbourne Water established the ECLC.
- **5 and 6 August 2024, Melbourne Water gains insight via community sessions** — As part of the investigation into the Elster Creek Catchment Litter Analysis, Melbourne Water met with members of the community to validate and/or refine the mapping of litter hotspots and accumulation zones.
- **31 October 2024, community meeting with Melbourne Water and ECLC** — The ECLC was first introduced during this community meeting to receive feedback on litter hotspots and accumulation zones within the catchment as well as any other litter-related problems the community had.
- **December 2024, Elster Creek Catchment Litter Analyses published** — The November community engagement meeting fed into a larger study that became this analysis. The catchment-scale study identified litter hotspots and accumulation zones where the litter issue heavily persists based on land use mapping, LitterWatch data and the validated community input.

2025

- **3 March 2025, Elster Creek Litter Action Plan Officer Appointed in Glen Eira City Council** — A co-funded role with Melbourne Water and GECC established an ongoing position to lead the development of the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan*.
- **31 March 2025, Elster Creek Litter Action Plan workshop** — The same community members that engaged in November 2024 were asked to participate in a workshop to provide recommendations for the content of the *Plan*. These community members were unofficially grouped as the 'expert panel' for discussions regarding the *Plan*.
- **1 July 2025, re-engagement with the expert panel** — Participants reviewed, discussed and when needed, provided edits to the list of actions developed during the *Plan* process. The panel, which consists of community group members and conscientious individuals, worked to identify ways the ECLC can work with the community to deliver the actions within the *Plan*.
- **August 2025, draft Action Plan finalised** — Feedback from community members, council employees and the stakeholders of the ECLC were used to finalise the first draft of the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan*.

Appendix B: The governance of this Action Plan and the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration

Provisions of the Action Plan

Duration: Five years

Leadership: Glen Eira City Council

Communication: To provide routine updates to community groups via a bi-annual forum

Governance structure of the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC)



Guiding framework

- Data-driven approach: Actions backed by data ensure we're putting our resources in the right place.
- Collaboration and interdisciplinary action: Working together with community groups, stakeholders and other catchment collaborations will ensure effective action are developed and implemented.
- Empowerment and accountability: Individuals and community groups have the chance to change the health of Elster Creek and hold the ECLC accountable.

The ECLC was formed to ensure the actions described in this *Action Plan* are executable across the stakeholder organisations.

The roles of the ECLC include:

1. Continuous partnership with the community, NGOs and learning and teachings from Traditional Owners
2. Share the successes of this *Plan* with other catchments to contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of Port Phillip Bay
3. Continuous learning cycle during implementation of these action items and update them to fit our goal as we better understand the impacts of the *Plan*
4. Manage governance of this *Plan*, including regularly convening an Implementation Working Group, developing a rolling financial plan and implementation timeline
5. Clearly establish the implementation of this *Plan*

To ensure the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* is implemented within an appropriate timeline and under the considerations of necessary stakeholder involvement, an effective monitoring organisation must be established. This *Action Plan's* success leans on the collective understanding that the ECLC will be formalised as the governing body under which the *Plan* can be operated and executed.

Appendix C: Litter hotspot areas and accumulation zones

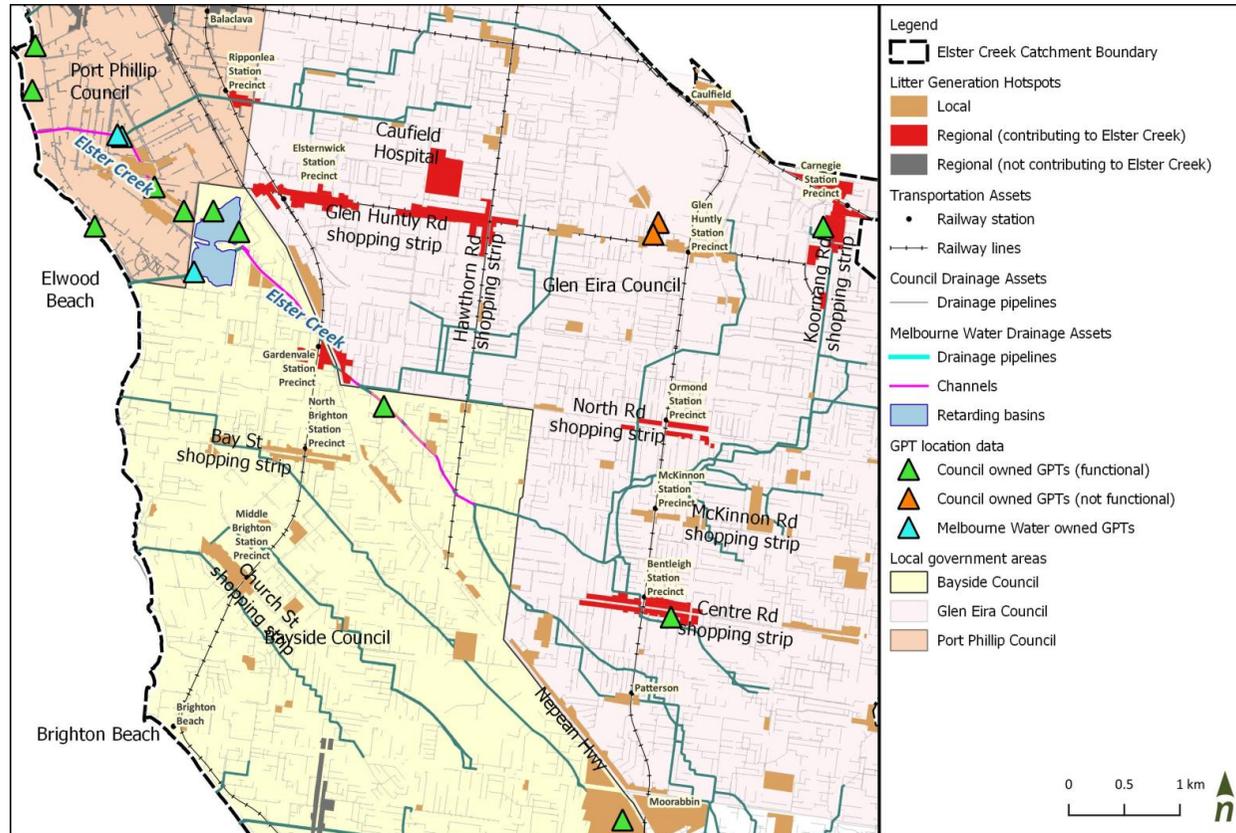


Figure 1: Litter generation hotspot map from Elster Creek Litter Analysis, Alluvium (November 2024)

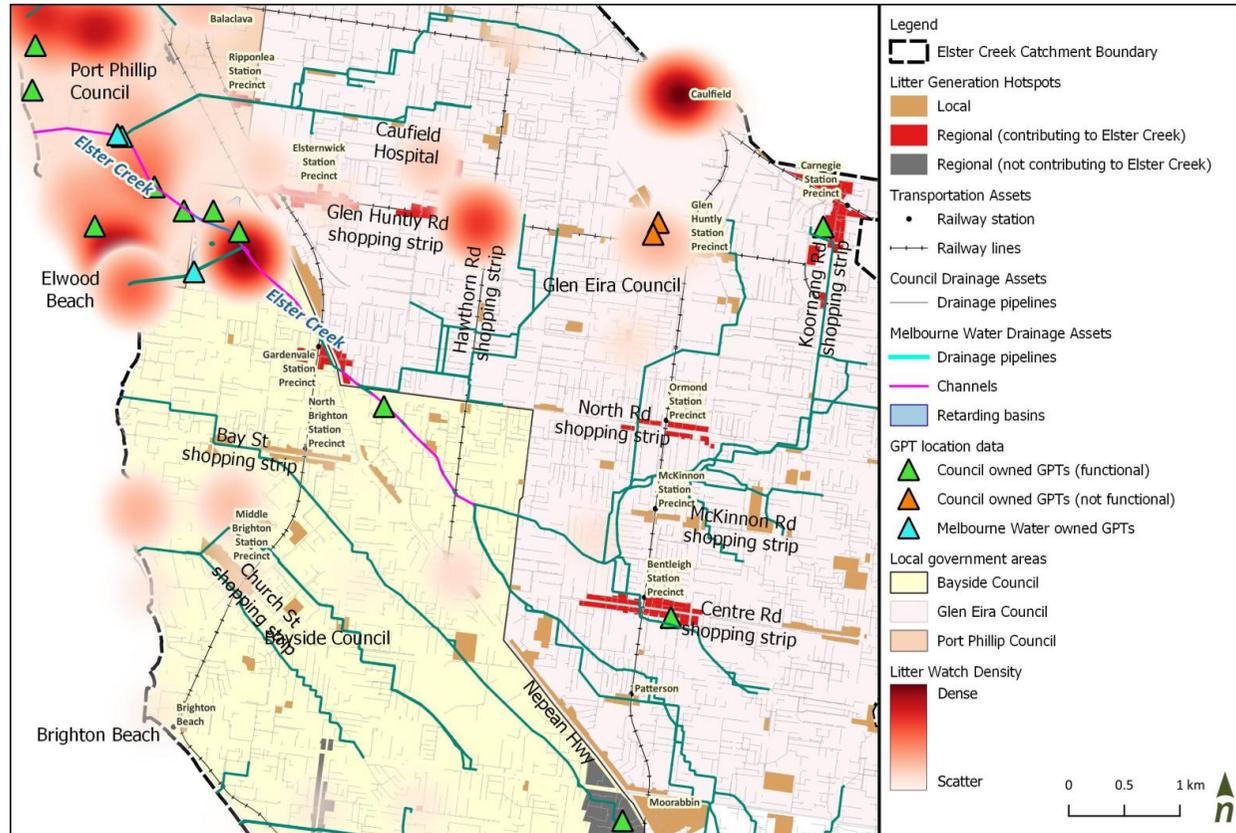


Figure 2: Litter accumulation zones Elster Creek Litter Analysis, Alluvium (November 2024)

Appendix D: Future objectives, initiatives and actions

Due to the time and resource restrictions of this *Action Plan*, these items were not prioritised for further investigation but should be considered at the review of this *Action Plan* in 2030.

- Research efficacy of increasing penalties or fines for littering.
- Look into the health and safety guidelines for Glen Eira City Council to clarify whether it requires businesses to have a waste management service on premise. If not, guidelines by the EPA can be used to enforce the presence of bins under the General Environmental Duty.
- Develop stricter guidelines for private waste companies to prevent overfilling of bins in commercial districts that use their services.
- Research rewilding or planting efforts at select locations along the extent of the Elster Creek main drain channel.

Changes to the Final Draft Elster Creek Action Plan following community engagement

- 1) A new long-term (3-5 year) Action that explicitly targets businesses in activity centres:

Work with independent businesses in activity centres to improve litter management practices, including compliance with waste regulations and adoption of best-practice litter reduction strategies.

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
2.5 Work with businesses in activity centres to improve litter management, including improving compliance and adoption of best-practice litter reduction practices.	> Litter management practices established explicitly for businesses	Glen Eira City Council City of Port Phillip	EPA Victoria Bayside City Council Melbourne Water

- 2) Specific reference to microplastics pollution as an impact of litter, in the section ‘Our shared waterway and its challenges’.
- 3) Specific reference to previous studies on litter in Port Phillip Bay, to supplement the litter analysis completed to inform development of the Action Plan.

Progress will be measured against a baseline estimation of litter in the catchment, established using data from the Elster Creek Litter Analysis **and supplemented by research from the Clean Bay Blueprint and Plastic Free Bay reports**. Each project will have its own metrics aligned with best-practice methodologies to ensure consistency and comparability

DRAFT

Elster Creek Litter Collaboration Elster Creek Litter Action Plan 2026–2031



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL



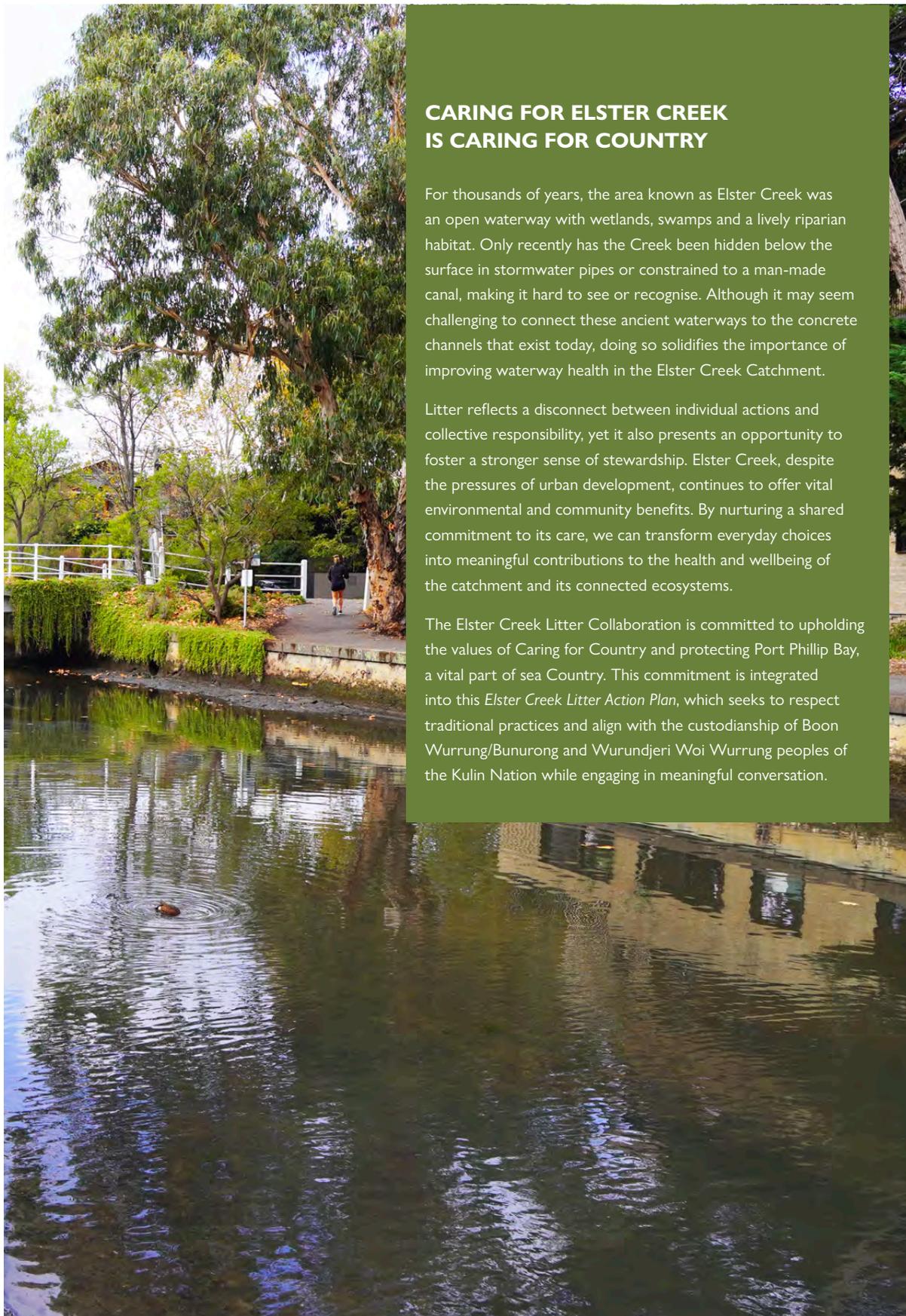


**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF COUNTRY**

This collaboration acknowledges the Boon Wurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to land and waterways. We extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We honour the rich histories and cultures of First Nations peoples and recognise and value the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in caring for Country and water and enriching our community.

This is Country that always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.



CARING FOR ELSTER CREEK IS CARING FOR COUNTRY

For thousands of years, the area known as Elster Creek was an open waterway with wetlands, swamps and a lively riparian habitat. Only recently has the Creek been hidden below the surface in stormwater pipes or constrained to a man-made canal, making it hard to see or recognise. Although it may seem challenging to connect these ancient waterways to the concrete channels that exist today, doing so solidifies the importance of improving waterway health in the Elster Creek Catchment.

Litter reflects a disconnect between individual actions and collective responsibility, yet it also presents an opportunity to foster a stronger sense of stewardship. Elster Creek, despite the pressures of urban development, continues to offer vital environmental and community benefits. By nurturing a shared commitment to its care, we can transform everyday choices into meaningful contributions to the health and wellbeing of the catchment and its connected ecosystems.

The Elster Creek Litter Collaboration is committed to upholding the values of Caring for Country and protecting Port Phillip Bay, a vital part of sea Country. This commitment is integrated into this *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan*, which seeks to respect traditional practices and align with the custodianship of Boon Wurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation while engaging in meaningful conversation.

Acknowledgements

The development of the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* was led by Glen Eira City Council with support from the partners of the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration — City of Port Phillip, Bayside City Council, Melbourne Water and Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA Victoria). Many thanks to the community participants who provided their insight and commentary; to Melbourne Water for proposing the *Action Plan* and providing funding; and to the partner organisations and individuals working towards a healthier Elster Creek.

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, phone Glen Eira City Council Customer Service Centre on 03 9524 3333, email mail@gleneira.vic.gov.au or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au.

This document is also available on the internet.

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This publication may be of assistance to you, but the members of the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration and its representatives do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your purposes and therefore disclaims liability for any error, loss or other consequences that may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan (Plan)* is a collaborative cross-catchment initiative developed by Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Bayside councils, Melbourne Water, EPA Victoria, community environment groups and engaged individuals. It provides a strategic framework for reducing litter across the Elster Creek Catchment.

Litter continues to threaten the health of Elster Creek, despite long-standing recognition of the issue by environmental organisations and government bodies. While previous efforts have achieved some success, persistent pollution highlights the need for renewed and coordinated action.

This five-year *Plan* outlines tangible, measurable steps to reduce litter in the catchment. It is informed by stakeholder input, community consultation and the joint research efforts of the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC). It should be read alongside the 2024 *Elster Creek Litter Analysis*, which identifies key litter 'hotspots', 'accumulation zones' and infrastructure gaps.

The wellbeing of Elster Creek is closely linked to the health of Port Phillip Bay. By supporting this *Plan*, we move toward a future where the creek flows clean and litter-free, contributing to a thriving marine environment for generations to come.

This *Plan* sets out clear objectives and initiatives aimed at achieving three primary outcomes. Success will depend on available resources, prioritisation and ongoing collaboration among stakeholders and community members. Continued dialogue and engagement are essential to ensure effective implementation and lasting impact.

Outcome #1 Prevention

Litter generation is reduced at the source through awareness, education and changes to systems and behaviours.

Outcome #2 Removal

Litter that has entered the catchment is actively removed and stopped from reaching Port Phillip Bay.

Outcome #3 Monitoring

Litter in the Elster Creek Catchment is actively monitored and assessed to measure progress and identify priority areas of improvement.

OUR SHARED WATERWAY AND ITS CHALLENGES

The Elster Creek Catchment is an urbanised area that drains through the Elster Creek into Port Phillip Bay. This catchment area spans four local councils — Glen Eira, Bayside, Port Phillip and Kingston — and covers 40 square kilometres. It connects directly to Port Phillip Bay through a network of more than 10,000 drains and pipes that twist along the path of the historic Elster Creek.

Litter — What is it?

Litter is the improper disposal of waste. Common litter items are cigarette butts, takeaway containers, drink containers (metal and plastic), coffee cups, polystyrene, and pieces of paper.

In all urban catchments, litter management is an ongoing challenge, with litter from shopping strips, parklands, construction sites and industrial areas being carried by rainfall or winds into local drains that meet our waterways.

A littered environment has many consequences,¹ not all of which may be immediately detectable.

- 1. Litter can block drains and cause flooding:** When rubbish enters the stormwater systems, it stops water from flowing properly and can lead to flooding or pooling around drains.
- 2. It pollutes land and water and creates microplastics:** Litter, especially plastics, can poison the soil and our rivers and oceans, ultimately causing major harm to the environment.
- 3. It harms animals and reduces biodiversity:** Wildlife can get tangled in or eat litter, which can injure or kill them. This disrupts food chains and can contribute to declining native species populations.
- 4. It can make public places feel unsafe and encourage vandalism:** Littered areas can attract graffiti or other antisocial behaviours and make people feel it's acceptable to further damage a space.
- 5. It weakens our connection to nature and community:** Litter makes it harder for people to enjoy and feel proud of their local parks or waterways, especially as cities grow and green spaces shrink.

Every waterway is shaped by the landscape it flows through and Elster Creek is no exception. Nestled within a highly urbanised environment, it presents a distinctive case for litter management and waterway protection. Unlike many natural waterways, Elster Creek runs almost entirely underground within the Melbourne Water drainage system, lacking traditional banks and vegetation. Although residents can catch glimpses of the natural waterway in Elwood and at open channel locations throughout the catchment, most of it is hidden, which can make the issue of litter less visual and consequently less urgent to address. Despite these challenges, Elster Creek continues to provide valuable environmental and community benefits, demonstrating the resilience of urban waterways and the importance of tailored approaches to their care.

¹ EPA NSW (Environmental Protection Agency New South Wales) (2022) *NSW Litter Prevention Strategy 2022–30*.

HOW LITTER CONNECTS TO WATER MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR CHOICES

Litter is more than just a visual pollutant — it poses a serious threat to waterway health, especially in urban environments like the Elster Creek Catchment. To tackle it properly, we need to think about the bigger picture: how we manage water, how we prepare for climate change and how we deal with waste in our daily lives.

Integrated water management (IWM) looks after all parts of the water cycle — stormwater, drinking water and wastewater — to keep our water safe and our environment healthy. Within this framework, litter management plays a vital role. IWM tools, such as water sensitive urban design (WSUD), incorporate elements that trap litter or filter out gross pollutants before they reach the waterway. WSUD facilities have multiple benefits beyond litter and can increase overall water quality, supporting cleaner waterways and healthier ecosystems. That's why an IWM perspective is so important to consider — because litter projects can turn into water projects when planned together.

Climate change is making storms heavier and more frequent, which increases the risk of flash flooding, a known vulnerability for Elster Creek. When litter blocks drains and pipes, it makes flooding worse. That's why this *Plan* aligns closely with the *Elster Creek Flood Management Plan*, ensuring litter reduction efforts also contribute to flood mitigation and climate adaptation.

The way we consume and how we dispose of things is also linked to litter. In today's throwaway culture, cheap and disposable products are readily available, while sustainable options are often overlooked. This creates more waste and in turn, more litter. But there's a chance to do things differently. By shifting toward a culture of care — where individuals, businesses and governments take shared responsibility for the full lifecycle of products — we can reduce waste at its source. Encouraging reuse, supporting circular economy initiatives and advocating for better product design and packaging are all part of the solution.



Image: Elwood Foreshore bin after Stargazers.

A PLAN FOR LITTER MANAGEMENT

What is this Plan?

The *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* is a living document to guide work over the next five years that will reduce and prevent the amount of litter entering Port Phillip Bay through the Elster Creek Catchment. It is supported by the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC) that will coordinate litter reduction actions across the catchment and prioritise and plan the future actions needed for lasting litter reduction within the waterways.

Although this *Plan* focuses on the Elster Creek Catchment, the actions it proposes can be applied across all areas of the three participating councils of Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Bayside. These councils, Melbourne Water and EPA Victoria share responsibility for protecting the Elster Creek Catchment and working together is the best way to make a real impact.



Image: Litter picked up from Elwood Canal in one hour after a storm.

How was this Plan developed?

This *Plan* was collaboratively developed by Glen Eira City Council and the other members of the ECLC, with the help of interested community groups.

The Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC)

These organisations work together through the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC) with participants from:

- Glen Eira City Council
- Port Phillip City Council
- Bayside City Council
- Melbourne Water
- EPA Victoria

The ECLC's role is to coordinate efforts and oversee the implementation of the projects in this *Plan* (see Appendix B for governance structure).



Image: Elster Creek.

Glen Eira City Council is the lead organisation in this collaboration because more than 70 per cent of the catchment lies within its boundaries and more than 85 per cent of the runoff that contributes from the catchment comes from the municipality. As a result, many of the proposed actions are led by Glen Eira.

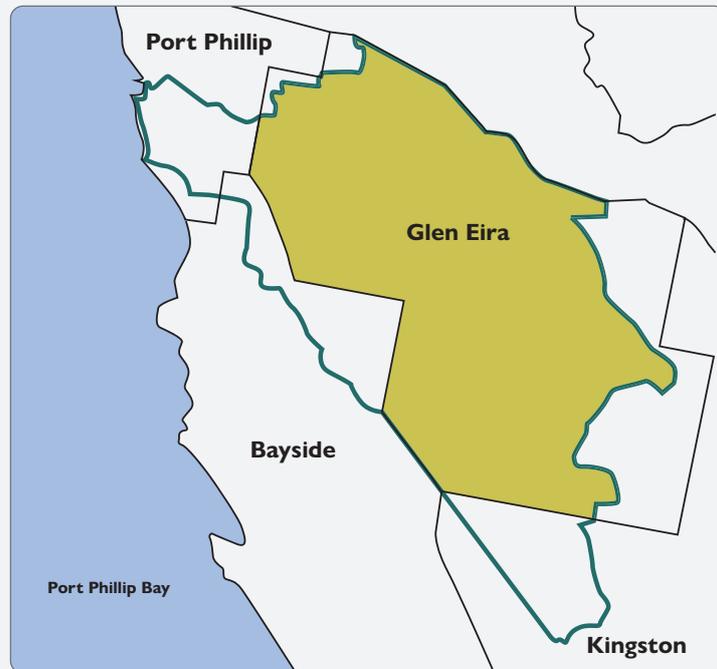


Figure 3: Elster Creek Catchment boundary map.
● Catchment boundary
● Glen Eira catchment area

Working with community groups

During the development of this *Plan*, it became clear that local community groups and individuals play a vital role in protecting the catchment. Their involvement helps ensure that the *Plan* reflects the local knowledge and values, and that actions are supported by the people who live and work in the area.

There is ongoing consultation with the following community groups and organisations:

- Beach Patrol
- Elwood Canal Action Team (ECAT)
- Glen Eira Climate Emergency
- Action Network (GECAN)
- Love Our Street
- Port Phillip EcoCentre
- Port Phillip Emergency Climate
- Action Network (PECAN)

In the future, the *Plan* aims to involve more community organisations beyond those listed above. Expanding these partnerships will help build broader support and ensure the *Plan* reaches more people.

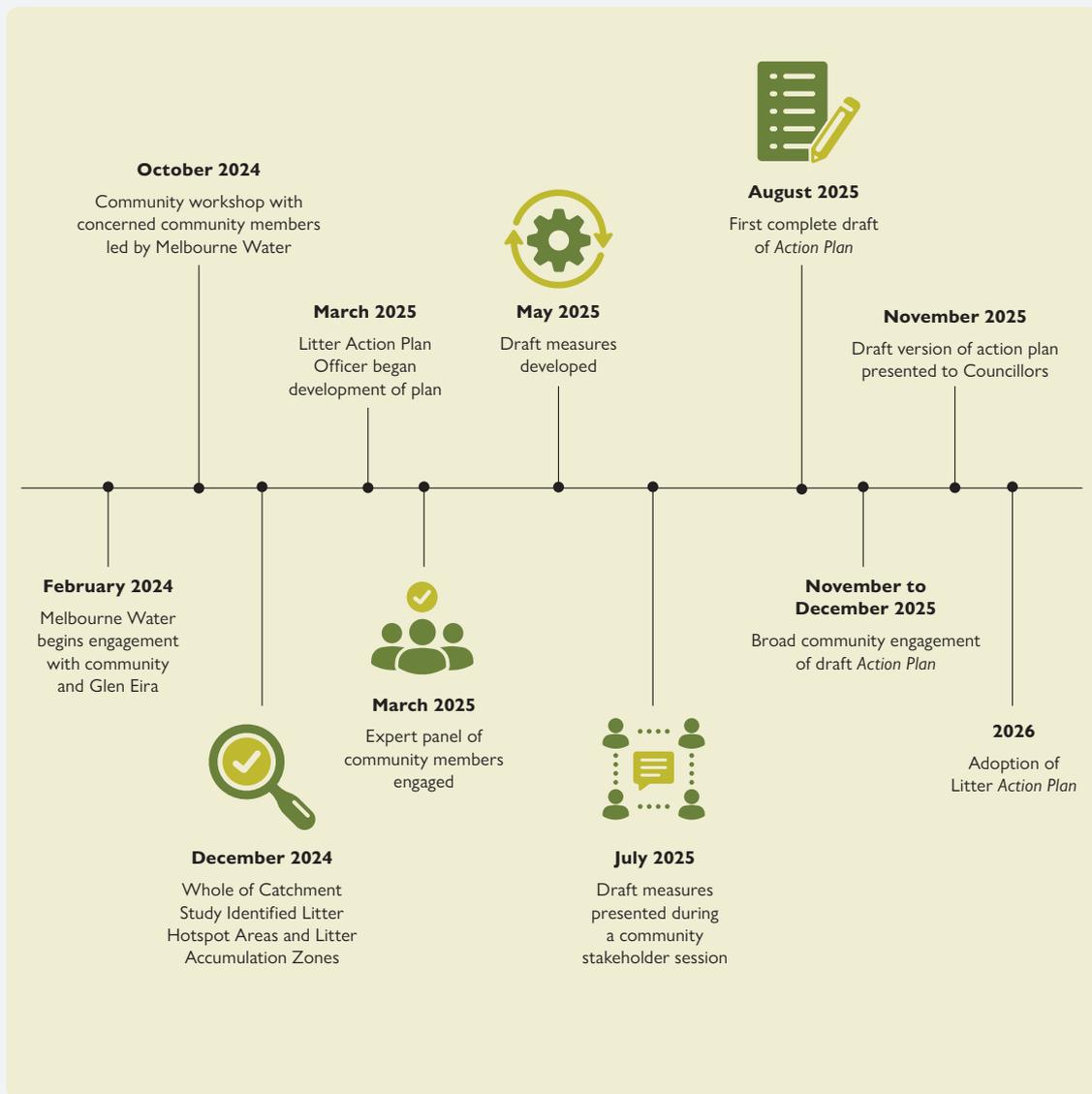


Image: Elster Creek.

Plan development timeline

This *Plan* is a product of stakeholder input provided during workshops, professional meetings and investigations into best practices. Melbourne Water initiated the *Plan* development process with the *Elster Creek Catchment Litter Analysis* that identified litter hotspots and accumulation zones within the catchment (see Appendix C). Using this as a basis for understanding of litter within the catchment, further community consultation and research has been done to identify best practices moving forward.

A summarised timeline of activities that contributed to the development of this *Plan* is outlined below and more details can be found in Appendix A.



General environmental duty

Everyone has a duty to reduce risk to human health and the environment from pollution and waste.

— EPA Victoria

Strategic context

State and regional litter management policies

This *Plan* supports existing state and regional efforts to tackle litter and aligns with the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.² Under Section 25 of the Act, everyone in Victoria — including councils and Melbourne Water — has a legal duty to reduce the risk of harm to people and the environment so far as *reasonably practicable*. The General Environmental Duty applies to anyone creating or depositing litter and there are additional penalties for people who deposit litter unlawfully.

Other legislation and strategies this *Plan* aligns with include:

- the *Water Act 1989*
- *Healthy Waterways Strategy* (HWS) regional performance objectives 26 and 27
- *Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan* measures 3 and 4
- *Elster Creek Flood Management Plan*
- *Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027* (EMP)

Local strategies and plans

The councils that are members of the ECLC also have their own internal plans and policies that align with this *Plan*.

Bayside	<i>Recycling and Waste Management Strategy (2018–2027)</i>
Glen Eira	<i>Integrated Water Management Plan/ Dhumbali W'urmeet Gadhaba</i>
	<i>Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025–2029</i> <i>Circular Economy Plan 2022–2026</i>
Port Phillip	<i>'Act & Adapt' — Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023–2028 (Themes 1 and 5)</i> <i>Don't Waste It! Waste Management Strategy 2022–2025</i>

Table 1: Local strategies and plans by councils.

² www.epa.vic.gov.au/general-environmental-duty

What will this Plan do?

Strategic outcomes

The *Plan* contains three strategic outcomes with eight overall objectives. The objectives seek to simplify the prioritisation of resources to more effectively communicate and evaluate what is necessary to achieve each outcome. Each objective has actions for delivery.

34 Actions: 17 short-term actions (0–2 years) and 17 long-term actions (3–5 years)

How will this Plan succeed?

The *Plan* is designed to be adaptive and responsive over its five-year implementation period. Progress will be tracked with annual reviews and ongoing evaluation of individual projects. As specific initiatives are developed under each action, tailored indicators will be created to measure their effectiveness and guide continuous improvement. These indicators will complement the overarching measures outlined below, which provide a broader view of the *Plan*'s impact across the catchment.

Implementation approach

Each action in the *Plan* will follow a structured four-phase process:



1. Investigate

Understand the issue and gather relevant data.



2. Pilot

Test potential solutions on a small scale.



3. Invest

Allocate resources to scale successful initiatives.



4. Evaluate

Measure outcomes and refine approaches.

Prioritising actions

Given that implementation depends on available resources, the ECLC has developed a prioritisation matrix to guide funding and delivery. Actions are assessed using the following criteria:



1. Cost and benefit

High-benefit, low-cost actions are prioritised for short-term delivery.



2. Allocated resources

Actions with existing funding or support may be fast tracked.



3. Alignment with strategic objectives

Actions align with existing stakeholders plans and strategies.



4. Community preferences

Interested parties were engaged at multiple times during the development of this *Plan* and their suggestions are considered.

Tracking overall progress

Progress will be measured against a baseline estimation of litter in the catchment, established using data from the *Elster Creek Litter Analysis* and supplemented by research from the *Clean Bay Blueprint* and *Plastic Free Bay* reports. Each project will have its own metrics aligned with best practice methodologies to ensure consistency and comparability

In addition to project-specific key performance indicators (to be developed later), the *Plan* includes overarching measures to track its overall impact. These indicators will be reviewed annually to assess progress toward key outcomes.

Outcome	Measures of progress
#1 — Prevention	Percentage reduction in litter volume (kg or m ³) collected by community groups and stakeholders over time
#2 — Removal	Total kg or m ³ of litter removed
#3 — Monitoring	Percentage composition of litter by type identified

Table 2: Measures of progress.

Ongoing communications

The ECLC recognises that transparent, up-to-date information builds public trust and shared responsibility. A centralised platform will be used to regularly communicate progress, share data and celebrate successes with the community and decision-makers.



Image: Melbourne Water floating litter traps in the Elster Creek Canal.



ACTION PLAN 2026–2031

● Short term (0–2 Years) ● Long term (3–5 Years)

OUTCOME #1 — PREVENTION

Litter generation is reduced at the source through awareness, education and changes to systems and behaviours

Prevention is key to solving the litter issue in the long term. Prevention efforts need to include general waste reduction support by all community members and a change in consumer behaviour. The combined efforts of individuals, groups, businesses, councils and state government are necessary to ensure lasting change. This *Plan* seeks to improve information sharing, education and outreach, circular economy concept implementation and upstream waste prevention through a collaborative process amongst catchment stakeholders.

Objective 1: The community changes their behaviour to reduce the amount of litter in the catchment and understand their role and the ECLC's role in improving our waterways

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
1.1 Create a communications and engagement strategy to support catchment-wide campaigns and create an identity for the Elster Creek Catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Strategy produced > Identity created 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water EPA Victoria Community groups
1.2 Develop a communications campaign targeted at residents in litter hotspot areas and high use public spaces, including parks and sporting grounds, to support source reduction and encourage behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Data gathered to inform source reduction priorities > Incorporate the standards created in 1.1 messaging > Engagement messaging is delivered in targeted locations > Source reduction plans trialled at hotspots 	Glen Eira City Council Community groups	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water
1.3 Develop a litter reduction education program (using resources from Melbourne Water, Sustainability Victoria and partner organisations) and trial the program in interested learning centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Existing educational material is synthesised > Education toolkit is developed and trialled 	Glen Eira City Council City of Port Phillip Community groups	Bayside City Council Melbourne Water
1.4 Identify and support opportunities for councils to launch litter programs that actively involve and empower local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Options for new litter programs investigated > Feasibility study on specific programs created 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip
1.5 Continue to support circular economy initiatives that focus on source reduction for individuals, businesses and the broader community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support existing initiatives by stakeholders that promote waste reduction 	Council partners	Melbourne Water EPA Victoria

ACTION PLAN 2026–2031

● Short term (0–2 Years) ● Long term (3–5 Years)

OUTCOME #1 — PREVENTION

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ACTION PLAN 2026–2031

● Short term (0–2 Years) ● Long term (3–5 Years)

1.4	Identify and support opportunities for councils to launch litter programs that actively involve and empower local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Options for new litter programs investigated > Feasibility study on specific programs created 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip
1.5	Continue to support circular economy initiatives that focus on source reduction for individuals, businesses and the broader community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support existing initiatives by stakeholders that promote waste reduction 	Council partners	Melbourne Water EPA Victoria
Objective 2: Apply comprehensive enforcement and public reporting tools to reduce the amount of litter entering the waterways				
Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support	
2.1	Explore the development of a community-informed litter enforcement approach in commercial litter hotspots, aiming to support greater public compliance with local waste regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Enforcement plan created and trial conducted 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip EPA Victoria
2.2	Collaborate with EPA Victoria to align compliance procedures with council processes, ensuring clear use of Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLEs) and other resources to support council enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > EPA Victoria processes are united with the council enforcement scheme 	Council partners EPA Victoria	Melbourne Water
2.3	Monitor construction-related littering to inform the development of further controls for managing on-site construction waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Construction littering is investigated > Controls are identified 	Glen Eira City Council	Community groups EPA Victoria
2.4	Develop a business case for a Litter Enforcement Officer (LEO) and create clear enforcement guidelines based on best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Case for LEO created > Case used to decide whether a LEO is hired 	City of Port Phillip	Glen Eira City Council EPA Victoria Bayside City Council
2.5	Work with businesses in activity centres to improve litter management, including improving compliance and adoption of best-practice litter reduction approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Litter management practices established explicitly for businesses 	Glen Eira City Council City of Port Phillip	EPA Victoria Bayside City Council Melbourne Water

ACTION PLAN 2026–2031

● Short term (0–2 Years) ● Long term (3–5 Years)

Objective 3: Existing stakeholder processes are reviewed to improve litter maintenance and assist in selecting new programs for litter prevention

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
3.1 Audit waste management practices at a key litter hotspot to identify source reduction opportunities and apply the findings to other priority locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Current waste practices like bin placement and pick up frequency are reviewed in one location > Lessons learned are used in another location 	Council partners	Community groups EPA Victoria Melbourne Water
3.2 Improve hard rubbish collection by building on current program knowledge, updating collection rules and reviewing effectiveness of pickups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Guidelines investigated and monitored for compliance > Updates are provided where needed 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip
3.3 Explore just-in-time technology to improve maintenance response times to litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Business case developed for just-in-time technology > Technology installed and trialled 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water
3.4 Explore ways to limit organic litter (e.g. leaves, grass clippings, garden waste) in stormwater system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Impacts of organic litter are investigated > Case study conducted and evidence provided for future changes 	Council partners	Melbourne Water EPA Victoria Community groups
3.5 Identify opportunities to improve street sweeping practices and maintenance frequencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Existing street sweeping programs are reviewed > Practices are updated per findings 	Council partners	Community groups
3.6 Review guidance for new developments and apartment buildings to explore options to strengthen compliance monitoring and include litter reduction measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Review of existing method > Audit approach created and trialled 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip

ACTION PLAN 2026–2031

● Short term (0–2 Years) ● Long term (3–5 Years)

Objective 4: Achieve litter reduction by securing strong leadership, improving state policies and supporting community-led solutions

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
4.1 Advocate for expanding the <i>Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)</i> at litter hotspots using data from litter cleanups, council reports and citizen science initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support is provided to existing efforts for advocacy > CDS sites are expanded 	Glen Eira City Council	City of Port Phillip Bayside City Council Community groups
4.2 Advocate for a continuous role that establishes leadership and accountability for the implementation of the <i>Elster Creek Litter Action Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Development of business case for action plan implementation officer 	Melbourne Water Glen Eira City Council	City of Port Phillip Bayside City Council EPA Victoria
4.3 Advocate to the Victorian Government for additional state-wide source reduction initiatives, in partnership with community groups and sustainability ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Development of advocacy priorities > Advocacy conducted with other stakeholders and levels of government to support this <i>Plan</i> 	Council partners	Community groups

ACTION PLAN 2026–2031

● Short term (0–2 Years) ● Long term (3–5 Years)

Outcome #2 — Removal

Litter that has entered the catchment is actively removed and stopped from reaching Port Phillip Bay

Although prevention is the ultimate method to protect our waterways, the removal of litter from our community is essential to reduce the immediate threat and harm caused by this litter. Removal of litter is a collective effort with councils, state government and individuals all having the power to clean up our catchment.

Objective 5: Existing infrastructure is improved and/or new methods are deployed that increase the removal of litter from the stormwater system and waterways

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
5.1 Review the design and performance of current stormwater management systems (e.g. WSUDs) and upgrade standard guidelines as necessary to effectively prevent land-based litter from entering the stormwater system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Audit of existing stormwater management standards > Existing council WSUD guidelines updated with findings 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip
5.2 Review recommendations from the <i>Elster Creek Litter Analysis Report</i> about litter hotspots and accumulation zones and develop a priority list of locations for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Prioritisation matrix developed > Priority projects selected 	Melbourne Water Council partners	N/A
5.3 Continue to assess the performance of existing assets that capture litter in the Elster Creek main drainage channels and use the findings to guide improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Existing infrastructure assessed > Information presented to community > Alternative solutions investigated 	Melbourne Water	Community groups

ACTION PLAN 2026–2031

● Short term (0–2 Years) ● Long term (3–5 Years)

Objective 6: Community groups, individuals, stakeholders and external asset managers are mobilised to participate in litter cleanups while cultivating a sense of ownership and raising awareness of litter sources

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
6.1 Promote community-led cleanups and citizen science at litter hotspots and accumulation zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Citizen science and cleanup programs identified and promoted > Data collected by citizen science is combined with other efforts in hotspots 	Council partners	Community groups Melbourne Water
6.2 Support and scale up existing litter cleanup activities, such as working bees and <i>Glen Eira Play</i> events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Existing cleanup activities are identified and supported 	Council partners	Community groups
6.3 Request that Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) install signage on roads it manages to highlight penalties for littering and illegal dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > DTP engaged > Possible signage locations identified 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip EPA Victoria
6.4 Engage with DTP to advocate for the increased maintenance of roadsides and major road swales where litter accumulates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > DTP engaged to increase maintenance 	Glen Eira City Council	Bayside City Council City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water
6.5 Identify opportunities for employees of ECLC organisations to take part in volunteer catchment cleanup projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Opportunities found for employee participation > Activities planned and implemented 	Council partners	Melbourne Water
6.6 Work with Metro Trains and VicTrack to increase litter management and removal on rail lines and at stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Landowners engaged to increase their maintenance 	Glen Eira City Council	City of Port Phillip Melbourne Water EPA Victoria

ACTION PLAN 2026–2031

● Short term (0–2 Years) ● Long term (3–5 Years)

Outcome #3 — Monitoring

Litter in the Elster Creek Catchment is actively monitored and assessed to measure progress and identify priority areas of improvement

To tackle litter effectively, we first need to understand its scale and nature. While it's clear that litter accumulates in streets and travels downstream, accurately measuring the problem is challenging. We can see litter in streets and waterways but it's hard to measure the full extent of the problem. That's why it's important to invest in identifying not just how much litter exists, but also what types and sources are most common. This knowledge will allow us to establish a baseline to track progress over time, target interventions where they're needed most and support long-term catchment-wide solutions.

Objective 7: A monitoring system based on a standardised methodology is created to evaluate the progress of this Plan

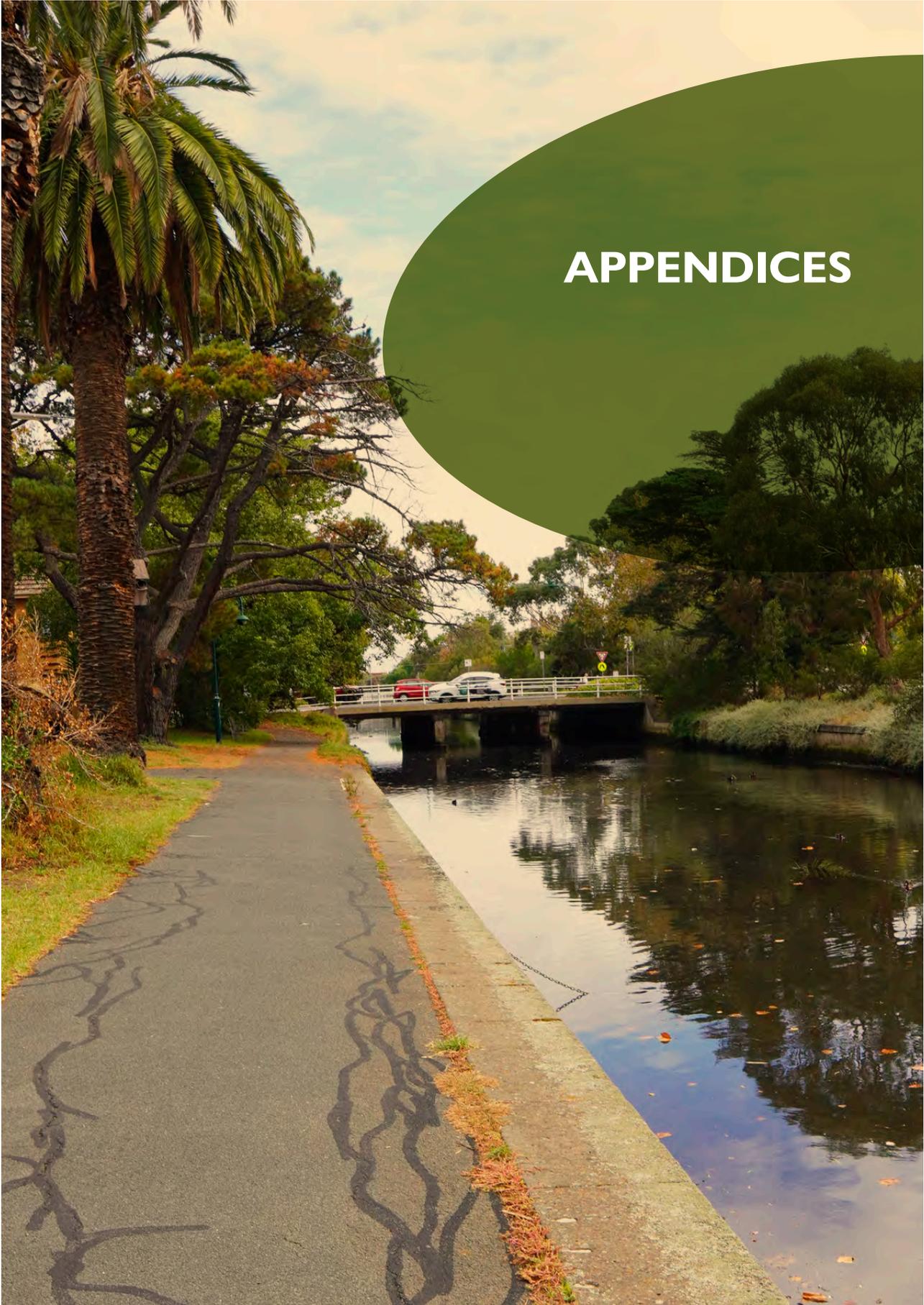
Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
7.1 Adopt a consistent data collection method to allow for comparative analysis, improve data accuracy and promote existing resources, such as LitterWatch Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Various methods to use between partners are investigated > Method adopted 	Council partners Melbourne Water	Community groups
7.2 Adopt a shared litter monitoring tool that can be used by all partners and stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Monitoring system selected and adopted > Incorporate existing monitoring framework used in <i>Clean Bay Blueprint</i>, <i>Plastic Free Bay</i> and other published research 	Glen Eira City Council	N/A
7.3 Adopt a consistent method for auditing litter after routine maintenance to validate existing data and support ongoing improvement of councils' waste collection activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Auditing methodology identified and tested > Method implemented into council processes 	Council partners Melbourne Water	Community groups
7.4 Create a reporting dashboard to help stakeholders visualise ongoing issues and track current actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Dashboard created and updated regularly 	Glen Eira City Council Melbourne Water	N/A

ACTION PLAN 2026–2031

● Short term (0–2 Years) ● Long term (3–5 Years)

Objective 8: The ECLC and community groups have established ongoing monitoring techniques to understand the composition of litter within the catchment

Action item	Deliverable/s	Lead	Support
8.1 Monitor upstream locations along Elster Creek to better understand litter at entry points	> Litter loads are identified at a minimum of two upstream locations	Melbourne Water Glen Eira City Council	Community groups Council partners
8.2 Investigate the extent of stormwater pollution generated from industrial areas within the upper catchment of Elster Creek, in partnership with key stakeholders, to inform the priority of further actions, such as targeted enforcement or education programs	> Stormwater pollution is monitored in industrial areas > Responsible stakeholder is engaged	Glen Eira City Council EPA Victoria	Melbourne Water



APPENDIX A: TIMELINE AND OUTCOMES OF THE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

2024

March 2024, Melbourne Water responds to community desires for litter management — The project plan was initiated for the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* after vocal community members engaged Melbourne Water to act on the litter management problem in Elster Creek.

April 2024, Elster Creek Litter Collaboration established — After need was identified for a catchment-wide approach to the litter problem, Melbourne Water established the ECLC.

5 and 6 August 2024, Melbourne Water gains insight via community sessions — As part of the investigation into the Elster Creek Catchment Litter Analysis, Melbourne Water met with members of the community to validate and/or refine the mapping of litter hotspots and accumulation zones.

31 October 2024, community meeting with Melbourne Water and ECLC — The ECLC was first introduced during this community meeting to receive feedback on litter hotspots and accumulation zones within the catchment as well as any other litter-related problems the community had.

December 2024, Elster Creek Catchment Litter Analyses published — The November community engagement meeting fed into a larger study that became this analysis. The catchment-scale study identified litter hotspots and accumulation zones where the litter issue heavily persists based on land use mapping, LitterWatch data and the validated community input.

2025

3 March 2025, Elster Creek Litter Action Plan Officer appointed in Glen Eira City Council — A co-funded role with Melbourne Water and Glen Eira City Council established an ongoing position to lead the development of the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan*.

31 March 2025, Elster Creek Litter Action Plan workshop — The same community members that engaged in November 2024 were asked to participate in a workshop to provide recommendations for the content of the *Plan*. These community members were unofficially grouped as the 'expert panel' for discussions regarding the *Plan*.

1 July 2025, re-engagement with the expert panel — Participants reviewed, discussed and when needed, provided edits to the list of actions developed during the *Plan* drafting process. The panel, which consists of community group members and conscientious individuals, worked to identify ways the ECLC can work with the community to deliver the actions within the *Plan*.

August 2025, draft Action Plan finalised — Feedback from community members, council officers and the stakeholders of the ECLC were used to finalise the first draft of the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan*.

APPENDIX B: THE GOVERNANCE OF THIS ACTION PLAN AND THE ELSTER CREEK LITTER COLLABORATION

Provisions of the Action Plan

Duration: Five years

Leadership: Glen Eira City Council

Communication: To provide routine updates to community groups via a bi-annual forum

Governance structure of the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC)

The ECLC was formed to ensure the actions described in this *Plan* are executable across the stakeholder organisations.

The roles of the ECLC include:

1. Continuous partnership with the community, NGOs and learning and teachings from Traditional Owners
2. Share the successes of this *Plan* with other catchments to contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of Port Phillip Bay
3. Continuous learning cycle during implementation of these action items and update them to fit our goal as we better understand the impacts of the *Plan*
4. Manage governance of this *Plan*, including regularly convening an Implementation Working Group, developing a rolling financial plan and implementation timeline
5. Clearly define the process for the implementation of this *Plan*

To ensure the *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan* is implemented within an appropriate timeline and under the considerations of necessary stakeholder involvement, an effective monitoring organisation must be established. This *Plan's* success leans on the collective understanding that the ECLC will be formalised as the governing body under which the *Plan* can be operated and executed.

Guiding framework

- **Data-driven approach:** Actions backed by data ensure we're putting our resources in the right place.
- **Collaboration and interdisciplinary action:** Working together with community groups, stakeholders and other catchment collaborations will ensure effective actions are developed and implemented.
- **Empowerment and accountability:** Individuals and community groups have the chance to change the health of Elster Creek and hold the ECLC accountable.



APPENDIX C: LITTER HOTSPOT AREAS AND ACCUMULATION ZONES

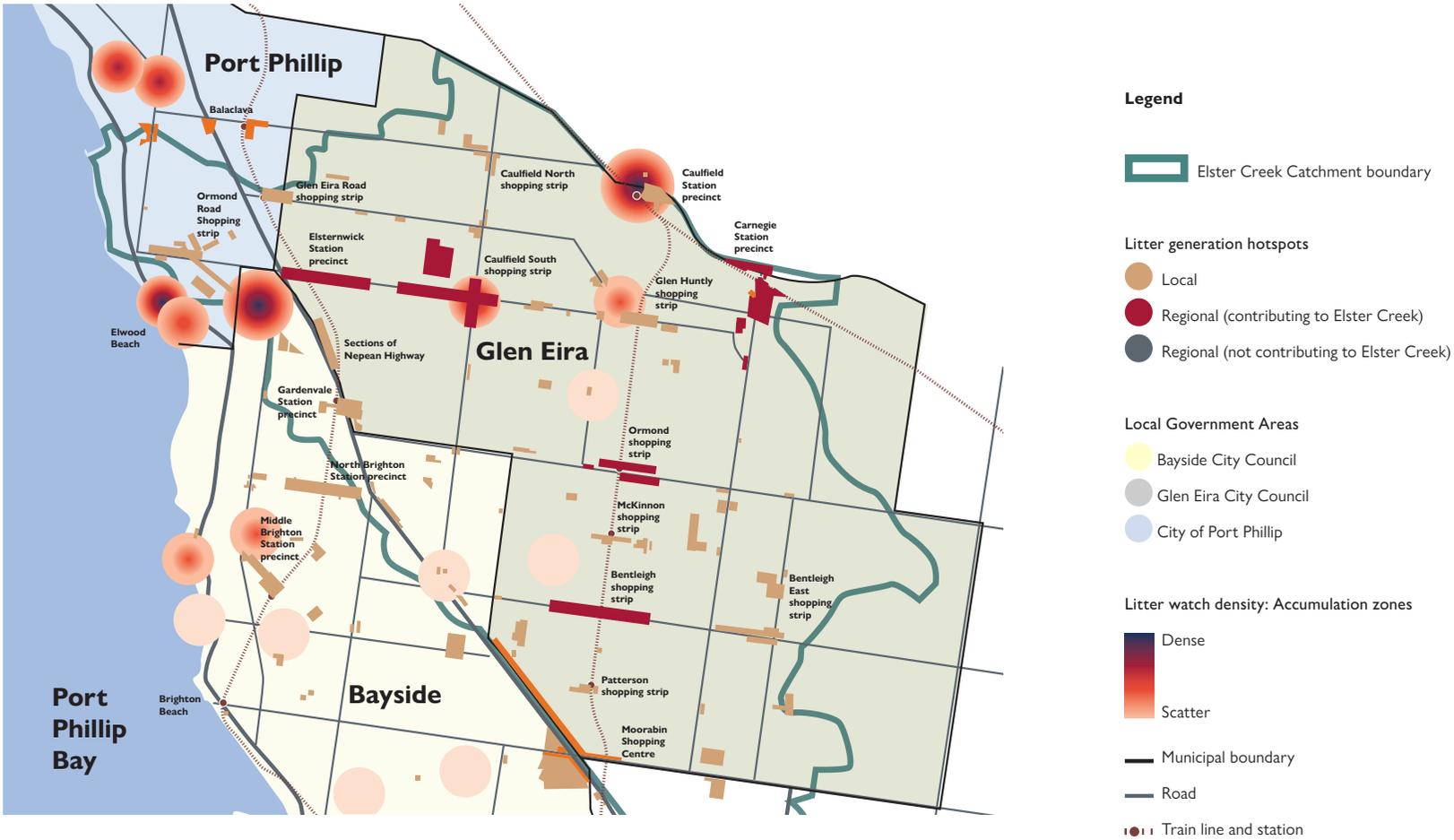


Figure 4: Litter generation hotspot areas and accumulation zones map from Elster Creek Litter Analysis, Alluvium (November 2024).

APPENDIX D: FUTURE OBJECTIVES, INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

Due to the time and resource restrictions of this *Action Plan*, these items were not prioritised for further investigation but should be considered at the review of this *Plan* in 2030.

- > Research efficacy of increasing penalties or fines for littering.
- > Look into the health and safety guidelines for Glen Eira City Council to clarify whether it requires businesses to have a waste management service on premise. If not, guidelines by EPA Victoria can be used to enforce the presence of bins under the General Environmental Duty.
- > Develop stricter guidelines for private waste companies to prevent overfilling of bins in commercial districts that use their services.
- > Research rewilding or planting efforts at select locations along the extent of the Elster Creek main drain channel.

List of abbreviations

CDS	Container Deposit Scheme
ECLC	Elster Creek Litter Collaboration
IWM	Integrated water management
LEO	Litter Enforcement Officer
WSUD	Water sensitive urban design



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL



Glen Eira City Council

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Caulfield Junction VIC 3161

Phone: (03) 9524 3333

mail@gleneira.vic.gov.au

www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

National Relay Service

A phone solution for people who have a hearing or speech impairment. Internet relay users connect to NRS then ask for 03 9524 3333.

TTY dial 13 36 77 or Speak and Listen dial 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 9524 3333. <https://internet-relay.nrs.vic.gov.au>

Social media

Glen Eira City Council:

www.facebook.com/GlenEiraCityCouncil

@cityofgleneira:

www.instagram.com/cityofgleneira

LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/company/glen-eira-city-council

Glen Eira arts, gallery and events:

www.facebook.com/gleneiraarts

www.instagram.com/gleneiraarts

Glen Eira Leisure:

www.facebook.com/GESAConline

www.instagram.com/gleneiraleisure

Glen Eira Libraries and Learning Centres:

www.facebook.com/GlenEiraLibraries

www.instagram.com/gleneiralibraries

Glen Eira sustainable living:

www.facebook.com/sustainablelivinggleneira

Glen Eira Youth Services:

www.facebook.com/GlenEiraYouthServices

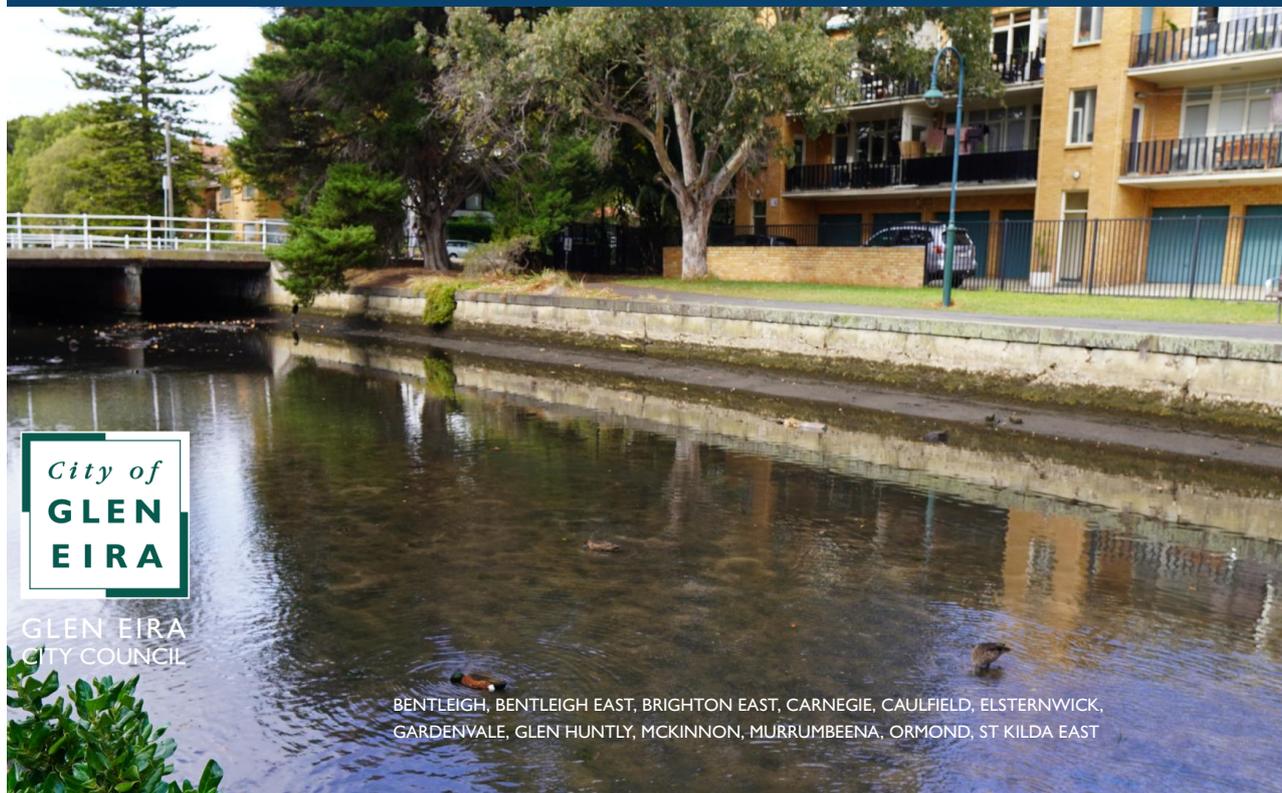
www.instagram.com/gleneirayouthservices

The

January 2026

Elster Creek Litter Action Plan

Engagement report



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH, BENTLEIGH EAST, BRIGHTON EAST, CARNEGIE, CAULFIELD, ELSTERNWICK,
GARDENVALE, GLEN HUNTLY, MCKINNON, MURRUMBEENA, ORMOND, ST KILDA EAST

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Executive Summary

The Elster Creek Litter Action Plan is a collaborative initiative developed by the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC). This collaboration brings together Melbourne Water, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria, and the City Councils of Glen Eira, Port Phillip, and Bayside. This partnership was formed to address the significant and ongoing impact of litter throughout the Elster Creek catchment—a 40-square-kilometre area that drains into Port Phillip Bay, with Glen Eira accounting for 70 per cent of the catchment.

This report outlines the engagement process for the draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan (*Plan*) along with the insights from more than **330 community interactions** across surveys, pop-up events, voting activities, and social-mapping comments.

Promotion

The engagement was supported by a multi-channel communications program designed to maximise reach across the Elster Creek catchment. Communications included coordinated online promotion across Councils and partner organisations through their websites, social media posts on Facebook and Instagram and in Glen Eira and Port Phillip's Have Your Say platforms. It was also promoted through targeted e-newsletters, website news items, stakeholder emails, radio advertising and displayed on digital screens, posters and bookmarks. There was also several in person promotions including six pop up engagements at local events and hot-spot locations. The promotion provided widespread awareness of the draft *Plan*, encouraging community members the opportunity to provide feedback both online and in-person.

Engagement results

The engagement on the draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan was open for over a five-week period from 6 November to 14 December 2025. The engagement received:

- More than **330 community interactions** across surveys, pop-ups, social mapping and voting activities.
- More than **4,300 views** on Glen Eira's and Port Phillip's Have Your Say platforms
- More than **270 downloads** of the draft Action Plan and background documents
- **61 submissions** from Glen Eira and **14 submissions** from Port Phillip across the survey and social map activity.
- Over **260 pop-up conversations**, **264 voting-ball contributions** and **16 social-map submissions** identifying local litter hotspots at engagement pop ups.

Community perceptions of litter

Feedback from our residents, community groups and stakeholders across the Elster Creek catchment consistently highlighted the significance of litter as an environmental, amenity and

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flooding issue. Across all engagement activities, participants expressed **strong concern** about the extent of litter in their neighbourhoods:

- The majority of pop-up participants from the voting ball activity **rated litter as a serious (55 votes) or very serious (91 votes) issue.**
- Survey respondents— in Glen Eira, **44 per cent described litter as a ‘noticeable issue’; in Port Phillip, 56 per cent rated it as a ‘very serious issue’.**
- There were widespread concerns and mentions about **cigarette butts, dumped rubbish, construction waste, stormwater pollution and litter around schools, stations and shopping strips.**

Ranking of preferred actions:

Community preferences indicate a clear desire for proactive, long-term approaches to litter reduction.

Glen Eira respondents identified the following actions as their first preference:

 1 Stronger policies and funding (35%)	 2 Tracking litter and data (25%)	 3 Cleaning up litter (26%)	 4 Education (20%)
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Port Phillip respondents identified the following actions as their first preference:

 1 Tracking litter and data (50%)	 2 Education (38%)	 3 Cleaning up litter (25%)	 4 Stronger policies and funding (0% first-preference / 29% second preferences)
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Overall, survey respondents favoured **data-driven decision-making** and **stronger policy and funding reform**, while acknowledging that **clean-ups and education** play an important and critical role.

Key themes identified as missing from the draft Plan

Feedback identified several priority themes for strengthening the *Plan*. These included:

- Upgrading **infrastructure and stormwater systems.**
- Expanding **Water Sensitive Urban Design**, with rain gardens, linear parks, stormwater filters and litter traps.
- Improving **construction site compliance** through regulation, stronger enforcement, penalties for breaches and better compliance monitoring.

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- **Addressing pollution** sources **beyond visible litter** such as microplastics, chemical run-off and building waste and strengthening the links between stormwater, flooding and pollution.
- **Enhancing enforcement** and stronger **industry accountability**.
- Clearer **timelines, reporting mechanisms, data transparency and governance** to ensure measurable progress.
- **Systemic change** and **producer responsibility** with stronger laws, container deposit expansion, business accountability.
- **Community engagement:** through support for local groups, with more shared responsibility and less reliance on volunteers.

Indicators of progress (what community wants to see)

Across the Elster Creek catchment, respondents emphasised the importance of seeing positive progress being made through:

- **Cleaner waterways** and beaches, with less floating litter and **improved water quality**.
- Visible **reduction in street litter, illegal dumping and pollution**.
- **Improved waste infrastructure:** better bins, regular maintenance, effective litter traps.
- **Transparent reporting:** data dashboards, monitoring results, pollution event reporting.
- **Stronger enforcement:** fines, compliance for building sites, prosecution of polluters.

Community willingness to participate:

Many participants expressed willingness to be part of local solutions.

- **60 per cent** of Glen Eira and **63 per cent** of Port Phillip respondents want to be involved in reducing litter.
- Top ways to participate include **reporting litter, joining clean-ups, staying informed via council newsletters and collecting/reporting on data**.
- **18 residents** expressed interest in joining a future community panel.

Demographic snapshot

- The majority of respondents of the survey were **aged 55+** (Glen Eira **60 per cent**; Port Phillip **89 per cent**).
- The majority identified as **women** (Glen Eira **58 per cent**; Port Phillip **78 per cent**).
- **Elwood residents** provided the largest share of responses (**34 per cent**).

Overall, community feedback shows positive support for the draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan and affirms the need for **coordinated, catchment wide action**. There was clear expectation for councils and partners to focus on prevention, infrastructure investment, regulation, and evidence-based approaches. Feedback highlighted a need for transparent progress reporting and more visible shared action to restore and protect waterways.

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Background

The Elster Creek Litter Action Plan is a collaborative initiative developed by the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration (ECLC). This collaboration brings together Melbourne Water, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria, and the City Councils of Glen Eira, Port Phillip, and Bayside. This partnership was formed to address the significant and ongoing impact of litter throughout the Elster Creek catchment—a 40-square-kilometre area that drains into Port Phillip Bay, with Glen Eira accounting for 70 per cent of the catchment.

Litter in the catchment presents a range of challenges. Environmentally, it harms local biodiversity and pollutes waterways, while socially and infrastructurally, it blocks stormwater systems, increases the risk of flooding, and diminishes the quality and safety of public spaces. These issues are becoming more urgent as climate change leads to more frequent and severe weather events.

A catchment-wide analysis identified plastic drink bottle and cigarette butts as the most common gross pollutants. Community advocacy and local action groups have played a crucial role in highlighting litter hotspots and shaping the plan's priorities.

The development of the draft *Plan* began in March 2025 and was informed by targeted consultation with key stakeholders, community groups, and residents. Groups such as Beach Patrol, Elwood Canal Action Team, Port Phillip EcoCentre, and local climate action networks contributed their knowledge and helped co-design solutions. This “expert panel” was re-engaged in July 2025 to review the proposed draft plan and confirm whether their community knowledge was accurately portrayed.

The draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan focuses on four key areas: education, behaviour change, infrastructure improvements, and community-led clean-ups. The plan was refined through ongoing engagement with stakeholders before being released for broader community feedback.

The Elster Creek Litter Action Plan represents a coordinated, community-driven effort to improve waterway health through litter prevention and reduction. Ongoing collaboration between councils, state government, and local groups is central to its success.

This report details community input received through broad community engagement on the draft *Plan* to help inform changes to the final *Plan* for adoption by Councils and partners.

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Engaging the community

The Elster Creek Litter Action Plan engagement campaign used a diverse mix of communication channels and engagement activities to reach as many people as possible across the catchment. The engagement was open from 6 November to 14 December 2025, a period of just over five weeks.

The engagement process was designed to encourage meaningful participation and included an online survey, a social map activity, public pop-up engagements, and a range of supporting communications. The objectives were to raise awareness, educate the community, encourage active participation, and gather feedback to inform the final *Plan*.

The engagement approach aligned with the ‘involve’ level of the IAP2 public participation spectrum in developing the draft *Plan* and with the ‘consult’ level of the spectrum in presenting the draft *Plan* for broader community feedback. Engaging on the draft plan enabled community members the opportunity to make a final contribution in shaping the draft *Plan*. It further provided all the partners of the Elster Creek collaboration to understand community concerns, ideas, and aspirations and gain insights on how to strengthen community-led actions and involvement.

Promotion of the engagement process was targeted through newsletters, website pages across partner groups, targeted emails to key stakeholders, social media and the delivery of a series of public pop-up engagements at various events and at local hotspot locations. These activities provided multiple opportunities for residents, community groups, and stakeholders to get involved, learn more about the *Plan*, discuss local litter issues, and share their feedback.

The online survey on Have Your Say platforms in Glen Eira and Port Phillip served as the central channel for gathering broad community feedback while pop-up events enabled more in-depth conversations and the collection of local knowledge.

Through these varied engagement methods, the campaign was able to raise awareness about the impacts of litter, encourage local conversations and gather valuable community input. A snapshot of all engagement activities is captured below, and a detailed summary of each activity is provided later in this report.

Engagement activities	Number of respondents
Have Your Say online survey (hard copy version also available)	Glen Eira – 50 submissions Port Phillip – 9 submissions
Have Your Say social mapping activity	Glen Eira – 11 submissions Port Phillip – 5 submissions
Six pop up engagement sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glen Eira Eco Expo — 16 Nov • Elsternwick shops— 20 Nov • Port Phillip EcoCentre EnviroFest — 29 Nov • Glen Huntly Road clean-up — 30 Nov 	More than 260 participants

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carnegie Library / shopping strip — 3 Dec • Bentleigh Library and Youth Hub — 9 Dec 	
Pop-up voting ball activity (conducted at the above pop-up sessions)	264 contributions
Pop-up social map activity (conducted at the above pop-up sessions)	17 contributions on map

Communication activities

To promote the draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan engagement, a coordinated communications campaign was delivered across multiple channels to maximise reach across the catchment community. The campaign included a coordinated schedule of online, digital, and print communications, as well as in-person engagements running from 6 November to 14 December 2025. The aim was to ensure widespread awareness of the draft *Plan* and to encourage broad community participation and feedback on local litter issues and proposed *Plan* actions.

Some of the online and digital channels featured included:

- Glen Eira City Council ran the engagement on our [Have Your Say page](#), supported by Glen Eira news, e-newsletters and social media posts.
- Port Phillip Council ran a parallel process on its own [Have Your Say Port Phillip page](#) with similar communications.
- Bayside City Council and Melbourne Water promoted the engagement through dedicated web pages and their social media channels.
 - [Melbourne Water – Elster Creek Litter Collaboration](#)
 - [Bayside City Council – News](#)

Key communication channels included Melbourne Water, Bayside, Glen Eira, and Port Phillip City Council websites, targeted e-newsletters, social media posts (both paid and organic), stakeholder emails, and articles in local publications such as Glen Eira News. In addition, digital screens at community facilities and printed collateral including posters and bookmarks, were used to further promote the engagement.

This multi-channel, multi-partner approach ensured the engagement reached a broad and diverse audience across all the Elster Creek catchment. The reach and effectiveness of each communication channel are detailed in the following tables.

Communications reporting from Glen Eira City Council

Communication activities	Reach
Glen Eira News Article in the December 2025 edition	Delivered to approx. 64,500 residences
Have Your Say engagement page Live with the survey available	Views: 4,084 Visitors: 3,438 Downloads: 219 (including 166 of the Plan)

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<p>Social media post on Facebook (organic) Promoting the engagement opportunity for community members to have their say.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 November (Glen Eira City Council) • 18 November (Sustainable Living Glen Eira) • 20 November (Glen Eira City Council) • 11 December (Glen Eira City Council) 	<p>Reach: 3,339 Views: 5,595 Interactions (reactions, comments, shares): 48 Link clicks: 11</p>
<p>Social media post on Instagram (organic) Promoting the engagement opportunity for community members to have their say.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 November (Glen Eira City Council) • 20 November (Glen Eira City Council) • 11 December (Glen Eira City Council) 	<p>Reach: 2,600 Views: 5,974 Interactions (reactions, comments, shares): 49 Link clicks: 3</p>
<p>Community engagement e-newsletter November newsletter</p>	<p>Recipients: 4,455 Opened: 2,372 Link clicks: 64</p>
<p>Sustainability e-newsletter November newsletter</p>	<p>Recipients: 3,762 Opened: 1,949 Link clicks: 7</p>
<p>Sustainable Businesses e-newsletter November newsletter</p>	<p>Recipients: 627 Opened: 354 Link clicks: 0</p>
<p>Website news item Published on 7 November.</p>	<p>Page views: 2 Link clicks: 0</p>
<p>Digital screen Screen displayed at Glen Eira Town Hall, Service Centre.</p>	<p>Throughout the engagement campaign</p>
<p>Posters Displayed at Town Hall, community events and pop-up engagements</p>	<p>20 paper and 10 corflutes</p>
<p>Bookmarks Shared at pop-up engagement engagements and events</p>	<p>600 printed</p>
<p>Radio advertising Promotion on Golden Days Radio</p>	<p>6 December, 6,500 to 7,500 monthly listeners</p>

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Let's work together to shape Elster Creek's future for plants, animals and residents.

Help shape the future of Elster Creek

Elster Creek is one of Glen Eira's most treasured natural assets — but it's under threat from litter. We've teamed up with Port Phillip and Bayside councils, Melbourne Water and EPA Victoria to create the Elster Creek Litter Action Plan — a collaborative and practical approach to reduce litter, protect wildlife and keep the Creek and our neighbourhoods clean and safe.

The Plan suggests value-giving and creative ways to prevent littering, improve our community's response, and help us understand the impact of litter on our environment. Let's work together to keep the creek open, the Plan safe on both sides and create more opportunities for community involvement.

Elster Creek Litter Action Plan and Elster Creek Litter Action Plan are available to view on the Elster Creek Litter Action Plan website. You can also contact us for more information.

• Check out more in later reports
• Call us on 9421 3333 for more information
• Email: ElsterCreekLitterCollaboration@gjeira.vic.gov.au

Elsterwick neighbours share in solar future

An Elsterwick apartment block has become the first in Victoria to install a shared solar battery system — setting a new benchmark for renewable energy in multi-dwelling buildings.

Residents within the apartment block are now using the system to power their homes, and the system is expected to reduce their energy bills by up to 30 per cent.

The system is a first-of-its-kind in Victoria, and it's a great example of how we can use renewable energy to power our homes and businesses.

By taking advantage of our Solar Saver program, the apartment block is now using the system to power their homes, and the system is expected to reduce their energy bills by up to 30 per cent.

The system is a first-of-its-kind in Victoria, and it's a great example of how we can use renewable energy to power our homes and businesses.



Have your say on the Elster Creek Litter Action Plan

There's still time to share your thoughts on how we can reduce the impact of litter on our urban aquatic ecosystems.

The Elster Creek Litter Action Plan explores both community-led and Council-led solutions to tackle litter and protect our waterways.

Feedback is open until 14 December — don't miss your chance to contribute!

Got questions or want to get involved in future actions?
Email: ElsterCreekLitterCollaboration@gjeira.vic.gov.au

Have your say here

Christmas Tree collection

Whether you're quick to remove the Christmas tree, or you like to enjoy it until the very last month, we've got you covered. We have a collection of trees for you to choose from, and we'll pick it up right from your nature strip.

Just make your booking before 5pm on Tuesday for collection the following Wednesday. First collection is on Wednesday 7 January 2025. To arrange a pickup, visit www.gjeira.vic.gov.au/collections/tree-removal or contact our Customer Service team on 9421 3333.

Glen Eira City Council
8 November

Elster Creek Litter Action Plan engagement now open!

We want your feedback on our shared roadmap to reduce litter and protect our local environment throughout the Elster Creek catchment.

Developed by the Elster Creek Litter Collaboration, the Plan brings together Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Bayside councils, Melbourne Water, and EPA Victoria, alongside community groups and residents who helped shape its priorities.

Elster Creek is an important waterway that helps keep Port Phillip Bay healthy and supports native plants and animals — but litter is a growing problem. This Plan outlines practical actions to stop rubbish at the source, clean up hotspots, and track progress.

<https://brmw.ch/2lwXjbs>
Feedback closes Sunday 14 December

Sign up to our community panel and help guide the delivery of the Plan!

Sustainable living in Glen Eira



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Communications reporting from the City of Port Phillip

Communication activities	Reach
Diversity e-News Article in the November 2025 edition - Friday 28 November 'Have Your Say on the Elster Creek Litter Action Plan' - article link to Have Your Say page	Recipients: 15,904 Views: 6,093 Have Your Say article link views: 15 Have Your Say article link clicks: 7
Have Your Say engagement page Live with the survey available	Views: 232 Visitors: 139 Downloads: 54 (including 41 of draft <i>Plan</i>)
Social media post on Facebook (organic) Promoting the engagement opportunity for community members to have their say. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 November (Sustainable Port Phillip) 25 November (City of Port Phillip) 10 December (City of Port Phillip) 	Reach: 2.8K Followers: 382 Interactions (reactions, comments, shares): 28 Likes, 1 Comment, 1 Share
Social media post on Instagram (organic) Promoting the engagement opportunity for community members to have their say. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 November (City of Port Phillip) 	Reach: 10.9K Followers: 435 Reach: 653 Interactions (46 reactions, 2 shares)
Community engagement e-newsletter Newsletter Tuesday 18 November Newsletter Tuesday 9 December	Recipients: 4,235 Opened: 2,797 Link views: 29 Link clicks: 20 Recipients: 4,276 Opened: 2,825 Link views: 23 Link clicks: 15
Viva Engage post – Internal Staff Engagement 7 November - 'Have Your Say on Elster Creek Litter Action Plan!'	Views: 72 Likes: 2
'The Portal' article – Internal Staff Engagement 21 November - 'Have Your Say on Elster Creek Litter Action Plan!'	Recipients: 601 Opened: 82 Article views: 3
Posters Shared at Council facilities like Town Halls, Libraries, Port Phillip EcoCentre	20 posted
Posters Corflute posters for pop-up engagement events.	4 printed with QR code to Have Your Say page - ECLAP

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Elster Creek Litter Action Plan

Litter is a big issue for Elster Creek – it clogs drains, causes flooding, and harms local wildlife. To tackle this, we've worked with passionate residents, community groups, and government partners to create the Elster Creek Litter Action Plan.

The draft plan lays out practical steps to reduce litter, like education and behaviour change, upgrading bins and stormwater devices, and supporting community clean-ups. It also focuses on tracking progress, promoting reuse through circular economy programs, and advocating for stronger state-wide litter policies. Collaboration is at the heart of this plan and your feedback will help us shape a healthier waterway.

Give your feedback by Sunday 14 December 2025



[Find out more >>](#)

Communications reporting from Bayside City Council

Communication activities	Reach
Facebook posts Promoting the engagement for community members to have their say	Views: 986 Interactions (reactions, comments shares) 2 Link clicks: 5
This week in Bayside e-newsletter	Recipients: 13,393 Opened: 8,667 (64.89% open rate) Link clicks: 112
Sustainability e-newsletter December	Recipients: 895 Opened: 532 Link clicks: 32
Website news item Published on 17 November	Reach: 121 active users



Help shape a cleaner future for Elster Creek

We're inviting the community to give feedback to Glen Eira City Council on their draft *Elster Creek Litter Action Plan*.

Litter is a serious issue impacting our waterways and wildlife, but with your input, we can work towards a cleaner, safer Elster Creek for everyone.

Elster Creek is the primary waterway collecting rainwater from streets across Bayside, Port Phillip, Glen Eira and Kingston municipalities. The creek winds through parts of Brighton, with its catchment area including Elsterwick, North Brighton, Brighton East, Gardenvale, and Bentleigh before draining into Port Phillip Bay at Elwood via the Elwood Canal.

Your feedback will help shape practical actions like stopping litter at the source and supporting clean-ups to protect the environment and reduce litter in this vital local waterway.

[Have your say on the Elster Creek Litter Action Plan](#)

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Communications reporting from Melbourne Water

Communication activities	Reach
<p>Social media posts Campaign dates: 3–14 December across Meta (Facebook and Instagram)</p>	<p>Reach: 15,671 Landing page views: 599 Clicks 2,736 with a click through rate of 9.89% Impressions: 27,670 Post engagements 1,004 Interactions (reactions, comments) 64</p>
<p>Demographics</p>	<p>Men were the highest performing demographic across all age ranges,— 63% of landing page views (376).</p> <p>Men aged 65+ were the highest age range demographic delivering 115 landing page views.</p> <p>Women aged 18-24 were the lowest performing demographic delivering 10 landing page views.</p>

Pop-up engagements

Pop-up engagements were a key part of in-person consultations with the broader community. Six pop-up sessions were held using our engagement marquee at local events and busy shopping areas identified as litter hot spots. These sessions focused on discussing the draft Elster Creek Litter Action Plan, exploring community views on litter in local neighbourhoods, and raising awareness about how litter affects our waterways, wildlife, neighbourhoods and the bay.

Pop-up activities included a giant area map for identifying litter hot spots, a ball-voting activity, and bookmarks featuring a QR code linking to the online survey. These activities engaged a wide cross-section of the community, including children and young people. They provided opportunities to discuss litter issues, build awareness of Elster Creek, and encourage survey participation.

In total, the pop-ups engaged more than **260** people, distributing **161** bookmarks, holding **168** conversations, and attracting **264** participants in the voting-ball activity and **17** in the social map activity.

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Pop up statistics					
Location	Date	Bookmarks	Conversations	Voting Pods	Comments
Glen Eira Eco Expo Glen Eira Town Hall, Caulfield	16 Nov	30	27	Not an issue – 1 Minor issue – 3 Noticeable issue – 12 Serious issue – 6 Very serious issue – 7 Not sure - 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns with overflow of park bins. Packer Park litter.
Elsternwick shops Cnr Staniland Grove and Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick	20 Nov	40	42	Not an issue – 6 Minor issue – 14 Noticeable issue – 13 Serious issue – 15 Very serious issue – 14 Not sure - 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubbish around local primary schools. Issues with rubbish in Anderson St Caulfield. Need for a local law around rubbish dumping.
Port Phillip EcoCentre EnviroFest St Kilda Botanical Gardens	29 Nov	32	32	Not an issue – 4 Minor issue – 15 Noticeable issue – 11 Serious issue – 27 Very serious issue – 64 Not sure – 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about the smells and mud in the canal. Research data and collaboration opportunities.
Glen Huntly Road clean-up Booran Reserve, Glen Huntly Rd, Glen Huntly	30 Nov	7	7	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When is Council's mulch coming back.
Carnegie Library/ shopping strip Library Forecourt Koornang Rd Carnegie	3 Dec	35	38	Not an issue – 2 Minor issue – 13 Noticeable issue – 6 Serious issue – 4 Very serious issue – 4 Not sure – 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More smoke free zone stickers and signs needed in Carnegie.
Bentleigh Library and Youth Hub / Bentleigh shopping strip Jasper Rd, Bentleigh	9 Dec	17	22	Not an issue – 7 Minor issue – 6 Noticeable issue – 5 Serious issue – 3 Very serious issue – 2 Not sure - 1	

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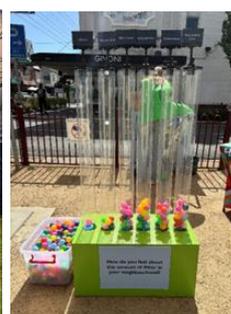
Results of voting ball activity

More than **260** people participated in the voting ball activity sharing how they feel about the amount of litter in their local neighbourhoods from a list of six options. The combined results from all pop-up sessions for each option are summarised below:

- **Very serious issue – 91 votes**
- **Serious issue – 55 votes**
- **Noticeable issue – 47 votes**
- **Minor issue – 51 votes**
- **Not an issue – 20 votes**
- **Not sure – 6 votes**



The majority of participants rated litter as either a very serious issue (**91** votes) or a serious issue (**55** votes) in their neighbourhood. This was followed by those who considered it a minor issue (**51** votes) or a noticeable issue (**47** votes).



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Results of social map activity

Approximately **17** people interacted with the social-map activity (by placing pink dots on the map). Engagement with this activity was low because the map often had to be packed away during some sessions due to strong winds or limited space to display it. Despite this, the responses still provided some useful insights.

The map shows that the main concerns about litter were concentrated in the Carnegie area, with additional issues identified in parts of Ormond and Murrumbeena.



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Survey analysis

A community survey was available on Council’s Have Your Say platforms for both Glen Eira and Port Phillip for just over five weeks, from 6 November to 14 December 2025. During this period, Glen Eira’s Have Your Say page received **4,084** views, **3,438** visits, and **219** downloads of key documents, including **166** downloads of the *draft Plan*. Port Phillip received **232** views, **139** visits and **54** downloads of key documents including **41** downloads of the *draft Plan*. In total, Glen Eira received **61** submissions—50 survey responses and 11 contributions to the social map activity. Port Phillip received **14** submissions, including nine surveys and five contributions to a social map activity.

The survey consisted of **18** questions. Three demographic questions, 12 questions about litter, the Action Plan and how the community can get involved and three questions on whether respondents would be interested in joining a community panel.

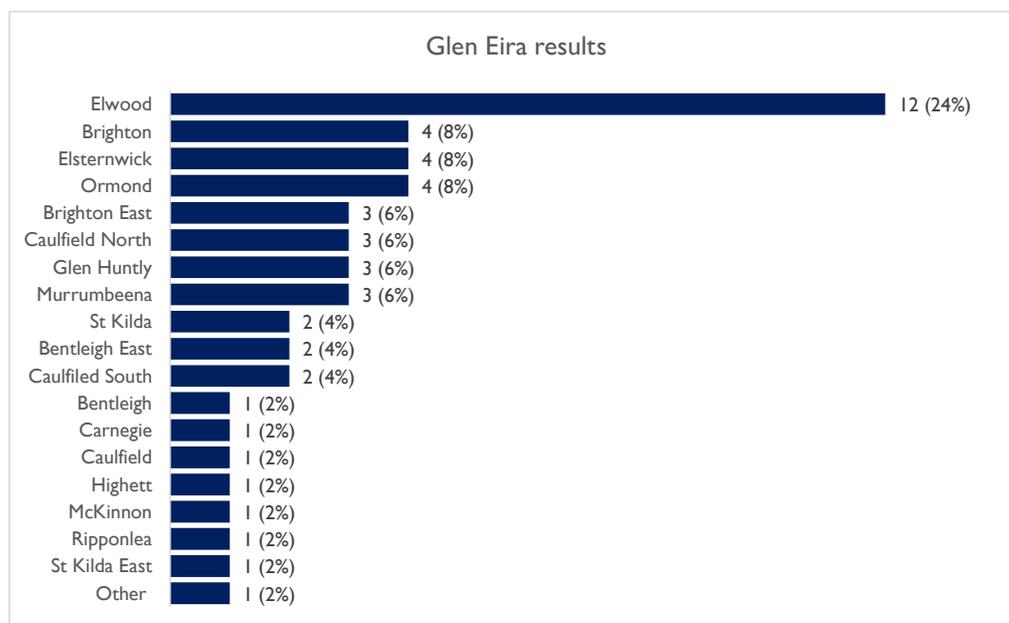
The survey featured a combination of closed and open-ended questions, along with rating scales and select-box options to gather both qualitative and quantitative insights.

Question one: What suburb do you live in?

Required question

All survey respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip. Across the two Council areas, Elwood was the most common suburb among survey respondents, with 34 per cent (20 respondents) living there. It was followed by Brighton, Elsternwick, and Ormond, each representing a much smaller share of 7 per cent (4 respondents each).

The following suburbs were not represented in the survey — Albert Park, Balaclava, Beaumaris, Black Rock, Caulfield East, Cheltenham, Gardenvale, Hampton, Hampton East, Port Melbourne, Sandringham, South Melbourne, Southbank and Windsor.



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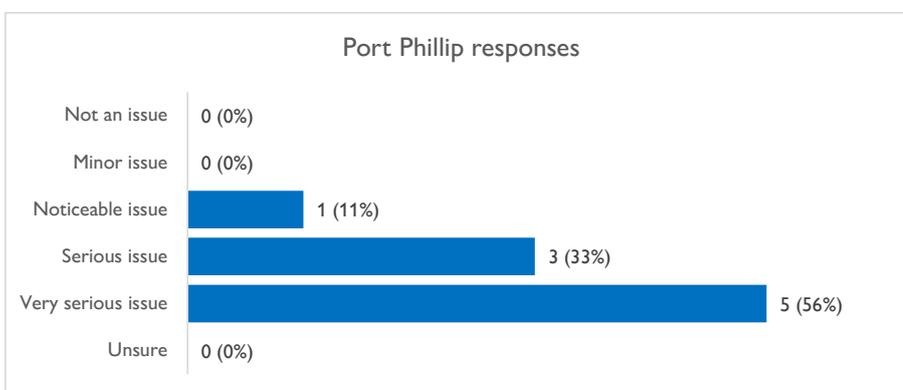
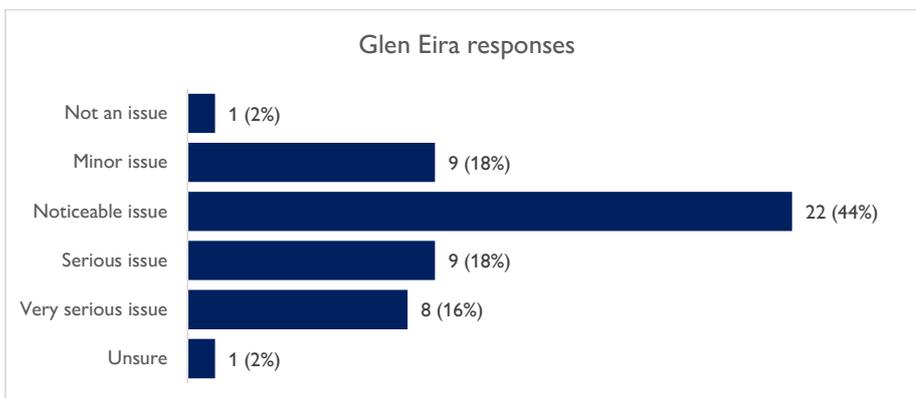
Question two: How do you feel about the amount of litter in your neighbourhood?

Required question

All survey respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip.

For Glen Eira, the majority of respondents indicated that litter was a “noticeable issue” in their neighbourhoods, with **44 per cent (22 respondents)** selecting this option. A further **34 per cent (17 respondents)** described litter as either a “serious issue” (**18 per cent, nine respondents**) or a “very serious issue” (**16 per cent, eight respondents**).

While litter was widely regarded as a problem in both areas, Port Phillip respondents expressed a stronger level of concern, with most rating it a **very serious issue 56 per cent (5 respondents)** with a further **33 per cent (3 respondents)** viewing it as a serious issue.



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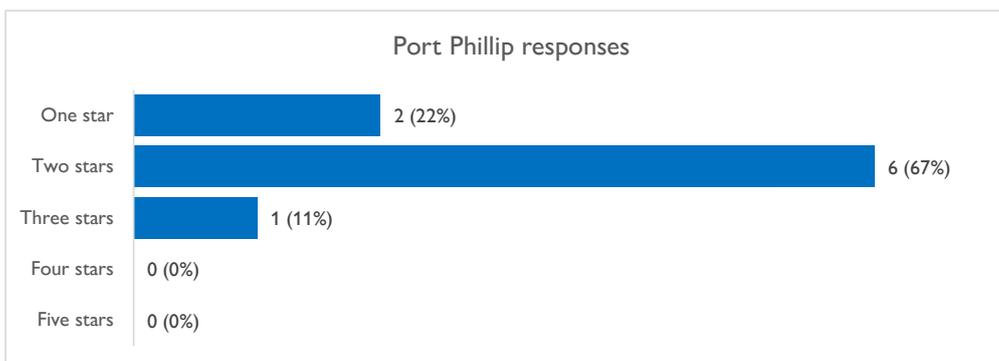
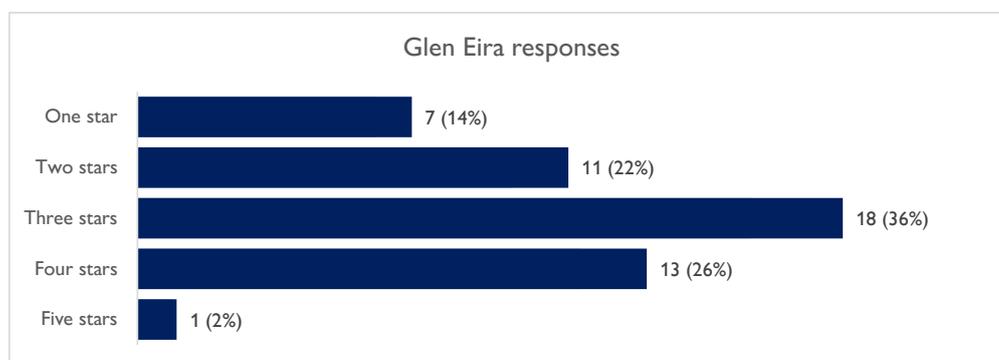
Question three: How would you rate your council’s work in managing litter?

Required question

All survey respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip. Respondents were asked to rate their council’s performance in managing litter using a star rating, where one star represented **very poor** performance and five stars represented **very good** performance.

The majority of Glen Eira respondents, **36 per cent (18 respondents) gave Council three stars**, while a further **26 per cent (13 respondents) awarded four stars**. Most respondents from Port Phillip **67 per cent (six respondents) rated Council’s efforts with two stars**.

These results suggest that across the catchment, there are varying levels of satisfaction and clear opportunities for improvement in litter management.



Question four: How confident are you that the Plan will reduce litter?

Optional question

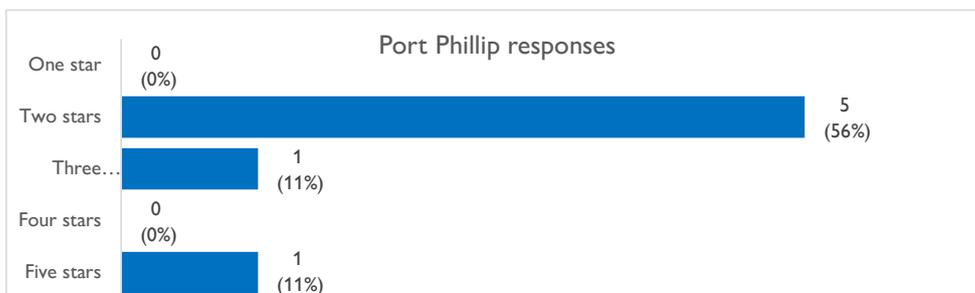
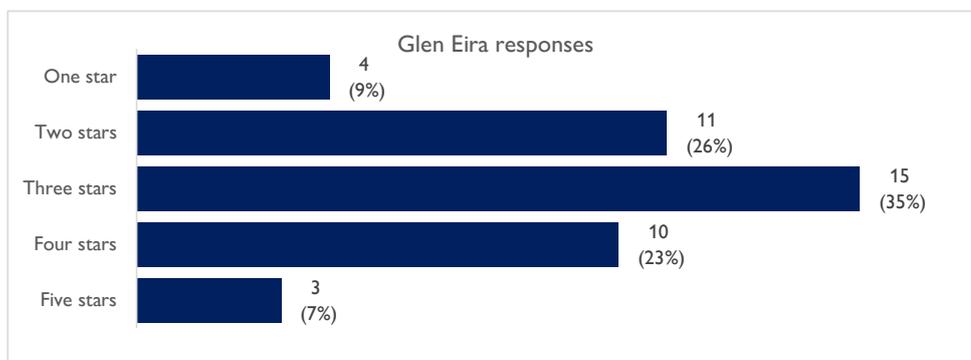
This question was answered by 86 per cent (43 respondents) from Glen Eira and 89 per cent (eight respondents) from Port Phillip. Respondents were asked to rate their level of confidence in the Plan

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achieving its goal of reducing litter across the catchment. **Ratings ranged from one star (not at all confident) to five stars (very confident).**

The highest response rate for Glen Eira was **three stars, 35 per cent respondents (15 people)**, indicating moderate confidence, **26 per cent (11 respondents) rated two stars** showing low confidence and **23 per cent (10 respondents) rated four stars**, suggesting higher confidence. The majority of respondents from Port Phillip **56 per cent (five people) rated their confidence levels at two star**, showing higher levels of low confidence in the *Plans* perceived effectiveness.

These results reveal mixed confidence levels in the plan’s ability to reduce litter. While Glen Eira respondents lean towards moderate confidence, Port Phillip respondents are less confident, with most expressing low trust in the plan’s success. This suggests a need for stronger communication, engagement, and evidence of progress to build confidence across the catchment.



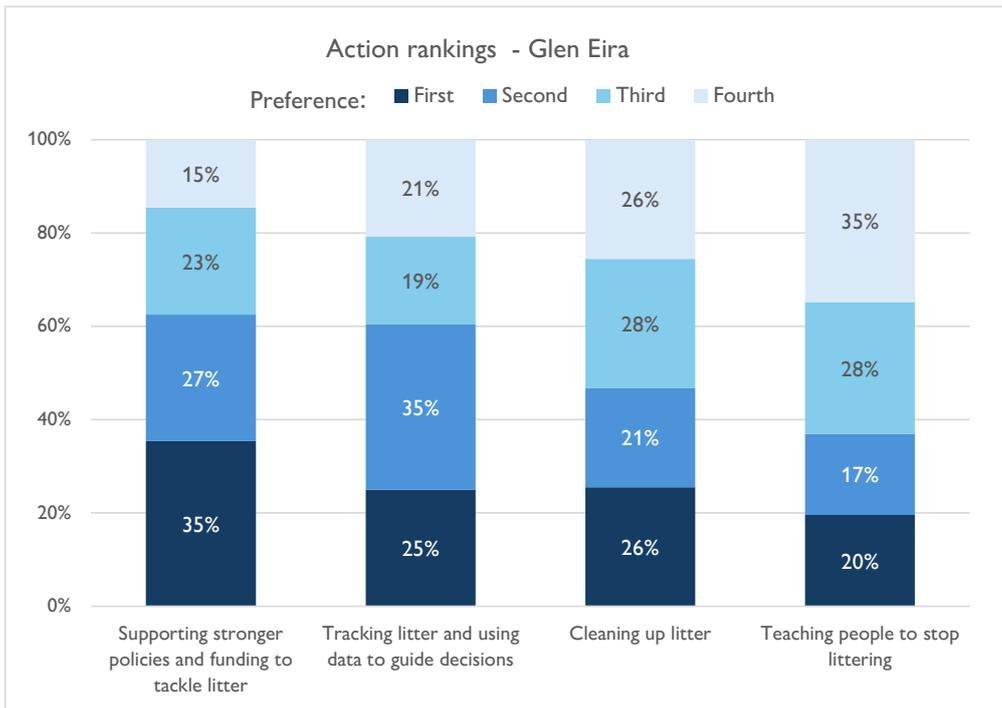
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Question five: Which of these actions do you think would help most in reducing litter?

Optional question

All survey respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip.

Respondents were asked to rank the actions in order of perceived effectiveness in reducing litter from one (highest) to four (lowest).

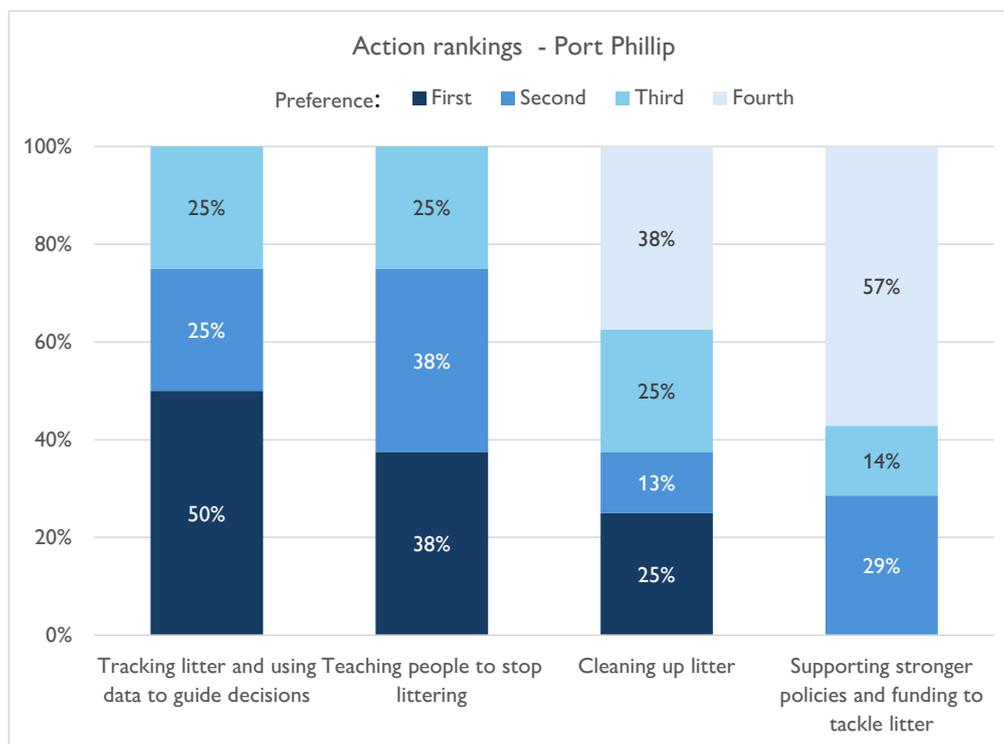


Glen Eira’s top preferences:

- 1** Supporting stronger policies and funding to tackle litter was the most preferred action overall, receiving 35% of first-preference votes and 27% of second-preference votes.
- 2** Tracking litter and using data to guide decisions ranked next, with 25% first-preference votes and 35% second-preference votes.
- 3** Cleaning up litter was the third-ranked option, attracting 26% first-preference votes but a lower 21% of second-preference votes.
- 4** Teaching people to stop littering was the lowest-ranked action overall, with 20% first-preference votes and 17% second-preference votes.

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Overall Glen Eira respondents prefer **system-level interventions (policy/funding)** and **evidence-based management (tracking/data)** over cleanup and behaviour-change education.



Port Phillip’s top preferences:

- 1** Tracking litter and using data to guide decisions ranked was the most preferred action overall, receiving 50% of first-preference votes and 25% of second-preference votes
- 2** Teaching people to stop littering was ranked next with 38% first-preference votes and 38% second-preference votes.
- 3** Cleaning up litter was the third-ranked option attracting 25% of first preference votes and 13% of second preference votes.
- 4** Supporting stronger policies and funding to tackle litter was the lowest ranked action overall receiving no first preference votes and 29% of second-preference votes.

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Port Phillip respondents **favoured data-driven approaches** to addressing litter with **behaviour change education** also receiving strong support.

Question six: Is there anything you think is missing from this Plan?

Optional question

This question was answered by 78 per cent respondents (39 people) from Glen Eira and 100 per cent respondents (9 people) from Port Phillip. Respondents were invited to share their ideas or suggestions for additional actions to include in the *Plan*. The most common themes from the survey responses are summarised below, along with the number of times each theme was mentioned. Please note that some responses included more than one theme, so totals exceed the number of respondents.

The feedback highlighted a shift from reliance on clean-ups to prevention, combining enforcement, infrastructure upgrades, system change, and education. There is feedback for broader pollution management, naturalisation of the creek, and transparent governance with adequate funding.

Key themes of actions missing from the *Plan* – Glen Eira

Theme	Description	Mentions	Percentage
Expand infrastructure and design changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) elements to filter stormwater and trap litter. • Installation of swales, permeable paving, rain gardens, and stormwater inlets. • Improve street sweeping schedules and stormwater grate maintenance. • Implement infrastructure change to support people not to litter. 	10	26%
Naturalisation and habitat restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return Elster Creek to a more natural state (remove concrete channels). • Create wetlands, plant aquatic vegetation, rain and bush gardens, wildlife corridors and nature trails. • Acquire flood-prone land for linear parks and green spaces. 	7	18%
Pollution beyond litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden definition of litter to include liquids, chemicals, microplastics, chlorinated water from pools, oil, detergents, run off and spills. • Monitor and do immediate investigations of pollution events. • Connection of drainage flooding and pollution is missing 	7	18%

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Construction site litter and overall enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant litter from building sites (polystyrene, soil, debris) entering stormwater and creek. • Lack of enforcement and follow-up on construction site litter reports. • Suggestions to increase compliance, e.g. programs like NSW's "Keep the Soil on the Site", penalties for breaches. • Develop a commercial refuse disposal policy. • Develop stronger laws for apartment buildings. 	6	15%
Enhanced litter capture and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More litter traps and nets at stormwater outlets and hotspots. • Regular cleaning of community bins and stormwater grates. • Upgrade ineffective existing litter catchers. • Include more comprehensive litter sampling methods. 	6	15%
Systemic change and producer responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase enforcement to producers (Extended Producer Responsibility). • Advocate for mandatory legislation and container deposit scheme expansion. • Introduce compensation mechanisms for businesses impacted by packaging waste. • Make industry, organisations / litter producers responsible and enforce penalties. 	5	13%
Education and behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage schools and children (i.e. adopt-a-creek, environmental education). • Deliver public awareness campaigns and incentives to reduce littering. • Apply behavioural economics approach: make disposal easy and incentivised. 	5	13%
Improve governance and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen governance structures including transparent reporting and prioritisation. • View that funding is too low. • Show how much litter costs in 'rates'. 	3	8%

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<p>Monitoring and data transparency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include water quality monitoring and subsurface litter audits. • Reference foundational studies (Clean Bay Blueprint, Plastic Free Bay). • Expand transparency and rigour around the plans timelines, actions and data sources. 	<p>3</p>	<p>8%</p>
<p>Community engagement and shared responsibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce reliance on volunteers for clean-up efforts. • Engage individual, businesses and organisations to manage litter in carparks and facilities. • Promote consultation, community reporting and accountability. 	<p>3</p>	<p>8%</p>

Illustrative quotes

Council to more aggressively promote Water Sensitive Urban Design WSUD on private property, and on public lands, rain gardens, permeable paving, swales, and plantings in litter hot spots to trap litter before entering our drains and is washed down into our Port Phillip Bay... (Woman, 65+, Caulfield North)

It's not just litter, but also pollution from run-off and spills... I think there should be monitoring for this and where&when it happens, immediate investigation of the causes. (Man, 55-64, Elwood)

Return Elster Creek to its natural original environmental state for natural filtration, prevention of flooding and litter control. Eg Merri Creek is an excellent example. (Woman, 55-64, Elsternwick)

..The definition of Litter immediately needs to be expanded to clearly include solids and soluble, material and liquids... (Man, 65+, Bentleigh)

More litter traps especially in hot spots (Woman, 65+, Highett)

Educating school children. Environmental habits start young. (Woman, prefer not to say, Murrumbena)

Litter from construction sites is huge and missing from the plan - a program like NSW former 'Keep the Soil on the Site' and enforcement could work?... (Woman, 55-64, Glen Huntly)

The funding is minimal. The timelines for action and consultation to see the actions are carried through are unclear or left out. (Prefer not to say, Glen Huntly)

We should be looking at pollution in general not just litter. Much of the problem comes from industry and retail areas. Is that sufficiently targeted? Do we need more consideration of microplastics? (Prefer not to say, 65+ Elwood)

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...Include more comprehensive litter sampling methods and not only surface-level visual counts, but also subsurface and stormwater-trap sampling to reveal hidden accumulation... (Woman 25-34, Elwood)

Key themes of actions missing from the draft Plan – Port Phillip

Theme	Description	Mentions	Percentage
Construction industry and business accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stronger focus on businesses, especially construction sites, which contribute significant litter and pollution. Calls for enforcement and accountability measures for industry practices. 	3	33%
Pollution beyond litter (industrial and toxic waste)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to address industrial and toxic waste entering stormwater drains, not just visible litter. Broader definition of pollution with stronger mitigation strategies needed. 	3	33%
Offender tracking and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install sensitive pollution monitors in waterways and stormwater drains. Use data, CCTV, and mobile tracking to identify illegal dumping. Advocate for legislation with severe penalties for offenders. 	3	33%
Urgency and timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current plan's 5-year timeline is too long; suggest to halve it due to imminent flood risks. Faster implementation of actions needed. 	2	22%
Policy and regulatory action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push for bans on plastic packaging and takeaway containers. Stronger advocacy and budgets for systemic change through EPA and Melbourne Water. 	2	22%
Maintenance and clean-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual clean-up of Elster Creek and not relying on local residents. More frequent emptying of community bins and effective litter traps. 	2	22%

Illustrative quotes:

Not enough focus on businesses especially the construction industry which causes a lot of litter into the Elster Creek/Elwood Canal. Timeline of 5 years is too long. Halve it as the next big flood is very overdue. Last were 2011, 2016. (Woman, 60-69, Elwood)

How to stop effluent getting into stormwater drains, not just litter. (Woman, 60-69, Elwood)

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Emptying community bins more regularly. Effective litter traps and not relying on local residents to clean it up (Woman, 60-69, Elwood)

Annual Clean up of Elster Creek (Woman, 60-69, St Kilda)

Question seven: What signs or changes would show that we're making progress in reducing litter?

Optional question

This question was answered by 84 per cent (42 respondents) from Glen Eira and 100 per cent (9 respondents) from Port Phillip. Respondents were asked to share what changes would show if we were making positive progress towards changes on litter reduction.

Glen Eira respondents identified that they would see cleaner waterways, better waste management, strong monitoring, and visible community action.

Port Phillip respondents identified they would see visible environmental improvements, transparent data reporting, and better waste management and compliance, supported by community involvement.

Both Council respondents were aligned with their feedback with the majority seeing change through cleaner waterways, less visible litter, and clear evidence through monitoring and reporting. They would also see better infrastructure, community involvement, and strong enforcement for lasting change.

Key themes – Glen Eira

Theme	Description	Mentions	Percentage
Cleaner waterways and beaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rubbish in the creek or canal. Clean water flowing into the bay and at Elwood beach, even after rain. No bad smells from waterways. Better quality water. More rain gardens and bush gardens wetlands and wildlife along the creek. 	16	38%
Data monitoring, collection and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular reports showing less litter and cleaner water. Public dashboards or simple signs showing progress. Use technology like CCTV and AI to track rubbish flow. 	12	29%

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Visible reduction in litter and pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaner streets, public spaces and neighbourhoods. Less hard rubbish dumped. Less creation, consumption and sale of disposable plastic products and takeaway waste. No need for volunteers to collect litter or less litter collected by volunteers. 	12	29%
Better waste management and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More frequent bin emptying, street sweeping and litter trap maintenance. Installation of filters and finer grates to stop rubbish entering waterways. Upgraded sewage pipes to prevent leaks. Proactive approach and response to residents reporting concerns. 	9	21%
Community engagement and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green signs along the creek explaining council actions. More public awareness and shared responsibility for litter prevention. 	4	10%
Stronger enforcement and policy change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecutions and fines for polluters. Improved compliance of building waste/pollution through prosecution. Allocation of appropriate funding. 	3	7%

Illustrative quotes:

Elwood swimming beach with clean water all summer even after rain - imagine no need for EPA poor beach condition reports. Rain gardens and bush gardens in new sections of linear park along the creek regularly cleaned. Prosecutions of builders who pollute Glen Eira and the Elster Creek leading to less building site pollution. (Woman, 55-64, Glen Huntly)

Data showing less problems related to litter (Woman, 65+, Caulfield)

Seeing less litter in the creek and seeing healthier environment for wildlife life. (Woman, 55-64, Elwood)

..Huge fines for anyone caught dumping, CCTV in vulnerable points to monitor and catch. (Woman, 45-54, Elwood)

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Key themes – Port Phillip

Theme	Description	Mentions	Percentage
Visible reduction in litter and pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing less litter in waterways, wetlands, and the Bay. • Walking by the canal without seeing floating rubbish. • No more toxic water in the creek. 	4	%
Improved waste management and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No overflowing public bins and timely bin collection. • Better litter traps and reduced contamination in bins. • Installation of disposable poo bag posts along the creek. 	3	33%
Data transparency and evidence-based reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular publication of litter data, trap reports, and plastics research. • Clear, evidence-based progress indicators (e.g., Love our Street data reports). • Public dashboards or simple visual tools showing progress towards zero litter. 	3	33%
Community engagement and behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive community involvement and shared responsibility leading to reduced consumption and waste overall. • Visible reduction in packaging and cleaner building sites. 	2	22%

Illustrative quotes:

Evidence of much reduced litter in the catchment waterways. No more overflowing bins or delayed collection of public bins. (Woman, 60-69, Elwood)

Evidence based records of data on litter, los data reports, litter trap reports and bay plastics research (Woman, 70-84, Elwood)

Positive community engagement recognising it's all our problem, evidenced through reduced packaging, reduced consumption, cleaner building sites. (Woman, 50-59, Elwood)

If I could walk by the canal and see nothing floating in it. (Woman, 60-69, Elwood)

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Question eight: Are you interested in joining our community panel?

Optional question

All respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip.

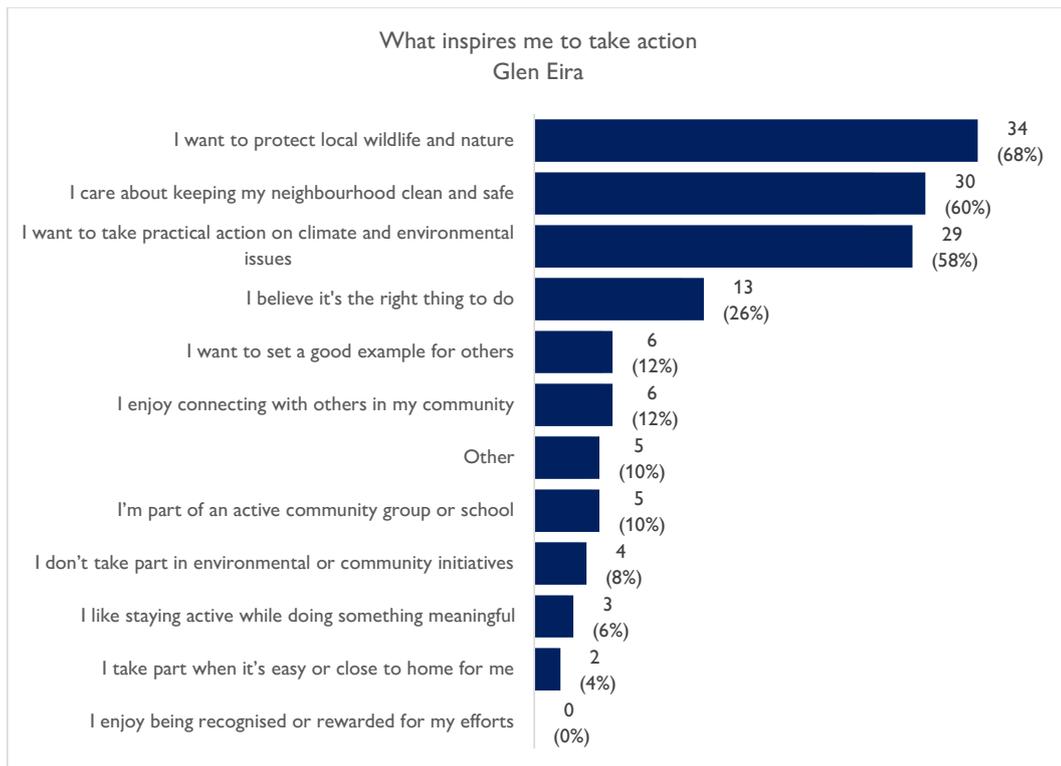
12 respondents from Glen Eira and **six respondents** from Port Phillip expressed interest in joining a community panel and provided their contact details.

Question nine: What inspires you to take part in environmental or community initiatives?

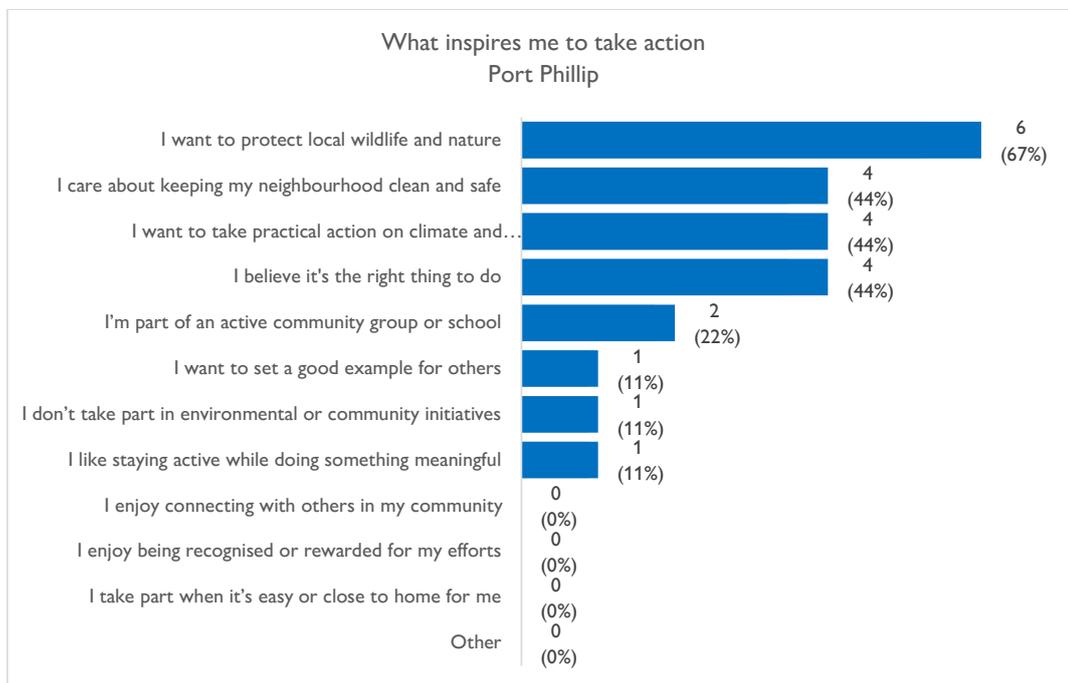
Required question

All respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip. Respondents were asked to select their top three reasons for taking part in environmental or community initiatives from a list of 12 options.

The **top three reasons** given by both Glen Eira and Port Phillip respondents were the same: **protecting wildlife and nature, keeping their neighbourhood clean and safe, and taking practical action on climate and environmental issues.**



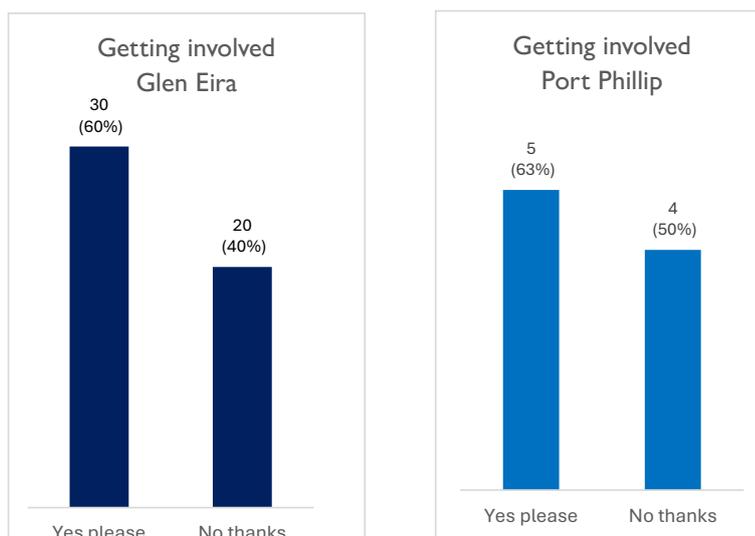
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Question ten: Do you want to get involved in reducing litter in your neighbourhood?

Required question

All respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip. The majority of respondents wanted to get involved in reducing litter in their neighbourhood. 60 per cent (30 people) from Glen Eira and 63 per cent (5 people) from Port Phillip.



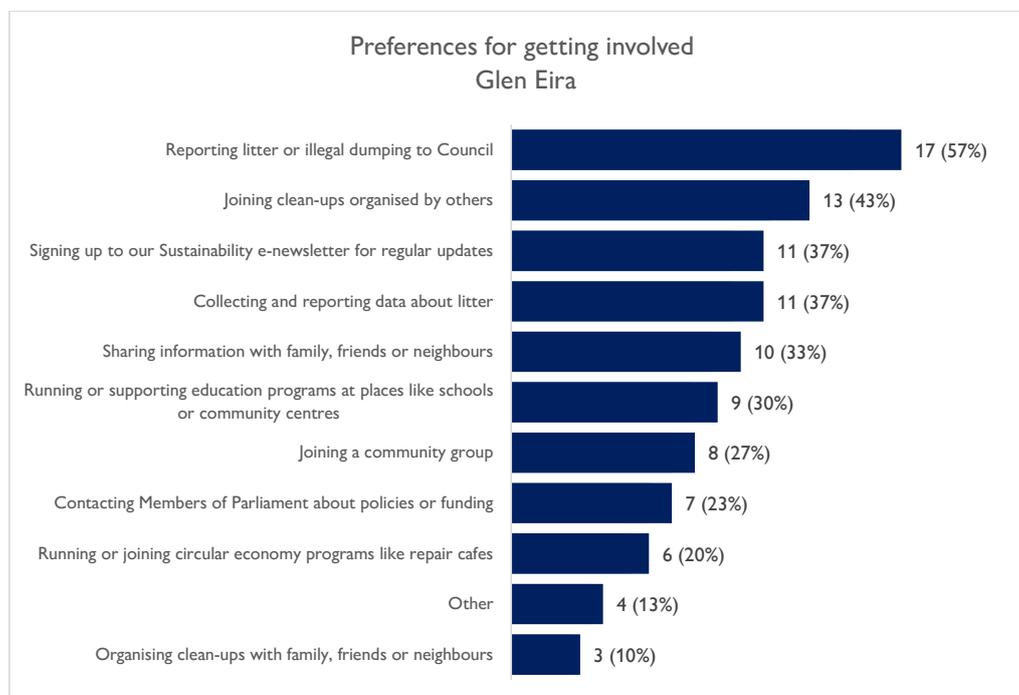
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Question eleven: How would you like to get involved in reducing litter in your neighbourhood?

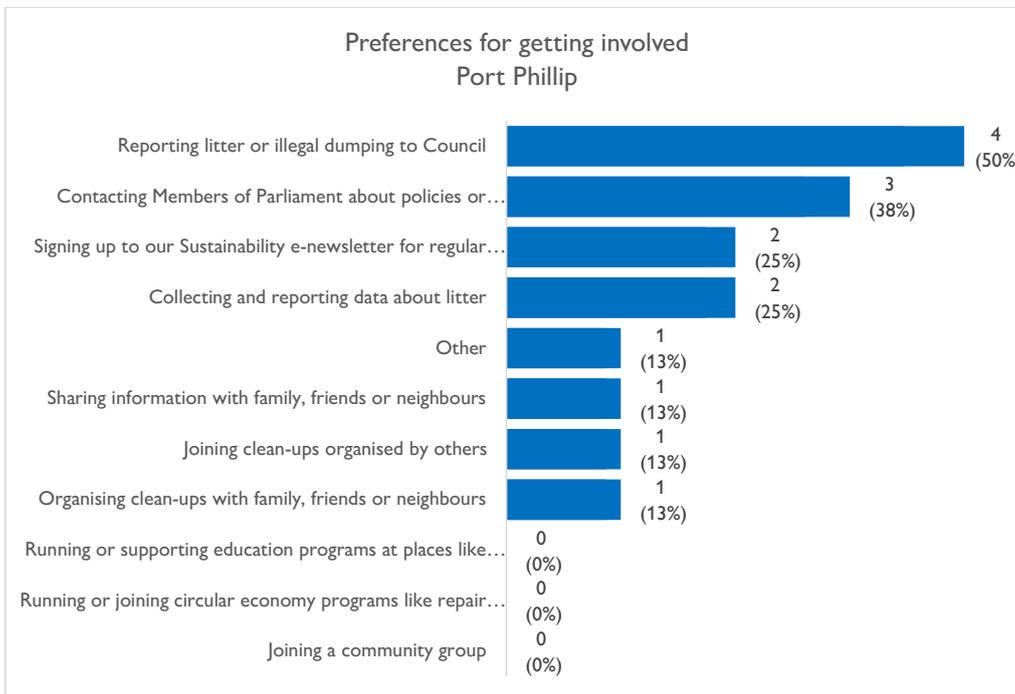
Optional question

This question was answered by 60 per cent respondents (30 people) from Glen Eira and 89 per cent (8 people) from Port Phillip. Respondents were asked to indicate their preferred ways of getting involved in reducing litter in their neighbourhood, choosing from a list of ten options.

Across both council areas, **the most popular action was reporting litter and illegal dumping to Council. Signing up to the Sustainability** newsletter for updates was the third most common choice for both Council areas. For Glen Eira respondents, joining clean-ups organised by others was a particularly important way to contribute to litter reduction. In contrast, Port Phillip respondents placed greater emphasis on advocating for policy change through their local MPs. The importance of collecting and reporting data about litter was reflected equally in responses from both areas.



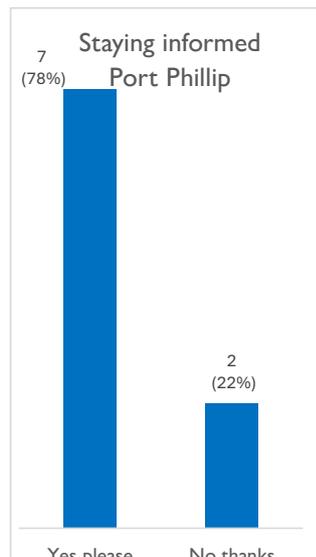
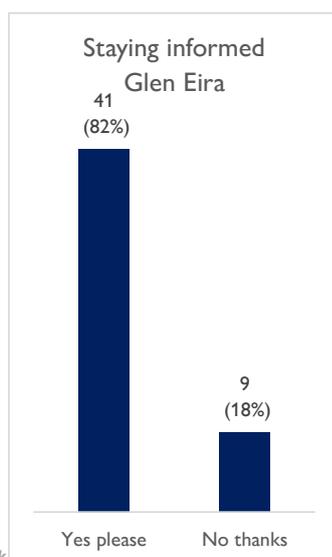
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Question twelve: Do you want to stay informed about litter and environmental initiatives near you?

Required question

All survey respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip. The **majority of respondents wanted to receive updates about litter and environmental initiatives: 82% (41 people) from Glen Eira and 78% (7 people) from Port Phillip.**



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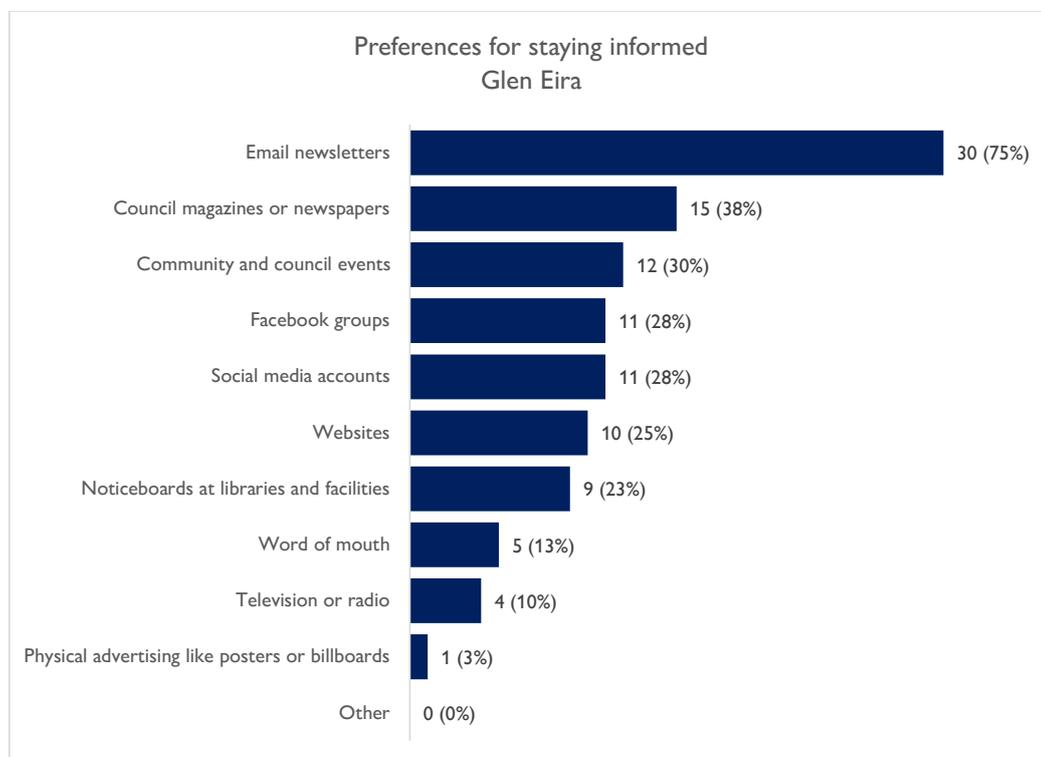
Question thirteen: How would you like to stay informed about litter and environmental initiatives near you?

Optional question

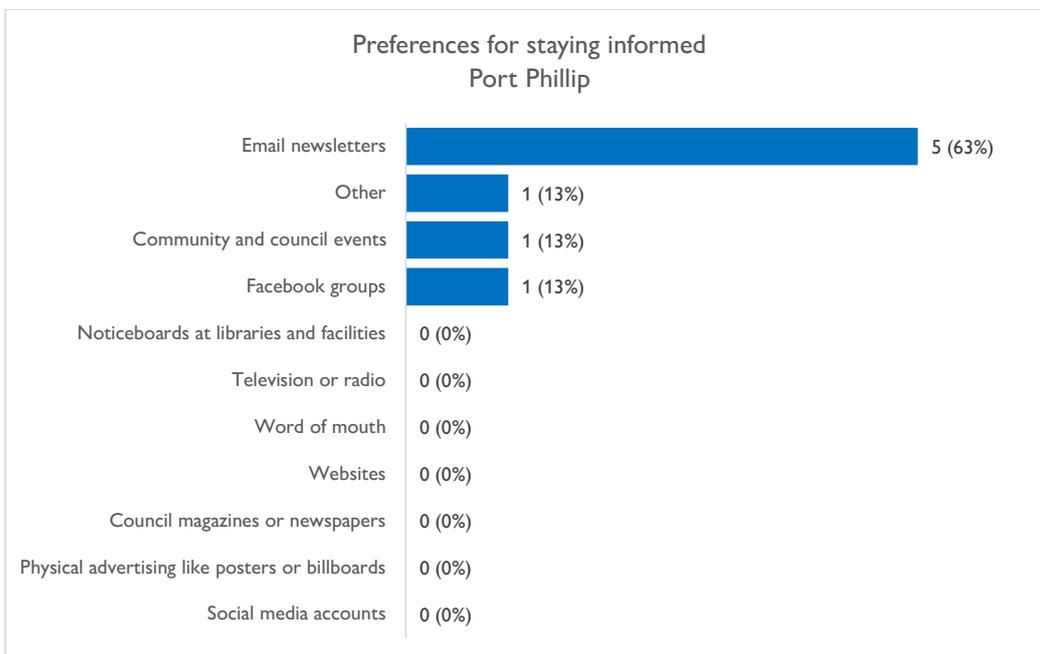
This question was answered by 80 per cent (40 people) from Glen Eira and 89 per cent (eight people) from Port Phillip. Respondents were asked to choose all the ways they would like to be kept informed about litter and environmental initiatives from a list of ten options.

Email newsletters are the most popular way people prefer to stay informed in both Glen Eira and Port Phillip.

The higher response rate in Glen Eira identified respondents using a wider range of channels, including council publications, events, and social media.



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Question fourteen:

How can we get more people involved in reducing litter?

Optional question

This question was answered by 72 per cent (36 people) from Glen Eira and 89 per cent (eight people) from Port Phillip. Respondents were asked to share their ideas on how we can get more people involved in reducing litter.

The responses highlighted several key themes for increasing community participation in litter reduction. These themes reflect a mix of expectations for council action, community engagement, education, enforcement, and improved infrastructure as strategies to boost participation in litter reduction efforts.

Key themes – Glen Eira

Theme	Description	Mentions	Percentage
Education and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls for more education in schools, community settings, and public campaigns. • Suggestions for better signage, advertising, and sharing information about the impact of litter on the environment and wildlife. 	12	33%

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on teaching the next generation and involving children. 		
Council leadership, regulation, and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests for Council to take responsibility and lead by example. Suggestions for more regulation, systemic change, and holding businesses accountable for litter. Apply stronger enforcement, fines and penalties. Apply grants and funding to purchase land for linear park 	8	67%
Community involvement and support for local groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote local groups (e.g. Love Our Streets, GECAN, PECAN), community working bees, and neighbourhood clean-up events. Support and recognise the work of local initiatives and volunteers. 	8	67%
Reduce plastic waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions to reduce unnecessary plastic packaging, ban single-use plastics, and encourage environmentally friendly alternatives. 	4	11%
Data, reporting, and recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share data on litter pollution, report water quality, and recognise individuals or groups making a positive impact. 	4	11%
Systemic and industry change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls for supermarkets, cafes, and corporations to offer sustainable options and take responsibility for their waste. 	3	8%
Personal responsibility and behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage individuals to pick up litter, dispose of waste thoughtfully, and adopt positive behaviour on waste and litter. 	3	8%

Illustrative quotes

Share publicly how Glen Eira litter pollutes Elwood Beach, report in summer editions of Glen Eira News how many days each year Elwood has poor water quality. Show kids sand castle decorated with cigarette butts coming from shopping centre car-parks. Community indigenous plantings, use of developer contributions and government grants for/on new land acquired for the Elster Creek Linear Park. .
(Woman, 55-64, Glen Huntly)

By reducing unnecessary plastic packaging **(Man, 25-34, Elwood)**

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Promoting activities that can result in real, tangible, data-driven outcomes **(Man, 35-44, St Kilda)**

Inform individuals, local businesses and industry about the effect of pollution and waste has on our environment. **(Woman, 55-64, Elwood)**

While it's nice to get volunteers, I really think this is a serious issue and a team of people dedicated to monitoring, emptying and maintaining litter traps and water filtration units should be funded. **(Woman, 55-64, Elwood)**

Better signage of risks to waterways, more promotion of clean ups and citizen science, stories in council news and social media about people and Council taking action to clean up 'hot spots'. More regulation /enforcement especially in the hot spots, development sites. Identifying the costs of litter traps and maintenance. More demonstration sites of swales, wetlands and WSUD features with public education attached to the sites. **(Woman, 65+, Highett)**

make it easy, ban single use plastics of all sorts in the council area. large fines for littering and have people able to report it and have fines issued. consider fining shops like McDonalds for rubbish from them that ends up in waterways to fund the removal. it came from them so they should be responsible. **(Man, 25-34, no fixed address)**

Key themes – Port Phillip

Theme	Description	Mentions	Percentage
Council responsibility, leadership, regulation and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasise Council's legal duty under the EPA Act. • Use planning/approvals to set higher standards. • Lead by example in environmental stewardship. • Increase cleaning of litter traps and maintenance of the canal, working with South East Water, to stop litter from reaching the bay. • Apply stronger enforcement and fines to deter littering and bin contamination. 	5	63%
Focus on facilitating behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply social pressure or “shame” as a deterrent, to discourage behaviours like leaving dog waste. • Highlight careless contamination of community glass and FOGO bins to urge behaviour change. 	2	25%
Mobilising local groups and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the work of local groups (e.g. Love our Streets, GECAN, PECAN). 	1	13%

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise more neighbourhood clean-up events, involving schools and community organisations. 		
Education and role-modeling across community settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide education in schools, sports clubs, faith settings, workplaces and encourage visible role models to shift norms. 	1	13%

Illustrative quotes:

Educate at schools, educate on the sports ovals, educate at the synagogues, churches, mosques and offices, and so on. Educate role models across community that allow more people to see others cleaning up and not littering in action more of the time. (Woman, 60-69, Elwood)

Shame them. People leaving dog poo are the worst. (Woman, 60-69, Elwood)

Unfortunately, enforcement. Nobody will tell you they think there should be litter in the environment but most quietly think it's someone else's responsibility to stop it. For example, I despair at the careless contamination of the very thoughtfully provided community glass and FOGO bins. (Man, 60-69, Elwood)

Question fifteen: What is your age group?

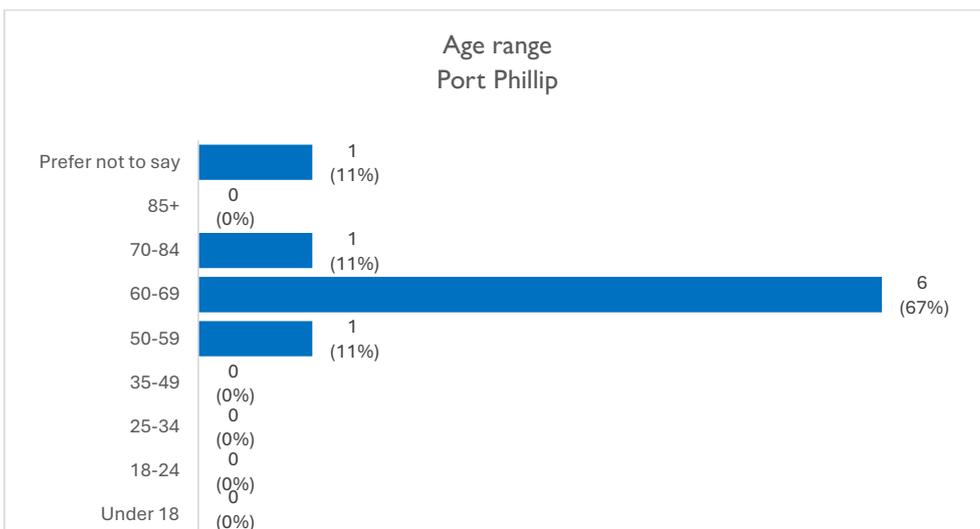
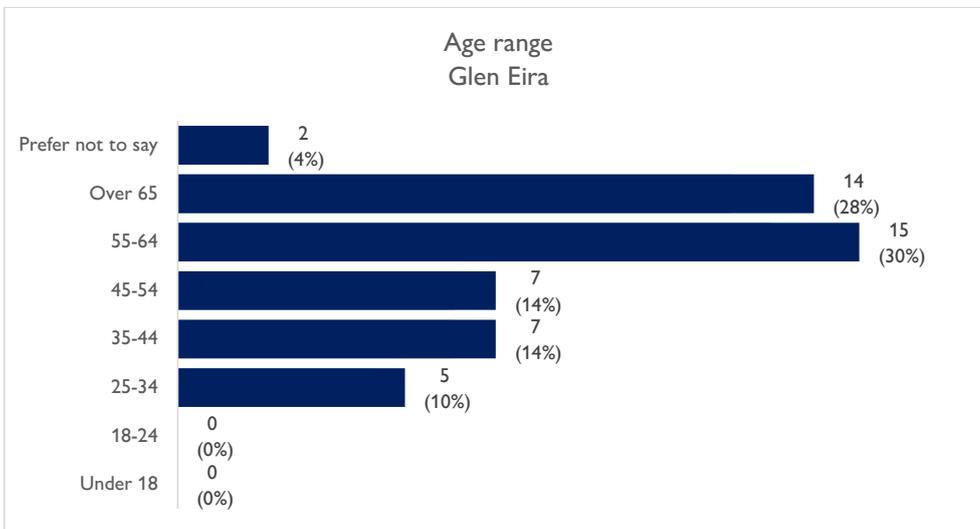
Required question.

All respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip. Respondents were asked to select their age from a list of age ranges.

The majority of Glen Eira respondents, **60 per cent, (31 people) were aged 55 years and above**, while the remaining **38 per cent (19 people) were between 25 and 54 years old**. There were no respondents under the age of 25.

In Port Phillip, **almost all respondents, 89 per cent (8 people) were in the older age ranges of 60 years and above**. There were no respondents under the age of 49.

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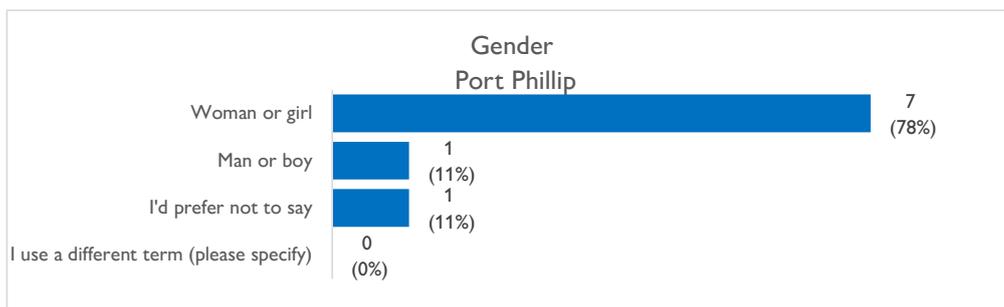
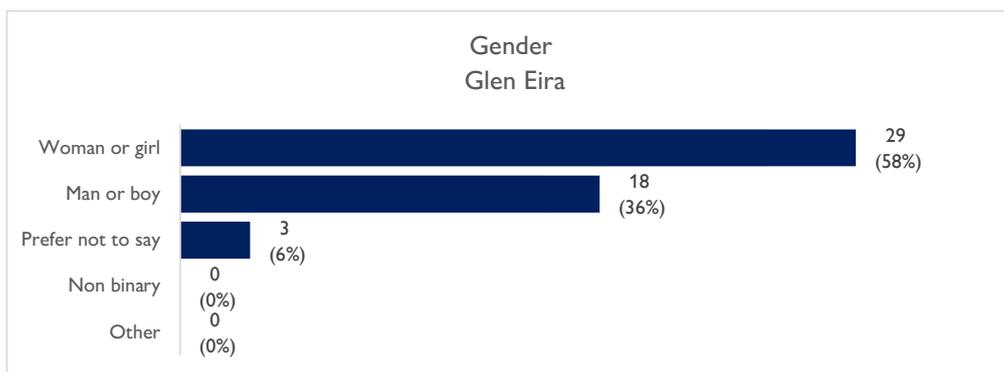


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Question sixteen: What is your gender?

Required question

All respondents answered this question: 50 from Glen Eira and nine from Port Phillip. Respondents were asked to identify their gender from a brief list of options. Most Glen Eira respondents identified as **women or girls (58 per cent or 29 people), followed by men or boys —36 per cent (18 people)**. In Port Phillip, an even higher proportion identified as **women or girls — 78 per cent (seven people)**.



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Social map results

The social map activity received a total of 16 contributions across the Have Your Say platforms: 11 from Glen Eira and five from Port Phillip. Comments highlighted a wide range of litter issues, including cigarette butts, dumped rubbish (often near apartment buildings), building waste, artificial turf runoff, waste in car parks, train stations, and general escaped litter.

In Glen Eira, the main areas of concern were Carnegie, the Caulfield suburbs, and Glen Huntly. In Port Phillip, the key problem areas identified were Elwood, Brighton, and St Kilda.

Glen Eira responses	
Address / location	Comment
Carnegie forecourt and Koornang Road Carnegie	Rubbish behind the shops and in the garden beds around the library all the time
Caulfield Hospital, Kooyong Road Caulfield	Front of Hospital is a Cigarette Butt hotspot
Jersey Parade, Carnegie	'Sushi fish' soy sauce litter hotspot
Station St Caulfield East	Litter from Racecourse, Building Site, Car park and Railway Station
Poplar St, Caulfield	Dumped Rubbish Hot Spot
Olive St and Hawthorn Road Caulfield	Building Site, near cnr Olive St & Hawthorn Rd
Glenhuntly Rd, Glen Huntly	Cigarette Butts
Manchester Grv Glen Huntly	there's always rubbish in the woolworths carpark
James St, Glen Huntly	there's a nigh on permanent hard rubbish dump on the east side james st south of the shops.
Curraweena Rd Caulfield South	In heavy rain kilograms of rubber beads run off Caulfield South Primary's astroturf playing field into a stormwater drain that leads to the bay.
Normanby Rd, Caulfield	There is ALWAYS a lot of rubbish around Caulfield train station...Normanby road to station street
Port Phillip responses	
Address / location	Comment
New St Brighton	Litter accumulates-in yalukit willam reserve
Smith St St Kilda	Lots of waste that seems to have escaped during garbage collection.
Goldsmith St Elwood	-high litter area
Poplar St Caulfield South	Regular dumped rubbish site
Glenhuntly and Broadway St Elwood	Glenhuntly and Broadway with the bins from those apartments

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Next Steps

The insights gathered through this engagement process will guide refinement of the final *Plan* which will be presented to Council for adoption during February 2026.

The adopted Elster Creek Litter Action Plan will help partners work alongside community to deliver targeted, effective and community informed measures to reduce litter, protect waterways, and build long-term resilience across the Elster Creek catchment.



10. A SAFE AND LIVEABLE CITY

10.1 *Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)* 114



10.1 MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN (MEMP)

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING

**PREPARED BY: AMANDA CLARK, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER
RYAN PLUNKETT, COORDINATOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DANA PRITCHARD, MANAGER OPEN SPACE RECREATION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 For Council to note the Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) which has recently been updated by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) in accordance with *the Emergency Management Act*.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The MEMP is a legislated, multi-agency plan that sets out municipal arrangements for prevention, preparedness, response, relief and recovery.
- 2.2 The MEMPC has completed a scheduled revision and update of the MEMP to ensure it is contemporary, locally suitable and aligned to State and Regional planning.
- 2.3 Key updates include the integration of a Gender Impact Assessment, clearer and more accessible language throughout the plan, and refined Sub-Plans that strengthen Council's ability to support effective emergency response and recovery.
- 2.4 The MEMP is not formally adopted by Council because it is not a Council owned plan. Instead, the Plan is prepared, assured and owned by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) and then undergoes a legislated assurance process and is approved by the Southern Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC).

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Thanks, the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee for their work in supporting emergency response, preparedness and the review and implementation of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and associated sub-plans in accordance with the Emergency Management Act 2013.
- 3.2 Notes the revised Municipal Emergency Management Plan – Port Phillip Municipal District (2025) as outlined in Attachment 1.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Context

- 4.1 The [Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018](#) amended the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) ('the Act') to provide for new integrated arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria at the State, Regional and Municipal levels, starting in December 2020.



- 4.2 Under the Act, Council has a statutory responsibility to manage resources and coordinate community support services during the response and recovery phase of an emergency, including:
- providing information to the community about risk and recovery;
 - assisting emergency response agencies;
 - providing emergency relief to affected residents;
 - coordinating response and recovery works;
 - chairing the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) which sits separate to Council.
- 4.3 The Act also requires each municipal district to maintain a MEMP prepared and assured by the MEMPC and approved by the relevant REMPC.
- 4.4 The City of Port Phillip MEMPC has been established under Sections 59 and 59F of the *The Act*. It functions as a multi-agency collaboration group comprising members with diverse organisational, industrial and personal expertise. The primary goal is to create a comprehensive emergency management plan for the municipality.
- 4.5 The MEMPC includes representatives from: Victoria Police, Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), Ambulance Victoria, Department of Health, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Australian Red Cross and Council, among other partners as appropriate.
- 4.6 City of Port Phillip convenes and chairs the MEMPC, facilitating local governance and inter agency coordination; however, the MEMPC is not a Council committee under the Act.
- 4.7 The MEMPC oversees the creation and maintenance of Port Phillip's MEMP.

Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)

- 4.8 The MEMP sets out how Port Phillip agencies, including Council will prevent and mitigate the impact of local emergencies.
- 4.9 The MEMP is designed to:
- minimise the effects of;
 - coordinate the response to; and
 - ensure the recovery from;
 - a disaster or emergency affecting the City of Port Phillip municipality.
- 4.10 Every three years the MEMP is required to be reviewed and externally audited.
- 4.11 While Council has led the review of the MEMP, the responsibility for the development of the document sits with the MEMPC.
- 4.12 The MEMP has been developed through a series of workshops which included MEMPC members, Council officers and community contributors.
- 4.13 In developing the MEMP, the MEMPC undertook a process to explore municipality-specific challenges, risks and opportunities to apply a coordinated approach to managing those risks.
- 4.14 What's new in this Municipal Emergency Management Plan



- Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) incorporated:
The plan has been strengthened through the inclusion of a Gender Impact Assessment, ensuring that equity, safety and accessibility considerations are embedded in our emergency relief and recovery arrangements. This work reflects Council's commitment to inclusive planning and leading positive change across the sector.
- Clearer, more accessible language:
The document has been rewritten in plainer, easier-to-read language to ensure the community can more easily understand the municipalities emergency management arrangements.
- Updated and streamlined Sub-Plans:
Sub-Plans have been reviewed and refined to ensure they align with current risk advice, support clear responsibilities, and provide practical guidance for emergency response and recovery. The MEMP is currently supported by Pandemic, Heatwave and Flood Sub-Plans.

Approvals

- 4.15 The revised MEMP has progressed through the MEMPC assurance process to confirm it is suitable for local preparedness and consistent with State and Regional planning documentation.
- 4.16 Following assurance, the MEMP was submitted to the Southern Metro REMPC for approval, as required by legislation. Approval was provided on 1 August 2025.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken through the MEMPC with agency partners including Victoria Police, VICSES, FRV, Ambulance Victoria, Department of Health, DFFH, Australian Red Cross and Council.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Emergency Management Act 2013 prescribes the roles of the MEMPC and REMPC in preparing, assuring and approving the MEMP.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 All activities required to maintain and implement the MEMP are funded within existing operational budgets for emergency management, relief and recovery.
- 7.2 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
- DRFA is a State and Commonwealth program that can help Councils cover eligible costs after a declared emergency. In the MEMP, DRFA is highlighted as one of the ways recovery activities may be supported.
 - When activated, the program helps communities by assisting with the restoration of essential assets and services and reducing the financial burden on local residents.
 - Council's role is to record eligible expenses and submit them for consideration under the program, helping ensure our community's recovery is well supported and financially sustainable.



8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 The MEMP supports environmentally responsible emergency management and aligns with climate resilience objectives, including measures that minimise secondary environmental impacts during emergencies.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 The updated MEMP strengthens Council's ability to coordinate preparedness, relief and recovery, support vulnerable community members and provide timely, accessible information during emergencies.

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been incorporated into the revised MEMP where applicable, improving equity, accessibility and safety considerations in relief and recovery arrangements.

10.2 The findings of the GIA were integrated into the plan to maximise its positive impact on all genders and minimize disparities.

10.3 This is the first MEMP in the State of Victoria to undergo a GIA. An example of how the City of Port Phillip is aiming to be a leader in making positive change for all our community.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The MEMP supports A Safe and Liveable City through coordinated preparedness, relief and recovery arrangements.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 MEMP endorsed by Southern Metro REMPC 1 August 2025.

12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 The MEMP has been published on Council's website to ensure community access to current emergency management arrangements. Refer attachment.

13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

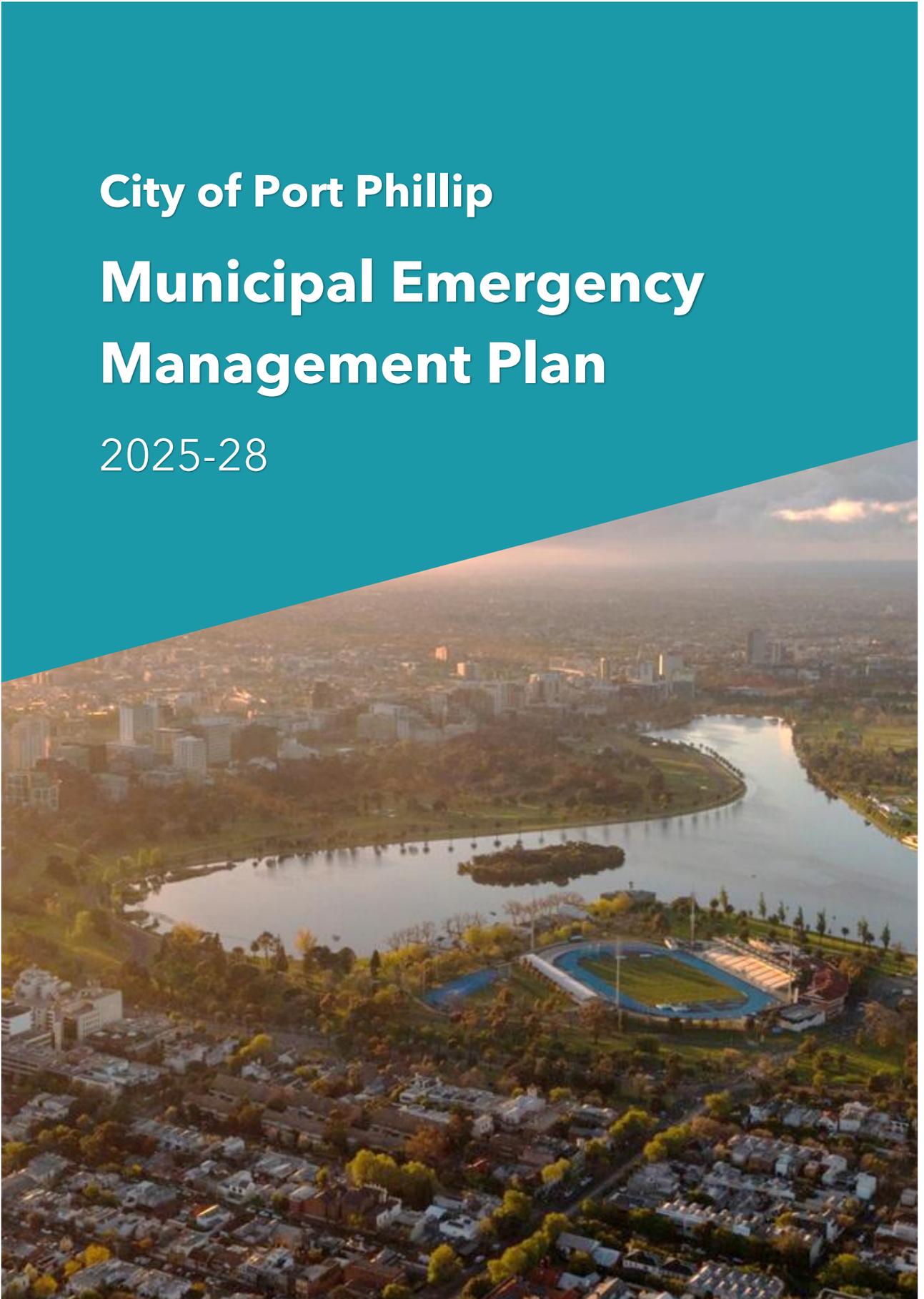
13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

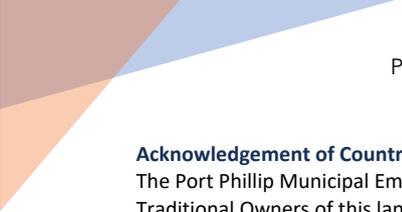
ATTACHMENTS

1. City of Port Phillip - Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2025-2028  

City of Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Plan

2025-28





Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2025-28 – Version 1.2

Acknowledgement of Country

The Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

To find out more visit [First Peoples local history and culture - City of Port Phillip](#)

Front cover image courtesy of City of Port Phillip.

Image Credits for document:

Ruth Woodrow, 'South Melbourne Town Hall', page 8

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John Peterson, "Bridging Horizons", page 24

Susan Constable, 'Sea inundation during a storm event at Elwood Beach', page 28

Dario Romeo, 'The little girl and the big city', page 52.

The development of this plan was supported by ResilientCo.



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Version 1.2 - Published 19 November 2025

Acknowledgements

The Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee acknowledges that whilst disasters affect everyone, their impact is not equal. We recognise that certain communities bear a disproportionate burden, experiencing heightened vulnerability and underrepresentation in disaster and emergency management. This includes Australia's First Peoples, women and girls, LGBTQIA+ individuals, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, people with visible and invisible disabilities, children, young people, men, and those facing compounded challenges due to intersecting factors such as race, gender, age, and disability.

We commit to engage with and learn from all community members to leverage local knowledge and strengths to co-create and empower community-led, place-based risk reduction initiatives. We are dedicated to integrating intersectional perspectives, particularly those of marginalised individuals and communities, to enhance decision-making throughout all stages of emergency and disaster management: mitigation, planning, preparedness, response, and recovery. By fostering collaboration and resource-sharing within our community, we can build resilience and work towards a more just and equitable future.

We acknowledge the member agencies and individuals for the work and commitment in developing this plan, along with the use of the photographs in this publication.

The development of this plan was supported by ResilientCo through its DisasterSmart Program.

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Foreword

The City of Port Phillip is a vibrant and diverse municipality, home to more than 100,000 people.

The City of Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Plan (the Plan) has been developed in line with the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act (2018) designed to provide greater cohesion through integrated arrangements for emergency management planning at the state, regional and municipal levels.

Through the development of the Plan, the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (the Committee) undertook a process to explore municipality-specific challenges, risks and opportunities to apply a coordinated approach to managing those risks.

This Plan takes an integrated approach to the identification and management of risks within the municipality across agencies, stakeholders, and the unique communities that makeup our city. It recognises the shared responsibility between government, agencies, businesses, and community in reducing those risks.

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been conducted as part of this plan to ensure its policies and outcomes are equitable and inclusive. This assessment ensures that the plan promotes fairness, supports diverse needs, and contributes to gender equality. The findings have been integrated into the plan to maximise its positive impact on people of all genders and identities and minimize disparities.

The experience and knowledge of the committee members, partner agencies and communities within the municipality was integral in confirming the focus of the strategies and the actions to be undertaken. The Plan will be monitored, and identification of improved treatments or activities will be a key deliverable in achieving the objectives in the Plan.



Ryan Plunkett

Chair

Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee



Above – Some members of the Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

Photo taken by Victoria Police at Station Pier Port Melbourne in June 2025



Section 1: Introduction

1. Introduction

The aim of the City of Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Plan is to establish and maintain a community with a high degree of resilience and the ability to cope with emergencies that are likely to impact the City of Port Phillip. This will be achieved by risk minimisation, creating an informed and proactive community, and establishing processes and arrangements to ensure an appropriate and efficient response to, and recovery from, emergencies.

1.1.1 Assurance

A Statement of Assurance (including a checklist and certificate) has been prepared and submitted to the Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) pursuant to the Emergency Management Act 2013 (S60AG).

1.1.2 Approval

The City of Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Plan has been prepared by the City of Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Committee and was approved by the Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMPC) on the 1 August 2025.

1.1.3 Plan Review

To ensure the plan provides for a current integrated, coordinated, and comprehensive approach to emergency management and is effective, it is to be reviewed at least every three years or as required:

- Annually in full or part at each Committee meeting
- After each major event where the plan has been activated
- Where the Plan has been exercised

This complies with Section 60AN, section 6.1 of the Emergency Management Act 2013 (EM Act 2013).

The Plan was previously reviewed on:

- 26 April 2019
- 24 June 2022

Urgent updates of this Plan are permitted if there is significant risk that life or property will be endangered if the Plan is not updated ([EM Act 2013](#) section 60AM). Updates come into effect when published on the City of Port Phillip website.

This Plan will be reviewed not later than 30 June 2026. It is current at the time of publication and remains in effect until modified, superseded or withdrawn.

1.2 Planning Context

1.2.1 Municipal Emergency Management Functions

The [Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018](#) amended the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) ('the Act') to provide for new integrated arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria at the State, Regional and Municipal levels, starting in December 2020.

In the establishment of this plan the Committee has a role in enabling community participation in emergency preparedness, including mitigation, response and recovery activities ([Emergency Management Act 2013](#) section 59F(b)).

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A summary of the planning reform can be found at the Emergency Management Victoria [website](#).

1.3 This Plan

Victoria has emergency management arrangements that require and encourage agencies to work collaboratively alongside all levels of government, community and industry before, during and after emergencies. The Plan ensures the linkages across preparedness, response and recovery programs are consistent and holistic. The Plan aims to support this and achieve a consistent, effective risk-based approach for emergency management before, during and after an emergency.

In developing this Plan, the committee has reviewed and sought to align with existing legislation, frameworks and procedures including the:

- [Guidelines for preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans](#)
- [Victorian Preparedness Framework](#)
- [Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management](#)
- [Assurance Framework for Emergency Management](#)
- [National Emergency Risk Management Guidelines](#)
- [Community Emergency Risk Assessment \(CERA\)](#)

The Plan is risk-based and provides a holistic view of the interconnected systems and assets that make up Port Phillip's community. It highlights the interdependencies across its social, cultural, natural, built, economic and health & safety environments, and how these can enhance or diminish community resilience.

The City of Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee has undertaken a robust process to determine the risks within the municipality as well as the activities required to support better integrated outcomes for emergency management, including relief and recovery.

1.4 Plan Purpose, Aim and Objectives

1.4.1 Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to ensure the safety of the local community, workers and visitors to The City of Port Phillip municipality, and to preserve lives, livelihoods and the environment in the event of a disaster affecting the region. Our priority is the preservation of human life. This plan and the associated management arrangements have been developed with a community resilience focus.

1.4.2 Aim

The aim of this plan is to outline the overarching agreed arrangements for the preparedness to, prevention or mitigation of, the response to, and the recovery from, an emergency that could occur in The City of Port Phillip in support of the community. The Plan is designed to:

- minimise the effects of
- coordinate the response to and
- ensure the recovery from

a disaster or emergency affecting the City of Port Phillip municipality.

1.4.3 Objectives

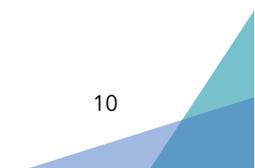
The broad objectives of this Plan are to:

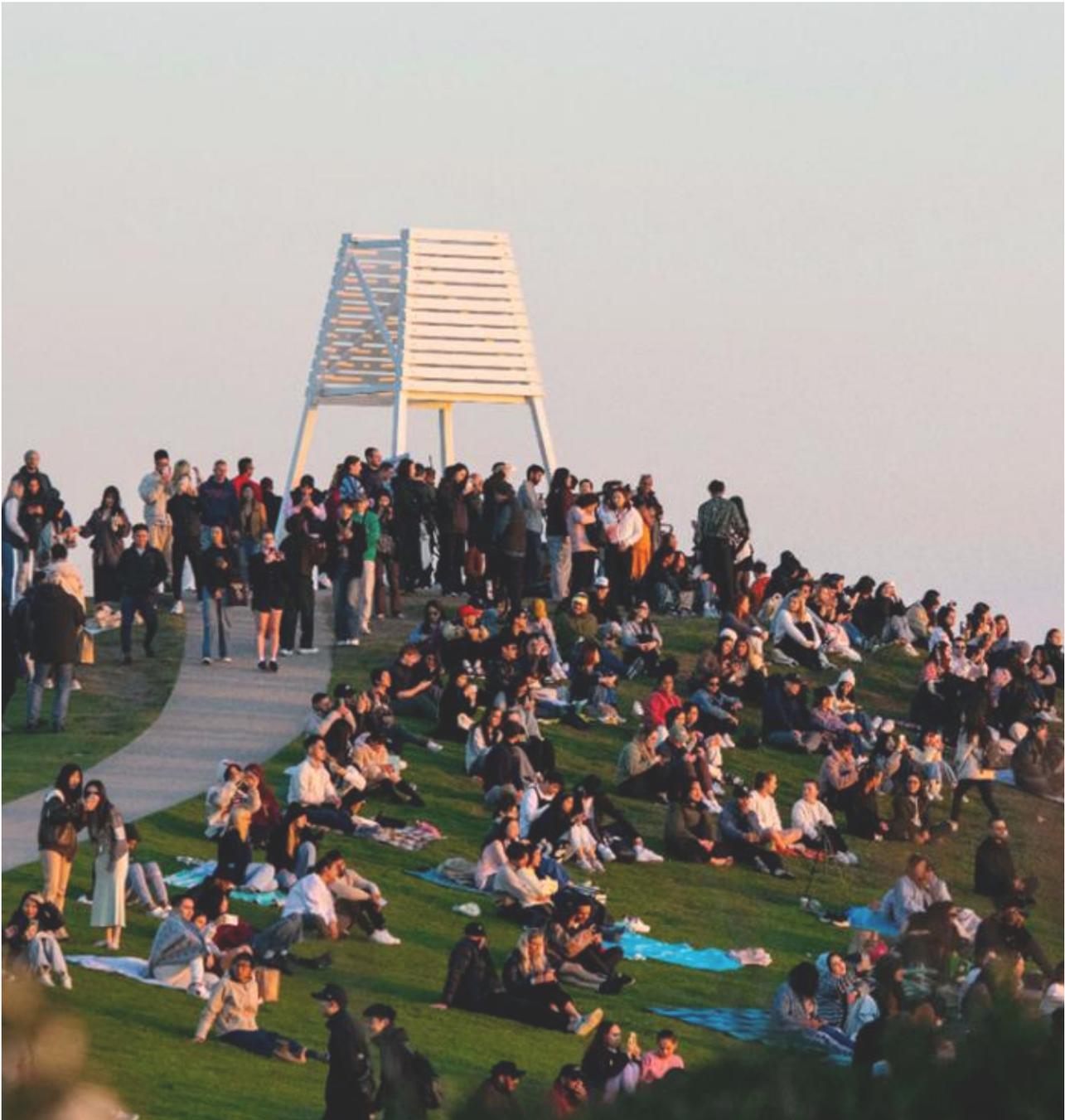
- implement measures to prevent or reduce the causes or effects of emergencies to our community
- develop and administer programs that reduce the community's vulnerability to emergencies and increase its capacity for resilience and self-reliance



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- manage arrangements for the utilisation and implementation of municipal resources in response, community support and recovery activities for emergencies
- manage support that may be provided to or from adjoining municipalities
- assist the affected community to recover following an emergency
- complement other local, regional and state emergency management planning arrangements.





Section 2: Municipal District Characteristics

2. Municipal District Characteristics

2.1 Community Profile

The diversity of communities is widely perceived as the greatest strength of the City of Port Phillip, both from a social and cultural standpoint. Therefore, it is important to recognise the different experiences, needs and perspectives of people during emergencies.

City of Port Phillip is characterised by its multicultural and multifaith community and facilitates the Port Phillip Multifaith Network. Demographic and socio-economic factors strongly influence an individual’s vulnerability to impacts and their capacity to adapt and respond to emergencies.

For more information visit the [City of Port Phillip Community Profile](#).

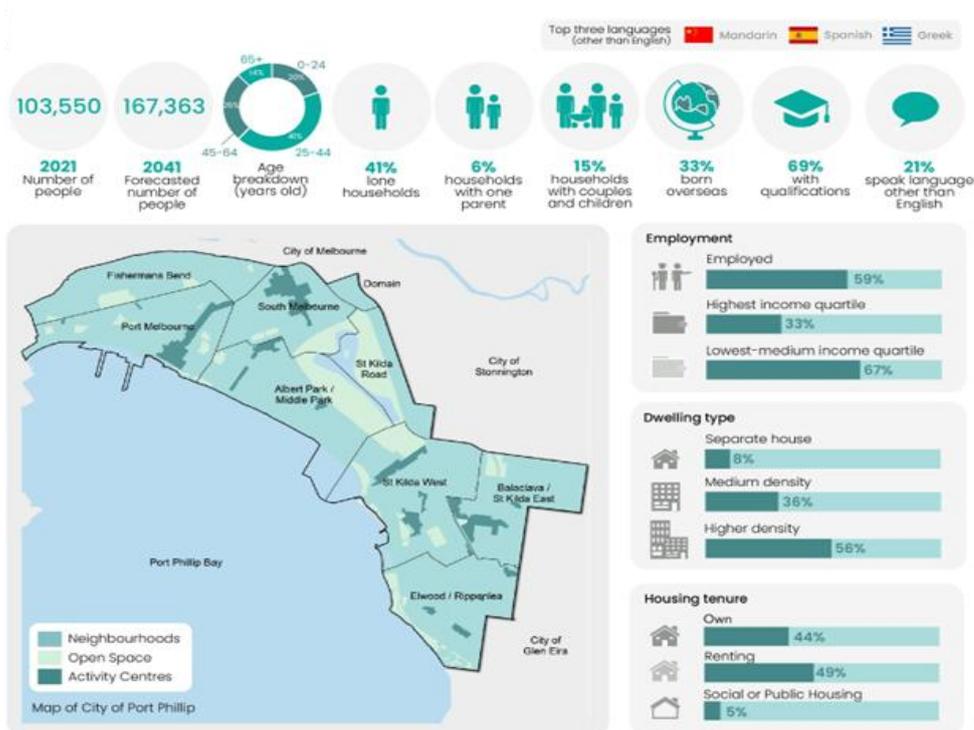


Figure 1 – City of Port Phillip Community Profile Snapshot (2021 Census Data)

2.1.1 Social Environment

The table below outlines the vulnerable groups in City of Port Phillip who may be more vulnerable to the impacts of emergencies.

Table 1 – Overview of known vulnerable groups in City of Port Phillip

Priority Communities	Sensitivity to emergencies
<p>Older populations</p> <p>Approximately 13.5% of residents are above 65 years old in the City of Port Phillip.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age compounded by other illnesses, such as mental illnesses • Increased dependence on carers • Increased social isolation • Restricted mobility and confusion • Possible difficulty finding and accessing services • Possible unwillingness to turn on heater/air conditioner due to financial concerns • Rely heavily on non-digital forms of information • May be asset rich but income poor therefore have a lower capacity to prepare • More vulnerable during power outages
<p>First Nations people</p> <p>Over the past decade, the City of Port Phillip has seen a significant increase in its First Nations population. In 2021, 511 individuals identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, a substantial rise from 71 people in 2016.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience a high degree of socio-economic marginalization • Often socially isolated • May have prior experiences of trauma • May feel culturally unsafe with authorities, services and systems • Overrepresented among people at risk of homelessness
<p>Those experiencing housing insecurity</p> <p>More than 8,000 residents are living in housing stress, and 2,500 residents are on the public housing waiting list (excluding local community housing waiting lists).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to live in low quality housing • Fewer financial resources so less likely to use heating or air conditioning • Less able to change their circumstances or improve their housing situation • More reliant on social support services • An emergency event may become the tipping point for those living in insecure housing to become homeless
<p>Those with pre-existing health conditions</p> <p>Approximately 28.4% of residents have reported having one or more health conditions. More than 3,500 residents have reported needing daily help.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher need for assistance • Higher level of chronic health conditions • Higher dependency on medication • More likely to be socially isolated • Vulnerability increases for the elderly or with a language barrier • More likely to have lower income and inadequate housing
<p>People with a disability</p> <p>It is estimated that there may be nearly 22,000 people living with disability in the City of Port Phillip.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse following disasters • May be at risk of being stranded at home, through less mobility and carer dependence • May be separated from assistive devices or medications

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women with disability have higher fatality rates and are at greater risk of sexual and gender-based violence
<p>Single parents</p> <p>Approximately 5.8% of residents have reported being a single parent. Vulnerability of single parent families increases exponentially when they are a member of other vulnerable groups. 80% of lone parent families in City of Port Phillip are headed by women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to experience financial stress due to reduced earnings • More likely to live in lower-rental housing or poor housing conditions • Possible social isolation • Likely to prioritise needs of children over themselves • Difficulty accessing support services
<p>Gender diverse individuals</p> <p>Port Phillip is known to have a sizeable LGBTIQ+ population. Exact data on the number of LGBTIQ+ residents is currently not available due to gaps in Census data collection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-existing discrimination and marginalisation • May face harassment, violence or exclusion inside ERCs • Barriers to safe and appropriate services, facilities and support • Needs are rarely acknowledged or met during emergencies
<p>Young people</p> <p>Approximately 14.6% of residents are under 19 years old with 4.1% being younger than four years old.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependence on adults • Disruption to education and development • Increased risk of abuse • Limited voice in decision-making • More vulnerable to emotional and psychological trauma
<p>Culturally and linguistically diverse residents</p> <p>33% of residents were born outside of Australia and 21% speak a language other than English at home. Port Phillip is home to people from 163 different identified birthplaces speaking 114 different languages and dialects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible isolation • Possible limited understanding of English and available services • Cultural sensitivities • Possible lack of close support networks • Unfamiliar with local risk and weather • Potential low levels of trust • Potential high disengagement

2.2 Cultural Environment

The City of Port Phillip is a vibrant multicultural city. This rich, cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and one we celebrate. The 2021 Australian Census tells us that:

- We are home to people from over 160 different birthplaces, speaking more than 120 different languages and dialects at home.
- One in three of Port Phillip’s residents was born overseas. In our community, 56% of people have at least one parent who was born overseas.
- Of our residents, 21% speak a language other than English at home. Emergency related information is disseminated through the City of Port Phillip website and is available in 150 languages using the Translation and Interpreting Service. Addressing the challenges of limited internet access within communities remains crucial to ensure that individuals are well informed before, during and after emergencies. Community leaders are vital to ensuring communities have access to key information.
- 2.5% of female residents, compared to 1.8% of male residents, have low English proficiency in City of Port Phillip. This means there are more women in the community with low English proficiency creating barriers to accessing information and services.

2.2.1 Multifaith Communities

The City of Port Phillip is a vibrant, multicultural community that celebrates its rich cultural diversity and commitment to inclusion. Integral to fostering this inclusivity is the Port Phillip Multifaith Network, which brings together representatives and leaders from a wide array of religious and faith groups within the city. The network convenes bi-monthly to promote interfaith dialogue, address social inequities, and encourage mutual respect among diverse communities. Through events such as Welcoming Week and the International Day of Peace, the network provides opportunities for residents to engage in shared experiences that celebrate spirituality, belonging, and harmony. For more information on the Multifaith Network see [here](#).

The City of Port Phillip is home to a vibrant and diverse Jewish community, with a rich history dating back to the late 1800s. This community is supported by a range of organizations dedicated to cultural, social, and spiritual well-being. The Adass Israel Synagogue, located in Ripponlea, serves as a cornerstone of the local Jewish community. Recently, the synagogue received federal funding commitments to ensure its continued role in fostering spiritual growth, cultural celebration, and communal support.

2.3 Economic Environment

The City of Port Phillip, located just south of Melbourne’s CBD along Port Phillip Bay, has a higher proportion of high-income households (31.0%) and fewer low-income households (16.8%) compared to Greater Melbourne. While the area boasts a low unemployment rate of 4.5% and strong full-time employment, there are areas of socioeconomic disadvantage, particularly around social housing, which makes up 6.5% of all dwellings. The municipality features a dynamic economy with strengths in the creative industries, professional services, health care, and construction, supported by significant population growth and a thriving multicultural community. Retail, tourism, and manufacturing—especially in Port Melbourne and South Melbourne—also contribute significantly to local employment.

However, Port Phillip faces growing economic and financial pressures. Rising commercial rents, reduced government funding, and increasing compliance burdens are straining smaller businesses and local services. The transition of Fishermans Bend to a mixed-use community will have a significant impact on the number and type of businesses and jobs in that area. People can expect to spend more time travelling to work outside of the City.

The [City of Port Phillip Spatial Economic and Employment Framework](#) provides an overview of the municipal economy, its influences and challenges and outlines strategic directions to support economic growth and prosperity over the coming years.

2.4 Natural Environment

The landscape character of the bay side settlements around Port Phillip Bay represents both environmentally and culturally significant landscapes. The City of Port Phillip faces several key topography-related climate risks due to its coastal location, low-lying land, and urban density:

- **Flood Risk:** Large areas of Port Phillip are built on flat, low-lying land with limited natural drainage, making the municipality particularly susceptible to flash flooding during intense rainfall events. Ageing stormwater infrastructure in some parts of the city further compounds this risk, especially in highly urbanised areas such as St Kilda and South Melbourne.
- **Sea Inundation:** With much of the municipality situated along the coastline of Port Phillip Bay, sea level rise presents a serious long-term threat. Coastal erosion, tidal surges, and permanent sea inundation risk critical public assets, infrastructure, and residential areas, particularly in foreshore suburbs like Elwood and Port Melbourne.
- **Extreme Heat:** The dense urban landscape, combined with limited vegetation in some neighbourhoods, contributes to the urban heat island effect, amplifying temperatures during heatwaves. Vulnerable populations—including the elderly, people with health conditions, and those living in public housing—are at greatest risk, particularly in areas with insufficient shade or access to cool spaces.

2.5 Built Environment

Major features of the city include extensive waterfront areas along Port Phillip Bay such as Elwood Beach, St Kilda Pier, and Albert Park.

Overall, there is a high essential service dependency with high-risk infrastructure that are essential for the economy, public health and security. These are exacerbated by extreme events and climate change impacts more broadly. The makeup of the built environment therefore renders Port Phillip highly sensitive to the urban heat island effect, especially impacting vulnerable community members such as the elderly, those living in high-rise buildings, and those with pre-existing medical conditions.

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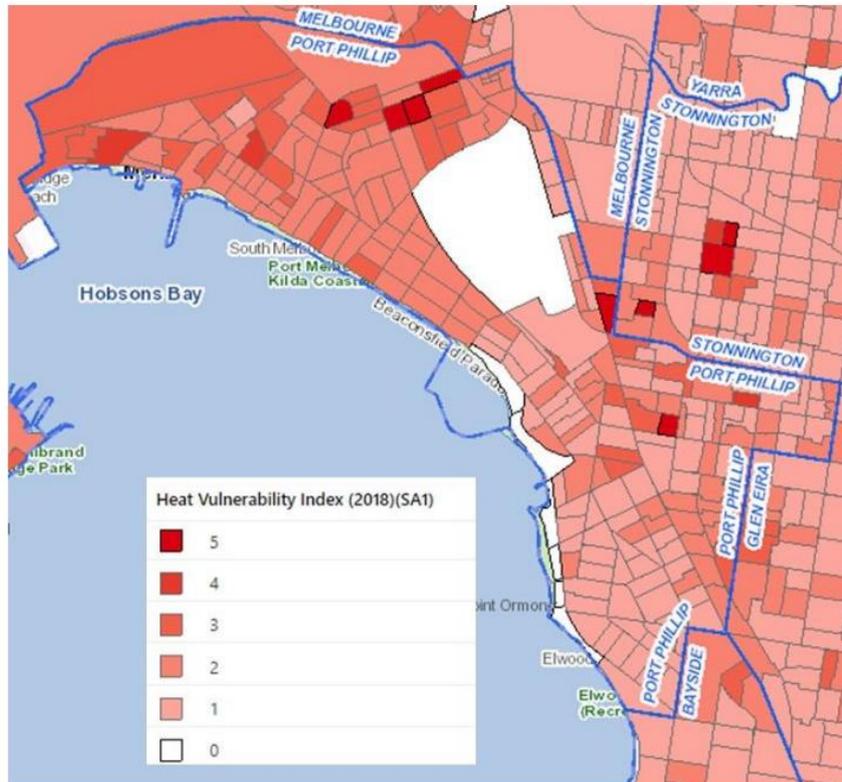


Figure 2 – Heat Vulnerability Index in City of Port Phillip, 2018 SA1 level. 5= higher vulnerability, 0= lower vulnerability (Source: Department of Transport and Planning)

2.5.1 Transportation Networks

The City of Port Phillip municipality has over 1500 municipal roads and is served by the West Gate Freeway at the north border. The major roads in the City of Port Phillip include:

- **St Kilda Road** — a key arterial route connecting the Melbourne CBD to the southern suburbs.
- **Dandenong Road (Princes Highway)** — runs through the northern part of Port Phillip, linking the city to eastern and southeastern suburbs.
- **Nepean Highway** — a major north-south route running along the eastern edge of Port Phillip, connecting Melbourne to the southern coastal suburbs.
- **Beaconsfield Parade** — a scenic coastal road running along Port Phillip Bay, connecting St Kilda, Elwood, and Brighton.
- **Bay Street and Fitzroy Street** — important local roads in St Kilda that serve as commercial and entertainment precincts.

These roads are vital for commuter traffic, access to local amenities, and connecting the municipality to greater Melbourne and are managed by the Department of Transport and Planning ([Map of DTP Managed Roads](#)).

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Several roads in Port Phillip face flooding risks due to their low-lying locations. York Street in South Melbourne floods during heavy rains, while Gladstone Street is prone to flooding at high tide from seawater backing up the drains. In Elwood, Foam and Wave Streets also experience occasional flooding from stormwater overflow and proximity to the bay, impacting traffic and access. These risks highlight the need for improved drainage and infrastructure management.

Station Pier in Port Melbourne is Victoria’s main cruise terminal, welcoming over 400,000 passengers yearly and contributing significantly to the economy. Its low-lying coastal location makes it vulnerable to flooding and sea-level rise, while aging facilities require upgrades to improve visitor experience and resilience.

The Montague Street Bridge is a State Government owned and managed tram crossing bridge in South Melbourne, with one of the lowest clearance heights in Melbourne of just three metres. Frequent accidents trigger regular emergency services callouts and repairs to the bridge after each collision. This creates traffic delays along the highly trafficked route. The Victorian State Government has set up 26 signs in the lead-up to the bridge on either side, warning of its low height.

2.5.2 Essential Infrastructure

Essential infrastructure includes those physical facilities, supply chains, systems, assets, information technologies and communication networks which, if destroyed, degraded or rendered unavailable for an extended period, would significantly impact on the social or economic wellbeing of the community.

The Committee considers the reliance on essential infrastructure within its planning and highlights the need to continually protect and strengthen its resilience as well as build redundancies and resilience of communities for when essential infrastructure sectors are disrupted. Further information on essential infrastructure within the City of Port Phillip municipality can be found in the [Southern Metro Region Environmental Scan Report](#).

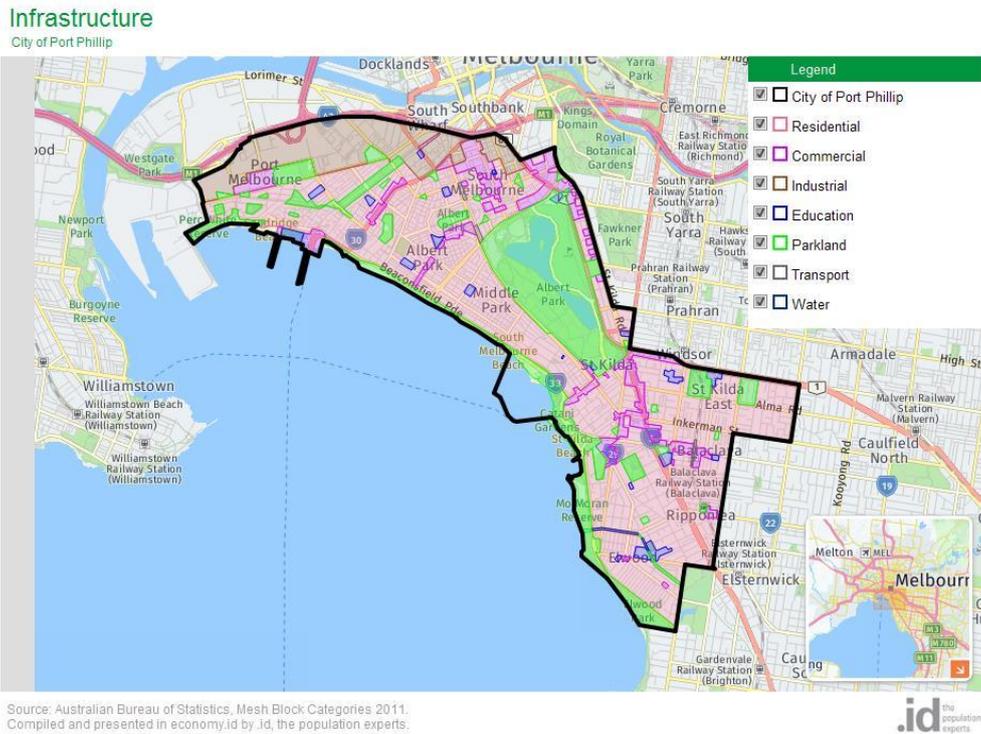


Figure 3 – Land use breakdown.

2.6 Climate Projections

Climate change presents an increasing challenge for communities across Australia as well as the greatest threat to public health. The City of Port Phillip is affected by the impacts of increasingly frequent extreme weather events with the major climate risks being heatwaves, floods and sea level rise.

As we look to 2050, we know that the world will be different. The physical environment will be more unpredictable with extreme events becoming more frequent, technology will continue to rapidly evolve, and our urban environment will be more dynamic as information always becomes more readily available. Similarly, public places and spaces will significantly change and evolve as residential and mixed-use development continues and density increases. Significant population growth is expected over the next 40 years, particularly in high-density urban areas such as the City of Port Phillip, which is already Victoria's most densely populated municipality.

Climate change is expected to exacerbate social and economic inequality by disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations, including those in low-income or socially isolated communities. It will also place increasing pressure on the natural environment and built infrastructure, with rising temperatures, storm surges, and flooding threatening coastal assets, public health, and essential services.

2.7 Events and Festivals

Port Phillip is renowned for hosting iconic events which draw thousands of spectators and tourists to the City. A mass gathering can be a planned or spontaneous event where the number of people (at least >1000 persons) attending may strain the planning and response resources of emergency services, community, and City of Port Phillip hosting the event. The Australian Formula One Grand Prix, St Kilda Festival, Midsumma Pride March, and other major sporting, religious, and cultural events are all considered examples of a mass gathering. Mass gatherings can be both planned and unplanned (spontaneous) and can be a symptom of, and a form of, protest of major socio-political problems, a melee resulting from opposed groups. The severity of the event coincides with public expression(s) and elements of displeasure that ultimately impacts the day today running and/or safety of the local community.

2.8 History of Major Emergencies

Below is a summary of the events that have occurred in the recent history, dating back to 2020, which have activated the Plan, and in turn activated coordination by the Committee and/or the Southern Metro REMPC. While some of the risks recognised in the CERA are not listed in the table below, they remain a potential risk.

DATE	HAZARD TYPE	INCIDENT DESCRIPTION
11–13 March 2025	Heatwave	Severe heatwave; Activation of Heatwave Sub Plan
1–4 February 2025	Heatwave	Severe heatwave; Activation of Heatwave Sub Plan
6 December 2024	War-Like Act	Terrorism Attack; Firebombing of the Adass Israel Synagogue of Melbourne, Ripponlea
9–11 March 2024	Heatwave	Severe heatwave; Activation of Heatwave Sub Plan
25 February 2024	Storm	Moderate storm damage; Multiple trees down across municipality; Power outages
5–10 January 2023	Oil Spill	Oil spill into Elwood Canal and Port Phillip Bay

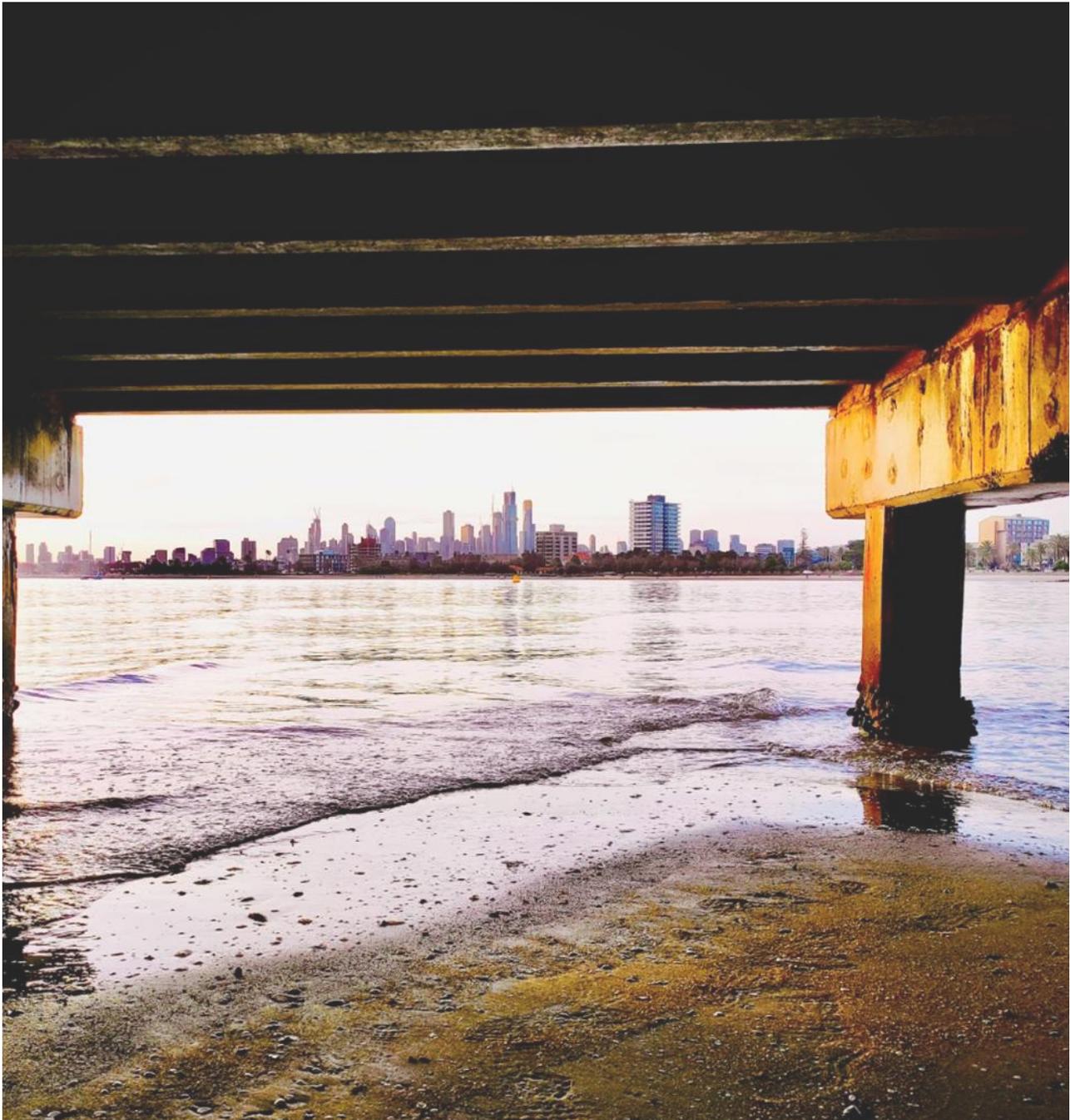
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13 October 2022	Flood	Moderate flooding experienced across many parts of the municipality
22 September 2021	Earthquake	Earthquake measuring 5.9 on the magnitude scale; Minor building damage caused
9 June 2021	Storm	Moderate storm damage; Multiple trees down across municipality; Power outages
6 May 2021	Fire	Factory fire in South Melbourne
4 March 2020	Pandemic	Coronavirus-19 Pandemic; Activation of Pandemic Sub Plan

Table 2 – Major emergency incidents which activated the Plan in past five years

Note: This list is updated following the occurrence of major emergencies.

This list does not detail minor to moderate scale emergencies whereby emergency services activated the MEMO and MRM. These events are considered ‘business as usual’ for agencies of the Committee.



Section 3: Planning Arrangements

3. Planning Arrangements

3.1 Victoria’s Emergency Management Planning Framework

This Plan supports holistic and coordinated emergency management arrangements within the region. It is consistent, contextualises and should be read in conjunction with the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) and Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Plan (REMP). This Plan does not conflict with or duplicate other in-force emergency management plans that exist.

Planning arrangements make available the ability for communities to undertake their own localised planning and connect their plans into the Victoria’s emergency management planning framework.

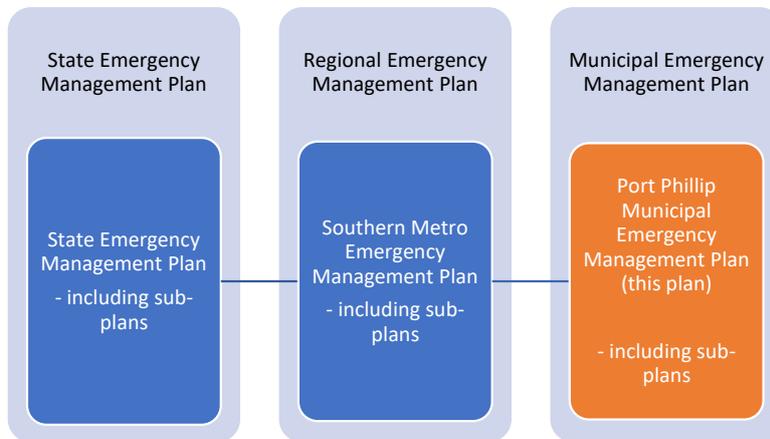


Figure 4 – Plan Hierarchy.

3.2 The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)

The Committee has been established under Sections 59 and 59F of the *The Act*. It functions as a multi-agency collaboration group comprising members with diverse organisational, industrial and personal expertise. The primary goal is to create a comprehensive emergency management plan for the municipality.

The Committee promotes shared responsibility by mandating relevant agencies’ participation in the planning process and directly reports to the Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC). It has the power to include additional representatives as per its Terms of Reference and the Act. The Committee is authorised to form working groups and sub-committees to support plan development or engage in activities aligned with the plan’s objectives.

[Appendix H](#) contains further information on the Committee Terms of Reference.

3.3 Embedding gender-sensitive approaches into municipal emergency management planning

Gender significantly influences the roles and experiences of communities in emergency preparedness, planning, response, and recovery. Gender roles are often more stereotypical in the aftermath of an emergency

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and often revert to traditional roles. This can be limiting and harmful for people of all genders and reduce capacity for community response and recovery.

To strengthen the integration of a gender-sensitive approach in municipal emergency management planning, the Committee has considered the demographics and characteristics of local communities and engaged community leaders to represent a diverse range of groups. Throughout the planning process, the Committee has proactively sought opportunities to include women and individuals of diverse gender and sexual identities to ensure equitable participation.

More information on the National Gender and Emergency Management Guidelines can be found [here](#).

3.4 Gender Impact Assessment

With climate-related disasters increasing in frequency and intensity, it is critical to understand the impact of gendered roles and expectations in disasters and the likely increase in family violence. Emergency management is not gender neutral, and the way we prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies is shaped by physical and socioeconomic dimensions of gender.

To consider this in the Plan, City of Port Phillip, as Chair of the Committee, has undertaken a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) as part of the 2025 review and update. The GIA considers the different needs, experiences and realities of men, women and gender diverse people during and after disasters and the impacts of gendered roles in this context.

City of Port Phillip recognises that the risk and incidence of family violence increases significantly during and after an emergency. Emergency Relief Centre staff can play a vital role in preventing and reducing the impact of family violence during emergencies.

Family violence can affect anyone in our community, regardless of gender, age, socio-economic status, sexuality, culture, ethnicity or religion. During an emergency, many factors can increase the risk of family violence, including homelessness, financial stress, unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, and trauma. None of these factors cause family violence, nor are they an excuse.

Family violence is driven by gender inequity, gender stereotypes and a culture of excusing violence. During emergencies, it is common for people to lapse into traditional gender roles of men as the protectors and women as protected. This is damaging to both genders, and the Integrated MEMP Committee is committed to promoting the involvement of both men and women in all aspects of the response and recovery phase.

See [Appendix F](#) for a summary of the findings from the Gender Impact Assessment completed in June 2025.



Section 4: Risk Management

4. Risk Management

The established international and Australian risk management standard [AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management - Guidelines \(ISO 31000:2018\)](#), supported by a range of supplementary materials (including the [National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines \(NERAG\) 2020](#)), provide risk managers with principles and general guidance to be considered when developing risk management frameworks and programs. The risk management process underpins all emergency management planning, including this Plan.

The committee follows the following process in managing its emergency risk management process:

- establishing the scope, context and criteria
- Risk assessment
 - risk identification
 - risk analysis
 - risk evaluation
- risk treatment
- monitoring and review
- communication and Consultation
- recording and reporting.

4.1 Hazard, Exposure, Vulnerability and Resilience

The Committee in conducting its emergency risk management process has considered:

- a broad range of hazards from across the municipal district,
- the exposure of these hazards to people, property, systems, or other elements that are subject to potential losses,
- the vulnerability of the characteristics and circumstances of a community, system or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of the hazard, and
- the level of resilience which can be defined as the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kind of chronic stress and acute shocks they experience.

4.2 Risk Assessment

The Committee recognises it has a key role in undertaking a risk assessment process through identifying potential hazards and their associated risks, including current and future treatments that reduce the risk or minimise the effects of emergencies.

The [Community Emergency Risk Assessment](#) (CERA) process:

- Identified the risks that pose the most significant threat to community.
- Assisted in Identifying, describing and understanding the exposure and vulnerability of key community assets, values and functions essential to the normal functioning of the community.
- Discuss and understand the consequences and likelihood, causes and impacts for each risk.
- Identify opportunities for improvement to prevention, control, mitigation measures and collaboration.
- Inform emergency management planning.

The [CERA](#) process was enhanced through a series of risk assessment workshops undertaken by the Committee in April 2025, based on the [National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines \(NERAG\) 2020](#).

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The outcome of the workshops was the identification of a list of prioritised risks, relevant to Port Phillip, as described in the Risk Summary table (Table 3). The risk rating is relevant to the municipality in line with the mitigation activities in place.

The committee also undertook an additional review of risks in the preparation for the development of this Plan.

4.3 Risk Summary Table

Hazard	HAZARD DESCRIPTION	Risk Rating	Control Agency
STORM AND FLOOD	Storms in this context may include windstorms, dust storms, tornados, heavy rain leading to flash flooding, storm surge and landslip.	High	Victoria State Emergency Services
EXTREME TEMPERATURES (HEAT AND COLD)	A heatwave is when the maximum and minimum temperature are unusually hot over 3 days compared to the local climate and past weather.	High	Emergency Management Commissioner
HUMAN DISEASE (PANDEMIC)	A pandemic is a significant hazard to all people in Victoria, given everyone will have little or no pre-existing immunity to the virus.	High	Department of Health
FIRE (RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL)	Fires in this hazard classification may result in residents, business owners and/or employees being evacuated and displaced from a short period to a protracted period.	Medium	Fire Rescue Victoria
A WARLIKE ACT (BOMB THREAT, ACT OF TERRORISM, HIJACK, SIEGE OR RIOT)	Acts of terrorism include bomb, active armed offender, siege, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, hostile vehicle, riot, cyber-attack and violent extremist incidents.	Medium	Victoria Police
ESSENTIAL SERVICES DISRUPTION	A sustained loss of utility for a period that is widespread and impacts multiple properties. Protracted disruption to lifelines could result in stress and disruption to the community.	Medium	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
MASS GATHERING EVENTS	A mass gathering can be a planned or spontaneous event where the number of people (at least >1000 persons) attending may strain the planning and response resources of emergency services, community, and City of Port Phillip hosting the event.	Low	Victoria Police

Table 3 – Risk Summary Table



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Note: The above are residual risk ratings, which considers planning and processes by relevant agencies and organisations, who are either part of or not part of the Committee, to mitigate and reduce the overall inherent risks.

The above emergency risks were identified as part of the City of Port Phillip's Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) process. More detailed information on each hazard can be found in [Appendix D](#).



Section 5: Mitigation Arrangements

5. Mitigation Arrangements

5.1 Introduction

Mitigation activities, taken in advance of a disaster, aim to decrease or eliminate the disaster's impact on society and the environment ([National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines \(NERAG\) 2020](#)).

This Plan recognises that mitigation activities occur across a broad range of organisations, including business and industry. Government & non-government organisations, commercial enterprises and community members are all expected to maintain mitigation measures within their areas of responsibility. Examples include:

- Private businesses prepare business continuity plans
- Aged care and health facilities have emergency management plans
- Farmers have appropriate fire management measures in place
- Landholders and fire agencies conduct fuel reduction programs to mitigate fire risk
- City of Port Phillip implements relevant planning, prevention and mitigation measures within its authority, responsibility and policies
- Community members have personal emergency plans
- Organisations and individuals have appropriate levels of insurance

5.2 Risk Treatment Plans

Proactive risk treatment plans and actions help reduce risk, creating safer and more resilient communities. Whilst many treatment plans are developed at the National, State and Regional levels, this Plan highlights those that are significant at the municipal and local community levels.

5.2.1 Sub-Plans

The Committee has capacity to establish sub-committees to develop sub-plans where the consequences are likely to be significant. Hazard-specific sub plans have been developed which contain mitigation, response and or recovery arrangements specific to that risk, for example the Storm (Flood) Plan.

More information on the City of Port Phillip's Sub Plans can be found in [Appendix C](#).

5.2.2 Complementary Plans

Complementary plans are prepared by industry/sectors or agencies for emergencies. They are often prepared under other legislation, governance or statutory requirements for a specific purpose. These plans are often developed and informed by the member agencies of the Committee, however complementary plans do not form part of this Plan and are not subject to approval, consultation and other requirements under the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#).

A list of complementary plans that have significance in Port Phillip is included in [Appendix C](#).

Community level treatments through agencies

Agency led treatments include:

- *Fire Planning Workshops (FRV)*
- The VICSES [website](#) provides an overview of flooding within the municipality.

5.3 Community Planning and Resilience

There is a limit to the capacity of agencies and emergency planning to effectively mitigate all risk. It is therefore important that everyone that lives, works and plays in Port Phillip consider the risks and work to build resilience.

Community understanding of individual, family and neighbourhood risks, and participation in risk management is integral. Resilient communities have high levels of social cohesion and social capital founded on core characteristics. Our experience has shown that embedding outcomes linked to these characteristics supports communities to have strong coping capacity to prepare for and bounce back from disasters.

Communities know their challenges better than anyone. By helping them access the right skills, connections, resources and support, they have the greatest chance at withstanding and adapting to disruptions like natural hazards and societal stresses over the long term.

More resilient communities:

- are mindful of the risks that may impact them, and their vulnerabilities
- use their abilities, experience and resources to prepare for, and manage the consequences of emergencies
- work together to support emergency service organisations before, during and after emergencies

The Committee's role is to support communities in building individual and collective capacity and resilience. In developing this Plan, the Committee has been cognisant of ensuring that communities can access relevant information to assist in building knowledge and, therefore, help inform their own planning and preparation. The Plan recognises that the pre-existing social, economic, and political inequalities can increase the risk for certain groups and is actively working to reduce those inequalities as part of mitigation efforts. Special consideration has been given to women, children, people of diverse gender identities and vulnerable population groups, who may have less access to resources and support systems.

There is a permanent community representative position on the Committee to help with a community focus. Additional community representatives have also assisted in the development of this Plan, providing input from community groups through workshops conducted in collaboration with the Committee.



Section 6: Response Arrangements

6. Response Arrangements (including Relief)

6.1 Introduction

The following section outlines the arrangements in place for the activation and implementation of response activities for emergency events impacting in The City of Port Phillip, including regional collaborative arrangements to facilitate an effective response to emergency events that impact an area larger than the municipality.

6.2 Command, Control, Coordination

Command, Control and Coordination are traditional mechanisms in emergency and incident management in Victoria, and Emergency Management systems have been built on these over the past several years. The response arrangements (including relief) for this Plan are focused on these and other mechanisms.

Victoria Police is responsible for the coordination function at the regional and municipal tiers, whilst the Emergency Management Commissioner is responsible for response coordination at the state tier for Class 1 and 2 supported by the Senior Police Liaison Officer as outlined in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (SEMP).

6.3 Local response arrangements and responsible agencies

This section details emergency management agency roles and responsibilities for: Mitigation, Response (including Relief), and Recovery that are relevant for municipal level planning. It also maps agency roles for core capabilities and critical tasks under the [Victorian Preparedness Framework](#) for the management of major emergencies.

Municipal level roles and responsibilities are outlined in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (SEMP):

- SEMP Table 8 lists mitigation activities and agencies for managing Victoria’s significant emergency risks, by emergency.
- SEMP Table 9 lists response control agencies. The control agency is the primary agency responsible for responding to the specified emergency. Where multiple control agencies are listed for the same emergency type in the table, the control agency responsibility is delineated through legislation or administrative arrangements.
- SEMP Table 10 lists response support agencies by functional area.

The roles and responsibilities outlined in this plan are contained in either the State Emergency Management Plan and/or the [Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Plan](#). As such no additional Roles and Responsibilities have been identified at a Municipal level.

6.3.1 Public Awareness, Information and Warnings

Public information and warnings should be a focus where community action is necessary, primarily to protect lives, and for the protection of property and the environment.

The Control Agency has the responsibility to issue warnings to potentially affected communities, and other agencies.

Information will be disseminated using a range of mechanisms including:

- [Vic Emergency website](#), App, information line and social media channels
- Emergency broadcasters (Particularly ABC 774 and local providers)

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- Television news and media outlets
- [City of Port Phillip](#) website and social media channels

Communications during emergencies will be tailored to ensure information is accessible and relevant to people of all genders, backgrounds and identities, considering different literacy levels, access to technology, cultural expectations, and caregiving roles. Special considerations will be given to warn persons with a disability and/or non-English speaking groups. In the case where information or communication is required with persons unable to speak English, an interpreter service such as the Telephone Interpreter Service may be able to assist.

6.4 Municipal Emergency Coordination

Incident management and control within the City of Port Phillip will be set up and activated by the control agency at a pre-determined Incident Control Centre. In some cases, it may be initially set up from a police station or predetermined municipal facility.

The Emergency Management Team communicates through this Incident Control Centre when an alert is issued. The team comprises the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC), Control Agencies, and the Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO). The main role and function of the team is to assess agency readiness, which includes their capacity for deployment and determine the extent of resources available locally.

The nearest Incident Control Centre for the City of Port Phillip is located at the branch of Fire Rescue Victoria, located at 450 Burnley Street, Richmond 3121.

6.4.1 Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC)

The Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC) is established by the City of Port Phillip MEMO in the response phase of an emergency. Its main function is to coordinate municipal resources in response to the emergency event.

The City of Port Phillip's MECC location is at the Ground Floor Training Room at St Kilda Town Hall, 99a Carlisle Street St Kilda 3182. There is back-up generator power available to this facility.

The choice of a MECC to be used will be the decision of the MEMO. The MECC can operate in either a virtual or physical state. The key software utilised in the activation of the MECC during an event is Crisisworks (see below).

6.4.2 Emergency Relief Centres (ERC)

As defined in the State Emergency Management Plan, City of Port Phillip is the lead agency for local emergency relief and recovery. Agencies with regional recovery responsibilities are listed in the SEMP.

An Emergency Relief Centre (ERC) is a building or place that has been activated to support people affected by, or responding to, an emergency event, to cope with the immediate needs of those impacted by the emergency.

The City of Port Phillip has developed a complimentary ERC Procedure Guide. Within this guide, designated buildings are listed to act as Relief Centres when deemed required.

The City of Port Phillip MERC will consult with the Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM) / MEMO or that of another Municipality MERC and their MEMO / MRM before deciding to activate an ERC. Emergency relief can also be provided at the site of the emergency.

In the event of an emergency, the City of Port Phillip has arrangements in place to utilise staff and facilities from outside the municipality where appropriate.

The Plan recognises that women, men, children, young people, and people of diverse genders, cultures, faith and abilities may experience emergencies differently, especially within an ERC. To account for these different needs and experiences, the City of Port Phillip has considered the needs of all people in its ERC Procedure Guide.

6.5 Financial Considerations

As described in the SEMP all agencies are responsible for all costs incurred in fulfilling their role and responsibilities.

The use of municipal resources in emergencies must be authorised by the MEMO or the MRM and be in accordance with the normal financial arrangements of the City of Port Phillip. An account number for emergencies should be allocated, with a work order number created for each emergency.

In instances where certain financial thresholds are met the State and Commonwealth Governments will make funding available through the [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements](#) to cover costs for response (inc. relief) and recovery activities. These schemes are administered by Emergency Recovery Victoria on behalf of the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

6.6 Membership of cross-boundary planning committees

Planning for emergencies at the regional level, through the City of Port Phillip’s participation in the Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee, is an important way to manage emergency events that cross multiple municipal boundaries. Many emergencies cross municipal boundaries, requiring response (including relief) and recovery activities from multiple municipalities. When this occurs, the Regional Emergency Response Coordinator (RERC) will liaise with the Regional Controller to determine the impact on the relevant councils and what level of support is required.

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Plan seeks to build safer and more resilient communities through dynamic engagement and connectedness with the individuals, groups and broader society that make up the Southern Metropolitan region.

The City of Port Phillip is also part of the Southern Metro Region Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group (SMR MEMEG), which consists of the following ten councils:

Southern Metropolitan Region Emergency Management Collaboration	
Bayside	Greater Dandenong
Cardinia	Kingston
Casey	Mornington Peninsula
Frankston	Port Phillip
Glen Eira	Stonnington

Table 5 – Members of the Southern Metro Region Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group (SMR MEMEG)

6.7 Resource sharing protocols

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) sets out an agreed position between councils regarding the provision of resources to assist other municipalities with response and recovery tasks during and after emergencies. The City of Port Phillip is invested to the protocol via a strong financial commitment.

The protocol is consistent with the concepts and policy guidelines articulated in the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) and the State Emergency Management Plan. Further information on the protocol for inter-council resource sharing can be found on MAV's [website](#). Version 3 of the protocol came into effect in October 2023.

Assistance may be sought from other councils in the Southern Metro Region through the Collaboration's MOU.

6.8 Debriefing arrangements

The control agency is responsible for conducting an operational debrief. The MERC is responsible for ensuring the control agency organises the debrief. A debrief is expected to take place as soon as practicable after an emergency and all agencies who participated should be represented with a view to assessing the adequacy of the plan and to recommend any changes. It may also be appropriate to conduct a separate recovery debrief to address recovery issues. This may be convened and chaired by the MRM. Special considerations will be made to document the gender-specific issues and insights, along with any cultural and religious factors that may emerge, such as access to the ERCs and barriers to receiving support, to improve inclusivity and future emergency management plans.

6.9 Transition to Recovery

The activation process for relief and recovery staff, facilities and services are guided by the City of Port Phillip Recovery Plan, currently under development, in addition to the [State Emergency Management Plan](#).

The MRM, in consultation with the Incident Controller and MERC will be assessing information to further determine the recovery needs of the affected community.

The response phase of an emergency is not deemed concluded until several key elements are identified. They are:

- Response handover
- Financial handover
- Response data
- Initial Impact Assessment data
- Validate information
- Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre function
- Needs Analysis completed, and
- Transition to Recovery documentation signed



Section 7: Recovery Arrangements

7. Recovery Arrangements

7.1 Introduction

The Regional Relief and Recovery Plan records the municipal level emergency relief and recovery arrangements that may be utilised in supporting a community impacted by an emergency event.

As defined in the State Emergency Management Plan, Local Government is the lead agency for local emergency relief and recovery.

7.2 Objectives of Recovery

Recovery within the City of Port Phillip is based on managing locally, closest to the community and with the ability to scale up to deal with more widespread and complex issues and support needs. This recognises the importance of non-government organisations, community groups, businesses and others, in supporting the recovery process within the City of Port Phillip. Further details on the objectives of Recovery, including context around events and communities, can be found in the Emergency Management Victoria's [Resilient Recovery Strategy \(2018\)](#).

7.3 Activation of Recovery

The MRM will be requested for recovery services by one of the

- MEMO (City of Port Phillip)
- Regional Recovery Coordinator (ERV) – for a regional emergency

The MRM will manage recovery process within City of Port Phillip, although this may be escalated to Emergency Recovery Victoria at the regional level, if required.

7.4 Management structure

At the municipal level, the focus of recovery planning and management is on the impacted community. Within the emergency planning responsibilities, local arrangements incorporate recovery planning to deliver a range of services. These arrangements should provide for the co-ordination of local agency activities.

7.4.1 Structure and categories of recovery environment functional areas

The following diagram (Figure 6) represents the structure and categories of sub committees (working groups) from the designated recovery environment functional areas.

The five environments and their functional areas as described in the SEMP can be adapted to meet the needs of people and communities affected, such as consideration for Aboriginal Culture and Healing.

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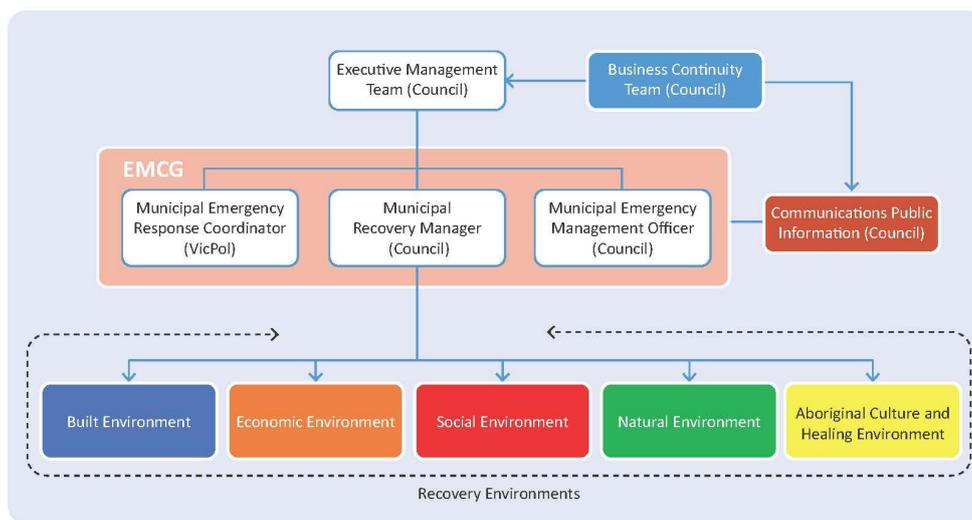


Figure 6 – City of Port Phillip Community Recovery arrangements - structure chart.

7.4.2 Municipal Recovery Committee

Composition of recovery service team

The recovery service teams (as identified above in Figure 6) include representatives of key organisations involved in the recovery process. Both infrastructure and human service agencies are represented.

Roles

The roles of recovery service teams include:

- Prepare and maintain a recovery service Operational Procedures Plan.
- Meet regularly to maintain liaison between agencies, enhance understanding of agency roles, update contact arrangements and ensure the currency of local arrangements.
- Review sub-committee membership in consultation with MRM.
- Conduct regular familiarisation and training programs to fit into overall recovery exercise planning in consultation with MRM.
- Establish arrangements for the conduct of municipal secondary impact assessment and for collation, evaluation and use of information gathered.
- Manage the provision of recovery services at the local level.
- Identify resources to supplement local government resources, which may be exhausted by an emergency, e.g. building inspectors, environmental health officers, human services staff, etc., to ensure that an adequate recovery program is provided.
- Formalise links with regional plans and recovery agencies.
- Consider all aspects of a local community’s recovery, including both the restoration of physical infrastructure and the provision of human services.
- Activate and coordinate service delivery.
- Identify responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of contact and resource listings.

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The City of Port Phillip community recovery service team comprises a series of functional areas (working groups) each with a team leader.

7.5 Community Recovery Committee

Where the magnitude of the event requires community input into the recovery process one or more Community Recovery Committees may be established within the affected area.

7.5.1 Community Recovery Committee membership

The composition of the committee will vary depending on the affected area. The membership of the committee will be determined by the City of Port Phillip MRM and include community leaders and representatives such as:

- MRM and deputies.
- Councilor (local ward representatives).
- Government agencies; (ERV, Victoria Police, Fire Rescue Victoria, Ambulance Victoria, VIC SES, DFFH).
- Community groups: (Lions/Rotary Clubs, Community Health Service as required).
- Affected people: women, older persons, First Nations, people with disabilities.
- Non-government agencies: (Australian Red Cross, Salvation Army, Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry, Faith Leaders as required).
- Control Agency for the initial meetings, then Community Education from the Control Agency ongoing as required.

7.5.2 Community Recovery Committee functions

The functions of the Community Recovery Committee are as follows:

- Ensure that women, LGBTIQ+ individuals, and other underrepresented groups are invited, supported and empowered to participate fully in recovery.
- Ensure community needs and gender-specific, cultural and religious impacts are fully recognised and considered as part of recovery.
- Monitor the overall progress of the recovery process in the affected community.
- Identify community resource requirements and make recommendations to appropriate recovery agencies, municipal councils and the State's recovery management structure.
- Undertake specific recovery activities and targeted support for different needs as determined by the circumstances and the committee.

7.6 Government assistance measures

The use of municipal resources in emergencies must be authorised through the MEMO or the MRM and be in accordance with the normal financial arrangements of the City of Port Phillip. An account number for emergencies should be allocated, with a work order number created for each emergency. See the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) for further information on government assistance measures relevant to this Plan.



Section 8: Roles and Responsibilities

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8. Roles and Responsibilities

An agency that has a role or responsibility under this Plan or a Sub Plan must act in accordance with the Plan.

The State Emergency Management Plan and the [Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Plan](#) outline agreed agency roles and responsibilities, noting that existing duties, functions, power, responsibility or obligation conferred on an agency by law, licence, agreement or arrangement prevail to the extent of its inconsistency with this Plan ([EM Act 2013](#)).



Section 9: Monitoring and Review

9. Monitoring and Review

A critical factor in emergency management is to establish ongoing processes for monitoring and review across the emergency management systems and processes.

The committee regularly undertakes a review process to improve risk assessments, analysis of lessons learned from events, changes to exposure and vulnerability, and changes in the nature (frequency and severity) of hazardous events.

Currently the review process involves a regular standing agenda item during the quarterly Committee meetings to review the Community Emergency Risk Assessment to see if any additional risks are required to be added or changed.

In addition, it is the intent of the Committee to learn through multi-agency exercises, After Action Reviews, and other appropriate forums, to learn from emergency events. This will lead to continual improvement, in accordance with the [Lessons Management Framework](#).

[Appendix G: Multi Agency Exercises](#) details the multi-agency exercises undertaken recently, including learnings from each (if recorded).

Finally, emergency management plans and subplans, including this Plan, will be reviewed at least every three years or as required:

- Annually in full or part at each Committee meeting.
- After each major event where the plan has been activated.
- Where the Plan has been exercised.



Appendices

Appendices

Appendix A: Definitions and Acronyms

Whilst the Committee aims to minimise the number of acronyms used within this plan, the following terms and definitions are used extensively within the Emergency Management sector.

Term	Definition
AAR	After Action Review
CERA	Community Emergency Risk Assessment
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DET	Department of Education and Training
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DJSIR	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industries and Regions
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
DTF	Department of Treasury and Finance
EM ACT 2013	Emergency Management Act 2013
EMCG	Emergency Management Coordination Group
EMT	Emergency Management Team
EMV	Emergency Management Victoria
ERV	Emergency Recovery Victoria
ERC	Emergency Relief Centre
FRV	Fire Rescue Victoria
IAP	Incident Action Plan
ICC	Incident Control Centre
IEMT	Incident Emergency Management Team
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
MECC	Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre
MEMO	Municipal Emergency Management Officer
MEMP	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
MEMPC	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

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MERC	Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator
MRM	Municipal Recovery Manager
NERAG	National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines
REMP	Regional Emergency Management Plan
REMPC	Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee
RERC	Regional Emergency Response Coordinator
SEMP	State Emergency Management Plan
VIC POL	Victoria Police
VIC SES	Victoria State Emergency Service

Appendix B: Useful Support Materials

Support Material	Link
Other Emergency Management Plans	
Southern Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Plan	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/southern-metro-regional-emergency-management-plan
Southern Metropolitan Region Environmental Scan	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/emergency-management-planning/emergency-management-planning-resource-library-0/resources-links/southern-metro-environmental-scan
State Emergency Management Plan	https://files.emv.vic.gov.au/2021-05/Victorian%20State%20Emergency%20Management%20Plan%20SEMP%200.pdf
Legislation	
Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018	https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/emergency-management-legislation-amendment-act-2018
Emergency Management Act 2013	https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/emergency-management-act-2013/019
Guidelines & Frameworks	
National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines	https://www.aidr.org.au/media/7600/aidr_handbookcollection_nerag_2020-02-05_v10.pdf
<i>AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management - Guidelines (ISO 31000:2018),</i>	https://www.iso.org/iso-31000-risk-management.html
Guidelines for preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/emergency-management-planning/emergency-management-planning-resource-library-0/resources-for-all-levels-state-regional-and-municipal/guidelines-for-preparing-state-regional-and
Victorian Preparedness Framework	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/emergency-management-capability-in-victoria/victorian-preparedness-framework-0
Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/resilience/community-resilience-framework-for-emergency-management

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Assurance Framework for Emergency Management	https://www.igem.vic.gov.au/our-work/assurance-framework-for-emergency-management
Community Emergency Risk Assessment	https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/about-us/emergency-management-training/community-emergency-risk-assessment-cera
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements vic.gov.au
Resilient Recovery Strategy (2018)	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/resilient-recovery-strategy
Lessons Management Framework	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/reviews-and-lessons-management/lessons-management-framework-em-learn
Community Emergency Information	
VIC SES – Port Phillip Flood Guides	https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/flood-guides/city-of-port-phillip-council
Vic Emergency site	https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/
Port Phillip Council Emergency Information	https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/health-and-safety/emergencies-and-extreme-weather
Port Phillip Community Profile	https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/who-lives-in-our-city/demographics
Other Useful Websites (agency only login)	
EM-COP	https://cop.em.vic.gov.au/sadisplay/nicslogin.seam
DELWP FloodZoom	https://www.floodzoom.vic.gov.au/FIP.Site/Identity/Login
eMAP	https://emap.ffm.vic.gov.au/emapLauncher/index.html
Emergency Management Victoria Website	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/
Municipal Association of Victoria – Resource Sharing Protocol	https://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/emergency-management/protocol-for-inter-council-resource-sharing

Appendix C: Special Plans

Sub-plans

The following is a list of sub-plans to the Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Plan, developed by the committee to guide arrangements associated with the municipality's highest risks:

- Storm and Flood Plan (available via VIC SES website)
- Extreme Temperature (Heatwave) Plan
- Human Disease (Pandemic) Plan

Some sub-plans are not available to the public due to having personal and/or sensitive information.

Complementary Plans

The following is a list of complementary plans to the Port Phillip Municipal Emergency Management Plan, which are not available to the public, due to having personal and sensitive information.

- City of Port Phillip Emergency Response & Community Relief Coordination Procedure
- City of Port Phillip Emergency Relief Centre Procedure
- City of Port Phillip Emergency Response & Community Relief Coordination Procedure
- City of Port Phillip Secondary Impact Assessment Procedure
- City of Port Phillip Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Procedure
- [City of Port Phillip Climate Emergency Plan](#)

Appendix D: Principal Emergency Risks

1. Extreme Temperatures

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Extreme temperatures</i>
<i>Risk description</i>	<p>Victoria’s climate is expected to experience rising average temperatures and more frequent, intense periods of extreme heat. These conditions can have cumulative effects on communities, infrastructure and essential services. A single day of extreme heat may cause disruption, but impacts can escalate when high temperatures persist over successive days and may continue even after temperatures subside. Extended periods of high temperatures, known as heatwaves, can significantly affect human health, natural ecosystems, and critical infrastructure, including power supply, transport and water systems.</p> <p>While cold weather also presents health risks, particularly for vulnerable groups, it typically results in more gradual impacts and is less likely to trigger emergency response measures in the same way as extreme heat.</p>
<i>Residual Risk Rating</i>	High
<i>Rationale</i>	<p>Extreme heat presents a serious and immediate risk to public health and essential services in Victoria. This was clearly demonstrated during the heatwaves of January 2009 and 2014, which resulted in approximately 374 and 167 excess deaths, respectively. These events highlight the often severe and sometimes fatal consequences of heat-related illness, particularly for older people and those with existing medical conditions.</p> <p>The Chief Health Officer’s report on the 2009 Victorian heatwave detailed widespread impacts on the health system, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 25% increase in total metropolitan Ambulance Victoria emergency cases, rising to 46% over the three hottest days • a 34-fold increase in Ambulance Victoria callouts for direct heat-related conditions, with 61% involving people aged 75 and over • a 12% increase in emergency department presentations, with a higher proportion of acutely unwell patients and a 37% rise among those aged 75 and over • an eightfold increase in emergency department presentations for heat-related conditions, 46% of which involved people aged 75 and over • a near threefold increase in patients dead on arrival at emergency departments, with 69% aged 75 and over • a 62% increase in all-cause mortality, totalling 374 excess deaths <p>Since March 2024, the municipalities Heatwave Sub Plan has been activated three times.</p>

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	<p>CERA prioritises extreme heat as a key hazard due to the acute, short-term nature of its impacts, which can rapidly overwhelm health services and disrupt essential infrastructure. Cold weather, while contributing to an estimated 6.5% of annual deaths in Australia, tends to result in more prolonged and less visible impacts, making it less likely to prompt immediate emergency management interventions.</p> <p>With Victoria experiencing hotter and drier conditions due to climate change, heatwaves are projected to become more frequent and severe. In addition to the health risks, extreme heat increases demand on electricity networks, disrupts transport, places pressure on health and emergency services, and heightens bushfire risk. These combined effects make extreme heat a higher-priority hazard in the context of emergency risk assessment and planning in Victoria.</p> <p>For more information on how to prepare for heatwaves visit Extreme weather – Heatwaves - City of Port Phillip.</p>
<i>Control agencies</i>	Emergency Management Commissioner, Emergency Management Victoria
<i>Supporting agencies</i>	<p>Ambulance Victoria Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Department of Health Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Municipal Councils Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Bureau of Meteorology Australian Energy Market Operator</p>

2. Storm and Flood

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Storm and Flood</i>
<i>Description</i>	<p>Storms in this context may include windstorms, dust storms, tornados, heavy rain leading to flash flooding, storm surge and landslip. A severe storm event such as high winds, hail, torrential rain, lightning, etc. could cause traffic congestion, resident displacement, damage to infrastructure, disruption to service delivery and potential casualties. Flash flooding in the City of Port Phillip occurs as a result of short duration, high intensity rainfall which can cause localised flooding within the municipality along overland flow paths when the urban drainage system surcharges. Such events which are mainly confined to summer months do not generally create widespread flooding since they last for a short time and affect limited areas. Flooding from these storms occurs with little warning and localised damage can be severe especially to properties within the flood zone. City of Port Phillip contains six drainage catchments which have a total of 8852 properties within the 1% AEP flood extent. 7588 properties fall within the extreme risk rating.</p>
<i>Residual Risk Rating</i>	High
<i>Rationale</i>	<p>Over the past 5 years, VIC SES has responded to numerous requests for assistance in the Port Phillip area for tasks that can be classified as storm related (these calls include trees down, building damage, tree down/traffic hazard). It is acknowledged that a severe storm can include severe thunderstorms which may see associated flash</p>

	<p>flooding occur. Typically, City of Port Phillip would expect 2 - 3 large storm events (defined as over 50 RFA's for SES alone) per year generally in the months spanning Aug to Mar - Increasing since 1990's. Typically 300 + RFA's per year for Storm/flood/building damage for VIC SES with similar numbers reported by City of Port Phillip. There is a strong likelihood of reoccurrence associated with climate change.</p> <p>For more information on how to prepare for storms visit Extreme weather – Storms - City of Port Phillip.</p> <p>For more information on how to prepare for floods visit Extreme weather – Floods - City of Port Phillip</p>
<p><i>Control agencies</i></p> <p><i>Supporting agencies</i></p>	<p>Victoria State Emergency Service</p> <p>Victoria Police</p> <p>Fire Rescue Victoria</p> <p>Municipal Councils</p> <p>Ambulance Victoria</p>

3. Human Disease / Pandemic

Hazard	Pandemic
<i>Risk description</i>	<p>A pandemic caused by a novel respiratory virus is a significant risk to everyone in Victoria, given people will have little or no pre-existing immunity to the virus. It has the potential to cause high levels of morbidity and mortality, challenge the ability of the state health system to cope, and disrupt the community socially and economically. At risk communities are disproportionately impacted by the health impacts of pandemics. A pandemic will likely be prolonged, lasting several months or years.</p> <p>Respiratory viruses have the greatest potential to cause pandemics, due to the strong link between the emergence of a novel pandemic strain of virus, the human–animal transmission interface and transmission properties of respiratory viruses between humans. Influenza and coronaviruses have high genetic mutation rates, which creates a significant potential for the emergence of new (novel) viral strains infectious to humans.</p> <p>In recent history, Victoria has experienced pandemics such as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by SARS-CoV-2 which emerged in 2019 and Swine Flu, an influenza pandemic caused by influenza virus H1N1, which Australia experienced in 2009.</p>
<i>Residual Risk Rating</i>	High
<i>Rationale</i>	<p>Pandemics will vary in transmissibility, severity, duration, and impact therefore preparedness, response, relief, and recovery phase will need to remain scalable and flexible.</p> <p>Transmissibility affects the breadth and speed of spread across the world, as well as within the Australian and Victorian communities. The clinical severity will affect the number of people who present to primary care services or require hospitalisation, as well as the number of deaths and the demand for Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority's (ESTA) Triple Zero (000) call-taking, or patient transport and ambulance services. Clinical severity is likely to change during different phases of a pandemic and depends on viral mutations and the availability and efficacy of pharmaceutical interventions.</p>

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	<p>Disruption to critical infrastructure and services, such as public transport, water, gas, electricity, fuel and government services, and the transportation of food and goods are further potential consequences of pandemics. Disruptions to these lifeline services may also cause significant long-term economic impacts.</p> <p>At-risk, marginalised groups and those with special needs are especially vulnerable during a pandemic. This may include older Victorians and people with chronic diseases, pregnant women, those who are immunosuppressed, people with disabilities, culturally diverse community members, those with low socioeconomic status, people experiencing homelessness and First Nations communities. People living in close confines, such as prisons, residential aged care settings, disability accommodation, boarding/rooming houses and high-density public housing may also be more vulnerable.</p> <p>Councils will experience a pandemic differently depending on their population density and demographic and economic profiles.</p>
<i>Control agencies</i>	Department of Health
<i>Supporting agencies</i>	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Municipal Councils Ambulance Victoria Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Emergency Recovery Victoria Department of Transport and Planning Victoria Police Emergency Management Commissioner Australian Red Cross Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Department of Education and Training VCC Emergencies Ministry

4. Essential Services Disruption

Hazard	Power outage
<i>Risk description</i>	A sustained loss of utility for a period that is widespread and impacts multiple properties. Protracted disruption to lifelines could result in stress and disruption to the community. Lifelines include water, gas, electricity, communications or service delivery in relation to sewerage removal and drainage. Cables and pipelines are also vulnerable.
<i>Residual Risk Rating</i>	Medium
<i>Rationale</i>	Localised utility disruptions occur frequently within the City of Port Phillip due to aging infrastructure, utility overload (heat / cold) or physical impact through works occurring adjacent to the service main. Utility disruption especially during heatwaves or cold snaps can have a devastating impact on our community.
<i>Control agencies</i>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
<i>Supporting agencies</i>	Water Corporations Melbourne Water Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Energy Safe Victoria

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	Environment Protection Authority NBN Co Telstra Corporation Limited
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5. A Warlike Act (bomb threat, act of terrorism, hijack, siege or riot)

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>A warlike act</i>
<i>Risk description</i>	Acts of terrorism include bomb incidents, active armed offender, sieges, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) incidents, hostile vehicle, riots, cyber-attacks and violent extremists. These acts can cause mass disruption, loss of services, casualties / fatalities and fear within the community.
<i>Residual Risk Rating</i>	Medium
<i>Rationale</i>	<p>The National Terrorism Threat Level for Australia is PROBABLE. Credible intelligence, assessed by Victorian and Federal security agencies indicates that individuals or groups have developed both the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia. In the period between 2005 to 2025 there have been 17 thwarted attacks throughout Australia, with eight of these carried out in Victoria. In the same period, there have been nine actual attacks, with five of these occurring in Victoria.</p> <p>The ongoing conflict in the Middle East following the Hamas attack on Israeli citizens in October 2023 has escalated fears and concerns, including here in Port Phillip, where a declared act of terrorism occurred at the Adass Israel Synagogue of Melbourne in Ripponlea on December 6, 2024. There have been subsequent protests around the world associated with the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip, Palestine, which have included locations across Melbourne and recently within Port Phillip. With a significant Jewish population in Port Phillip, these ongoing local and global events have caused significant community concern.</p>
<i>Control agencies</i>	Victoria Police
<i>Supporting agencies</i>	Australian Defence Force Fire Rescue Victoria Ambulance Victoria Australian Government Department of Home Affairs Department of Health Municipal Councils

6. Fire (Residential and Commercial)

Hazard	Fire- Commercial
<i>Risk description</i>	Building fires are an inherent risk for all LGA's, including the City of Port Phillip. Fires in this hazard classification may result in employees being evacuated/displaced from a short period of time to a protracted period of time. The number of people affected by such evacuation/displacement is a variable difficult to predict.
<i>Residual Risk Rating</i>	Medium
<i>Rationale</i>	Although current fire data indicates that large incidents in the City of Port Phillip involving this hazard type are infrequent, it is developing measures and plans to protect life and property and to minimise economic loss, effect on environment and to identify early consequence management counter measures. It is also crucial that plans are developed and implemented to ensure City of Port Phillip can relocate displaced people.
<i>Control agencies</i>	Fire Rescue Victoria
<i>Supporting agencies</i>	Ambulance Victoria Victoria Police Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Municipal Councils Environment Protection Authority WorkSafe Victoria (Victorian WorkCover Authority) Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Australian Red Cross Victoria State Emergency Service

7. Mass gathering events

Hazard	Mass gatherings
<i>Risk description</i>	The City of Port Phillip is renowned for hosting iconic events which draw thousands of spectators and tourists to the City. A mass gathering can be a planned or spontaneous event where the number of people (at least >1000 persons) attending may strain the planning and response resources of emergency services, community, and council hosting the event. The Grand Prix, Midsummer Pride March, and other major sporting, religious, and cultural events are all considered examples of a mass gathering. Mass gatherings can be both planned and unplanned (spontaneous) and can be a symptom of, and a form of protest against major socio-political problems, a melee resulting from opposed groups. The severity of the event coincides with public expression(s) and elements of displeasure that ultimately impacts the day today running and/or safety of the local community.
<i>Residual Risk Rating</i>	Low
<i>Rationale</i>	Mass gatherings within the City of Port Phillip have generally been incident free, however, isolated criminal and anti-social incidents do occur. Major events such as the St Kilda Festival, and summer season foreshore management have detailed risk management plans in place. However, informal/impromptu gatherings still have potential to impact community safety and infrastructure. Mass gathering events and crowded places also pose a risk of being target by individuals and groups intent on committing warlike or terrorist acts.
<i>Control agencies</i>	Victoria Police
<i>Supporting agencies</i>	

Appendix E: Multi Agency Exercises

Date	Location / Details
16 November 2018	Exercise Jake St Kilda Town Hall ERC Activation
6 November 2020	Exercise Operation Summer Safe Online desktop exercise (due to COVID restrictions) coordinated by Victoria Police Multi agency exercise to consider maintaining COVID enforced restrictions on a day of extreme heat at the St Kilda foreshore.
29 September 2021	Exercise Operation Larder Online desktop exercise (due to COVID restrictions) coordinated by external consultant Multi agency exercise of City of Stonnington & Port Phillip operations to provide large scale food relief during a COVID isolation lockdown of a high-rise public housing estate
15 March 2023	Exercise Nina St Kilda Town Hall ERC Activation

Appendix F: Gender Impact Assessment

The Gender Impact Assessment contains restricted information and as such is available to agencies only. To access, please contact the MEMO at City of Port Phillip.

Appendix G: Contact Directory

The Contact Directory contains restricted information and as such is available to agencies only. To access, please contact the MEMO at City of Port Phillip.

Appendix H: MEMPC Terms of Reference

The *Committee Terms of Reference* contains restricted information and as such is available to agencies only. To access, please contact the MEMO at the City of Port Phillip.



11. A VIBRANT AND THRIVING COMMUNITY

Nil

12. AN ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITY

12.1 *Submission to the Victorian Government's Electric Line Clearance Review* 175



12.1 SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S
ELECTRIC LINE CLEARANCE REVIEW

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ROBYN BORLEY, GENERAL MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND
PERFORMANCE

PREPARED BY: ELIZABETH COWIN, COORDINATOR ADVOCACY, GRANTS &
PARTNERSHIP

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To note City of Port Phillip's submission to the Victorian Government's engagement on their Electrical Line Clearance Review.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is remaking the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Interim Regulations 2025, and has invited community feedback on the proposed regulations and the changes introduced.
- 2.2 Submissions via the Engage Victoria website closed on 23 February 2026.
- 2.3 Council's submission aligns with the endorsed City of Port Phillip Urban Forest Strategy 2024-2040 Action 6: "Advocate to the Victorian Government to ensure appropriate consideration of canopy cover in Electrical Line Clearance Regulations and for funding to support engineered solutions that address safety while reducing negative impacts on canopy coverage". As such, formal council endorsement was not sought.
- 2.4 Council's submission highlights the importance of the tree canopy cover as an essential part of our highly urbanised environment.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the City of Port Phillip's submission to the Victorian Government's engagement on the Electrical Line Clearance Review (**Attachment 1**)
- 3.2 Thanks members of the community who contributed to the Victorian Government's Electric Line Clearance Review by making their own submissions to the state's consultation process.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 Key changes proposed to the new policy

- 4.1.1 Introduction of trials for reduced Minimum Clearance Spaces.
- 4.1.2 Removing the requirement for annual Electrical Line Clearance Management Plans, so that all plans are 5-years, and changing and removing some of the information that is required to be in a plan.
- 4.1.3 Removing and changing the requirements to use a Minimum Clearance Space exception.
- 4.1.4 Introducing a new requirement that responsible persons must keep detailed records if an indigenous or significant tree is pruned or removed to make an



unsafe situation safe, and removing the requirement to translocate threatened fauna.

4.2 Council's recommendations

- 4.2.1 Expand the review scope to explicitly address climate change and the urban heat island (UHI) effect so reforms materially support achieving the 30% urban canopy cover target and account for ongoing urban densification.
- 4.2.2 Mandate (or strongly require) network upgrades that reduce vegetation removal - specifically greater use of covered conductors, aerial bundled cable (ABC), undergrounding, and insulation of low-voltage lines - so safety and tree canopy outcomes can both be achieved. (Council notes it currently pays >\$20,000 per span to convert uninsulated spans to ABC and seeks relief from this burden.)
- 4.2.3 Establish multi-sector data sharing, including distributors sharing LiDAR and asset datasets with councils to avoid duplication, cut costs, and improve safety and reporting. This data sharing should also underpin any trials so results are consistent and comparable.
- 4.2.4 Create a standard, pre approved suite of trials (developed by ESV/DEECA with distributors) that councils can opt into, with consistent data collection and reporting requirements. Priority scenarios to include:
 - Reduced distances for structural limbs currently managed under exception clauses;
 - Lateral pruning to shape canopy around/above LV lines;
 - Under pruning to manage upward growth.
- 4.2.5 Where major limbs/lateral shaping are involved, set 8–10 year trial durations to capture growth effects.
- 4.2.6 Put clear governance and resourcing in place for trials, including: an independent assessment panel with an appeals process; a transparent approvals sequence (distributors then ESV); clear definitions of minor/major/infringeable non compliance at reduced clearances; the ability to modify a trial rather than cancel it; and scaled rectification timeframes (minimum 90 days up to 12 months, with a mechanism for urgent works).
- 4.2.7 Address the admin/financial burden on councils by providing guidance on which trial options are likely to be approved and reflecting council costs in the RIS, not just distributor costs

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 This submission is consistent with the endorsed City of Port Phillip Urban Forest Strategy 2024-40.
- 5.2 This submission is broadly consistent with the advocacy of the Municipal Association of Victoria.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal or risk implications associated with this submission.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 There are no financial impacts associated with this submission.



8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 This submission seeks to reduce vegetation loss and urban heat while enhancing biodiversity by mandating electrical line network upgrades (e.g., covered/underground lines), enabling shared data for consistent trials, and strengthening protections and records for indigenous and significant trees.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 This submission advocates cooler, safer, greener streets and better value for ratepayers, provided the trials and network upgrades are designed with clear governance, shared data, and fair cost-sharing.

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 No Gender Impact Assessment is required.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 This submission aligns with the Plan for Port Phillip's strategic directions "An engaged and empowered community" as policy submissions are an advocacy tool; and "An environmentally sustainable and resilient City" through the environmentally sustainable urban forest angle.

11.2 The submission related to Action 6 of Council's Urban Forest Strategy 2024-2040.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 The submission was made on 20 February 2026.

12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 Community was notified of our submission and invited to participate in the engagement process via a social media post on Instagram and Facebook, and via a news article on Council's news and media website page.

13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. City of Port Phillip submission to Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations Review  

St Kilda Town Hall, 99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda, Victoria 3182
ASSIST Customer Service 03 9209 6777

proudly portphillip.vic.gov.au   



20 February 2026

Dear Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Molyneux,

City of Port Phillip's submission to the Electric Line Clearance Review

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission for the Electric Line Clearance Review. Electric line safety is critical, and ensuring the safety and functionality of the electricity network as critical infrastructure is paramount.

The City of Port Phillip is the most densely populated local government area in Victoria with a population density of 5,029 people per square kilometre. Our urban environments include many critical infrastructures, and they all have safety and functionality requirements. There is a lack of space in denser areas of our cities to provide for all infrastructure requirements, including trees and vegetation.

Trees and vegetation are critical green infrastructure. Our urban forest is an essential part of our highly urbanised environment. The urban forest directly impacts our City's livability now, and into the future. Trees and urban forests are recognised and used globally to manage Urban Heat Island (UHI), water and water quality, to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, and as an important contributor for biodiversity, ecosystems and habitat. There is a well-established body of evidence confirming the urban forest offers a multitude of benefits to people, economies and nature in cities. Urban forests have been recognised as the most cost-effective way to mitigate against localised risks from climate change. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report found that urban greening has been effective in reducing flood risks and urban heat.

In recognition of the importance of trees and vegetation in urban environments, and in alignment with evidence-based best practice, a core urban forest target for Port Phillip is for streets to reach 30% canopy cover by 2040. In 2025 the Victorian State Government introduced a 30% canopy cover target for all urban areas. The proposed reforms mention the importance of trees for localised climate change risk mitigation but make no changes that would make significant improvements to achieve 30% canopy cover; essentially discounting the climate change risk.

Port Phillip's tree assets include 46,000 trees, 75% of which are street trees. We manage approximately 17,000 under powerlines. Street trees in Port Phillip are vitally important and because of our dense urban form, canopy cover in our streets is higher than on private property.

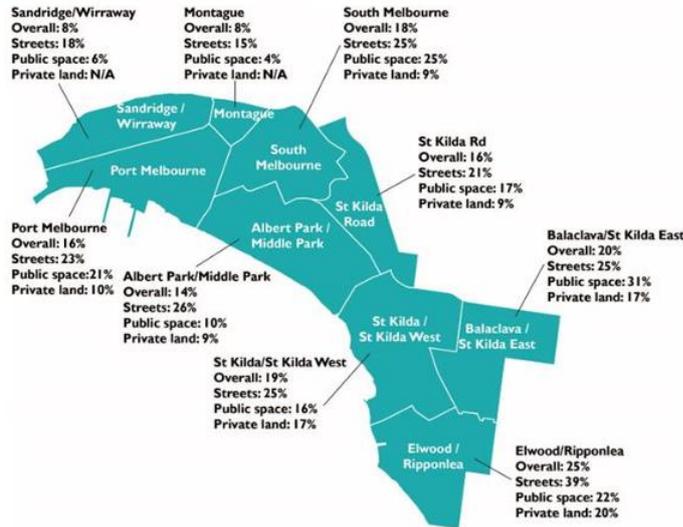


Figure 1: Canopy cover distribution across the nine neighbourhoods of the City of Port Phillip, 2022.

Given the importance of trees in urban environments, it is disappointing that the proposed reforms do not take the opportunity to address network upgrades that would reduce vegetation removal, including requirements for covered conductors, bundled cables, undergrounding, insulation of low voltage lines. Trees are shaped around powerlines; powerlines should also be shaped around trees as both are critical infrastructure.

All metropolitan Councils, including Port Phillip spend considerable taxpayer resources on tree assessments and tree pruning for electrical line clearances, and directly pay for any network upgrades that safely reduces tree pruning requirements so that electrical safety and tree canopy can be optimised.

The proposed reforms miss opportunities to promote multi-sector data sharing to improve safety and responsiveness. LiDAR-based inspections are extensive for electricity distributors, but datasets of assets or LiDAR data are not shared. Duplicating data for each Council is expensive and unnecessary. Data sharing could reduce inspection and reporting labour for all Councils and offer opportunities for consistent and robust data collection.

The proposed reforms include optional trials to reduce clearances around low voltage lines. As proposed, these optional trials place the bulk of administrative burden and risk on Councils and will likely significantly increase Council costs. These risks will impede the City of Port Phillip from participating.

Please see our feedback on the review via the attached submission below. Should you have any further enquiries, please reach out to Dana Pritchard, Manager Open Space, Recreation and Community Resilience via Dana.Pritchard@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Kind regards,

Cr Alex Makin
Mayor, City of Port Phillip



City of Port Phillip Submission to Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations Review

In 2025 the Victorian State Government introduced a 30% canopy cover target for all urban areas. The proposed reforms mention the importance of trees for localised climate change risk mitigation but make no changes that would make significant improvements to achieve 30% canopy cover; essentially discounting the climate change risk.

We urge a rethink of the scope of the review to include an investigation of other initiatives that will enable all urban infrastructure, including trees and powerlines, to provide healthy, safe and supportive environments for our communities. We encourage you to more strongly consider the impacts of climate change, and particularly the urban heat island effect.

As the climate continues to change, cities are getting hotter. Maximum annual temperatures could increase by up to 1.6°C by the 2030s and up to 2.7°C by the 2050s under a high greenhouse gas emissions scenario, with the number of extreme heat days (maximum >35°C) and nights (minimum >20°C) both projected to more than double by the 2050s (extreme heat days up from 8.3 to 20.4, extreme heat nights up from 5.8 to 18.4)¹ To put this in perspective, Melbourne's climate is expected to be more like Wangaratta's is now by the 2050s (a regional city over 200km inland).

Heatwaves kill more Australians than any other natural hazard², and place great pressure on Council assets. Urban heat can have a direct and serious impact on people's health, wellbeing and safety³. More specifically, urban heat can increase energy use, peak electricity demand, heat related mortality and morbidity, and levels of harmful pollutants⁴, as well as causing significant loss of income for local businesses⁵.

A key opportunity for the City of Port Phillip is to manage its future growth in a way that does not limit its ability to mitigate and adapt to increasing urban heat. The City of Port Phillip has set urban heat reduction as a key priority in developing a greener, cooler and more liveable city that is resilient and can adapt to climate change⁶. Many of the City of Port Phillip's strategies, guidelines, plans and policies therefore prioritise the need to minimise the impacts of urban heat.

¹ Clarke JM, Grose M, Thatcher M, Round V, & C, H. (2019). *Greater Melbourne Climate Projections 2019*. Melbourne, Australia. CSIRO. https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/media/ccia/2.1.6/cms_page_media/508/Vic%20Climate%20Projections%202019%20Regional%20Report%20-%20Greater%20Melbourne.pdf

² Climate Council (2014) 'Heatwaves: Hotter, Longer, More Often', accessed at <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/heatwaves-report/>

³ Santamouris, M. (2015). *Regulating the damaged thermostat of the cities—Status, impacts and mitigation challenges*. Energy and Buildings, 91, 43-56. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enbuild.2015.01.027>

⁴ Santamouris, M. (2020). *Recent progress on urban overheating and heat island research. Integrated assessment of the energy, environmental, vulnerability and health impact. Synergies with the global climate change*. Energy and Buildings, 207, 109482. accessed at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enbuild.2019.109482>

⁵ Sweeney Research, & City of Melbourne. (2014). *A Quantitative Research Report on: 2014 Heatwave Business Impacts - Social Research*. <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/sitecollectiondocuments/eco-impact-of-heat-waves-onbusiness-2014.pdf>

⁶ CoPP (2018) *Act and Adapt: Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2028*



We would welcome investigations into greater use of, and support for covered conductors, bundled cables, undergrounding, insulation of low voltage lines. Mandating these upgrades provide the best opportunity for tree growth and canopy increase with the proven benefits of urban heat mitigation and health and wellbeing benefits trees provide.

Currently we pay for design and construction of converting uninsulated spans to aerial bundled cabling, which costs above \$20,000 per span. Councils directly pay for any network upgrades that safely reduce tree pruning requirements so that electrical safety and tree canopy can be optimised. The proposed review offers no requirement for any network upgrades, and no reprieve for Councils who are currently burdened with the costs to preserve canopy cover.

As Melbourne densifies, there will be a need to add more infrastructure including powerlines. By 2036 we expect our population to grow significantly by another 43,510 people. As more people live in apartments, parks are replacing backyards, and public spaces including streets are becoming the 'living rooms' where people meet and interact. Protecting and growing our street trees is vital for the current and future health and wellbeing of our community.

High density apartments, with three or more stories, make up 55.5 per cent of our housing stock, four times that of greater Melbourne. 35.5 per cent of our housing stock is medium density (semi detached, row or terrace houses, town houses and 1-2 storey flats or apartments). Separate houses make up just 7.7 per cent of the housing stock. Almost all housing development approvals in 2021 (99 per cent) were for new apartments.

Tree canopy loss occurs on public and private land due to housing development. On public land, powerlines and other infrastructure located in the street require upgrades to supply higher density housing developments, and these upgrades affect trees. The volume of space for tree canopy on streets is reduced and existing street trees need to be pruned or removed accordingly. This incremental canopy loss is a significant threat to our street trees and therefore our ability to mitigate the urban heat island effect, locally, and provide green infrastructure to support the vitality and wellbeing of our community.

We strongly advocate you to revise the Electric Line Clearance Review with reforms that actively consider and respond to the impacts of climate change, and the urban heat island effect, and urban densification.

Our comments on specific aspects the Electric Line Clearance Review are as follows.

Trials of reduced minimum clearance spaces

Proposed Regulations: Schedule 1, Part 3, Division 3, Clauses 36–43

Financial considerations for councils

The RIS Section 4 Impact analysis, Criterion 4: Cost to responsible persons Option 3– Targeted changes plus trial (pages 56-57) includes comments of the cost analysis for distribution company participation, but not for local councils.

We have concerns that the administrative burden on Councils to initiate and apply for trials will be significant, particularly with no guidance on what trial options will likely be approved by ESV and electricity distributors. The risk for Port Phillip is in the investment of Council officer resources in trial applications without any certainty of a trial going ahead.

Governance considerations for proposed trials



For a successful trial program, we suggest a clear governance process and appropriate resourcing is required, with a minimum of:

- An independent panel to assess trial applications including an appeals process
- A transparent process for trial approvals, including the order of assessments by distribution companies and ESV
- Specification of what will constitute a minor or a major non-compliance at reduced clearance distances in trials, and what would be an infringeable non-compliance
- The ability to modify a trial rather than a full trial being cancelled, for example, an area being excluded and the rest of the area continuing
- Adequate response timeframes where trials are discontinued. We suggest including scaled timeframes starting from a 90-day minimum with a scale of up to 12 months depending on the number of trees, to enable a suitable period for any rectification work to occur. A mechanism to address any specific urgent work required could be included.

The RIS states trials are the preferred option “to test a reduced MCS in a controlled and safe way. And provides a way of collecting Victorian specific data that can build the comprehensive evidence base required to support any future changes to standard MCS in the Code” (page 43).

There is a lack of certainty about what may or may not be approved in a trial, and the requirements for data collection to enable a comprehensive evidence base. There is a significant risk of non-comparable data collection if many small, similar but inconsistent trials are initiated, making the purpose of trials essentially meaningless.

We suggest there are three scenarios which the City of Port Phillip and other metropolitan Councils (with low bushfire risk) are most likely to consider trialing:

- 1) Reduced minimum distances for structural limbs that are currently managed under the exception clauses.
- 2) Pruning trees laterally to enable shaping tree canopy around and above low voltage lines.
- 3) Pruning trees underneath powerlines to manage upward growth.

We propose that a standard suite of trials including data collection requirements is developed by ESV/DEECA for these scenarios. The trials should be pre-approved by ESV and applicable electricity distributors, have standard data collection and reporting requirements and be an opt-in process for eligible Councils. Any trial that includes major limbs or lateral canopy shaping needs to be of sufficient time to allow for tree growth, and we envisage that a trial period of 8-10 years in these circumstances is appropriate.

We recognise that there are other scenarios where trials may be warranted, and suggest that there may be opportunities to develop additional standard trials as well as more bespoke trials; and panel governance should allow for this.

A standard suite of trials has the benefits of:

- Enabling a standardised process for Councils to follow, cutting down the administration burden on Council officers; and
- Enabling for adequate and meaningful data collection on standard trials to be captured, to ensure that data is consistent and has sufficient detail and robustness to determine if a lower MCS distance can be safely applied.

We note that the proposed reforms miss opportunities to promote multi-sector data sharing to improve safety and responsiveness. LiDAR-based inspections are extensive for electricity distributors, but datasets of assets or LiDAR data are not shared. Duplicating data for each Council is expensive and unnecessary. Data sharing could reduce inspection and reporting



labour for all Councils and offer opportunities for consistent and robust data collection. Such data sharing could further strengthen the integrity of standard trials.

If a clear governance process for trials is established, the City of Port Phillip would welcome the opportunity to engage in and contribute to the development of a suite of standard trials.

Electric Line Clearance Management Plans

Proposed Regulations: Regulation 9

Regarding the proposal to change the frequency of Electric Line Clearance Management Plan (ELCMP) preparation to five years, for responsible persons that are not Major Electricity Companies, Council supports the proposal to change the frequency of ELCMP preparation to five years.

Council also supports the changes to terminology used for the requirements under regulation 9(6).

Exceptions to minimum clearance space

Proposed Regulations: Schedule 1, Part 2, Division 1, Clauses 4–7

Council supports the proposed changes to the use of exceptions for structural branches and the removal of requirements to use exceptions to minimum clearance space for small branches.

Environmental considerations

Proposed Regulations: Schedule 1, Part 2, Division 2, Clauses 11–12

Council is supportive of the requirement to keep records of indigenous and significant trees that are cut or removed to make an unsafe situation safe.

Council supports the update in line with best practice for wildlife translocation. However, we would welcome a statement in the regulations for best practice recommendations of what to do instead of translocation of threatened fauna.



13. A TRUSTED AND HIGH PERFORMING ORGANISATION

- 13.1 *Submission to the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability*..... 185
- 13.2 *Proposed Discontinuance and Sale of Laneway R3052, off Kings Way, South Melbourne Vic 3205*..... 202



13.1 SUBMISSION TO THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND FISCAL
SUSTAINABILITY

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ROBYN BORLEY, GENERAL MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND
PERFORMANCE

PREPARED BY: PETER LIU, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To note the submission to the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Australian Government has established a parliamentary inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability through the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport to examine the financial relationship between local government and other levels of government.
- 2.2 Submissions to the Committee close on 3 February 2026. As this is prior to the first meeting of Council for 2026, an officer submission was prepared based on Council's financial plan and strategy.
- 2.3 Local government is the level of government closest to communities and is critical to delivering the services, infrastructure and place-based outcomes that support Australia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Councils are central to the delivery of national and state priorities, including housing supply and affordability, climate resilience, waste and circular economy reform, community health and wellbeing. However, the current funding framework for local government is structurally misaligned with these expanding responsibilities.
- 2.4 This submission highlights Council's experience, which reflects a broader, systemic challenge across the local government sector. Prolonged rate capping arrangements that do not reflect the real cost drivers of council services, combined with ongoing cost shifting, unfunded or partially funded policy reforms, and the erosion of shared funding arrangements, have significantly constrained councils' financial capacity. As a result, the gap between the expectations placed on local government and the revenue available to meet them continues to widen.
- 2.5 Over the past five years, rate indexation has failed to keep pace with underlying cost growth, resulting in an estimated cumulative revenue shortfall of more than \$17 million for the City of Port Phillip. During this period, Council has absorbed increasing costs associated with State-imposed levies, declining co-contributions for service delivery and infrastructure, and major policy reforms - particularly in the waste sector and housing policy.
- 2.6 These pressures are compounded by climate change impacts on a mature and highly exposed asset base, including significant coastal and foreshore infrastructure, requiring increasing levels of investment simply to maintain existing service standards.
- 2.7 Commonwealth and State Government funding represents a relatively small proportion of Council's total revenue and is often short-term, prescriptive or ad hoc in nature. As a



result, councils are increasingly reliant on own-source revenue, primarily rates to fund essential services and infrastructure. In a rate-capped environment, this funding model is not sustainable and exacerbates vertical fiscal imbalance, with local government bearing a disproportionate share of the cost of delivering services and implementing reforms determined by other levels of government.

- 2.8 Consistent with the advocacy of Melbourne 9 (M9) councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria, this submission calls on the Commonwealth Government to play a stronger leadership role in restoring the financial sustainability of local government. In particular, the City of Port Phillip seeks:
- 2.8.1 An increase in the overall level of Federal Assistance Grants funding to local government.
 - 2.8.2 Reform of rate capping arrangements so that, if retained, they are based on a fit-for-purpose Local Government Cost Index that reflects key cost drivers such as wages, construction and contracted services, rather than Consumer Price Indexation.
 - 2.8.3 A requirement for State Governments to undertake and publish Local Government Impact Assessments for new and amended policies, with identified impacts informing funding decisions and cost indexation.
 - 2.8.4 Action to address the long-term decline in State and Commonwealth co-contributions to service delivery and infrastructure, including indexing future funding increases to relevant service cost indices to maintain relative funding shares.
 - 2.8.5 A coordinated, long-term Commonwealth/ State approach to funding the infrastructure impacts of climate change, including dedicated investment to improve the resilience of existing assets in high-risk locations such as coastal and foreshore areas.
- 2.9 Without structural reform to the local government funding framework, councils will continue to face increasing financial strain, limiting their capacity to deliver services, renew infrastructure and support broader economic and social objectives. Strengthening local government funding is therefore essential to ensuring sustainable communities and the effective functioning of Australia's system of government.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the City of Port Phillip's submission to the Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability (attachment 1).
- 3.2 Notes without structural reform to the local government funding framework, councils will continue to face increasing financial strain, limiting their capacity to deliver services, renew infrastructure and support broader economic and social objectives.
- 3.3 Notes the submission recommended the following five key actions:
 - 3.3.1 An increase in the overall level of Federal Assistance Grants funding to local government.
 - 3.3.2 Reform of rate capping arrangements so that, if retained, they are based on a fit-for-purpose Local Government Cost Index that reflects key cost drivers such



as wages, construction and contracted services, rather than Consumer Price Indexation.

- 3.3.3 A requirement for State Governments to undertake and publish Local Government Impact Assessments for new and amended policies, with identified impacts informing funding decisions and cost indexation.
 - 3.3.4 Action to address the long-term decline in State and Commonwealth co-contributions to service delivery and infrastructure, including indexing future funding increases to relevant service cost indices to maintain relative funding shares.
 - 3.3.5 A coordinated, long-term Commonwealth/ State approach to funding the infrastructure impacts of climate change, including dedicated investment to improve the resilience of existing assets in high-risk locations such as coastal and foreshore areas.
- 3.4 Notes strengthening local government funding is essential to ensuring sustainable communities and the effective functioning of Australia's system of government.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The Australian Government has established a parliamentary inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability through the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport to examine the financial relationship between local government and other levels of government.
- 4.2 The inquiry focuses on funding mechanisms, fiscal sustainability and whether current arrangements adequately support councils' ability to deliver services and invest in infrastructure as responsibilities continue to evolve, building on evidence from the previous inquiry while inviting updated information under revised terms of reference (attachment two – terms of reference)
- 4.3 Written submissions to the inquiry closed on Tuesday, 3 February 2026, with the inquiry intended to inform final recommendations to government on strengthening the long-term financial sustainability of the local government sector.
- 4.4 This submission based on Council's experience reflects a broader, systemic challenge across the local government sector. Prolonged rate capping arrangements that do not reflect the real cost drivers of council services, combined with ongoing cost shifting, unfunded or partially funded policy reforms, and the erosion of shared funding arrangements, have significantly constrained councils' financial capacity. As a result, the gap between the expectations placed on local government and the revenue available to meet them continues to widen.
- 4.5 Over the past five years, rate indexation has failed to keep pace with underlying cost growth, resulting in an estimated cumulative revenue shortfall of more than \$17 million for the City of Port Phillip. During this period, Council has absorbed increasing costs associated with State-imposed levies, declining co-contributions for service delivery and infrastructure, and major policy reforms - particularly in the waste sector and housing policy.
- 4.6 These pressures are compounded by climate change impacts on a mature and highly exposed asset base, including significant coastal and foreshore infrastructure, requiring increasing levels of investment simply to maintain existing service standards.



- 4.7 Commonwealth and State Government funding represents a relatively small proportion of Council's total revenue and is often short-term, prescriptive or ad hoc in nature. As a result, councils are increasingly reliant on own-source revenue, primarily rates to fund essential services and infrastructure. In a rate-capped environment, this funding model is not sustainable and exacerbates vertical fiscal imbalance, with local government bearing a disproportionate share of the cost of delivering services and implementing reforms determined by other levels of government.
- 4.8 This submission aligns with the advocacy of Melbourne 9 (M9) councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria in calling for stronger Australian Government leadership to restore the financial sustainability of local government.
- 4.9 Council's submission recommends five key actions:

Action 1. An increase in the overall level of Federal Assistance Grants funding to local government.

Local governments now deliver an expanding range of essential services well beyond traditional "roads, rates and rubbish". These include community health, childcare, aged care support, emergency management, climate adaptation, and infrastructure required to unlock housing supply - often stepping in where services are not commercially viable or where other levels of government have withdrawn.

At the same time, councils' capacity to fund these responsibilities has been progressively constrained by limited revenue-raising powers, state-based rate capping, ageing infrastructure, and sustained cost shifting from other levels of government.

Parliamentary inquiries and sector evidence consistently demonstrate that Financial Assistance Grants, while critical and untied, have declined significantly as a share of Commonwealth taxation revenue over the past three decades. This decline has materially eroded councils' ability to maintain existing services and invest in essential community infrastructure.

Federal Assistance Grants currently contribute approximately 8 per cent of total local government revenue, and significantly less for the City of Port Phillip. In 2025/26, Port Phillip's allocation of \$3.5 million, represents just 1.2 per cent of total revenue. A 25 per cent increase would provide an additional \$0.88 million in ongoing funding, directly supporting the City's financial sustainability.

Council's position is not about redistribution of existing funding envelope; the entire sector is facing structural financial sustainability challenges. A substantial increase in untied, formula-based Commonwealth funding is therefore required to restore local government financial sustainability, enable councils to meet growing service demands, and support the effective local delivery of national priorities such as housing supply, disaster resilience and community wellbeing.

Action 2. Reform of rate capping arrangements so that, if retained, they are based on a fit-for-purpose Local Government Cost Index that reflects key cost drivers such as wages, construction and contracted services, rather than Consumer Price Index.

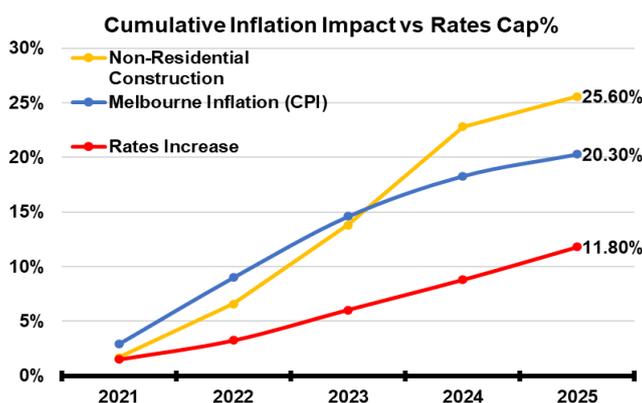


Rates are the primary source of income for local government. For the City of Port Phillip, rates account for approximately 55 per cent of total revenue. Council's capacity to increase this revenue is constrained by the Victorian Government's rate-capping framework.

It is therefore critical that the rate cap reflects the actual costs of delivering council services and maintaining infrastructure. Under the current framework, this alignment does not occur.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) used to set the cap does not adequately represent local government's major cost drivers: labour, contracted services, and the construction, maintenance and renewal of infrastructure.

As a result, Council faces a structural mismatch between capped rate revenue and the true cost of service delivery. This gap compounds over time, progressively eroding financial capacity and limiting Council's ability to sustain service levels.



Between 2021 and 2025, the cumulative rate cap totalled 11.8 per cent, significantly below Melbourne inflation of 20.3 per cent over the same period. The 8.5 per cent gap is estimated to have resulted in a cumulative revenue loss of more than \$17 million for Port Phillip. The impact would be significantly greater if construction cost indices were applied.

If rate capping is to be retained, a fit-for-purpose Local Government Cost Index must be developed to reflect the actual cost of provide council services, rather than relying on CPI.

Action 3. A requirement for State Governments to undertake and publish Local Government Impact Assessments for new and amended policies, with identified impacts informing funding decisions and cost indexation.

Example: Build to Rent Policy

The Victorian Government's Build-to-Rent policy settings are creating material and ongoing financial and service delivery impacts on local government, particularly inner-city councils experiencing high-density population growth.

While Build to Rent developments support increased housing supply, the current policy framework shifts infrastructure and service delivery costs to councils without commensurate funding. Such developments are typically



delivered on unsubdivided land and are therefore not required to pay Open Space Contributions, despite introducing significant new population demand.

For City of Port Phillip, known Build to Rent developments are estimated to result in foregone Open Space Contribution revenue of up to \$10 million, limiting Council's ability to fund parks, sporting facilities and public open space needed to support increased density.

Example: Waste Services - Circular Economy

State Government policy and regulatory reforms in the waste sector are creating increasing cost, complexity and risk for local government. While these reforms aim to improve environmental outcomes and support a circular economy, they have shifted substantial costs and operational responsibilities to councils without providing sufficient funding flexibility or revenue certainty.

Significant landfill levy increases, combined with the introduction of new services such as separate glass recycling, are placing upward pressure on Council's waste charges. Although waste services are nominally cost-recovered, rising costs compound household cost-of-living pressures and limit Council's capacity to fully pass on increases, resulting in indirect subsidisation from general rate revenue.

Action 4. Action to address the long-term decline in State and Commonwealth co-contributions to service delivery and infrastructure, including indexing future funding increases to relevant service cost indices to maintain relative funding shares.

The State Government provides funding to councils on a shared-funding basis to deliver services including libraries, Maternal Child Health, school crossing, and immunisation. In practice, indexation of these funding streams has failed to keep pace with actual service delivery costs.

For example, library services were initially funded by State at 50 per cent of operating costs. Port Phillip Council currently receives funding equivalent to approximately 15% of total library service costs.

Ongoing cost shifting, combined with low levels of recurrent external funding, increases reliance on rate revenue to subsidise State-driven costs. This reliance is constrained by the rate-capping framework, amplifying financial sustainability pressures.

Action 5. A coordinated, long-term Commonwealth/ State approach to funding the infrastructure impacts of climate change, including dedicated investment to improve the resilience of existing assets in high-risk locations such as coastal and foreshore areas.

The City of Port Phillip is responsible for maintaining infrastructure and assets with a total replacement value exceeding \$3.6 billion. The cost of maintaining and renewing these assets continues to increase at a rate greater than CPI. A significant proportion of Council's asset base is located along the foreshore, increasing exposure to climate-related risks.



With approximately 11 kilometres of foreshore, the City of Port Phillip is highly exposed to sea level rise and storm surge impacts. Coastal protective structures, including seawalls and rock revetments, were constructed by the State Government around 100 years ago, with urban beaches constructed over 50 years ago to provide additional buffering.

There is currently no sustainable State funding model for renewing, upgrading or maintaining these assets, and no ongoing State funding or grant programs to support their upkeep.

Economic modelling ([VMaCC Kompas Economic Cost Impact Analysis](#)) indicates that the cost of inaction within the City of Port Phillip alone could reach \$9.2 billion by 2040. The analysis concludes that sea level rise and storm surge impacts are sufficient to trigger significant financial instability for many coastal communities and the State of Victoria.

While State coastal policy recognises that funding should be shared across governments, beneficiaries and users of the coastal environment, no implementation funding mechanism currently exists. The City of Port Phillip's foreshore delivers economic and recreational benefits well beyond the municipality, attracting millions of visitors annually.

- 4.10 Without structural reform to the local government funding framework, councils will continue to face increasing financial strain, limiting their capacity to deliver services, renew infrastructure and support broader economic and social objectives. Strengthening local government funding is therefore essential to ensuring sustainable communities and the effective functioning of Australia's system of government.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 This submission is consistent with endorsed Council Financial Strategy and Long-Term Financial Plan (10-Year).
- 5.2 This submission is broadly consistent with the advocacy of Melbourne 9 (M9) councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This submission advocates changes to the broader funding framework of local government to improve council's financial sustainability.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 This submission advocates for more funding to local government to improve the financial sustainability of local government.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 This submission advocates for a coordinated, long-term Commonwealth/ State approach to funding the infrastructure impacts of climate change, including dedicated investment to improve the resilience of existing assets in high-risk locations such as coastal and foreshore areas.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 This submission advocates for action to address the long-term decline in State and Commonwealth co-contributions to service delivery and infrastructure, including



indexing future funding increases to relevant service cost indices to maintain relative funding shares.

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 This submission advocates for more funding to local government therefore will positively impact all ratepayers equally.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 Council's submission supports all directions of the council plan.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 Submission date was 3 February 2026.

12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 All submissions are expected to be made public on the Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport.

13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability - City of Port Phillip Submission**  [Download](#)
- 2. Terms of Reference - Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability**  [Download](#)

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ASSIST Customer Service 03 9209 6777

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03 February 2026

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members,

Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability – Officer Submission

On behalf of the City of Port Phillip, I thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide further input into the Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability.

Local government is the level of government closest to communities and plays a critical role in delivering the services, infrastructure and place-based outcomes that underpin Australia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Councils are central to the delivery of national and state priorities, including housing supply and affordability, climate resilience, waste and circular economy reform, public health, and community wellbeing. However, the current funding framework for local government is structurally misaligned with these responsibilities.

The City of Port Phillip's experience reflects a broader, systemic challenge across the local government sector. Prolonged rate capping arrangements that do not reflect the real cost drivers of council services, combined with ongoing cost shifting, unfunded or partially funded policy reforms, and the erosion of shared funding arrangements, have significantly constrained councils' financial capacity. These issues have contributed to a growing gap between the responsibilities placed on local government and the revenue available to meet them.

Over the past five years, rate indexation has failed to keep pace with underlying cost growth, resulting in an estimated cumulative revenue shortfall of more than \$17 million for the City of Port Phillip. During this period, Council has absorbed increasing costs associated with State-imposed levies, declining co-contributions for service delivery and infrastructure, and major policy reforms - particularly in the waste sector and housing policy.

These pressures are further intensified by climate change impacts on a mature and highly exposed asset base, including significant coastal and foreshore infrastructure, requiring increasing levels of investment simply to maintain existing service standards.

Commonwealth and State Government funding represents a relatively small proportion of Council's total revenue and is often short-term, prescriptive or ad hoc in nature. As a result, councils are increasingly reliant on own-source revenue, primarily rates to fund essential services and infrastructure. In a rate-capped environment, this funding model is not sustainable and exacerbates vertical fiscal imbalance within the federation, with local government bearing a disproportionate share of the cost of delivering services and implementing reforms determined by other levels of government.



Consistent with the advocacy of Melbourne 9 (M9) councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria, this submission calls on the Commonwealth Government to play a stronger leadership role in restoring the financial sustainability of local government. In particular:

1. An increase in the overall level of Federal funding to local government.
2. Reform of rate capping arrangements so that, if retained, they are based on a fit-for-purpose Local Government Cost Index that reflects key cost drivers such as wages, construction and contracted services, rather than Consumer Price Index.
3. A requirement for State Governments to undertake and publish Local Government Impact Assessments for new and amended policies, with identified impacts informing funding decisions and cost indexation.
4. Action to address the long-term decline in State and Commonwealth co-contributions to service delivery and infrastructure, including indexing future funding increases to relevant service cost indices to maintain relative funding shares.
5. A coordinated, long-term Commonwealth/ State approach to funding the infrastructure impacts of climate change, including dedicated investment to improve the resilience of existing assets in high-risk locations such as coastal and foreshore areas.

Without structural reform to the local government funding framework, councils will continue to face increasing financial strain, limiting their capacity to deliver services, renew infrastructure and support broader economic and social objectives. Strengthening local government funding is therefore essential to ensuring sustainable communities and the effective functioning of Australia's system of government.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Liu

Chief Financial Officer

Officer Submission from City of Port Phillip

Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability



Executive Summary

Local government is the level of government closest to communities and is critical to delivering the services, infrastructure and place-based outcomes that support Australia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing. Councils are central to the delivery of national and state priorities, including housing supply and affordability, climate resilience, waste and circular economy reform, public health, and community wellbeing. However, the current funding framework for local government is structurally misaligned with these expanding responsibilities.

The City of Port Phillip's experience reflects a broader, systemic challenge across the local government sector. Prolonged rate capping arrangements that do not reflect the real cost drivers of council services, combined with ongoing cost shifting, unfunded or partially funded policy reforms, and the erosion of shared funding arrangements, have significantly constrained councils' financial capacity. As a result, the gap between the expectations placed on local government and the revenue available to meet them continues to widen.

Over the past five years, rate indexation has failed to keep pace with underlying cost growth, resulting in an estimated cumulative revenue shortfall of more than \$17 million for the City of Port Phillip. During this period, Council has absorbed increasing costs associated with State-imposed levies, declining co-contributions for service delivery and infrastructure, and major policy reforms - particularly in the waste sector and housing policy.

These pressures are compounded by climate change impacts on a mature and highly exposed asset base, including significant coastal and foreshore infrastructure, requiring increasing levels of investment simply to maintain existing service standards.

Commonwealth and State Government funding represents a relatively small proportion of Council's total revenue and is often short-term, prescriptive or ad hoc in nature. As a result, councils are increasingly reliant on own-source revenue, primarily rates to fund essential services and infrastructure. In a rate-capped environment, this funding model is not sustainable and exacerbates vertical fiscal imbalance, with local government bearing a disproportionate share of the cost of delivering services and implementing reforms determined by other levels of government.

Consistent with the advocacy of Melbourne 9 (M9) councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria, this submission calls on the Commonwealth Government to play a stronger leadership role in restoring the financial sustainability of local government. In particular:

1. An increase in the overall level of Federal Assistance Grants funding to local government.
2. Reform of rate capping arrangements so that, if retained, they are based on a fit-for-purpose Local Government Cost Index that reflects key cost drivers such as wages, construction and contracted services, rather than Consumer Price Index.
3. A requirement for State Governments to undertake and publish Local Government Impact Assessments for new and amended policies, with identified impacts informing funding decisions and cost indexation.
4. Action to address the long-term decline in State and Commonwealth co-contributions to service delivery and infrastructure, including indexing future funding increases to relevant service cost indices to maintain relative funding shares.
5. A coordinated, long-term Commonwealth/ State approach to funding the infrastructure impacts of climate change, including dedicated investment to improve the resilience of existing assets in high-risk locations such as coastal and foreshore areas.

Officer Submission from City of Port Phillip

Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability



Without structural reform to the local government funding framework, councils will continue to face increasing financial strain, limiting their capacity to deliver services, renew infrastructure and support broader economic and social objectives. Strengthening local government funding is therefore essential to ensuring sustainable communities and the effective functioning of Australia's system of government.

Officer Submission from City of Port Phillip

Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability



1. An increase in the overall level of Federal Assistance Grants funding to local government.

Local governments now deliver an expanding range of essential services well beyond traditional “roads, rates and rubbish”. These include community health, childcare, aged care support, emergency management, climate adaptation, and infrastructure required to unlock housing supply - often stepping in where services are not commercially viable or where other levels of government have withdrawn.

At the same time, councils’ capacity to fund these responsibilities has been progressively constrained by limited revenue-raising powers, state-based rate capping, ageing infrastructure, and sustained cost shifting from other levels of government.

Parliamentary inquiries and sector evidence consistently demonstrate that Financial Assistance Grants, while critical and untied, have declined significantly as a share of Commonwealth taxation revenue over the past three decades. This decline has materially eroded councils’ ability to maintain existing services and invest in essential community infrastructure.

Federal Assistance Grants currently contribute approximately 8 per cent of total local government revenue, and significantly less for the City of Port Phillip. In 2025/26, Port Phillip’s allocation of \$3.5 million, represents just 1.2 per cent of total revenue. A 25 per cent increase would provide an additional \$0.88 million in ongoing funding, directly supporting the City’s financial sustainability.

Council’s position is not about redistribution of existing funding envelope; the entire sector is facing structural financial sustainability challenges. A substantial increase in untied, formula-based Commonwealth funding is therefore required to restore local government financial sustainability, enable councils to meet growing service demands, and support the effective local delivery of national priorities such as housing supply, disaster resilience and community wellbeing.

2. Reform of rate capping arrangements so that, if retained, they are based on a fit-for-purpose Local Government Cost Index that reflects key cost drivers such as wages, construction and contracted services, rather than Consumer Price Index.

Rates are the primary source of income for local government. For the City of Port Phillip, rates account for approximately 55 per cent of total revenue. Council’s capacity to increase this revenue is constrained by the Victorian Government’s rate-capping framework.

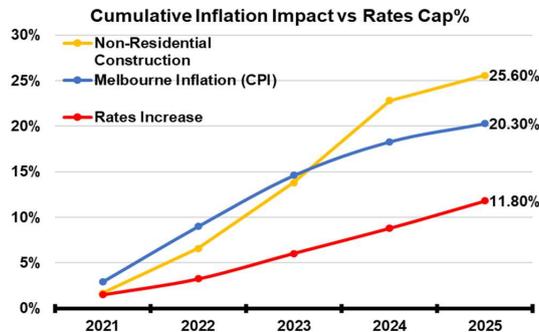
It is therefore critical that the rate cap reflects the actual costs of delivering council services and maintaining infrastructure. Under the current framework, this alignment does not occur.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) used to set the cap does not adequately represent local government’s major cost drivers: labour, contracted services, and the construction, maintenance and renewal of infrastructure.

As a result, Council faces a structural mismatch between capped rate revenue and the true cost of service delivery. This gap compounds over time, progressively eroding financial capacity and limiting Council’s ability to sustain service levels.

Officer Submission from City of Port Phillip

Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability



Between 2021 and 2025, the cumulative rate cap totalled 11.8 per cent, significantly below Melbourne inflation of 20.3 per cent over the same period. The 8.5 per cent gap is estimated to have resulted in a cumulative revenue loss of more than \$17 million for Port Phillip. The impact would be significantly greater if construction cost indices were applied.

If rate capping is to be retained, a fit-for-purpose Local Government Cost Index must be developed to reflect the actual cost of provide council services, rather than relying on CPI.

3. A requirement for State Governments to undertake and publish Local Government Impact Assessments for new and amended policies, with identified impacts informing funding decisions and cost indexation.

Example: Build to Rent Policy

The Victorian Government's Build-to-Rent policy settings are creating material and ongoing financial and service delivery impacts on local government, particularly inner-city councils experiencing high-density population growth.

While Build to Rent developments support increased housing supply, the current policy framework shifts infrastructure and service delivery costs to councils without commensurate funding. Such developments are typically delivered on unsubdivided land and are therefore not required to pay Open Space Contributions, despite introducing significant new population demand.

For City of Port Phillip, known Build to Rent developments are estimated to result in foregone Open Space Contribution revenue of up to \$10 million, limiting Council's ability to fund parks, sporting facilities and public open space needed to support increased density.

Example: Waste Services - Circular Economy

State Government policy and regulatory reforms in the waste sector are creating increasing cost, complexity and risk for local government. While these reforms aim to improve environmental outcomes and support a circular economy, they have shifted substantial costs and operational responsibilities to councils without providing sufficient funding flexibility or revenue certainty.

Significant landfill levy increases, combined with the introduction of new services such as separate glass recycling, are placing upward pressure on Council's waste charges. Although waste services are nominally cost-recovered, rising costs compound household cost-of-living pressures and limit Council's capacity to fully pass on increases, resulting in indirect subsidisation from general rate revenue.

Officer Submission from City of Port Phillip

Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability



4. Action to address the long-term decline in State and Commonwealth co-contributions to service delivery and infrastructure, including indexing future funding increases to relevant service cost indices to maintain relative funding shares.

The State Government provides funding to councils on a shared-funding basis to deliver services including libraries, Maternal Child Health, school crossing, and immunisation. In practice, indexation of these funding streams has failed to keep pace with actual service delivery costs.

For example, library services were initially funded by State at 50 per cent of operating costs. Port Phillip Council currently receives funding equivalent to approximately 15% of total library service costs.

Ongoing cost shifting, combined with low levels of recurrent external funding, increases reliance on rate revenue to subsidise State-driven costs. This reliance is constrained by the rate-capping framework, amplifying financial sustainability pressures.

5. A coordinated, long-term Commonwealth/ State approach to funding the infrastructure impacts of climate change, including dedicated investment to improve the resilience of existing assets in high-risk locations such as coastal and foreshore areas.

The City of Port Phillip is responsible for maintaining infrastructure and assets with a total replacement value exceeding \$3.6 billion. The cost of maintaining and renewing these assets continues to increase at a rate greater than CPI. A significant proportion of Council's asset base is located along the foreshore, increasing exposure to climate-related risks.

With approximately 11 kilometres of foreshore, the City of Port Phillip is highly exposed to sea level rise and storm surge impacts. Coastal protective structures, including seawalls and rock revetments, were constructed by the State Government around 100 years ago, with urban beaches constructed over 50 years ago to provide additional buffering.

There is currently no sustainable State funding model for renewing, upgrading or maintaining these assets, and no ongoing State funding or grant programs to support their upkeep.

Economic modelling ([VMaCC Kompas Economic Cost Impact Analysis](#)) indicates that the cost of inaction within the City of Port Phillip alone could reach \$9.2 billion by 2040. The analysis concludes that sea level rise and storm surge impacts are sufficient to trigger significant financial instability for many coastal communities and the State of Victoria.

While State coastal policy recognises that funding should be shared across governments, beneficiaries and users of the coastal environment, no implementation funding mechanism currently exists. The City of Port Phillip's foreshore delivers economic and recreational benefits well beyond the municipality, attracting millions of visitors annually.

Officer Submission from City of Port Phillip

Federal Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability



Conclusion

The City of Port Phillip acknowledges the Commonwealth Government's commitment to supporting long-term stability of the local government sector. Local governments play an essential role in Australia's system of governance and are central to delivering infrastructure, services and place-based outcomes.

Without reform, structural funding gaps will continue to undermine council's capacity to maintain critical infrastructure, service provision and respond to climate risks. Stronger Commonwealth involvement is required to achieve sustainable funding arrangements in partnership with State and Local Governments.

Specifically, this submission calls for the Commonwealth Government to:

1. An increase in the overall level of Federal Assistance Grants funding to local government.
2. Reform of rate capping arrangements so that, if retained, they are based on a fit-for-purpose Local Government Cost Index that reflects key cost drivers such as wages, construction and contracted services, rather than Consumer Price Index.
3. A requirement for State Governments to undertake and publish Local Government Impact Assessments for new and amended policies, with identified impacts informing funding decisions and cost indexation.
4. Action to address the long-term decline in State and Commonwealth co-contributions to service delivery and infrastructure, including indexing future funding increases to relevant service cost indices to maintain relative funding shares.
5. A coordinated, long-term Commonwealth/ State approach to funding the infrastructure impacts of climate change, including dedicated investment to improve the resilience of existing assets in high-risk locations such as coastal and foreshore areas.

Terms of Reference – Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport will inquire into and report on local government funding and fiscal sustainability, with a particular focus on:

- 1. Interactions between Governments**
 - i. Assess the nature and scale of Australian, state and territory government funding provided to local government, both directly and through Commonwealth-state agreements.
 - ii. Examine the legislative and policy frameworks underpinning Commonwealth financial support to local government.

- 2. Identification of All Funding Sources**
 - i. Identify and map all sources of funding received by local government from the Australian Government and state/territory governments, including:
 - a. Untied grants (e.g., Financial Assistance Grants).
 - b. Tied/specific-purpose grants and project-based programs, co-contribution requirements and competitive grant processes.
 - c. Revenue sharing arrangements (e.g., stamp duty, rates capping subsidies, GST-related disbursements where applicable).
 - d. Emergency, disaster recovery and resilience funding.
 - e. One-off or ad hoc funding streams.
 - ii. Examine local government own-source revenue (such as rates, fees, charges and commercial activities).

- 3. Impacts and Effectiveness**
 - i. Evaluate how funding arrangements, including indexation freezing, influence the financial sustainability, service delivery capacity and infrastructure investment of local governments.
 - ii. Consider whether existing funding mechanisms are addressing the evolving responsibilities of local governments.
 - iii. Identify barriers to infrastructure service delivery, including trends in attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, impediments to security for local government workers and impacts of labour hire practices.
 - iv. Explore opportunities to improve productivity and coordination of local government.

- 4. Previous Inquiry**
 - i. Consider evidence provided to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport of the 47th Parliament [Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability](#).

Other relevant matters

13.2 PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE AND SALE OF LANEWAY
R3052, OFF KINGS WAY, SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: PAUL WOOD, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER, CITY
INFRASTRUCTURE

PREPARED BY: VICKI TUCHANT, MANAGER PROPERTY AND ASSETS
MICHAEL MAJOR, TEAM LEADER PROPERTY OPERATIONS

1. PURPOSE

1.1 For Council:

- 1.1.1 To consider whether the road adjoining 45-53, 55, 57, 59-61 Park Street and 311 Kings Way, South Melbourne, being the laneway known as R3052 (Road) on Council's Register of Public Roads should be discontinued pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic) (the Act) and sold to the adjoining owner.



2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Applicant (the Purchaser) of the properties 45-53, 55, 57, 59-61 Park Street and 311 Kings Way, South Melbourne has requested that Council discontinues and sells the Road known as R3052 on Council's Register of Public Roads to them (the Proposal).
- 2.2 The subject Road has an area of approximately 49 square metres and is adjoined by 311 Kings Way and 45-53, 55, 57 and 59-61 Park Street, South Melbourne.
- 2.3 It is considered that the Road is no longer reasonably required for general public use as it:
- 2.3.1 Is fully enclosed on the northern, eastern and southern boundaries by adjoining properties, and is only accessible on the western boundary from Kings Way;
- 2.3.2 Is only used for pedestrian and vehicular access to service the adjoining properties (under contract to the Purchaser and pending settlement), namely 45-53, 55, 57, 59-61 Park Street and 311 Kings Way, South Melbourne; and
- 2.3.3 Does not form part of a thoroughfare for pedestrian or vehicular traffic to any other public road.
- 2.4 The Purchaser has agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the proposed discontinuance of the Road, together with the full market value, which has been assessed by Westlink Consulting at \$263,000 plus GST.



- 2.5 Council has no current or future municipal use of the road, thus providing the land to have a more compatible use with the adjoining owner.
- 2.6 At a meeting of Council held on Wednesday 5 November 2025, Council resolved to:
 - Commence the statutory procedures and give notice pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act of its intention to discontinue and sell the Road to the adjoining owner for market value.
- 2.7 On Tuesday 25 November 2025, Council gave public notice by publication in 'The Age' newspaper and on Council's website.
- 2.8 Council did not receive any submissions in response to the public notice by the closing date of 4 January 2026.
- 2.9 Council is now able to consider whether to discontinue and sell the Road to the Purchaser.
- 2.10 Officers recommend that Council discontinues and sells the land to the adjoining owner for market value, being \$263,000 plus GST, plus reimbursement of Council costs to facilitate this transaction.
- 2.11 The proceeds of the sale will be held in Council's Strategic Property Reserves to support the acquisition and development of the property portfolio.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Having considered that there were no submissions received regarding Council's proposal to discontinue the road being the land more particularly known as R3052:

- 3.1 Resolves to discontinue the Road as it considers that the Road is not reasonably required for public use for the following reasons:
 - 3.1.1 Is fully enclosed on the northern, eastern and southern boundaries by adjoining properties, and is only accessible on the western boundary from Kings Way;
 - 3.1.2 Is only used for pedestrian and vehicular access to service the adjoining properties (under contract to the Purchaser and pending settlement), namely 45-53, 55, 57, 59-61 Park Street and 311 Kings Way, South Melbourne; and
 - 3.1.3 Does not form part of a thoroughfare for pedestrian or vehicular traffic to any other public road.
- 3.2 Resolves to sell the land in the discontinued Road for market value plus reimbursement of Council's costs to facilitate this transaction to the Purchaser;
- 3.3 Notes that proceeds from the sale will go into Council's Strategic Property Reserve used to support the acquisition and development of the property portfolio;
- 3.4 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to negotiate, approve, and enter into such documentation to complete the discontinuance, sale, and transfer of the Road;
- 3.5 Directs that the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate signs an authorisation allowing Council's solicitors to execute transfer documents and any other documents required to be signed on Council's behalf in connection with the transfer of the discontinued Road to the Purchaser;

- 3.6 Directs that any easements, rights, or interests required to be created or saved over the Road by any public authority be done so and not be affected by the discontinuance and sale of the Road; and
- 3.7 Directs that the Purchaser be required to consolidate the title to the discontinued Road within the title to their land (or such part of it approved by Council) within 12 months of the date of the transfer of the discontinued Road.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Background

- 4.1 The Road is listed on Council's Register of Public Roads, known as R3052.
- 4.2 The Road is shown shaded brown on the image below:



Adjoining Properties

- 4.3 Properties that directly adjoin the Road, being 45-53, 55, 57, 59-61 Park Street and 311 Kings Way, South Melbourne are currently under contract, pending settlement to the Purchaser.

Application

- 4.4 The proposal was submitted to Council by the Purchaser, who holds interests in the properties adjoining the Road.
- 4.5 Properties that directly adjoin the subject Road are subject to an impending settlement to the Purchaser.
- 4.6 The Purchaser, upon settlement of the adjoining properties, intends to carry out redevelopment of the adjoining properties.
- 4.7 The Purchaser has agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the proposed discontinuance of the Road, together with the market value for the transfer of the discontinued Road.
- 4.8 If the Road is discontinued and sold to the Purchaser, Council will require the Purchaser to consolidate the title to the discontinued Road within the title to the adjoining properties within 12 months of the date of transfer of the Road, at that Purchaser's expense.

- 4.9 The property situated at 59-61 Park Street (being the land described in certificate of title volume 9762 folio 954, on TP349446X) has a legal abuttal on title and a registered right of carriageway over the Road (as shown on Title Plan TP349446X).
- 4.10 The property situated at 311 Kings Way (being the land described in certificate of title volume 06300 folio 904), rear portion of the laneway is owned by 311 Kings Way, South Melbourne created by instrument CP163441K 16/12/1986, shown highlighted in yellow on the below plan.



*Subject Right of Way 'R3052' & drainage grate.
Facing east from Kings Way*



*Subject ROW, adjoining buildings on 55-57 Park St & 311
Kings Way*

Analysis

- 4.11 It is considered that the Road is no longer reasonably required for general public use.
- 4.12 The Proposal has been referred internally within Council and no objections have been received. As such, the Road is deemed to have no immediate or future strategic purpose for Council.
- 4.13 The proposed discontinuance and sale of the Road will enable the land in the Road to be repurposed.
- 4.14 Council is now able to consider whether to:
- 4.14.1 Remove the Road from Council's Register of Public Roads; and
 - 4.14.2 Commence the statutory procedure to discontinue and sell the Road.
- 4.15 Officers propose that Council considers removing the Road from Council's Register of Public Roads on the basis that the Road is no longer reasonably required for general public use for the reasons set out herein, and that Council considers commencing the statutory procedures to discontinue the Road.
- 4.16 If the Road is subsequently discontinued, the Road is proposed to be sold to the Purchaser for market value currently assessed at \$263,000 plus GST based a valuation undertaken by Westlink Consulting 13 October 2025. A revised valuation at a later date will be required to comply with Council's statutory obligations under the Act.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The following statutory authorities have been advised of the proposed discontinuance of the Road and have been asked to respond to the question of whether they have any existing assets in the Road, which should be saved under section 207C of the Act:
- 5.1.1 CitiPower.



- 5.1.2 Port Phillip City Council.
- 5.1.3 DGtek Pty Ltd.
- 5.1.4 KDR Victoria Pty Ltd.
- 5.1.5 Melbourne Water.
- 5.1.6 Multinet Gas.
- 5.1.7 NBN Co VicTas.
- 5.1.8 Nextgen (VIC).
- 5.1.9 Optus and or Uecomm Vic.
- 5.1.10 South East Water Corporation.
- 5.1.11 Telstra VICTAS.
- 5.1.12 Vocus (Primus VIC).

- 5.2 At the date that this report was prepared, Council had not received formal responses from all external service providers.
- 5.3 Council is proceeding on the basis that the respective providers do not have any rights, powers, or interests they wish to be saved under section 207C of the Act.
- 5.4 Council notified the community of the Proposal through a public notice published in 'The Age' newspaper and on Council's website on Tuesday 25 November 2025 inviting submissions in accordance with section 223 of the Act.
- 5.5 The deadline for submissions to be lodged was 11.59 pm on 4 January 2026.
- 5.6 No submissions were received by Council in response to the public notice.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act, a council has the power to discontinue roads located within its municipality and sell the land from that road or retain the land for itself.
- 6.2 Council's Policy enables roads that are no longer required for public access to be discontinued and sold to the adjoining owner.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The Purchaser has agreed to acquire the Road for its market value (plus GST) in addition to Council's costs and disbursements associated with the proposed discontinuance of the Road.
- 7.2 An independent valuation of the land dated 13 October 2025 determined the market value to be \$263,000 plus GST. An updated valuation will be sought by Council prior to any transfer. In accordance with Council's Policy, the value attributed to the land in the Road is based on the following assumptions:
 - 7.2.1 The Road is valued using a "direct comparison on land value rate", on a before and after basis, taking into account the value which the subject land contributes to the adjoining land, including the possibility of consolidation and redevelopment with adjoining properties.
 - 7.2.2 No discount is applicable to the full land value due to the limited purchasing market for the Road.



7.2.3 A revised market valuation will be required (valid for a period of up to 6 months) if the proposal is supported by Council.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 The Proposal is not considered to have any detrimental environmental implications.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 Council will facilitate the discontinuance and sale of roads where appropriate consultation has occurred, legislative requirements have been met, and it is considered that the road discontinuance and sale is in the best interest of the wider community.

9.2 The proposed discontinuance and sale of the Road will enable the land in the Road to be repurposed.

9.3 If Council resolves to discontinue and sell the Road, proceeds from the sale will go into Council's Strategic Property Reserves used to support the acquisition and development of the property portfolio.

10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 The proposal is not considered to have any detrimental gender implications.

11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

11.1 The proposal aligns to the strategic direction 'A trusted and high-performing organisation' ensuring Council's property and assets meet the needs of current and future generations.

12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

12.1 TIMELINE

12.1.1 If the Proposal is endorsed by Council:

- A notice will be published in the Victorian Government Gazette to formally discontinue the Road; and
- A contract of sale for the discontinued Road and transfer of the discontinued Road pursuant to section 207D of the Act will be prepared by Council's solicitors.

12.2 COMMUNICATION

12.2.1 The public notification process has provided the community with the opportunity to make submissions in respect of the Proposal. Having considered that no submissions were received, Council may now determine to discontinue and sell the Road.

12.2.2 The Purchaser will be advised of the final Council decision and the reasons for it within five (5) days of the Council meeting.

13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

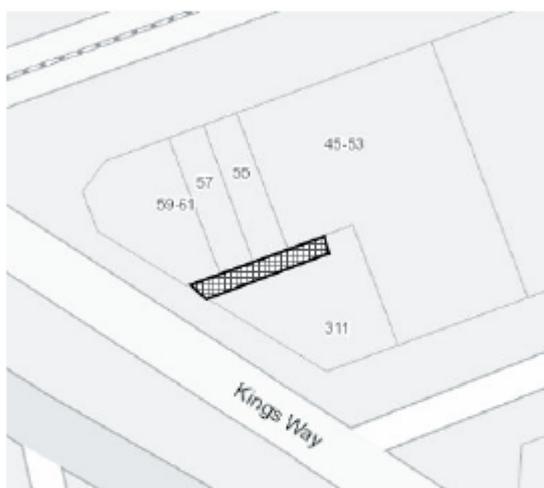
13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS 1. Kings Way Discontinuance - The Age Public Notice 



**PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE PART OF ROAD
R3052 ADJOINING 45-53, 55, 57, 59-61 PARK
STREET AND 311 KINGS WAY,
SOUTH MELBOURNE**

Port Phillip City Council ("Council") gives notice under section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* ("1989 Act") and section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* that Council proposes to discontinue road R3052 adjoining 45-53, 55, 57, 59-61 Park Street AND 311 Kings Way, South Melbourne VIC 3205, shown hatched on the plan below, and sell that land to an adjoining property owner.



Interested persons are invited to lodge a written submission on the proposal by 11.59pm on 4 January 2026.

Submissions should be submitted via Council's website or addressed to Kate Psomotragos and posted to Port Phillip City Council, Private Bag 3, St Kilda, VIC 3182. Submissions can also be hand delivered to 99A Carlisle Street, St Kilda VIC 3182.

All submissions will be considered in accordance with section 223 of the 1989 Act. No further community consultation will be undertaken.

Any person making a submission is entitled to request in the submission that the person wishes to appear in person, or to be represented by a person specified in the submission, at a meeting of Council or a Committee of Council at a date, time and place determined by Council.

Following consideration of submissions, Council may resolve not to discontinue the road or to discontinue the road and sell the land from that road.

Further information regarding the proposal can be obtained from Port Phillip City Council (Kate Psomotragos via email: property@portphillip.vic.gov.au).

CHRIS CARROLL
Chief Executive Officer



14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14.1 *Notice of Motion - Councillor Cunsolo - Hooning*..... 209

14.2 *Notice of Motion - Councillor Halliday - Public Active Transport Election
Commitments* 210



14.1

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR CUNSOLO - HOONING

I, Councillor Heather Cunsolo, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 04 March 2026:

That Council:-

1. Requests officers to advocate to the State Government of Victoria to:
 - 1.1 implement a noise camera trial in response to community concerns about anti-social behaviour and noisy vehicles building on the recent NSW approach to hooning.
 - 1.2 seek a partnership with Victoria Police, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria and Council to ensure a suitable anti-hooning trial be undertaken within City of Port Phillip at recognised hotspots.
2. Reaffirms its support for a contribution to an acoustic noise camera to be used within the City of Port Phillip.
3. Requests the Mayor write to Local MPs and relevant Ministers, relevant Shadow Cabinet Ministers and emerging State Election Candidates seeking action on hooning as per this resolution of Council.

Supporting Information

Hooning and dangerous driving continues to be a significant issue across the City of Port Phillip, undermining public safety and the amenity of local residents. Reports of dangerous driving and extreme vehicle noise — often exceeding EPA noise thresholds — remain persistent, particularly in residential areas such as Port Melbourne.

Council previously endorsed advocacy on anti-hooning initiatives in 2022, and this Motion reaffirms Council's support for practical, evidence based measures — including the exploration of new technologies already being trialled interstate.

Council reminds residents that hoon activity should be reported to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. When a hoon event is occurring, always call Triple Zero (000).

The Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association (BCNA), as a local residents group, has advocated strongly on this topic, highlighting that hooning not only disturbs residents' rest but also creates a sense of intimidation within the community. They have raised that excessive vehicle noise is more than a nuisance: the World Health Organization identifies environmental noise as a major health risk, contributing to sleep disturbance, cardiovascular stress, and mental health impacts, ranking second only to air pollution in its effect on quality of life.

Council also recognises the efforts of individual community members who have raised hooning with Council to improve the safety and amenity of their neighbourhoods.



14.2

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR HALLIDAY - PUBLIC
ACTIVE TRANSPORT ELECTION COMMITMENTS

I, Councillor Justin Halliday, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 04 March 2026:

That Council:

1. Advocates to relevant candidates contesting the 2026 Victorian State Government election to publicly commit to the delivery of priority public and active transport projects across Port Phillip.
2. Specifically advocates to candidates to commit to:
 - a. A clear and funded timeline for the delivery of the proposed tram lines and active transport links and bridges in Fishermans Bend, as outlined in the *Fishermans Bend Integrated Transport Plan*.
 - b. An increase in the frequency, reliability and capacity of the Route 606 bus service to improve reliability and meet current and future demand.
 - c. A clear and funded timeline for the delivery of a new high frequency bus service connecting Fishermans Bend with ANZAC Station, noting the ongoing delay in delivery of the Park Street Tram Link
 - d. An increase in the frequency and capacity of the 96 and 109 tram services to meet current and future demand.
 - e. A clear and funded timeline for the delivery of DDA compliant tram stops.
 - f. A clear and funded timeline for the delivery of state-significant cycling corridors, including:
 - i. St Kilda Road to Carlisle Street
 - ii. Kerferd Road, from Canterbury Road to Beaconsfield Parade and Albert Road, from Canterbury Road to ANZAC Station.
 - g. A clear and funded timeline for the delivery of the pedestrian crossings, including:
 - i. Active pedestrian crossing on Glenhuntly Rd at Elwood Canal
 - ii. Signalised crossing at Plummer St and Graham St, Port Melbourne.
 - h. A funded feasibility study into the delivery of a permanent pedestrian overpass on Queens Rd into Albert Park to investigate options to improve connectivity across.
 - i. A clear and funded timeline for the delivery of upgrades to the Kings Way/Albert Rd intersection to improve safety and connectivity to ANZAC Station.
 - j. Retain regular tram stopping patterns during the Grand Prix period, rather than express trams.



- k. Immediate implementation of the 40km/h speed limit through the Glen Eira Rd shopping area.
3. Requests the Mayor as a part of Council's broader election commitment campaign write to relevant declared State election candidates, relevant political parties, and ministers and shadow ministers outlining Council's expectations and seeking formal commitments to these projects.
4. Requests officers informally report back to Council on responses received from candidates and parties ahead of the 2026 State Government election.

Supporting Information

Ahead of the 2026 Victorian State Government election, Council calls on candidates from all political parties to commit to the delivery of key State Government public and active transport projects serving the City of Port Phillip, as documented in the *Victorian Government's Fishermans Bend Integrated Transport Plan* and as recommended by Infrastructure Victoria. This request aligns with Port Phillip's *Move, Connect, Live: Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028*, and with council's endorsed advocacy priorities.

Timely delivery of high-quality public and active transport infrastructure is essential to reduce congestion, support sustainable growth, and ensure liveability for existing and future communities across Port Phillip, and in Fishermans Bend specifically. Fishermans Bend is Australia's largest urban renewal area and will accommodate tens of thousands of new residents and jobs.

In recent years, the Victorian State Government has implemented significant planning reforms and sought density uplifts from the City of Port Phillip, substantially increasing anticipated population growth. These changes have been imposed through State planning processes, with limited local discretion, and have materially increased demand on the transport network.

Council considers that density uplift of this scale must be accompanied by the timely delivery of corresponding State Government transport infrastructure, as recommended by Infrastructure Victoria. Failure to align infrastructure provision with mandated growth risks worsening congestion, undermining public transport reliability, eroding the liveability of both new and existing communities, and reducing housing demand in areas that lack public and active transport infrastructure.



15. REPORTS BY COUNCILLOR DELEGATES

16. URGENT BUSINESS

17. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

17.1 *Collaborative HVHR - Parking Infringement Management Services*

17.2 *HR Solution Project*

17.3 *South Melbourne Town Hall – Funding and Contract Variation*

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to move into confidential to deal with the following matters pursuant to section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*:

17.1 Collaborative HVHR - Parking Infringement Management Services

3(1)(a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Reason: This report presents the findings of the Tender Evaluation Panel for the collaborative HVHR procurement conducted jointly with the Cities of Stonnington and Glen Eira. While the evaluation process was undertaken collaboratively, each Council is required to make its own independent decision regarding the tender outcome. To protect the integrity of the procurement process and prevent any Council's decision from influencing the others, this information must remain confidential until all three Councils have formally awarded the tender.

17.2 HR Solution Project

3(1)(a) Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Reason: This report is required to remain confidential as it forms part of an active procurement and tender process for selecting a new HR system. Releasing its contents at this stage could disadvantage Council and may compromise the integrity of Council's procurement activities.

17.3 South Melbourne Town Hall – Funding and Contract Variation

3(1)(a). Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Reason: This report contains contractual information, including project and construction contract contingency provisions, that if released at this time would disadvantage Council in its ability to manage its construction contract in the best interests of the community.