



Merri-bek City Council

Council Action Plan 2023-2024



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Merri-bek. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging, as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.

About this Council Action Plan

The Council Action Plan 2023-2024 supports implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025 for the third financial year of the 4-year period. It includes the specific actions to be taken during the third financial year in the implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025. All actions documented in the Council Action Plan 2023-2024 are resourced through the 2023-24 annual budget (included in the 2023-2027 Budget).

For years three and four, annual action planning and budget review will be carried out through an integrated process. Actions will be cascaded into service unit plans and individual work plans.

The Council Plan 2021-25 is set out under the following 5 themes:

- An environmentally proactive Merri-bek
- Moving and living safely in Merri-bek
- A healthy and caring Merri-bek
- Vibrant spaces and places in Merri-bek
- An empowered and collaborative Merri-bek

The Council Plan outlines 5 strategic objectives, one under each theme, which together represent the strategic direction of Council over the next four years for the implementation of the Community Vision.

The 5 strategic objectives are:

1. To strive for maximum protection of people's health, plants and animals through leading an urgent response to the climate emergency and a regeneration of our natural environment.
2. To contribute to the health, safety, and security of everyone living in our diverse community and to increase safe, accessible, physically active and enjoyable ways to get around Merri-bek, especially via walking, cycling and public transport.
3. To support Merri-bek to become a more inclusive, connected, healthy and caring community through providing equitable access to community facilities and services, facilitating local partnerships and programs, mitigating the effects of climate change and supporting the community to adapt and build climate resilience.
4. To create welcoming, unique spaces and places across Merri-bek that attract and connect everyone, improving access to community facilities and affordable housing and encouraging vibrant artistic, social and economic activity.
5. To build community trust through encouraging participation, evidence-based decision making, stewardship of resources and being accessible and responsive.

In achieving each strategic objective, the Council Plan 2021-2025 sets out:

- Strategies: 47 primary methods through which the objectives will be achieved over the next four years;
- Major Initiatives and Priorities: 49 critical pieces of work underpinning delivery of the Council Plan;
- Strategic Indicators: Measures to monitor progress against the objectives; and
- Related Strategies and Plans: Other strategic planning documents that will support delivery of the Council Plan.

We have included the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) in the Council Plan. The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (PHWA) requires local government to develop a MPHWP every 4 years, based on an analysis of health and wellbeing in the municipality. Throughout the Council Action Plan 2023-2024, we have used 🍏 to signify actions that deliver against those health and wellbeing priorities identified in the Council Plan.

To demonstrate strategic integration of our climate response as required under the Climate Change Act 2017, throughout this plan we have used 🌐 to signify climate change related priorities.

There is a total of 90 actions in this year's plan.

Theme 1: An environmentally proactive Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
1	Continue to implement Zero Carbon Merri-bek Climate Emergency Action Plan 🍏🌐	1.1	1, 7	Place and Environment
2	Continue to deliver Integrated Behaviour Change Program including the Ride and Stride program with participating primary schools 🍏🌐	1.1	1	Place and Environment
3	Urban forest strategy – continue the implementation of annual tree planting program including identifying ways to support the community to preserve and plant new trees on private and public land 🍏🌐	1.2	4	City Infrastructure
7	Continue to develop the Open Space Strategy – The Strategy will assist with identifying priorities for new and expanded open space and for decision-making about the use of open space 🍏🌐	1.3	3	City Infrastructure
11	Continue to implement Yarra and Maribyrnong Catchment Scale Integrated Water Management plans and achieve 2030 targets 🍏🌐	1.5	5	Place and Environment
14	Continue implementing Zero Waste (and plastic wise) Community and Council (Festivals, events, facilities) initiatives 🌐	1.6	2	Place and Environment
120	Continue to implement the reformed kerbside waste service 🌐	1.6	2	City Infrastructure
122	Continue to implement the Nature Plan 🍏🌐	1.3	3	City Infrastructure
123	Continue to improve safety and thermal comfort of low-income residents at home through solar and energy efficiency subsidies 🌐	1.1	1	Place and Environment
161	Construction of Dunstan Reserve (Brunswick West) stormwater harvesting system, subject to external funding 🌐	1.5	5	Place and Environment
162	Develop place-based action plans for delivery of IWM outcomes for the remaining 9 sub-catchments 🌐	1.5	5	Place and Environment
163	Develop a Governance structure and operations to oversee the Community Food Hub in the north 🍏	1.8	6	Community
164	Investigate opportunities for Neighbourhood and Community Batteries, including grant applications 🌐	1.1	7,1	Place and Environment

Theme 2: Moving and living safely in Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
18	Continue to update transport strategy in consultation with the community 🍏 🌐	2.1	8	City Infrastructure
19	Continue to undertake community engagement and seek adoption of a revised parking management policy with a precinct-by-precinct approach	2.6	8	City Infrastructure
27	Continue to advocate to improve public and sustainable transport capacity and equitable access across Merri-bek 🍏 🌐	2.3	12	Chief Executive
165	Deliver roads and car park capital works renewal program 🌐	3.1	10	City Infrastructure
166	Deliver road resurfacing capital works program 🌐	3.1	10	City Infrastructure
167	Deliver active travel capital works program 🍏 🌐	2.1	9	City Infrastructure
196	Re-design and obtain approvals for shared paths in Stages 2 and 3 of the Craigieburn Rail Corridor and advocate for construction funding 🍏 🌐	2.1	11	City Infrastructure

Theme 3: A healthy and caring Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
34	Continue to plan and deliver Early Years Infrastructure Projects as listed in the 5-year Capital Works Program 🍏	3.1	20	Community
38	Continue to progress the Fawkner Leisure Centre upgrade 🍏	3.3	17	City Infrastructure
40	Continue to implement the Hosken Reserve masterplan 🍏	3.3	N/A	City Infrastructure
48	Continue to implement the Social Cohesion Plan 🍏	3.5	23	Community
49	Continue to conduct navigation pilot - Aged Well planning to support older people to access services 🍏	3.5	24	Community
50	Continue to implement and improve new outdoor help and services for older people 🍏	3.5	24	Community
52	Continue to implement the First People's Employment Plan 🍏	3.6	N/A	Business Transformation
53	Continue to work with community and partners to raise awareness of First Nations communities, reconciliation and Treaty 🍏	3.6	N/A	Community
55	Continue education around tobacco related harm and enforcement of tobacco regulation 🍏	3.7	N/A	Place and Environment
126	Continue to implement actions of the Children, Young People and Families Plan 🍏	3.1	21	Community
127	Continue to assess climate risk for priority Council infrastructure 🍏 🌐	3.2	15	Place and Environment
128	Continue to deliver Libraries After Dark program to reduce gambling harm 🍏	3.7	34	Community
131	Continue to implement the Gender Equity Action Plan 🍏	3.8	47	Business Transformation
168	Implement the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to meet the requirements of the Disability Act 2006 🍏	3.5	22	Community
169	Continue to advance identified priorities under Council's Gender Equality Commitment 🍏	3.8	N/A	Community
170	Partner with healthy eating advisory services to adapt a healthy eating framework for community and sporting clubs to implement 🍏	3.9	N/A	Community
171	Implement the Human Rights Plan 🍏	3.5	N/A	Community
172	Implement Year 3 Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 🍏	3.3	N/A	Community
173	Implement Climate Risk Action Plan 🍏 🌐	3.2	15, 16	Place and Environment
174	Address key factors affecting mental health and community resilience through collaborations at service provider networks and partnerships with community sector agencies and organisation 🍏	3.4	N/A	Community
175	Advocate for support to realise the Ballerit Mooroop Community Hub 🍏	3.6	19	Community
176	Advocate for gambling harm prevention including focus on community sports setting and young people 🍏	3.7	N/A	Community

178	Establish homelessness assertive outreach program and service coordination with local homelessness and community service providers 🍏	3.11	N/A	Community
179	Implement Digital Inclusion Plan across Merri-bek 🍏	3.12	N/A	Community
180	Pilot Library Social Worker to support community wellbeing 🍏	3.4	34	Community
181	Implement the LGBTIQ+ Action Plan with key stakeholders and continue to convene the LGBTIQ+ Reference Group 🍏	3.5	N/A	Community

Theme 4: Vibrant spaces and places in Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
75	Public toilet project pipeline - Council to adopt principles for design and location of public toilets and then identify and prioritise locations for new and upgraded public toilets 🍏	4.5	32	City Infrastructure
76	Continue to support Merri-bek Affordable Housing Ltd partnership 🍏	4.7	27	Place and Environment
80	Continue to advocate for zero carbon in the planning scheme through the Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environments (CASBE) 🍏🌐	4.8	28	Place and Environment
82	Continue to review Neighbourhood Character provisions in the planning scheme 🍏🌐	4.8	29	Place and Environment
84	Continue to carry out research, technical studies, strategic planning, partnership building, engagement planning and affordable housing, to guide the future of central Coburg 🍏	4.9	25	Place and Environment
94	Continue to integrate and implement business development programs into the Shopping Strip Renewal Program (SSRP) 🍏	4.10	30	Place and Environment
96	Continue to scale up and implement adaptive training and support programs for micro and small businesses 🍏	4.10	N/A	Place and Environment
97	Continue to develop and support the Love Merri-bek Buy Local campaign 🍏	4.10	N/A	Place and Environment
98	Collaborate with local traders, residents, agencies and creatives, develop and implement an activation program for Brunswick 🍏	4.11	31	Place and Environment
99	Collaborate with local traders, residents, agencies and creatives, develop and implement an activation program for Glenroy 🍏	4.11	31	Place and Environment
100	Collaborate with local traders, residents, agencies and creatives, develop and implement an activation program for Coburg 🍏	4.11	31	Place and Environment
108	Continue to implement key visitor attraction activities	4.11	39	Place and Environment
133	Continue RenuWall graffiti intervention program	4.3	N/A	Community
134	Continue to commence preparation of a new Development Contributions Plan	4.1	46	Place and Environment
136	Continue to review service levels for responding to public realm amenity customer requests	4.5	32	City Infrastructure
144	Commence Detailed Design for West Street streetscape renewal 🍏🌐	4.9	30	Place and Environment
145	Commence construction of Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement 🍏🌐	4.9	30	Place and Environment
146	Commence construction of the Stewart Street Brunswick streetscape improvement 🍏🌐	4.9	30	Place and Environment

147	Continue to commence preparation of a Planning Scheme amendment for an Activity Centre Zone for the Brunswick Activity Centre 🍏	4.9	31	Place and Environment
148	Continue to formalise stormwater drainage modelling within the Planning Scheme 🌐	4.8	29	Place and Environment
149	Continue the proactive planning enforcement program by auditing approximately 80+ development projects for compliance with planning permits	4.8	N/A	Place and Environment
150	Continue the Cladding Rectification Project seeking resolution of moderate and low risk buildings with suspected combustible cladding	4.3	N/A	Place and Environment
152	Continue to implement the affordable housing action plan 🍏	4.7	27	Place and Environment
153	Continue to complete development plans for the construction of a new storage annex, refurbishment of the Coburg Historical Society Bluestone Cottage and creation of a heritage garden in consultation with Historical Society. 🍏	4.4	N/A	Community
182	Through the Brunswick Design District partnership, work creatively to elevate Brunswick's profile as a design district and create an environment that attracts and supports the ongoing growth of design enterprises within the district 🍏	4.1	37	Place and Environment
183	Implement two key activities to support business and job growth within Merri-bek's key (e.g. top 5) and/or emerging industry sectors	4.10	N/A	Place and Environment
184	Develop a new Economic Development Action Plan to guide Council's economic development-related work over future years	4.10	N/A	Place and Environment
185	Liaise with and advocate to the State Government to maximise good design and delivery outcomes for the Brunswick level crossing removals 🍏	4.9	12	Place and Environment
186	Commence concept design for Louisa Street Coburg Streetscape improvement 🍏🌐	4.9	30	Place and Environment
187	Commence construction for 260 Sydney Road Brunswick (Park Close To Home) 🍏🌐	4.9	30	Place and Environment
188	Commence construction of the Saxon Street Brunswick facility and open space 🍏🌐	4.9	26	City Infrastructure
189	Deliver library events in line with Community Programs Framework to support wellbeing and learning outcomes 🍏	4.11	34	Community
190	Deliver Annual Arts and Culture Festivals program 🍏	4.11	36	Community
191	Deliver Arts investment grant	4.11	35	Community
192	Finalise and implement new integrated Arts & Culture strategy 🍏	4.11	35	Community
193	Local History Maintenance & Conservation: deliver Heritage and Local History Action Plan implementation plan items	4.1	N/A	Community

Theme 5: An empowered and collaborative Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
109	Continue to deliver the Community Engagement Policy implementation plan 🍏	5.3	40	Community
113	Community at the HEART* 🍏 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop efficiencies and understand pain points by conducting customer journey and service process mapping, learning from and listening to customer feedback and complaints Continue to improve customer communication channels Continue to implement the continuous improvement program including initiatives under Community at the Heart 	5.4	42	Community Business Transformation
115	Continue to deliver advocacy campaigns that support council priorities 🍏🌐	5.5	49	Chief Executive
156	Continue to support the CALD Merri-bek connectors community engagement program to improve access to information and services 🍏	5.2	48	Community
157	Continue to build capability and develop staff to improve customer experience 🍏	5.4	42	Community
158	Continue to undertake a feasibility analysis to determine land and construction costs, funding sources and prioritisation of expenditure to inform developer contributions	5.6	43	Place and Environment
159	Continue to deliver the Accessible and Inclusive Communications Policy Implementation plan (2021-2024) 🍏	5.2	48	Community
194	Continue the phased implementation of the Merri-bek name change	N/A	N/A	Community
195	Annual review of 10-year Financial plan alongside 4-budget review	5.7	44	Business Transformation

* Community at the HEART (Helpful, Engaged, Accountable, Respectful, Timely)

Our Merri-bek Promise is our shared commitment to the community and how we work better together. We want to put the community at the heart of everything we do.

We will ensure our staff are supported make the Our Merri-bek Promise a reality, with tracking and reporting to help us understand how we are doing, to ensure we are constantly improving and evolving.