

YARRA 2021: OUR CITY AT A GLANCE

Yarra has undergone considerable change in the past 30 years and this will continue as Melbourne's population grows. Council needs to take this into account as it plans for the future.

WHAT'S CHANGING?

Density

Our population has grown from a low of 54,000 in 1990 to 88,000 in 2015. It's predicted to grow a further 33% by 2036. This will require an additional 15,900 new dwellings, which is an increase of almost 50%.

Demographics

Our residents are getting younger, households are becoming smaller, and there are fewer people who speak language other than English at home.

Economy

The number of jobs in Yarra is expected to double to 140,000 in the next 15 years.

YARRA AT A GLANCE

- The median age is 33.7
- Almost a third of residents were born overseas and nearly a quarter speak a language other than English at home
- 11% of households live in social housing (the highest proportion in Victoria)
- A third of households earn over \$2,500 per week, more than one quarter earn less than \$400 per week.
- 50% of residents are renters
- 86% of Yarra's workers live outside the municipality

COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Health and wellbeing

Local government plays an important role in supporting the health and wellbeing of the community by providing:

- community services such as maternal and child health, youth services and libraries
- recreational facilities including leisure centres, parks and open space
- public health services such as food premises inspections and waste collection
- infrastructure services such as maintenance of roads, footpaths and drainage, and street cleaning



Environment

We have a responsibility to protect its natural environmental assets from the impacts of urban densification.

The impacts of climate change are being felt strongly now. Our community expects Council to take action to reduce its own environmental impact and to advocate for legislative change.

Vulnerable residents

With the shifting nature of Yarra's gentrification, the marginalisation of residents without education, resources or access to technologies is an ongoing issue and one in which Yarra services, such as libraries and neighbourhood houses, can help bridge the gap.

YARRA'S TOP 6

The top six neighbourhood characteristics that are important to Yarra residents are:

1. Proximity to public transport
2. Plentiful parks and open spaces
3. The variety of shops, cafes and restaurants
4. Ability to walk or cycle to meet daily needs
5. Character of the buildings
6. Access to health and social services

CHALLENGES FOR COUNCIL

Managing growth while maintaining amenity

This includes planning for an appropriate mix of land use and a diverse range of housing, while ensuring minimal impact on amenity and environment.

Supporting community safety and wellbeing

Key issues that have wide social impacts include high rates of drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness and mental health issues and increasing rates of family violence.

YARRA'S IDENTITY

Yarra is renowned for its dynamic mix of retail, hospitality, art and entertainment.

Its parklands offer a welcome buffer to high density living, and its heritage buildings are central to its character.

Fitzroy and Collingwood have historical significance for the Aboriginal community as they were a major hub of social and political activity. Other areas retain their unique cultural identity, such as Victoria Street, with its strong Vietnamese and Chinese connections.



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