

Expectations

- Exciting opportunity to do the deep dive!
- Learn as much as you can.
- Understand your own assumptions and allow them to be challenged.
- Diversity is good - listen and acknowledge different perspectives.
- Tables are self-managed today, but tell us if you're having troubles - we're here to help.



Expectations

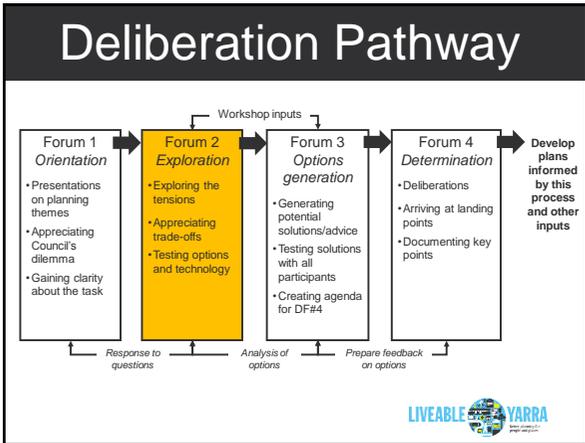
- Make sure you give us feedback, questions and comments (**BRIGHT PINK SHEETS**).
- Focus energy on the questions to be answered - easy to go down rabbit holes that may not help you...Help us stick to the timeframe.



Where we are in the deliberative process

Max Hardy





Activity #1

→ Sharing your thoughts

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At your tables

Get to know your table members, and discuss:

1. Your reflections from the first session
2. Your notes and homework from between sessions

Nominate a table member to report back to the room some of the common or interesting reflections from your table.

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Key issues discussion

Bruce Phillips



The central questions:

- How might Council make the most of its planning controls to best serve the City of Yarra?
- What is the future Yarra we want?

Council's challenge:

- When there are competing objectives, how should these be balanced?
- What are the values and principles that the community want to come through in decision making?



Project scope

1. The Scheme, and this project should consider a 15-20 year project horizon
2. Council has limited influence over population growth



Transport – role & influence

1. Council is heavily involved with planning and delivering many transport projects and programs
2. Council regularly engages with State and other Councils regarding transport planning
3. Council has a role in determining design/ functionality of different streets



Transport – potential solutions

1. Providing real and viable alternatives to car use
2. There are a range of ways to improve cycling
3. Land use responses – living closer to activities – can impact trips
4. A clear understanding of transport priorities, and implications, is crucial



Infrastructure

1. Council plans for a range of community and social infrastructure
2. Council also works with developers on major developments to provide infrastructure that is required
3. Open space is part of this process



Housing

1. There are no formal targets for housing, but important that Yarra 'plays it's role'
2. Providing clearer direction on places to accommodate growth will support better outcomes
3. Accessible housing design raised by advisory committees



Housing Affordability

1. There is a distinction between social/ public housing and more affordable housing
2. Housing affordability is an issue raised by
 1. the disability sector, also noting the importance of accessible design
 2. The creative sector, where long term housing for rent is crucial
 3. The health sector – diversity important for social cohesion
3. There are ways Council can support the delivery of social/ public housing, in some circumstances
4. Social and Affordable Housing Strategy - 2015



Local Economy

1. Local economic activity provides:
 1. Local jobs
 2. Access to services
 3. Sharing of resources
2. The health sector in Yarra:
 1. Provides employment opportunities
 2. Supports other facilities and services
 3. Has limited impact on traffic and congestion
3. Retaining spaces for commercial and creative activities is important



Activity Centres

1. Having paid parking encourages use of parking space by people who value it the most
2. There are formal boundaries for a few activity centres
3. Bridge Road has a lot of vacancies due to a range of factors:
 1. Competition from other locations
 2. It's specialized nature
 3. Decisions made by businesses



Planning process

1. Council reviews zoning as part of spatial planning and policy development
2. Council assesses and makes decisions on specific developments according to the Planning Scheme
3. Advisory committee feedback
 1. Elevate Heritage as a consideration, and avoid 'facadism' – keeping only façade
 2. Disability - consider accessibility and adaptability of buildings



Sustainability

1. Yarra is a leading Council in terms of sustainability
2. There are currently a range of measures to encourage sustainable design in developments



Advisory Committees

Liz Mackevicius



Feedback & Input

- Disability
- Business
- Heritage
- Health
- Early Years
- Arts
- Property
- Aboriginal
- Bicycle
- Urban Agriculture
- Environment
- Active Ageing
- Youth



Feedback & Input

- ✓ Disability
- ✓ Business
- ✓ Heritage
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Early Years
- ✓ Arts
- ✓ Property
- Aboriginal
- Bicycle
- Urban Agriculture
- Environment
- Active Ageing
- Youth



Disability

1. There needs to be housing which is affordable and accessible so disabled people can continue to live in Yarra, near their networks and support services, and visit friends and family.
2. The way buildings and transport are designed should be improved so people with disability can live their day to day lives in Yarra.
3. Implement a process for assessing universal access for all new developments. This could be similar to the sustainability assessment tool.



Business

1. Support an ongoing mix of uses in Yarra, including spaces for business incubation and true mixed use developments
2. The planning system needs to deliver improved outcomes which are in line with an overall vision. For example, if good design is desired then allow taller buildings, if more co working/ smaller spaces then make it easier to create these spaces.
3. Placemaking approach to activity centres to prioritise people but still function for businesses through a variety of forms of transport



Heritage

1. Identify sites suitable for development that do not threaten heritage sensitive buildings and streetscapes
2. Elevate the importance of heritage considerations when assessing development applications and in planning, and develop guidelines accordingly
3. Avoid 'facadism' or at least pay greater attention to set-backs when development occurs behind heritage facades



Health

1. Health should be considered in all Council policies, rather than a 'stand alone' policy
2. Having a mix of dwellings is key – type, ownership etc – to ensure social cohesion
3. Better monitoring with indicators should inform policies and decision making



Early Years

1. Improve safety for children around public transport, bikes, river corridors
2. Increase access to, and provision of, natural open space for childcare centres and kindergartens, using the 'bush kinder' model
3. Community engagement about playgrounds and spaces for children should directly include children



Arts

1. Supporting long term affordable creative spaces and housing for artists is important to ensure the sector can remain in Yarra.
2. Protect Commercial 2 Zoned land so create spaces aren't lost to residential development
3. Review how developer contributions work for providing art or art spaces



Property

1. A better dialogue between developers, Councillors and the community would result in better outcomes for everyone
2. Focus on heights can result in less than ideal design outcomes and reduce the diversity of dwelling types that can be accommodated in Yarra
3. Approval process is too politicized, with applications being refused by Councillors then supported at VCAT, costing applicants and Council significant amounts of money



Summary of tensions

- Sometimes improving active and sustainable forms of transport means we need to reduce on street parking
- Sometimes keeping heritage means it is difficult to implement accessibility and sustainability principles
- Sometimes allowing housing development in commercial areas can limit spaces for creative industries
- Sometimes limits on building heights means it is more difficult to provide diverse housing (eg 3 bedroom townhouses)



BREAK

(morning tea, 20 minutes)



Activity #2

→ Identifying the planning challenge for Yarra



At your tables

Address the following:

1. Respond to the prompts provided
2. Use the matrix to map challenges using post-it notes

Nominate a table member to report back to the room some of the common or interesting reflections from your table.



Progress report

Tables to share their responses with the room



Activity #3

→ Listing what Council could do



At your tables

Address the following:

1. Select 1 or 2 of the key challenges from Activity #2
2. Identify possible actions that Council could undertake to address this challenge, record this on the activity sheet.
3. Select the action your table would most like to share and test with the room.



BREAK

(Lunch at tables, 15 minutes)



Activity #4

→ Testing support for the actions



As a group

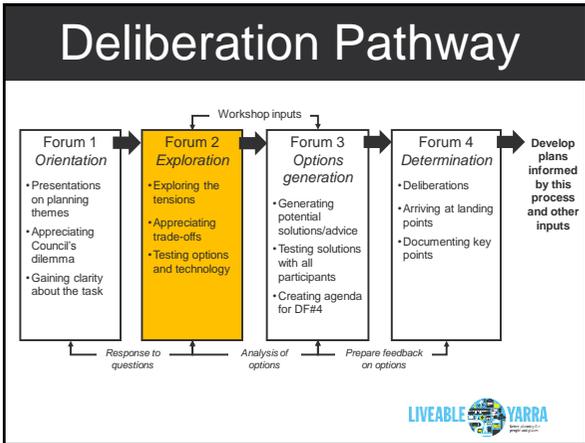
1. Actions will be presented through an online tool.
2. Consider each action, and identify your level of support for an action by voting.
3. How to vote instructions are included in your information packs and can be done using a phone or one of the iPads supplied.



Reflections

Max Hardy





Wrap up

Max Hardy

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THANK YOU!

See you back here on
Saturday, September 5th, 9am-1pm

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