

About Moreland

Here we talk about the City of Moreland, how we are meeting the challenges we face and our focus for the future.

Moreland is a diverse and vibrant municipality located between 4km and 14km north of central Melbourne.

Moreland covers the suburbs of:

- Brunswick
- Brunswick East
- Brunswick West
- Pascoe Vale
- Pascoe Vale South
- Coburg
- Coburg North
- Hadfield
- Fawkner
- Glenroy
- Oak Park
- Gowanbrae
- small sections of Fitzroy North and Tullamarine.

Moreland is bordered by Merri Creek to the east, Moonee Ponds Creek to the west, Park Street to the south and the Western Ring Road to the north.

Population, growth and the impacts

In recent years, Greater Melbourne has grown rapidly. Moreland is one of the fastest growing municipalities outside of Melbourne's growth areas.

In the last 15 years, Moreland's population has grown by nearly a third (32%). It has increased from 140,872 in 2006 to an estimated 185,767 in 2019¹.

The reasons for this growing population in Greater Melbourne and Moreland are:

- migration from overseas
- increased life expectancy
- a growth in births.

Looking forward, as Greater Melbourne is forecast to grow, so is Moreland. Our population forecasts suggest our population will grow by another 23% by 2036². It will see our population increase to 228,425. That's an extra 42,658 future residents.

We are continuing to plan for the services needed to support these new residents, and the greater pressure on infrastructure. We have strategies on the key challenges facing Moreland:

- transport and how we move around our city
- maintaining and increasing parks and open spaces

- reaching our zero carbon targets by 2040
- housing accessibility and affordability.

We are working for the best possible planning outcomes for our community. We are focusing on:

- higher quality building design
- increased canopy tree planting
- redevelopment that maintains or increases local employment opportunities
- protecting our valued heritage places.

We have invested in more planning enforcement officers. They are proactively auditing sites to ensure the following outcomes are delivered:

- improved design
- environmental sustainability
- more canopy trees
- fully accessible housing.

The Moreland Design Excellence Scorecard is one way we are encouraging better quality development. Our scorecard goes beyond the acceptable standards of the planning scheme to deliver additional community benefits.

Note: population forecasts are from before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Diversity

Moreland has a long history of welcoming new residents from all over the world.

In the post-war period, migrants from Italy and Greece made up most of the city's new residents. Today, the largest groups of new arrivals are from India, Pakistan and China³.

These changing migration patterns contribute to a vibrant community of residents and businesses. Today over 1 in 3 residents in Moreland were born overseas, in more than 100 countries around the world³. At home, residents are most likely to speak Italian, Arabic, Greek or Urdu if not speaking English. As many as 140 different languages can be heard across the community³.

People of all ages live in Moreland. But we have a slightly younger median age (34 years) when compared with Greater Melbourne³.

The largest age group in Moreland is 25 to 34-year-olds. They make up 22% of our total population. The city is also home to approximately 30,000 young people under 18 years and over 22,000 people 65 years and older³.

Housing

Families make up the largest proportion of households in the city (37%). Many Moreland residents choose to live in homes with friends and housemates³. The proportion of these group households is higher than the metropolitan average (9% compared with 5% in Greater Melbourne).

More than 1 in 4 homes in Moreland are people living alone³. Population forecasts suggest this will increase to 28% of all homes by 2036. This will make single households the largest household type in Moreland.

Over half of households in Moreland are owner occupied or in the process of being purchased. But a growing number of households rent. In 2016, over 1 in 3 Moreland homes were rented. This is higher than the Greater Melbourne average (33% compared with 26%)³.

Renting is not only common among young people. An increasing number of families are living in rental accommodation. Between 2006 and 2016 there was a rise in the proportion of renters across nearly all age groups⁴.

Moreland has also seen a large rise in townhouse and apartment living in recent years (in 2016, 44% of all homes). Increasingly, all types of households are living in these homes, including families⁴.

Business and economy

Moreland is home to a vibrant community of local businesses and employment opportunities.

Moreland was an early industrial centre but its economy has changed over the years. Residents were historically much more likely to work in manufacturing. Today, the health and service sectors are our largest employers⁵. Moreland is also the proud home to a vibrant creative sector, supporting a wide range of arts and cultural activities⁶.

Transport

Population growth has the potential to adversely affect the liveability of Moreland. This is through worsening congestion, pedestrian safety and amenity. Transport also accounts for more than one quarter of carbon emissions in Moreland^{7,10}.

Our community gets to and from work, and around the city, in a variety of ways:

- Over half of workers travel to work by private vehicle, as either a driver or a passenger.
- Just over 1 in 3 residents use public transport (train, tram or bus) for their work trips.
- Another 10% of people either use a bike (7%) or walk (3%)⁷.

Getting people where they need to be for work, education or leisure as sustainably as possible is a key challenge for Moreland.

Open space

Moreland's major public open spaces include the Merri Creek Linear Park, the Coburg Lake Reserve and the CB Smith Reserve.

But we have one of the lowest rates of open space per person (40 sqm) in the Metropolitan area⁷. There are parts of Moreland where residents do not have access to public open space that they can walk to.

Forecast population growth will continue to put pressure on access to open space. Plans like our A Park Close to Home initiative are helping ensure all residents have access to quality open space close to where they work, live and play.

Climate emergency

Climate change is a dangerous threat to life. We are already experiencing hotter summer days, more frequent floods and droughts. Climate change is a risk to our health and wellbeing, and the economy, not just the environment.

Moreland is proud to be a leader in taking action against, and responding to, climate change. Our Zero Carbon Moreland 2040 Framework sets the vision and pathways for zero carbon emissions across our community by 2040¹⁰.

Moreland is particularly susceptible to heat building up in our urban areas due to climate change. This is due to:

- the number of solid surfaces in places like our shopping strips
- low levels of tree and vegetation cover
- rapid urban densification that has occurred over the last 15 years.

This type of urban heat places significant stress on vulnerable members of our community.

Tree canopy cover in Moreland is one of the lowest in the metropolitan area. We have 14% tree canopy cover compared to 17% in neighbouring Darebin and 19% in Yarra. There has been a decline in trees on private land in recent years. This is largely from the high rates of housing development. We are working to counter this decline by increasing canopy cover in public areas, through our Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2027.

Burning fossil fuels for energy is the largest source of carbon emissions for the Moreland community. Moreland's emissions come from:

- electricity (42%)
- transport (26%)
- wastewater (16%)
- gas (11%)
- solid waste (6%).

It is up to all of us to work together to be part of the solution to climate change. This includes demanding state and federal governments put in place policies to enable Australia to transition to a zero-carbon future.

COVID-19 and other financial impacts

We have outlined the impact of COVID-19 on our services in the section 'COVID-19: how we were affected' from page 24. The pandemic will also have a long-term impact on our financial position. This is in part because of its significant impact on our revenue and the likelihood the economy will be in recession. As a provider of front-line community support, we also seek to respond to those in need, which will be challenging to fund.

The State Government's rate cap has continued to put financial pressure on our budget. Our total revenue from rates is capped at a 2% increase for the 2020-21 financial year. The rate cap poses financial challenges as costs often increase at a higher rate than the cap. But we are committed to delivering council services within these constraints.

Recycling

In February 2020, the State Government outlined that a new 4-stream waste and recycling system will be rolled out in partnership with Victorian councils. This is to:

- improve the quality of material collected at the kerbside
- reduce waste being sent to landfill.

Councils have until 2027 to introduce the new glass service (purple bin) and until 2030 to introduce a food and garden organics service (part of the green bin).

We are already rolling out our opt-in food and garden organics collection service. This will be followed by a new separate glass service for all households by early 2022.

Through our partnership with Visy Recycling, no recyclable material collected from the kerbside is going to landfill.

Aged care

We are committed to supporting our older residents to live and age well. And to remain living independently at home for as long as possible. This has continued as our community moved to the My

Aged Care system. Challenges remain in supporting those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and others who may struggle to navigate the new system.

We are focussed on supporting older residents to be connected to their community. This is part of the implementation of our Living and Ageing Well Framework.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety is having an impact on aged care services at all levels of government. We have been granted funding until June 2022 for services and aged care assessments. This was an extension to previous arrangements.

We are looking at innovative ways to provide services as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. We want older community members to be able to stay connected and receive the services they need.

New local government act

The State Government has described the *Local Government Act 2020* (the 'Act') as the most ambitious and comprehensive reform of local government in Victoria for 30 years. The new Act began replacing the *Local Government Act 1989* on 1 May 2020.

The new Act touches on many different areas of our work. Please read more in the 'Statutory Information' section of this report from page 156.

Sources

- 1 Estimated Resident Population (ERP) City of Moreland, ID Consulting 2019, <http://profile.id.com/moreland/population-estimate>
- 2 Population projections for Moreland, ID Consulting 2017, <http://forecast.id.com.au/moreland>
- 3 2016 Census of Population and Housing, Australian Bureau of Statistics
- 4 A Home in Moreland Report, ID Consulting 2018
- 5 City of Moreland Thematic History, Historica 2010, <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/globalassets/areas/strategic-planning/moreland-thematic-history.pdf>
- 6 2017-2022 Arts and Culture Strategy, Moreland City Council 2017
- 7 Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy 2019, GTA Consultants 2019
- 8 Open Space Strategy 2012-2022, Moreland City Council 2012
- 9 Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2027, Moreland City Council 2017
- 10 Zero Carbon Moreland Framework 2040, Moreland City Council 2019