

Message from the Mayor



Mayor Cr Annalivia
Carli Hannan

Welcome to Moreland City Council's Council Plan 2021-2025. This plan represents our vision for the future of the City of Moreland and sets out our strategic direction over the next 4 years.

This Council Plan is the first we have created under the new *Local Government Act 2020*. The new Act sets out Council's requirements to deliver a Community Vision, Council Plan, 4-Year Budget, 10-Year Financial Plan and 10-Year Asset Plan, shaped and informed through a deliberative engagement process. The Council Plan is shaped by our long-term community vision. It reflects the breadth of experiences, diversity and desires of our community and guides our most important projects.

The plan also responds to the changing needs of Moreland's community. In the past 15 years, Moreland's population has grown by almost a third (32%). It is now estimated at 185,767 people. Our population includes 1 in 3 residents born overseas and 22% are aged between 25 and 34. Our community's needs and expectations are growing and changing and we need to be adaptable to serve our community better.

This Council Plan is informed by extensive community consultation. During February and March 2021, we called on the community to help shape the Council Plan through a wide-reaching engagement program. We spoke to community members from many different backgrounds and gained a true insight into what our community wanted Council to achieve over the next 4 years. Between April and June, we hosted a community panel to help inform the strategic objectives and initiatives in the Council Plan. The panel comprised 44 randomly selected community members which formed a representative sample of our community. This deliberative engagement process revealed what our community's needs are and what our priorities should be. It was wonderful to see the community come together to delve deep into the issues and challenges facing the City of Moreland and for the community to identify what is important to them.

This plan was also developed at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has affected the global population and we are still yet to see what the long-term impacts will be on our health, our neighbourhoods and our local economy. It is now more important than ever that we strategically plan for the health and wellbeing of our community and ensure we foster a sense of belonging and connection. This includes planning our critical services for people of all ages including early years services, youth services and services for older people. For the first time at Moreland, we have included the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) in the Council Plan. We recognise that health is not just shaped by individual circumstances but also shaped by wider social, environmental and economic factors.

We have learned through Covid-19 that we are highly adaptable and can quickly respond and cater to the changing needs of our community. We also need to address and adapt to climate change and be environmentally proactive. We have committed to working together with residents, schools and local businesses to minimise waste to landfill and to reduce carbon emissions. Other strategic objectives in the plan address moving and living safely in Moreland, supporting vibrant and liveable places and spaces, and engaging with and collaborating with our community.

The Council Plan will be supported by an annual action plan and budget, which provides more detail into how we are going to achieve the strategic objectives in the plan. I am proud to present to you this plan and look forward to working with the community closely over the next 4 years to bring this plan to life.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Hannan'.

Mayor of City of Moreland, 2020-2021