



# Merri-bek City Council

# Council Action Plan 2024-2025



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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.

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## About this Council Action Plan

The Council Action Plan 2024-2025 supports implementation of the Council Plan 2021-2025 for the fourth financial year of the 4-year period. All actions documented in the Council Action Plan 2024-2025 are resourced through the 2024-2025 annual budget (included in the 2024-2028 Budget).

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 2024-2025, 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 64 actions in this year's draft plan.

## Theme 1: An environmentally proactive Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
1	Continue to implement the Zero Carbon Merri-bek Climate Emergency Action Plan and develop new Zero Carbon Merri-bek Action Plan to commence 2025 🍏🌐	1.1	1, 7	Place and Environment
2	Continue the delivery of the Integrated Behaviour Change Program including the Ride and Stride program with schools 🍏🌐	1.1	1	Place and Environment
3	Urban forest strategy – 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
14	Continue the implementation of the Plastic Wise Policy for community and council initiatives, including festivals, events and facilities 🌐	1.6	2	Place and Environment
120	Continue to implement the reformed kerbside waste service 🌐	1.6	2	City Infrastructure
123	Continue to deliver improved safety and thermal comfort of low-income residents at home through solar and energy efficiency subsidies initiative 🌐	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
164	Community and Neighbourhood Batteries - deploy the Brunswick Community Battery and continue investigation of locations and commercial models for potential future neighbourhood batteries 🌐	1.1	7,1	Place and Environment
198	Undertake feasibility and detailed design of stormwater harvesting/wetlands sites at; De Chene Reserve, Coburg, Oak Park Reserve, Oak Park and CB Smith, Reserve, Fawkner in order to deliver on the Integrated Water Management Strategy 2040 outcomes 🌐	1.5	5	Place and Environment
199	Development of a Circular Economy Strategy: Towards a Zero Waste Merri-bek 🌐	1.6	2	Place and Environment
200	Develop new Integrated Water Management Action Plan, including priority actions from Yarra and Maribyrnong IWM Forums, to commence in 2025 🌐	1.5	5	Place and Environment
201	Develop new Open Space Strategy Action Plan to commence in 2025 🍏🌐	1.1	1	City Infrastructure
202	Develop new Merri-bek Nature Plan Action Plan to commence in 2025 🍏🌐	1.3	3	City Infrastructure
203	Delivery of the tricky places tree planting project for 2024-2025 🍏🌐	1.2	4	City Infrastructure

## Theme 2: Moving and living safely in Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
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 and road resurfacing capital works program	3.1	10	City Infrastructure
167	Deliver active travel capital works program	2.1	9	City Infrastructure
204	Develop the Transport Strategy Action Plan to commence in 2025	2.1	8	City Infrastructure

## Theme 3: A healthy and caring Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
34	Deliver Early Years Infrastructure Projects as listed in the 5-year Capital Works Program 🍏	3.1	20	Community
48	Continue implementation, monitor and evaluate the Social Cohesion Plan 🍏	3.5	23	Community
49	Finalise the navigation pilot - Aged Well planning to support older people to access services 🍏	3.5	24	Community
50	Continue to implement to improve new outdoor help and services for older people 🍏	3.5	24	Community
52	Continue the implementation of the First People's Employment Plan 🍏	3.6	N/A	Business Transformation
131	Continue the implementation of the Gender Equity Action Plan 🍏	3.8	47	Business Transformation
168	Continue implementation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to meet the requirements of the Disability Act 2006 🍏	3.5	22	Community
175	Advocate to secure long-term support to establish the Ballerdt Mooroop Community Hub 🍏	3.6	19	Community
180	Complete the Pilot Library Social Worker to support community wellbeing 🍏	3.4	34	Community
181	Implementation of the LGBTIQ+ Action Plan with key stakeholders 🍏	3.5	N/A	Community
205	Complete the Fawkner Leisure Centre upgrade 🍏	3.3	18	City Infrastructure
206	Continue to implement the Climate Risk Foundational Action Plan and develop a new Climate Risk Action Plan to commence in 2025 🍏🌐	3.2	15, 16	Place and Environment
207	Implement Year 1 of the Homelessness Action Plan 🍏	3.11	N/A	Community
208	Implement Year 4 Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 🍏	3.3	N/A	Community
209	Commence construction of Brunswick Early Years Centre 🍏	3.1	20	City Infrastructure

## Theme 4: Vibrant spaces and places in Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
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
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 implement adaptive training and support programs for micro and small businesses 🍏	4.10	N/A	Place and Environment
97	Continue to support the Love Merri-bek Buy Local campaign 🍏	4.10	N/A	Place and Environment
98	Collaborate with local traders, residents, agencies and creatives to develop and implement an activation program for Brunswick, Glenroy and Coburg	4.11	31	Place and Environment
108	Implement two key visitor attraction activities - To raise awareness of Merri-bek as a great place to visit, work, and to run a business, implement additional 'trail maps' showcasing visitor destinations and hold an annual roundtable with prominent tourism operators to discuss opportunities for collaboration 🍏	4.11	39	Place and Environment
134	Continue preparation of a new Development Contributions Plan	4.1	46	Place and Environment
148	Progress a planning scheme amendment to include stormwater drainage modelling within the Planning Scheme 🌐	4.8	29	Place and Environment
152	Implement the Affordable Housing Action Plan 🍏	4.7	27	Place and Environment
153	Finalise 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, continue to elevate Brunswick's profile as a design 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
193	Local History Maintenance & Conservation: deliver Heritage and Local History implementation action plan items 🍏	4.1	N/A	Community
210	Finalise construction of the Saxon Street Brunswick facility and open space 🍏🌐	4.9	26	City Infrastructure
211	As part of a new partnership model with Cladding Safety Victoria implement an expanded Combustible Cladding Rectification Project including an additional	4.3	N/A	Place and Environment

	69 buildings returned from the Victorian Building Authority to Council for resolution			
212	Progress a Planning Scheme amendment for an Activity Centre Zone for the Brunswick Activity Centre and commence a review of built form controls in the Brunswick Activity Centre 🍏	4.9	31	Place and Environment
213	Finalise and implement a new Economic Development Action Plan to guide Council's economic development-related work over future years	4.10	N/A	Place and Environment
214	Implement a shopfront improvement initiative for Sydney Road to educate and upskill business owners on how to improve the visual presentation of shopfronts and facades 🍏	4.10	31	Place and Environment
215	Commence construction on the West Street streetscape renewal project 🍏🌐	4.9	30	Place and Environment
216	Progress construction of the Wheatsheaf Road Glenroy streetscape improvement project 🍏🌐	4.9	30	Place and Environment
217	Progress construction of the Stewart Street Brunswick streetscape improvement project 🍏🌐	4.9	30	Place and Environment
218	Commence detailed design for Louisa Street Coburg Streetscape improvement project 🍏🌐	4.9	30	Place and Environment
219	Complete construction for 260 Sydney Road Brunswick (Park Close To Home) 🍏🌐	4.2	N/A	Place and Environment
220	Commence construction of York Street Pascoe Vale South (Park Close to Home) 🍏🌐	4.2	N/A	City Infrastructure
221	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
222	Develop a funding and delivery strategy for a new library in central Coburg that includes a functional brief for future library services, potential co-located uses, adjacent open space and public realm, and captures these within an initial Concept Plan 🍏	4.9	25	Place and Environment

## Theme 5: An empowered and collaborative Merri-bek

Action No.	Action	Primary Strategy	Major Initiative	Lead Directorate
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
223	Commence planning scheme amendment for a new open space contribution	5.6	43	Place and Environment
224	Enhance customer experience and capacity 🍏	5.4	42	Community