

Maroondah Community Vision – Background Report

Maroondah City Council

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Executive summary

Maroondah's 2040 community vision "provides a roadmap for the community, Council, and other levels of government to partner together and create a future that enhances Maroondah as a great place to live, work, play and visit".¹ However, much has changed since Council undertook an extensive engagement and research process between 2018 and 2020 to refresh the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision, with the COVID-19 pandemic a significant driver of change. Key shifts include an accelerated take-up of technology and digitisation of services, a shift to hybrid work, increased costs of services and materials, increased mental health and wellbeing issues, and skills shortages.

Significant service reforms have also occurred, including changes to aged care delivery models and kindergarten service hours. Councils are now making challenging decisions around the future level of service provision; balancing community needs and organisational and fiscal constraints. Financially the community and Council are facing increased pressures. Local governments continue to be challenged by the Victorian Government rate cap. At the same time, residents are grappling with housing affordability and increased living costs.

Maroondah's population is also changing, with a forecast growth of 22,000 new residents over the next 20 years. As Maroondah's population grows, some suburbs will continue to age while others will see younger families move in. Household size continues to decline, with increasing numbers of lone and two person households. These demographic shifts also have implications for housing affordability and the diversity of housing required to meet the needs of the changing population. Maroondah's residents are increasingly well educated and have high levels of workforce participation; however, skills and education levels vary across the municipality. Business capability and skills development will also need to adapt to match the needs of a changing economy.

The impacts of climate change and associated increased weather events is putting pressure on communities, services, and infrastructure. The climate impacts are increasing the focus on renewables, electric vehicles (EV's) and the supporting infrastructure, and the circular economy.

In bringing together a comprehensive body of evidence on future trends, opportunities and challenges facing the City of Maroondah to the year 2050, this research provides the starting point for developing a refreshed community vision for Maroondah. Key directions for the vision span across five areas of focus: people and wellbeing, housing and neighbourhoods, economy and education, transport, and the environment. The directions capture the need to improve social inclusion, provide accessible and affordable health and wellbeing services, deliver and advocate for diversity of housing, build the capacity of businesses and the workforce, promote an active lifestyle, and deliver sustainable infrastructure. A summary of directions and actions are provided in Table 1.

¹ Maroondah 2040 Community Vision Updated June 2021.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF KEY DIRECTIONS AND ACTIONS

Theme	Directions	Actions
Health and wellbeing of all community members.	- Improve social inclusion and opportunities for community connections through the creation of inclusive built environments and service delivery. - Advocate for and facilitate accessible and affordable health and wellbeing services within Maroondah, including mental health, aged care and disability support services, and chronic disease.	- Council to advocate for and facilitate mental health, aged care and disability service providers being located in Maroondah. - Council to design infrastructure and services to promote social inclusion and community interaction. - Council to review active and passive recreation infrastructure to ensure it is inclusive and accessible for all ages and abilities. - Council to review services and programs to ensure they are accessible and affordable for all community members.
Neighbourhoods that promote liveability and support affordable and diverse housing. Community facilities that are adaptable, sustainable, and financially viable.	- Increase diversity of housing to improve housing choice and ability for residents to downsize locally. - Increase access to social and affordable housing across the municipality. - Advocate for social and affordable housing within the municipality. - Continue to implement and facilitate the delivery of local neighbourhoods. - Colocation and integration of community facilities that support flexible service delivery and high utilisation. - Explore alternative service and infrastructure delivery, partnerships, and funding opportunities.	- Explore partnerships and opportunities to facilitate the delivery of affordable housing (both through development applications and Victorian Government partnerships). - Advocate to the Victorian Government for levers to increase social and affordable housing such as planning scheme reform to include mandatory affordable housing contributions. - Lead the implementation of the Housing Strategy 2022 Refresh. - Continuation of local neighbourhoods pilots, exploring the potential to expand the lessons learnt and local neighbourhood principles from the pilot in Croydon South to other suburbs in the municipality. - Develop a community services and facilities plan to identify current and forecast service gaps, opportunities to increase utilisation of facilities, and facilities that are no longer required in its current format. - Explore partnership opportunities to support the increased demand for community facilities and services within the municipality.

A strong and adaptable local and regional business network.	▪ Build the capacity of businesses to capture growth locally, encourage innovation and develop strong local business supply chains. ▪ Promotion of Maroondah's competitive strengths to enhance industry mix. ▪ Boost local business strengths to build and spread industry specialization from within. ▪ Connect young people to educational opportunities to the develop skills required for future jobs growth.	▪ Support businesses to connect and leverage local supply chains. ▪ Support existing businesses to transition, with a focus on new technology, sustainability, and circular economy. ▪ Actively promote the strengths of Maroondah to build and enhance economic opportunities for the municipality. ▪ Support the development of business initiatives that are committed to providing employment and training opportunities for young people.
Well-connected community with accessible and reliable sustainable transport options.	▪ Improve active transport with a focus on local connections to employment, education, and services. ▪ Advocate for improved public transport e.g. more frequent and direct connections across the municipality. ▪ Explore opportunities to support transition to new technologies e.g. EVs.	▪ Advocate for improved frequency of bus services as well as increased service delivery to areas that are currently within a transport gap. ▪ Continue to implement Council's Principal Pedestrian Network construction program to reduce gaps across the network. ▪ Identify preferred locations for EV charging within Maroondah as well as partnership opportunities.
A resilient, adaptable, and environmentally sustainable municipality and community.	▪ Integration of blue and green infrastructure across the municipality. ▪ Delivery of sustainable infrastructure, incorporating principles of Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) and water sensitive urban design. ▪ Empowering the community to increase their sustainable practices, resilience, and ability to respond to natural disasters.	▪ Incorporate ESD, water sensitive urban design, and a focus on green infrastructure into council infrastructure projects and precinct planning. ▪ Explore partnerships to trial new technology and mitigation actions, such as carbon positive infrastructure. ▪ Work with and support the community to adapt and mitigate climate change through education and access to funding to transition to renewable energy.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the report

SGS was engaged by Maroondah City Council to develop a comprehensive body of evidence on future trends, opportunities and challenges facing the Maroondah municipality, community, and Council, to the year 2050. In doing so this report makes recommendations for future areas of focus, policy directions and priority actions based on the evidence gathered. This work will inform the preparation of the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision, including community and stakeholder engagement activities.

This report is organised under five themes: People and Wellbeing; Housing and Neighbourhoods; Economy and Education; Transport; and the Environment. These themes are intrinsically linked and should be treated as such.

1.2 Background

Under the *Local Government Act 2020* it is a legislative responsibility for local governments to develop and maintain a community vision. A community vision is an important statutory document as it describes the community's aspirations for the future of the municipality. As stated in the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision, “the community vision provides a ‘roadmap’ for the community, Council, and other levels of government to partner together and create a future that enhances Maroondah as a great place to live, work, play and visit.”

Maroondah City Council have been leaders in this space, adopting their first community vision in 1996. Since then, Maroondah has undertaken regular updates and engagement with the community to ensure the vision is in alignment with community and stakeholder aspirations for the municipality.

The Maroondah 2040: Our future together Community Vision, was endorsed by Council in June 2014. In June 2021 Council released a refreshed Maroondah 2040 Community Vision following an extensive community and stakeholder engagement process, and background research which identified progress made towards the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision, as well as emerging trends and shifts in community priorities.

2. People and wellbeing

2.1 Changing conditions and trends impacting on people and wellbeing

Lower than expected population growth: The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on migration and population growth in Maroondah and Australia as whole. This can be seen through less population growth than forecast in 2020, with only 0.24 per cent growth compared to the previous year, followed by a significant population downturn in 2021 (-1.74%). While population growth is beginning to rebound and is likely to return to pre-COVID-19 growth rates, the several years of lower-than-expected population growth impacts on forecast growth rates and, critically, the anticipated number of residents and service users. Council will need to monitor population growth in forthcoming years to ensure services meet evolving community needs.

Demographic and cultural shifts, including an ageing population, are changing the demands and expectations of facilities and services – from the types of recreational facilities and sports fields delivered, through to the types of services councils offer, expanding well beyond the traditional roads, rates and rubbish.

Ageing population: The City of Maroondah's population is ageing, in line with broader Australian population trends, placing additional demands on services and infrastructure. Significant reforms in the aged care sector have seen a reduction in Australian Government funding, placing additional pressure on service providers, including local government. To support the needs of an ageing population, Council will need to continue to ensure that infrastructure incorporates universal design principles, that older people at risk of missing out on services are supported, and that the community has access to housing and services that meet the needs of an ageing population.

Increasing chronic disease: The prevalence of chronic disease in Australia is increasing, due in part to our ageing population and also risk factors such as poor diet and physical inactivity (AIHW 2021). Chronic diseases include conditions such as arthritis, cancer, diabetes, selected cardiovascular diseases, and mental health and behavioural conditions. Just under half (47%) of Australians had one or more chronic condition in 2017-18, up from 42 per cent in 2007-08 (AIHW 2021). Maroondah has a high rate of long-term illness among residents (34%) compared to Greater Melbourne (29.5%) and the Eastern Metropolitan Region (31%). Management, treatment, and prevention of chronic disease will continue to be a focus for all levels of Government going forward. This includes supporting those with chronic disease to have access to the right specialist care and access to new services and technologies such as doctor in the home, as well as prevention to avoid chronic disease from occurring. A prevention approach includes access to infrastructure that promotes physical activity such as active and public transport, sport and recreation facilities, along with access to healthy and affordable foods, health literacy, education, secure and affordable housing, and social connection.

Increasing inequality: Inequality in Australia has increased over the last forty years. The top 20 per cent of households, by income, had six times the income of the lowest quintile (Miller and Dixie 2023). Those in the lowest income quintile are also more likely to be unpaid carers, have experienced homelessness and unemployment, and have recently been unable to meet rent or mortgage costs. With the increasing cost of living, lack of affordable housing, and existing financial vulnerabilities, there is a risk that the equity gap will only continue to increase in communities across Australia. Maroondah currently

has a number of areas where residents are experiencing high levels of social and economic disadvantage, or high rental and housing stress. As housing and living costs increase, it is forecast that a higher number of people and families will require financial and social support. This increased demand for support is likely to put additional pressure on Council services, along with service providers supporting residents across the income, health, and social services spectrum.

Service reforms are changing local government's role in service delivery, with Victorian Government changes to kindergarten hours, and Australian Government reforms in aged care, requiring councils to consider the impacts of such reforms in terms of service obligations, impact on their community and in the context of the overall delivery of community facilities and services.

2.2 Policy context

Health and wellbeing were brought into stronger focus during the COVID-19 pandemic, with social isolation and COVID-19 itself placing some of Maroondah's most vulnerable residents at risk. Deterioration of mental and physical health have been cited as long-term impacts of the pandemic. The Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031 underpins Council's approach to health and wellbeing over the next 10 years. This is aligned with the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023 which aims to ensure all Victorians enjoy the highest attainable standards of health, wellbeing, and participation at every age.

An ageing population is supported by Maroondah's Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025 which makes a commitment to enabling healthy ageing for residents and creating age-friendly housing over the next 30-years in alignment with Victoria's Ageing Well in a Changing World strategy. The Victorian Government's policy is focused on ensuring that, as people age, they have opportunities to be engaged, have purpose and meaning, are safe and secure in terms of housing and finances, and not left behind in a changing world.

Access to services needed to support a growing and ageing population will be critical. The Victorian Government has committed to the redevelopment and expansion of Maroondah Hospital in Ringwood East. This is an opportunity to expand and co-locate services to create a health precinct that supports the health needs of communities across the Eastern Region. At a local level, Council is working to improve access to services by leveraging its own infrastructure. This can be seen through the development of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct Masterplan which will provide access to the Council services and infrastructure that support health and wellbeing in a centralised location. The Precinct reflects Maroondah's focus on supporting the wellbeing of all residents.

The Aged Care Act 2021 establishes the aged care system which is responsible for the regulation and financing of aged care services. The Act is likely to have a significant impact on local government's involvement in aged care provision. Maroondah will need to consider whether they are best positioned to continue to deliver services directly or focus on continued reinvestment into planning positive ageing programs, and activities for older community members. Maroondah's *Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025* sets out a commitment to enabling healthy ageing for residents and advocating for age-friendly housing over the next 30-years.

Autonomy, opportunity, human rights, diversity, and accountability are the five principles underlying the *Maroondah Disability Action Plan 2022-2026*. The Plan highlights the importance of providing equitable opportunities to all services. The recently reformed *National Disability Insurance Scheme*

(NDIS) Amendment Act 2022 introduced changes to service provision. The expansion of the NDIS and the increased availability of disability services may have implications for Maroondah's local government services, along with Council's existing NDIS service navigation support function.

Further information on specific policies and strategies can be found in Appendix A.

2.3 Data and analysis

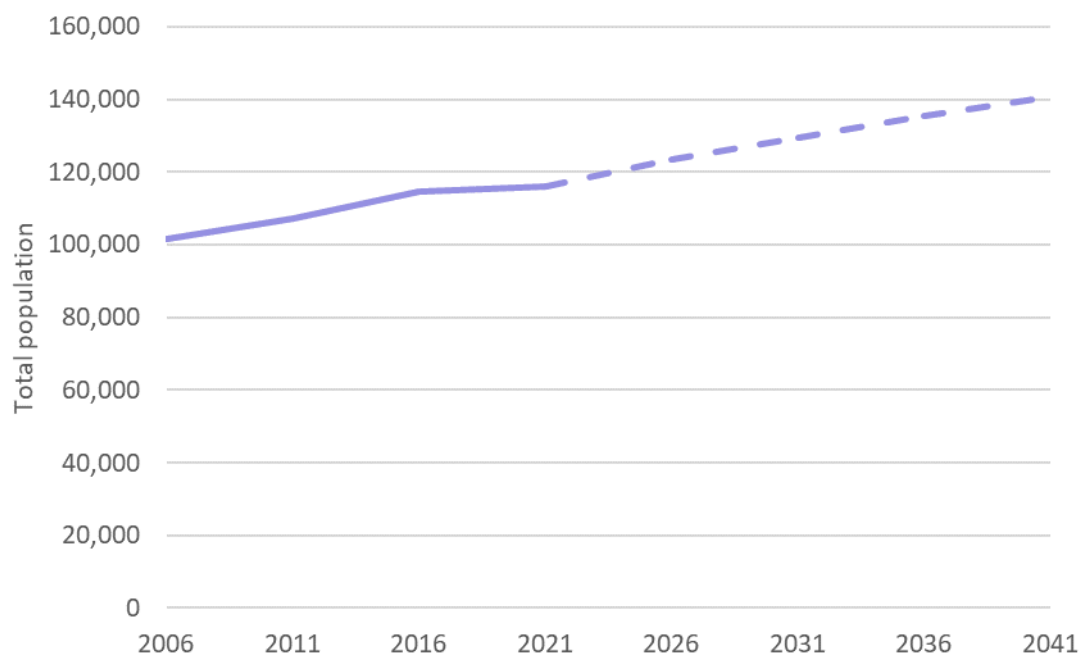
Demographics

Population

In 2021, the City of Maroondah had a total estimated resident population of 116,080 people (and ABS revised the population forecast to 115,645 people in 2022). This represents a 1.1 per cent growth in the five-year period from 2016 to 2021, compared to seven per cent growth in the previous five-year period (2011 to 2016). As shown in Figure 1, the reduced population growth is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic which had significant impacts on net immigration and population distribution within Victoria.

Looking forward, while population growth is below previously forecast growth rates, Maroondah's population is forecast to reach over 140,900 people by 2041.

FIGURE 1: CITY OF MAROONDAH TOTAL POPULATION 2006-2041



Source: .id community Estimated Residential Population 2006-2041.

Each of the suburbs within Maroondah are forecast to experience varying levels of population growth over the next two decades. As indicated in Table 2, Croydon and Ringwood currently have the largest population, and are anticipated to have the most significant population growth to 2041. Both of these suburbs contain major activity centres therefore, ensuring the delivery of services and infrastructure keep up to support this growth will be important.

TABLE 2: CITY OF MAROONDAH POPULATION FORECAST 2021-2041

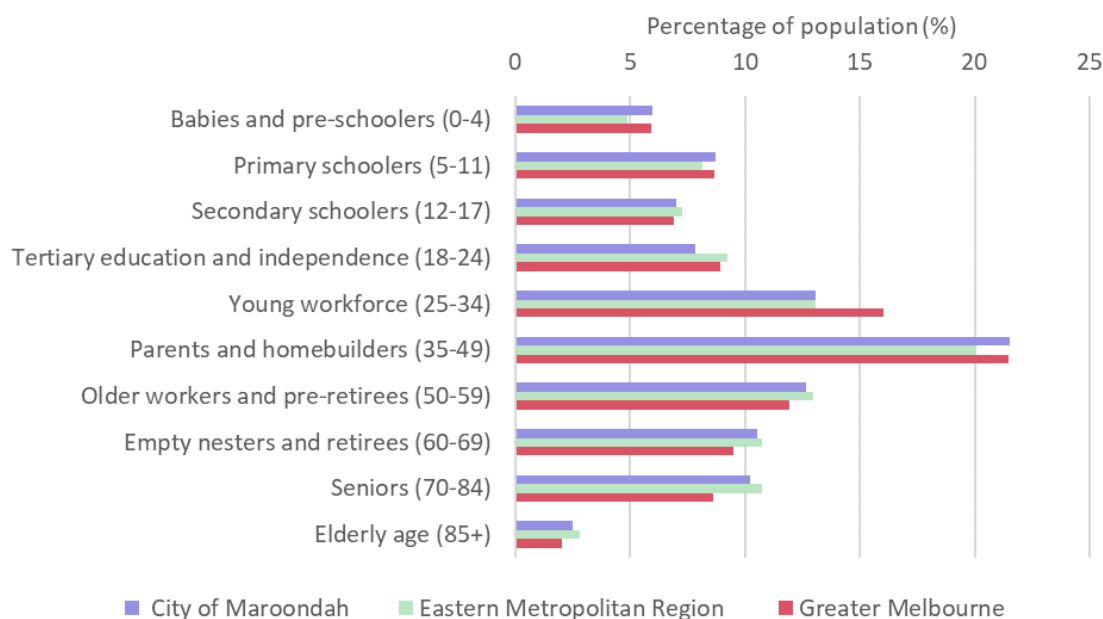
	2021 population	2041 population	Total change	Average annual % change
Bayswater North	9,092	10,019	+927	0.5
Croydon	28,853	35,976	+7,123	1.1
Croydon Hills	5,194	5,493	+299	0.3
Croydon North	8,173	9,566	+1,393	0.8
Croydon South – Kilsyth	6,631	7,695	+1,063	0.7
Heathmont	10,010	12,041	+2,031	0.9
Kilsyth South	2,881	3,028	+147	0.2
Ringwood	19,883	27,198	+7,315	1.6
Ringwood East	10,768	12,915	+2,146	0.9
Ringwood North	9,726	11,327	+1,601	0.8
Warranwood	4,868	5,647	+779	0.7
Total	116,080	140,904	+24,824	1.0

Source: .id forecast (2021).

Age

The age distribution of residents in Maroondah aligns closely with regional patterns, with ‘parents and homebuilders’ (those aged 35-49 years) the most prominent age group (21.5% of residents in 2021). Maroondah has a higher proportion of older residents (those aged 50+) and a lower proportion of ‘young workforce’ aged residents (25-34 years of age) compared to Greater Melbourne (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2: POPULATION BY SERVICE AGE GROUPS 2021 (%)

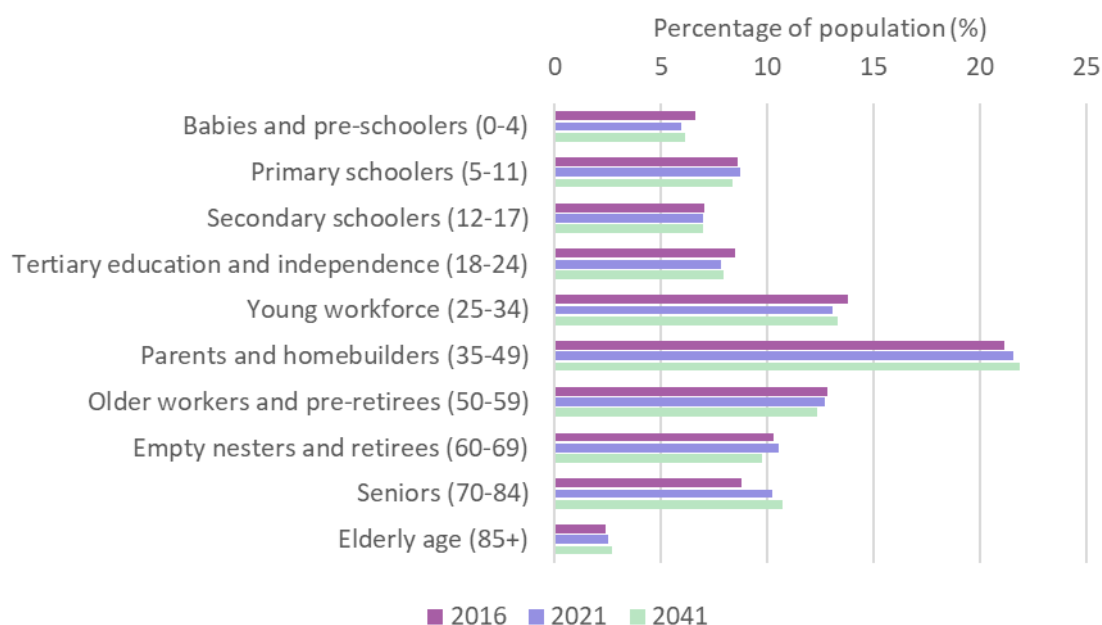


Source: ABS (2021)

When looking at forecast population, the data indicates a trend towards an ageing population. The senior age group (70-84 years) increased by 1.4 per cent between 2016 and 2021 and is forecast to further increase by 2041 (Figure 3). This aligns with national trends that show that Australia’s population is living for longer, causing a rapid acceleration of some age groups (over 65, over 85). Maroondah’s ageing population highlights the need for infrastructure, amenities and services tailored to suit the needs of older demographics, such as aged care along with considerations of access, inclusion, and safety.

The forecast population for Maroondah also indicates a decrease in the younger demographic as well as a slight increase in the parent and homebuilder age group (35-49 years) (see Figure 3).

FIGURE 3: FORECAST POPULATION BY SERVICE AGE GROUP 2016-2041 (%)



Source: .id forecast (2023)

Diversity

Indigenous community

The Wurundjeri Woiwurrung People of the Kulin Nation are the Traditional Custodians of the land now known as the City of Maroondah. The term 'Maroondah' is named after an aboriginal word meaning 'leaf' which symbolises the green environment of the municipality.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People made up 0.6 per cent (735) of Maroondah's total population in 2021. However, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals with a significant connection to Maroondah is likely to be significantly higher. Of this population 'parents and homebuilders' (35-49 years) were the most prominent population group (18.6%) followed by 'tertiary education and independence' age group (18-24 years) at 15.1 per cent. In contrast to the broader Maroondah population, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is relatively young.

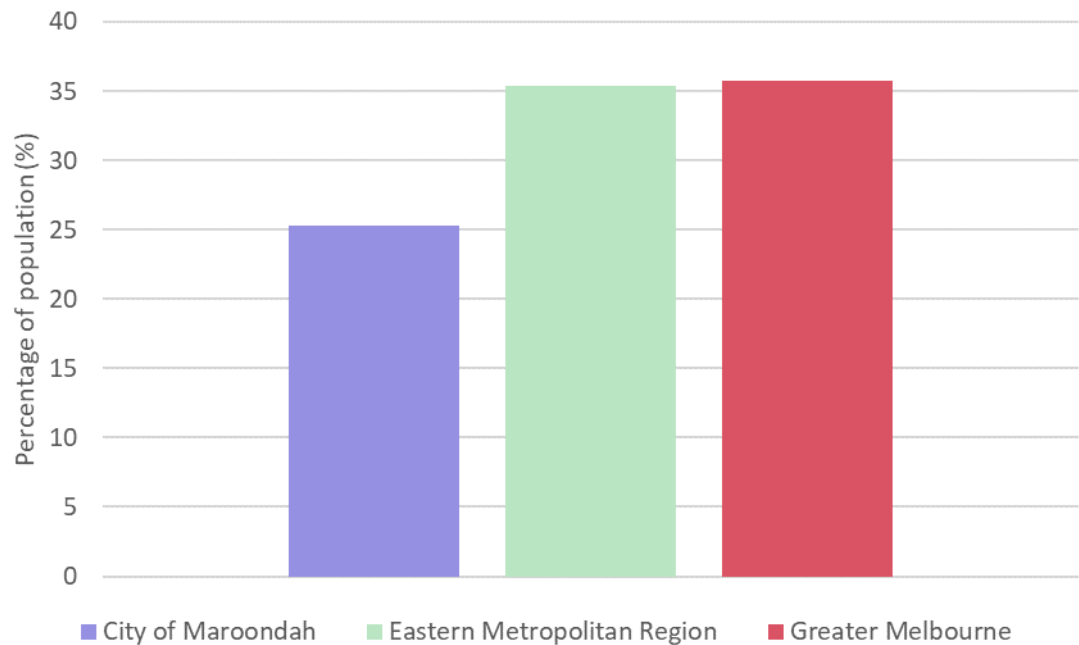
The City of Maroondah has a *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2020* (currently under review) to promote and work towards greater reconciliation in the municipality. The inclusion and accessibility of services to this cohort is particularly significant.

Cultural diversity

The cultural fabric of Maroondah is primarily made up of residents born in Australia (71.8%), with 25.3 per cent born overseas (Figure 4). This is low compared to the Eastern Metropolitan Region and Greater Melbourne where over 35 per cent of the population is born overseas. Similarly, in 2021 fewer than five per cent of Maroondah residents indicated that they were not proficient in English and spoke another language, which is below the benchmark region average. However, cultural diversity has increased over

the past three census periods. Increasing cultural diversity in the municipality is a factor that will shape future community needs and service provision requirements in Maroondah.

FIGURE 4: PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS (2021)

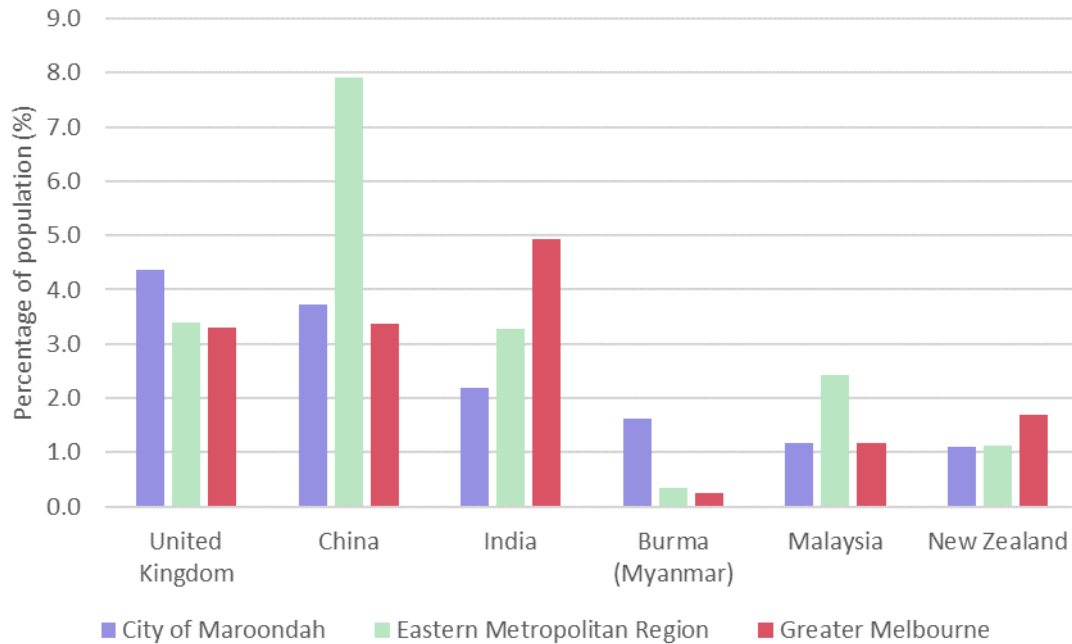


Source: ABS (2021)

Figure 5 illustrates the five most common country of birth (outside of Australia) for residents in Maroondah. The three most common countries of birth in Maroondah are the United Kingdom (4.4%), China (3.7%) and India (2.2%). There is a similar profile of cultural diversity across the Eastern Metropolitan Region and Greater Melbourne, however, the Eastern Metropolitan Region has a far greater proportion of residents born in China (7.9%). Maroondah also has a small, but rapidly increasing population of Burmese residents (1.6%) compared to the Eastern Metropolitan Region (0.3%) and Greater Melbourne (0.3%). In 2021, 16 per cent of new arrivals to Maroondah came from Myanmar, the second highest proportion after China (22.3%).

There are a number of Burmese groups in Maroondah including Falam Chin, Hakha Chin, Karen, Mizo, Zo and Zomi. In recent years, many of the Burmese community have come to Maroondah through humanitarian migration streams.

FIGURE 5: BIRTHPLACE BY COUNTRY – PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION (2021)



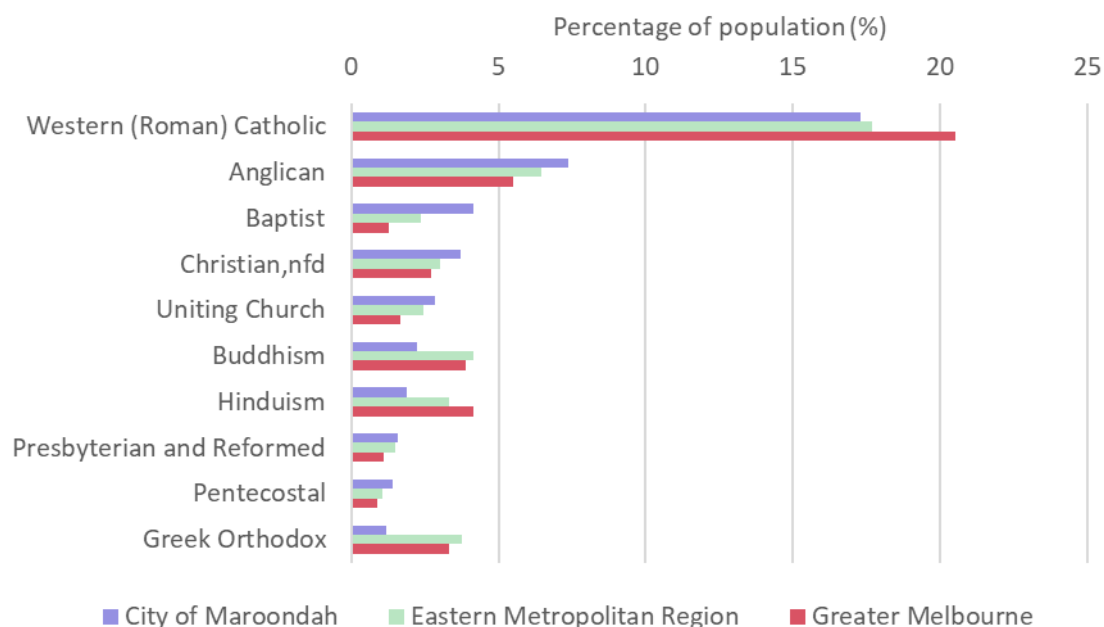
Source: ABS (2021)

Religion

In 2021, almost half (49.8%) of Maroondah's residents reported having religious beliefs, similar to that of the Eastern Metropolitan Region (52%) but significantly less than Greater Melbourne (57%). Religious affiliation decreased in the municipality by around six per cent since 2016.

The most dominant religious affiliation in Maroondah is Christianity (43.1%), as illustrated in Figure 6. However, residents affiliated with Buddhism and Hinduism have increased in Maroondah over the past census period (2016-2021). The religious profile of the municipality is similar to that of the Eastern Metropolitan Region and Greater Melbourne.

FIGURE 6: TOP TEN RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS IN MAROONDAH (2021)



Source: ABS (2021).

Sexuality and gender

Approximately 10 to 12 per cent of Maroondah's population (over 10,000 Maroondah residents) identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex or asexual (LGBTQIA+).² The *Victorian Population Healthy Survey 2017* revealed that physical and mental health of the LGBTQIA+ adults in Victoria is generally lower compared to non-LGBTQIA+ adults.

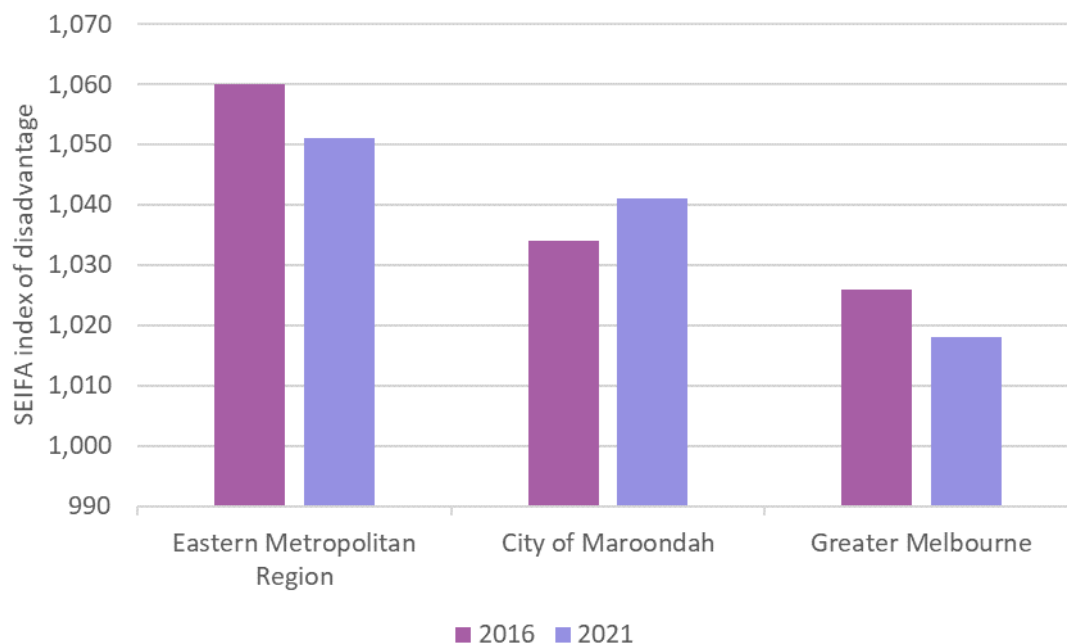
Providing access to diverse social connection groups and related services is necessary to create a sustainable and cohesive community for LGBTQIA+ residents in Maroondah.

Socio-economic disadvantage

In 2021, the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) – an analysis of relative socioeconomic disadvantage – revealed that the City of Maroondah (1,041) is, on average, less advantaged than the Eastern Metropolitan Region (1,051) but more advantaged than Greater Melbourne (1,018) (Figure 7). Maroondah's score increased by seven points from 2016 (1,034). In contrast, the SEIFA score declined in the Eastern Melbourne Region and Greater Melbourne over this same period (2016-2021), indicating increased levels of disadvantage.

² The City of Maroondah (2022) Celebrating gender diversity with IDAHOBIT Day. Accessed at: <https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/About-Council/News/All-Maroonah-news/News-Public/Celebrating-gender-diversity-with-IDAHOBIT-Day>

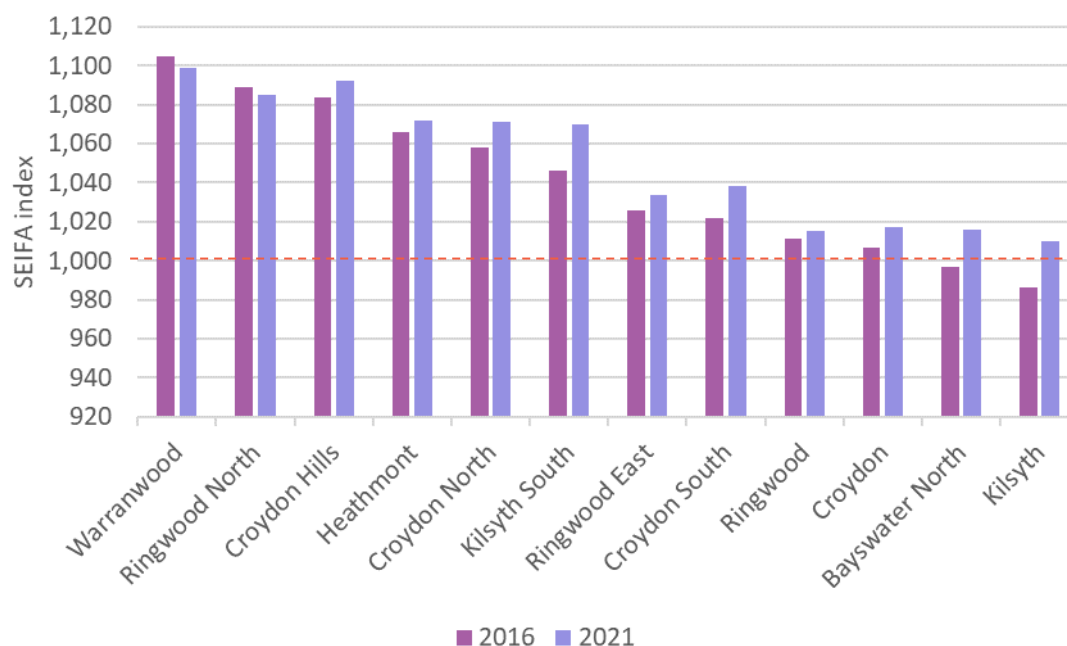
FIGURE 7: SEIFA INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE (2016, 2021)



Source: ABS (2016 and 2021)

The least disadvantaged suburbs in Maroondah, in 2016 and 2021, are Warranwood, Ringwood North, Croydon Hills and Heathmont. The suburbs scoring less than 1,000 on the SEIFA index – below the average and considered a low score – in 2016 were Bayswater North and Kilsyth (although only a small proportion of Kilsyth falls within the Maroondah local government area boundaries). However, no suburbs scored below 1,000 in 2021, with socio-economic disadvantage decreasing across the municipality compared to 2016 (Figure 8).

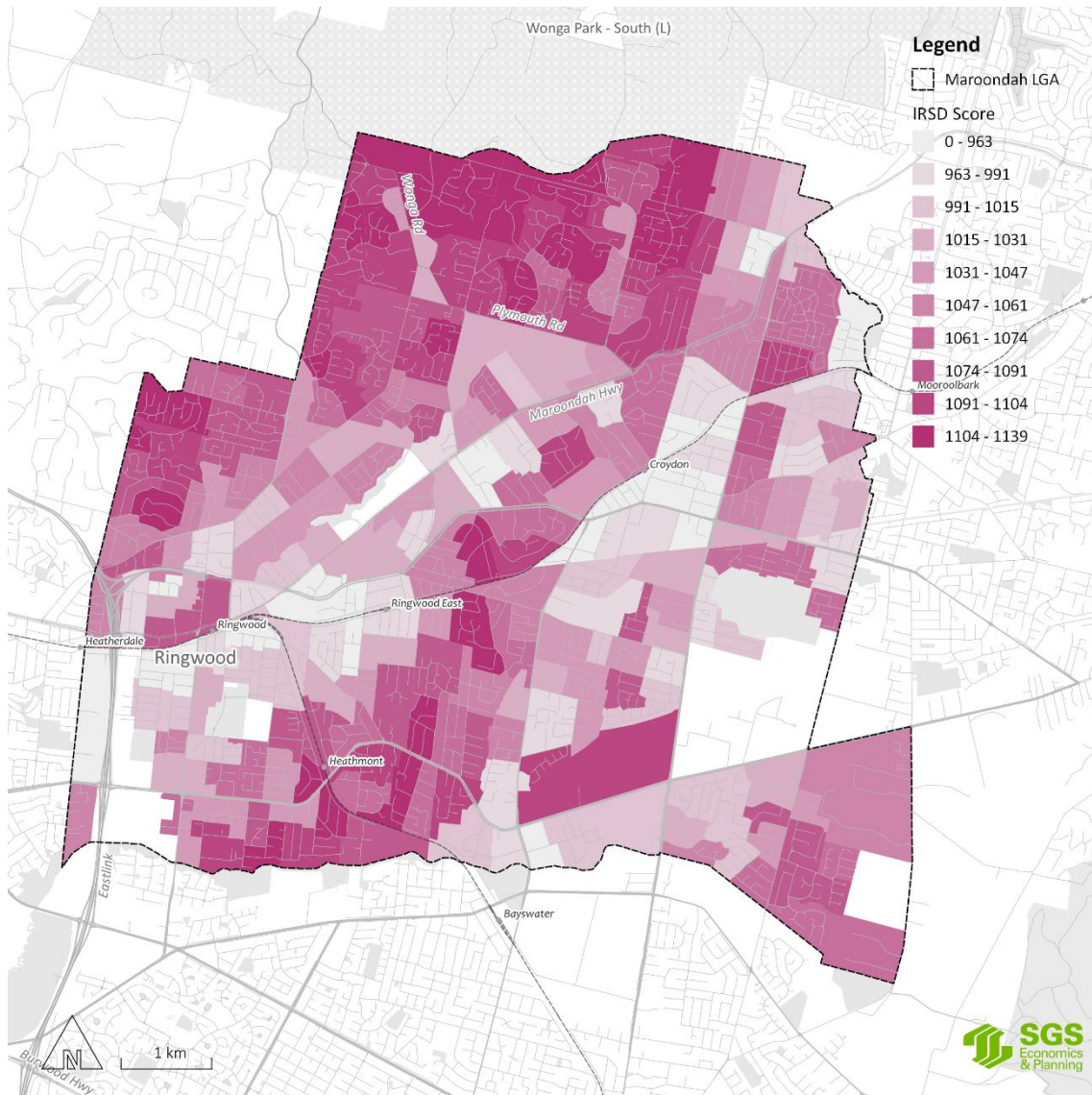
FIGURE 8: SEIFA INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE – MAROONDAH SUBURBS (2016, 2021)



Source: ABS (2016 and 2021).

These scores indicate that the municipality comprises a spectrum of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage, however all suburbs are above the average SEIFA score. It should be noted however that even in higher scoring suburbs there will still be residents with levels of vulnerability. This is illustrated in Figure 9 which shows that there are pockets of relative disadvantage (light grey) and relative advantage (dark pink) within each suburb. For example, within Ringwood, which scored 1,015 in 2021, the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre scored below 1,000 at 981.7. Similarly, in Croydon (1,017) the Croydon Metropolitan Activity Centre scored 951.7.

FIGURE 9: CITY OF MAROONDAH, INDEX OF RELATIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE, 2021



Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023) using ABS (2021).

Health and wellbeing

Wellbeing index

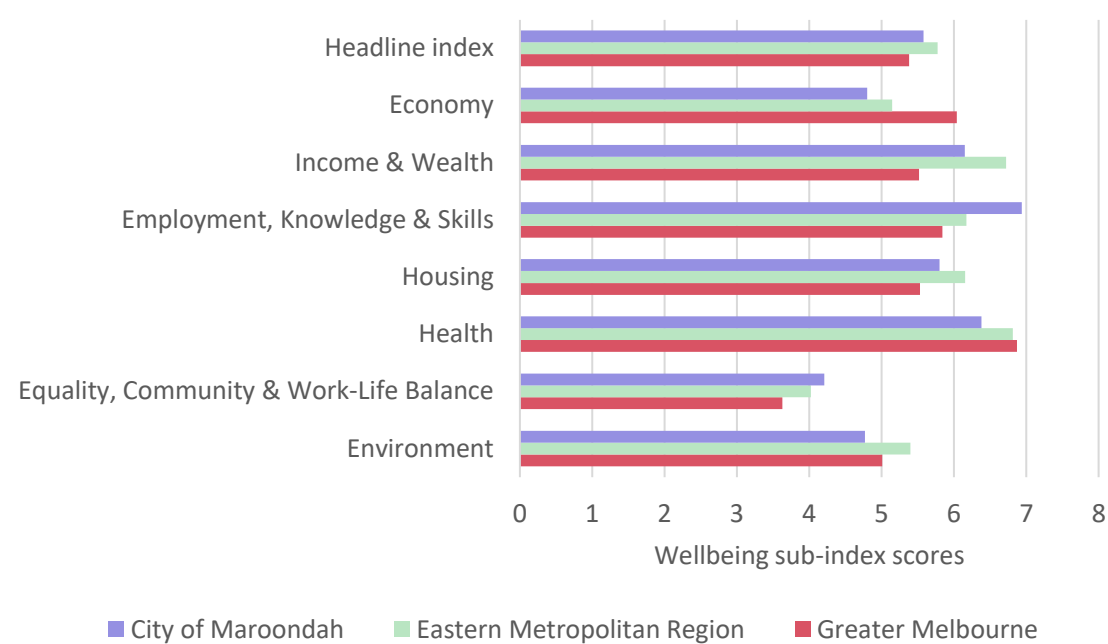
SGS's Cities and Regions Wellbeing Index illustrates the socioeconomic wellbeing of Australia's regions by taking the familiar Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and breaking it down to economic activity in the local region (GRP - Gross Regional Product) then supplementing that economic story with seven wellbeing indicators (Economy; Income & Wealth; Employment, Knowledge & Skills; Housing; Health; Equality, Community & Work life Balance; Environment) to create a more nuanced understanding of

what people are experiencing.³ The greater the score, the greater the performance of the defined measure against that indicator. Further information on the indicators is provided in Appendix B.

The headline wellbeing index score for the City of Maroondah is 5.58, 0.2 higher than Greater Melbourne and just 0.2 less than the Eastern Metropolitan Region, indicating a relatively high level of wellbeing in the municipality. Maroondah performs particularly well in the Employment, Knowledge & Skills indicator, reflecting high employment and education (Certification III and above qualifications). This contributes to overall wellbeing as employment, knowledge and skills build individuals capacity in work, life, and financial stability.

By contrast, the City of Maroondah receives a lower score for the Economy indicator (4.8) than Greater Melbourne (6.04) and the Eastern Metropolitan Region (5.15). This is reflective of a lower GRP, labour productivity and industry diversity.

FIGURE 10: CITIES AND REGIONS WELLBEING INDEX SCORES, CITY OF MAROONDAH AND GREATER MELBOURNE



Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023).

³ SGS Economics and Planning, (2023) Cities and Regions Wellbeing Index, https://sgsep.com.au/assets/main/SGS-Economics-and-Planning_CRWI.pdf

Physical health

According to the 2021 ABS Census, approximately 34 per cent of Maroondah's population live with a long-term health condition, a higher rate than both Greater Melbourne (29.5%) and the Eastern Metropolitan Region (31%). The municipality has higher rates of asthma (9.1%) and arthritis (8.6%), but similar rates of diabetes (4.4%) that the regional averages. This can be attributed, in part, to the Maroondah's ageing population.

Obesity and being overweight also affects a significant proportion of Maroondah's population. In addition, nearly a quarter of residents self-reported fair/poor health status. These results are below regional averages. In contrast, fewer Maroondah residents reported being smokers (7.5%) compared to Victoria as a whole (12%) (see Table 3).

TABLE 3: REPORTED GENERAL HEALTH (2020)

Indicator	Maroondah	Outer Eastern Melbourne Area	Victoria
Proportion of adults who are obese	21.1%	19.3%	20.9%
Proportion of adults who are overweight (BMI >25)	53.8%	49.0%	51.0%
Proportion of adults who are current smokers	10.4%	15.7%	16.4%
Proportion of adults who are daily smokers	7.5%	12.2%	12.0%
Proportion of adults with fair/poor self-reported health status	23.6%	21.0%	21.4%

Source: Victorian Population Health Survey (2020)

Mental health and wellbeing

Of those surveyed in the 2020 Victorian Population Health Survey, almost a quarter of adults in Maroondah reported high/very high levels of psychological distress. Maroondah also had higher rates for indicators relating to feelings of loneliness and social exclusion (see Table 4).

The proportion of respondents in Maroondah who reported not feeling valued by society was 9.6 per cent compared to 12.2 percent in Outer Eastern Melbourne Area and 11 per cent in Victoria. A similar pattern is displayed in the levels of trust, with 92 per cent of Maroondah adults feeling that people can be trusted.

These results indicate a potential trend of social isolation and low social inclusion in Maroondah compared to the Outer Eastern Melbourne Area and Victoria. The provision of community infrastructure, open space, and services can promote social inclusion and interaction in the community.

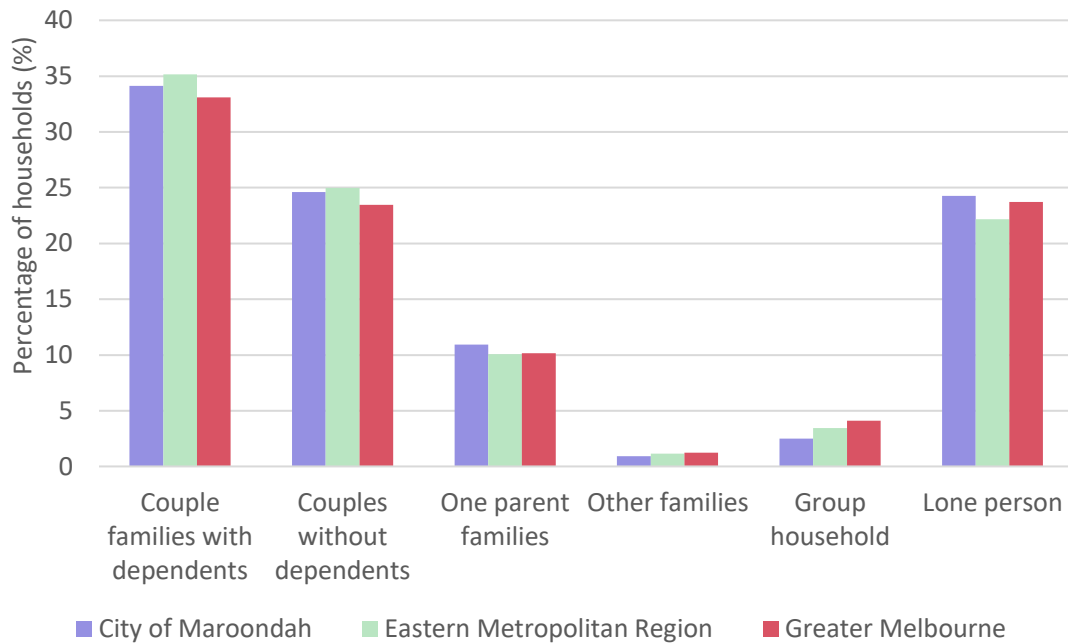
TABLE 4: REPORTED GENERAL WELLBEING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Indicator	Maroondah	Outer Eastern Melbourne Area	Victoria
Proportion of adults with high / very high levels of psychological distress	24.4%	25.3%	23.5%
Proportion of adults where satisfaction with life is low or medium	22.9%	23.1%	22.3%
Proportion of adults who do not have close friends or family to talk to regularly	5.8%	3.9%	4.7%
Proportion of adults who talked less than monthly with friends	1.5%	2.1%	2.8%
Proportion of adults who talked less than monthly with family	3.7%	4.2%	3.0%
Proportion of adults who feel valued by society never or not often	9.6%	12.2%	11.0%
Proportion of adults who ran out of money to buy food in the last 12 months	4.1%	5.9%	5.9%
Proportion of adults who feel most people can be trusted never or not often	8%	12.4%	14.2%
Proportion of adults who feel multiculturalism makes life in their area better	6%	6.6%	6.7%

Source: Victorian Population Health Survey (2020)

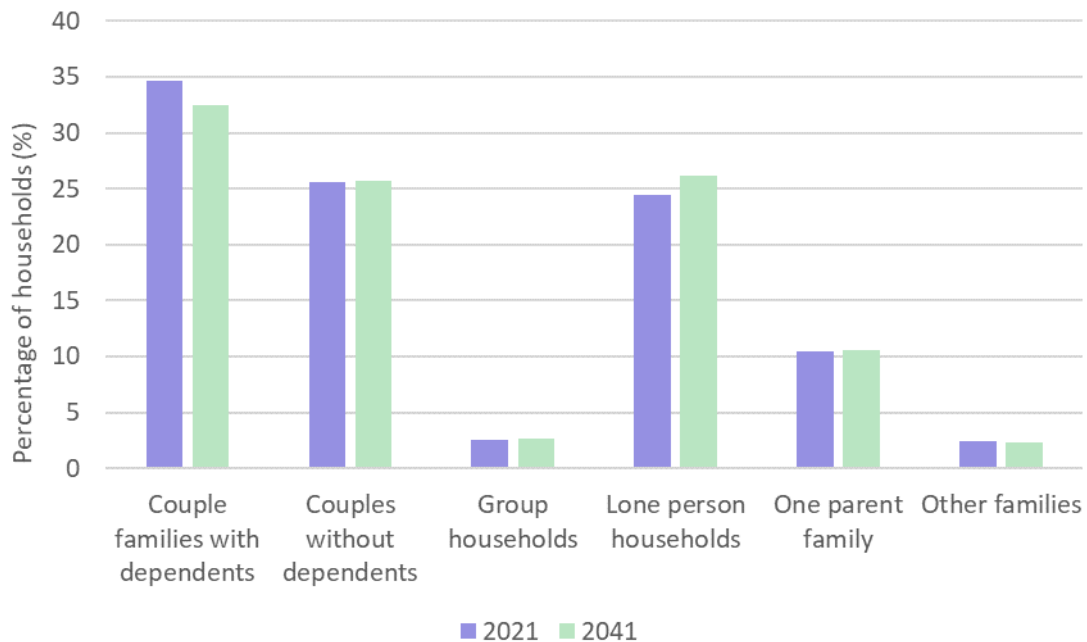
Reported loneliness and social isolation is worth considering in the context of the high proportion of lone person households, which made up over 24 per cent of households in Maroondah in 2021, greater than the Eastern Metropolitan Region (22.2%) and Greater Melbourne (23.7%) (see Figure 11). This trend is forecast to continue to 2041, with lone person households in Maroondah increasing by seven per cent between 2021 and 2041 (see Figure 12). In contrast, couple families are forecast to decrease by 6.1 per cent over the same period, reflecting the change in household composition and an ageing population.

FIGURE 11: HOUSEHOLD TYPE (2021)



Source: ABS (2021)

FIGURE 12: CITY OF MAROONDA HOUSEHOLD TYPE FORECAST (2021-2041)



Source: .id community (2021)

Youth wellbeing

The Maroondah Youth Strategy (2017) outlines the results of the 2016 Maroondah Wellbeing Survey, indicating that, of the young people surveyed:

- 78 per cent reported that life is going well for them
- half reported that they worry a lot and get stressed easily
- one in five reported that they are often unhappy, with experiences of depressive symptoms increasing from Grade 5 to Year 12
- one in five reported that they do not feel safe in their neighbourhood.

Research undertaken during and post the COVID-19 pandemic also indicated that young people were one of the most effected groups in relation to mental health and wellbeing (AIHW, 2021). These results highlight the importance of creating safe spaces and neighbourhoods and providing facilities for people of all ages in the community.

Maroondah City Council Youth Services provides a wide range of services to raise the wellbeing of young people (aged 10 to 25). Programs are run out of EV's Youth Centre, Realm library, parks, aquatic and leisure facilities, and arts facilities.

Social harms

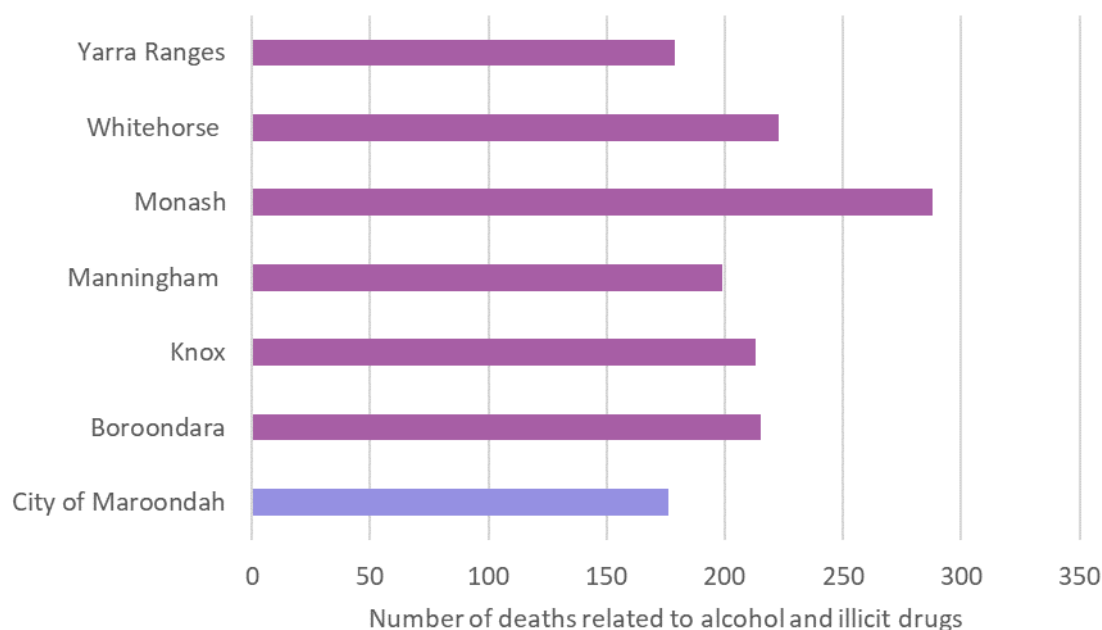
Social harms include a range of social behaviours that can have destructive consequences and negative impacts on individual and community wellbeing. These include family violence, gambling, alcohol abuse and drug use.

As noted earlier, according to the *Victorian Population Health Survey 2020*, 7.5 per cent of Maroondah residents reported being daily smokers, compared to 12 per cent in Victoria. The 2020 survey did not collect data about alcohol consumption, however, research collated by Turning Point, AODstats, provides insights into alcohol and drug consumption across a range of indicators, including hospital admissions.⁴

In 2020, Maroondah had the lowest number (176) of deaths related to alcohol and illicit drugs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region (Figure 13). However, data gathered for the *Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031* found that Maroondah has the highest rate of alcohol assaults during high alcohol consumption hours (Friday and Saturday 8pm-6am) in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

⁴ AODstats (n.d) Accessed at: <https://aodstats.org.au/explore-data/>

FIGURE 13: NUMBER OF DEATHS RELATED TO ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS IN THE EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGION IN 2020



Source: AODstats (2020).

Family and domestic violence is also a major health and welfare issue in Australia. Incidents of family violence in Maroondah peaked in 2020-21⁵ with 1,424 reported incidents. This equates to a rate of 1,226.7 per 100,000 population, compared to the Victorian rate of 1,420.2. Research suggests that rates of family violence may have increased during 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which increased stressors in households, increased social isolation and reduced access to support services (AIHW, 2021). The rate of family violence in Maroondah has since declined by 0.9 per cent to 1,156.7 per 100,000 population in the year ending March 2023, but still remains higher than pre-COVID-19 rates.

Maroondah also has a high rate of electronic gaming machines (EGMs) at seven per 1,000 adults compared to the metro average, of four EGMs per 1,000 adults in 2021-22 financial year.⁶ The City of Maroondah has the 22nd highest expenditure on EGMs in Victoria with a per capita spend of \$481 annually compared to the metro average of \$406. Post COVID-19 there has been an overall increasing in EGM losses across Victoria with the 2022-23 financial year aiming to be one of the highest losses for Victoria in some time. The City of Maroondah has a regional cap of 759 poker machine entitlements. On 30 June 2022, there were 640 machines operating, which is 84 per cent of the municipal cap.⁷

⁵ Year ending March 2021.

⁶ Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (EGM data 2021–2022)

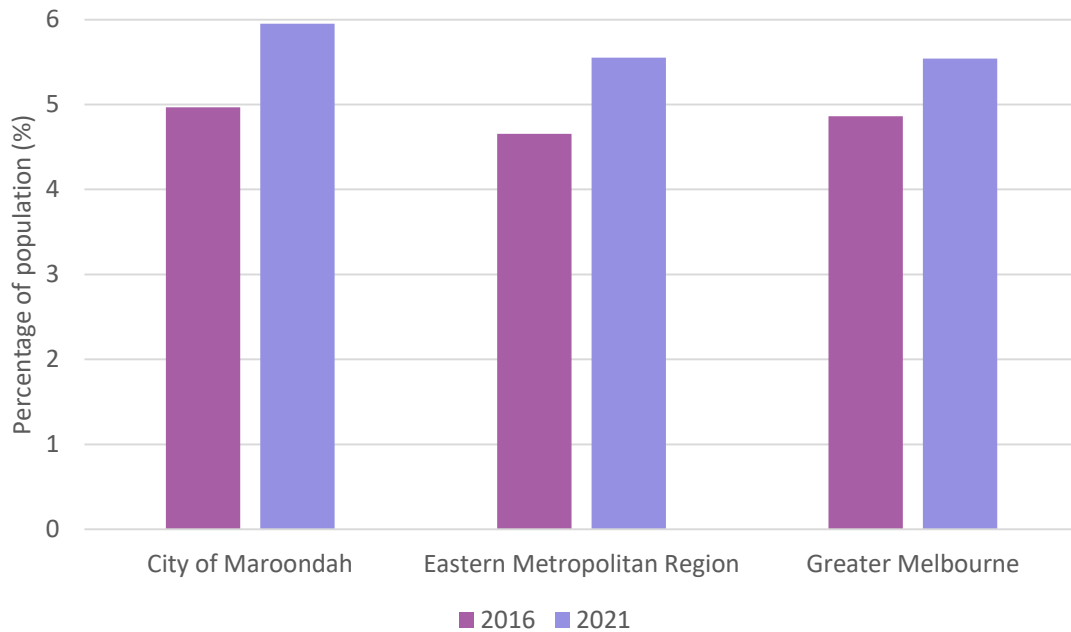
⁷ Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (EGM data 2021–2022)

Disability and care

In 2021, approximately six per cent of Maroondah's population required assistance in their day-to-day lives due to disability (an increase from 5% in 2016). This statistic is relatively similar across the Eastern Region and Greater Melbourne as illustrated in Figure 14 overleaf. Disability generally increases with age, with the age groups requiring assistance predominately aged 70 and over. As the population grows, it is likely that the proportion of residents requiring assistance will also increase. Maroondah will continue to require services and infrastructure to support this cohort of the community.

Unpaid assistance was provided by 13,000 carers in the City of Maroondah in 2021, or 14.1 per cent of the municipality's population (aged 15 and over). Over 60 per cent of carers were female. This is high compared to Greater Melbourne (12.6%) and the Eastern Metropolitan Region (13.6%), which suggests that there is a significant need for services for persons needing assistance, their families and carers, in Maroondah.

FIGURE 14: CITY OF MAROONDAH CHANGE IN PERSONS NEEDING ASSISTANCE 2016-2021



Source: ABS (2021)

2.4 Opportunities and challenges

With a growing and diverse population, the social fabric of Maroondah relies upon creating an equitable and inclusionary environment for all residents. This relates to individuals' ability to access education, develop skills, and participate in the face of social, economic, and environmental changes.

The key challenges for Maroondah's population include low mental and physical wellbeing, an ageing population, and having increased levels of disability. As indicated in Table 5, Council's role in addressing these challenges includes advocacy and the facilitation of mental health and wellbeing services, aged care services, and disability services into the municipality. Council also has a key role in supporting the delivery of accessible and inclusive infrastructure to enable access for all ages and abilities. In addition, Council has a role in providing community development and social inclusion programs across the municipality. These programs should consider the differing needs of different cohorts within the municipality, such as older people, overseas born and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

TABLE 5: PEOPLE AND WELLBEING – OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE FOR MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL

Challenges	Opportunities	Role for Maroondah City Council
Low mental wellbeing and social inclusion outcomes	Increase access to local services through the development of the Maroondah Hospital and potential associated support services. Encourage physical movement via access to active and passive recreation infrastructure. Improve social connections and inclusion.	Advocate and facilitate services in Maroondah to support mental health and wellbeing. Review paths and trails, street lighting, and inclusive pathways to encourage people of all ages and abilities to be able to undertake active and passive recreation. Review opportunities for different cohorts within the community to participate in their neighbourhoods, such as older people.
Low physical health and wellbeing outcomes, specifically chronic disease, and lifestyle factors	Understanding and addressing the underlying social determinants of chronic health and wellbeing	Providing access to affordable and accessible physical activity programs, services, and infrastructure (including Council leisure services, community centre recreation activities, walking/cycling paths, and active and passive open space. Advocating for accessible and affordable health services, including prevention programs such as screening, education, and health literacy.
An ageing population placing increased demand on infrastructure and services	Design facilities and services to cater for older population.	Council to advocate for and facilitate the location of aged care service providers in the municipality.

Challenges	Opportunities	Role for Maroondah City Council
		Ensure Council's services and infrastructure are designed and delivered using universal design principles.
Increasing levels of disability	Design services and facilities to be inclusive and accessible.	Council to advocate for and facilitate the location of disability service providers in the municipality. Ensure Council's services and infrastructure are designed and delivered using universal design principles.

Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

2.5 Community Vision

Based on the above section, the following themes, directions, and actions are recommended for the Community Vision.

Themes

- Health and wellbeing of all community members.

Key directions

- Improve social inclusion and opportunities for community connections through the creation of inclusive built environments and service delivery.
- Advocate for and facilitate accessible and affordable health and wellbeing services within Maroondah, including mental health, aged care and disability support services, and chronic disease.

Actions

- Council to advocate for and facilitate mental health, aged care and disability service providers being located in Maroondah.
- Council to design infrastructure and services to promote social inclusion and community interaction.
- Council to review active and passive recreation infrastructure to ensure it is inclusive and accessible for all ages and abilities.
- Council to review services and programs to ensure they are accessible and affordable for all community members.

3. Housing and neighbourhoods

3.1 Changing conditions and trends impacting housing and neighbourhoods

Lack of affordable housing: with escalating costs of living, the housing affordability challenges facing homeowners and renters are compounding. Across Australia these challenges have been exacerbated by ageing public housing stock, a lack of investment in affordable housing, and a lack of supply of market housing all further pushing up the cost of housing. A coordinated approach across all levels of government and the private sector is required to increase the supply of affordable housing. This includes encouraging suitable development via the planning system, supporting the development of social and affordable housing, working with community housing providers where suitable, and encouraging a diversity of housing type.

Changing demographics: with an ageing population comes the need for increased housing diversity, to ensure that residents at all ages and stages of life have access to suitable housing – from students and young professionals, through to families and older people looking to downsize. Older women - those aged 55 and over – are a growing cohort for homelessness in Australia, illustrating the widespread impacts of the housing crisis and diverse community needs. This is not only about the size of housing, but how it is configured to allow for access and independent living, and location and proximity to services.

Climate change: the impacts of climate change on urban environments will become increasingly more profound. Urban environments will become hotter, and experience increased and more severe natural weather events, such as flooding. This will drive changes in how and where we build, and how we plan our neighbourhoods.

Local neighbourhoods and services: post pandemic, and with the impacts of climate change and cost of living front and centre, there is a renewed focus on creating cities and neighbourhoods that are green, walkable, and connected to local employment and services. As housing stock ages, redevelopment will prioritise maintaining and increasing tree cover and vegetation, providing connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists, and delivering the diversity of housing that meets the needs of all life stages. In areas close to activity centres, this will include higher density apartment living, offering residents access to retail, services, and employment opportunities. This will also help to ensure that residents, particularly key workers, can live close to their place of work.

Ageing facilities and facilities that are no longer fit for purpose is a challenge in established areas. Demographic changes and shifts in community preferences are leading to changes in the way facilities are delivered, such as community hubs and co-location of community facilities. Fiscal constraints are requiring councils to prioritise the delivery, maintenance and disposal of facilities.

Arts and culture, a sector hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, is responding with a focus on supporting local artists and creative organisations as well as using art to create opportunities for promoting wellbeing and inclusion, and to increase amenity and interest in public spaces. The contribution of the arts and creative sectors to social, economic, environmental and cultural domains (highlighted by the pandemic) is now well recognised.

3.2 Policy context

Access to secure and affordable housing is a challenge for many households in Victoria due to entrenched failures in the housing market affecting both homeowners and those in the private rental system. Maroondah has been allocated \$45.85 million in the Victorian Government's Big Housing Build and is a member of the *Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance* and the *Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Group*, working regionally to address issues of homelessness and housing affordability.

Much of Maroondah's housing stock is mature and ageing. As a result, it is a prime candidate for redevelopment however, lot by lot redevelopment or infill often leads to reduced tree cover and open space. The City of Maroondah's *Greening the Greyfields* seeks to promote a more structured, sustainable approach to redevelopment at a precinct level, to create more housing choice and diversity while also meeting broader sustainability and liveability outcomes. Recent amendments to the Maroondah Planning Scheme will see the renewal of the Croydon South and Ringwood Greyfield Precincts to support greener city outcomes and increase housing supply.

Diverse housing will be required to meet the needs of an ageing population and changing household types, such as the increasing number of lone person households. *Maroondah Housing Strategy 2022 Refresh* provides a vision for Maroondah to have *high quality housing environments in appropriate locations that meet the community's diverse and changing needs*. The Strategy forecasts that the municipality will undergo significant change as Melbourne grows. Between 2021 and 2041, there is expected to be a demand of 11,240 additional dwellings in Maroondah – around one new dwelling for every four existing dwelling.

Environmentally sustainable design (ESD) will be an increasingly important consideration to ensure housing responds to the impacts of climate change and minimises the environmental impact. ESD can help to mitigate household energy and water usage, while increasing amenity and public safety. In 2021, an amendment to Maroondah's Planning Scheme introduced an ESD clause for planning applications to provide evidence for how developments will meet ESD objectives. As a member of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), Maroondah is a key collaborator working to elevate ESD standards in Victoria.

Local neighbourhoods are shaping development across Maroondah, and the Victorian Government more broadly, in line with *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*. In 2021, Maroondah City Council participated in a pilot program to test draft guidelines to support activity centre network planning in Croydon South. The program highlighted opportunities to improve walkability, increase access to public transport and revitalise the activity centre. Development guided by local neighbourhood principles will shape where and how Maroondah's residents live, with the aim of increasing the number of residents able to meet their daily needs within a short walk of home by 2050.

Enhancing the leafy character of neighbourhoods while also encouraging a mix of new dwellings is a key focus of Maroondah's *Housing Strategy 2022 Refresh*. The Strategy identified the need to protect and enhance the environment and neighbourhoods by encouraging housing diversity and density close to activity centres and transport hubs and supporting the implementation of urban cooling and greening initiatives.

Integrated community hubs and the co-location of facilities offers greater benefits and cost-effectiveness than traditional standalone facilities. This is reflected in recent State policy, whereby all new primary schools will have a kindergarten on-site or next-door. In Maroondah, the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct, endorsed by Council in 2020, is an example of Council bringing together wellbeing facilities, family and children's hubs, sport and recreation, and open spaces in order to enhance liveability, resilience and wellbeing in the community. The rise of community hubs co-located with other services and retail also reflects the shifting role of activity centres, from purely retail and commercial to places that offer access to a broader range of experiences and services, including community services.

Council's commitment to **arts and culture** is articulated in the *Maroondah Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025* which includes developing the arts and creative participation across Maroondah and positioning Maroondah as an arts and cultural leader in the Eastern Region. The Strategy notes the link between arts and wellbeing and the opportunity to connect communities, culture and the environment through arts and cultural activity.

Further information on specific policies and strategies can be found in Appendix A.

3.3 Data and analysis

Housing tenure and supply

There are just over 44,000 dwellings within Maroondah. The municipality has a high proportion of residents who fully own or are purchasing their home (72%) compared to Greater Melbourne (64.3%). There are just over 1,000 social housing dwellings within Maroondah (2.4% of all dwellings). Just over 20 per cent of the population are renting, with 33.6 per cent of renters spending more than 30 per cent of their income on rent. A further 15 per cent of the population are paying a mortgage, with 13.8 per cent spending more than 30 per cent of their income on their mortgage. This suggests that they are already, or are on the cusp of, experiencing housing stress. This aligns with broader trends and strengthens the need for additional affordable housing across metropolitan Melbourne (Table 6).

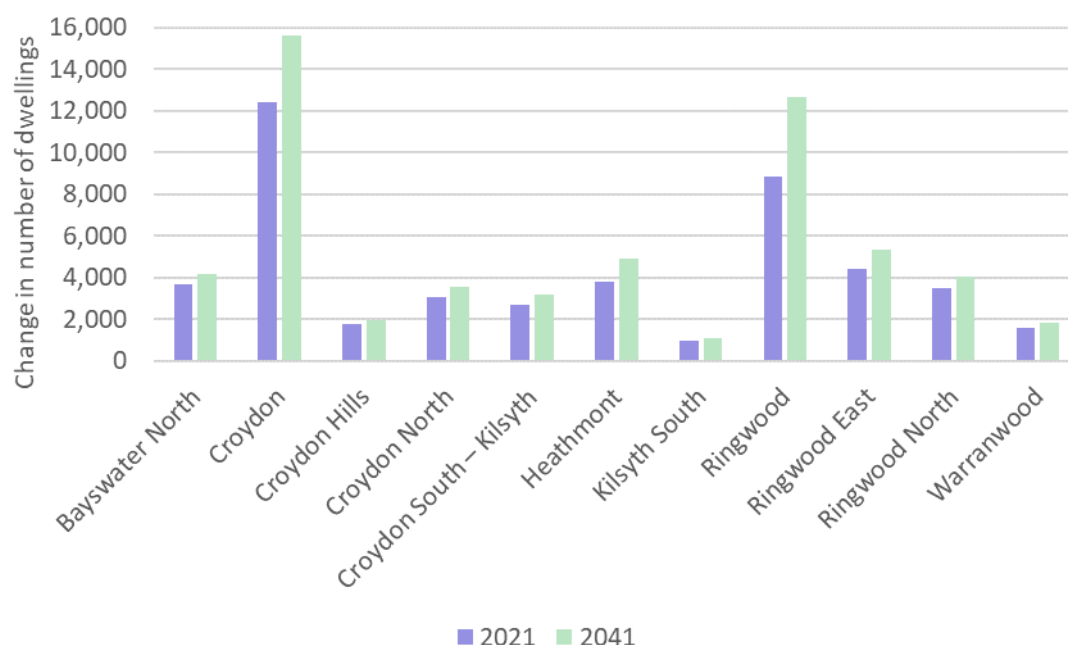
TABLE 6: HOUSING TENURE (2021)

Housing tenure	Maroondah	Greater Melbourne	Eastern Metropolitan Region
	Percentage of the population (%)		
Fully owned or purchasing	72%	64.3%	70.5%
Renting – private	21.3%	26.8%	22.2%
Social housing	2.4%	2.3%	1.6%

Source: ABS (2021)

According to analysis by .id (2021) the number of additional dwellings in the municipality is forecast to increase by 11,613 between 2021 and 2041. At a suburb level, as shown in Figure 15, the majority of dwellings are forecast to be built in Croydon and Ringwood, key activity centres in Maroondah.

FIGURE 15: CHANGE IN NUMBER OF DWELLINGS 2021-2041



Source: .id forecast (2021)

Household size

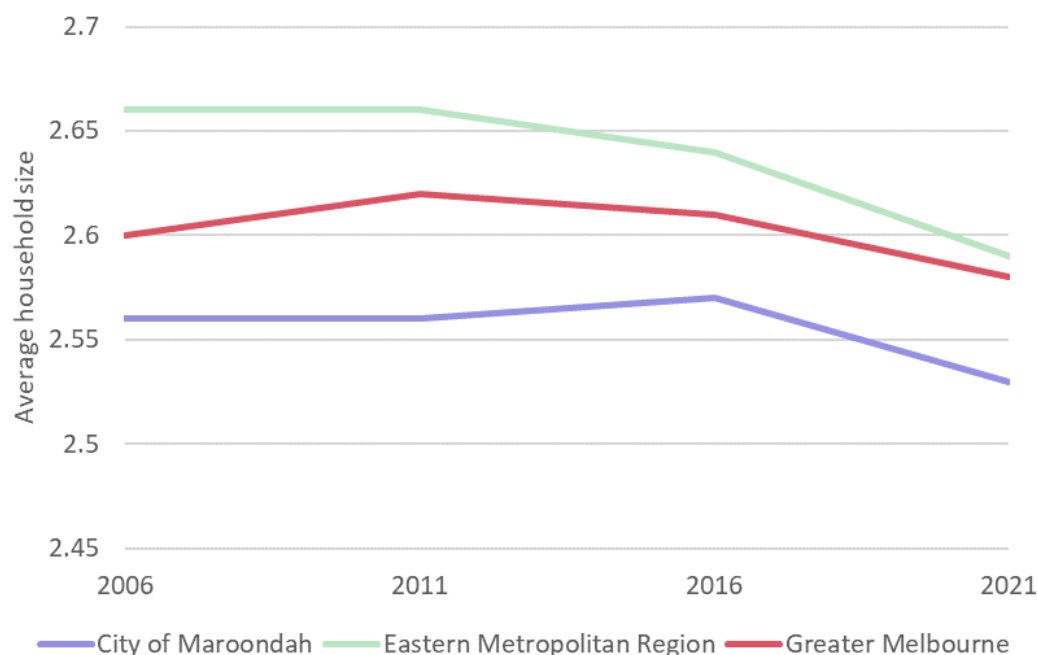
The average size of Australian households has been declining since the 1970s. This trend is evident in Maroondah where the average household size decreased from 2.56 people in 2011 to 2.53 people in 2021 (Figure 16).

A slight decline was registered in 2021, which could be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic which saw people move out of the Melbourne area. Data from 2020 indicates that people were moving out of Melbourne to regional areas, combined with fewer people moving to Melbourne from regional Victoria or interstate; Melbourne has a net outflow of over 17,000 between September 2019 and 2020, 25 times larger than the outflow observed the previous year.⁸

This shift in household size is also reflected in the higher number of lone person households, which made up over 24 per cent of households in Maroondah in 2021 (Figure 12).

⁸ Australian Government Centre for Population (2021) Migration Between Cities and Regions: A quick guide to COVID-19 impacts.

FIGURE 16: HOUSEHOLD SIZE, 2006-2021



Source: ABS (2006, 2011, 2016, 2021)

Dwelling type

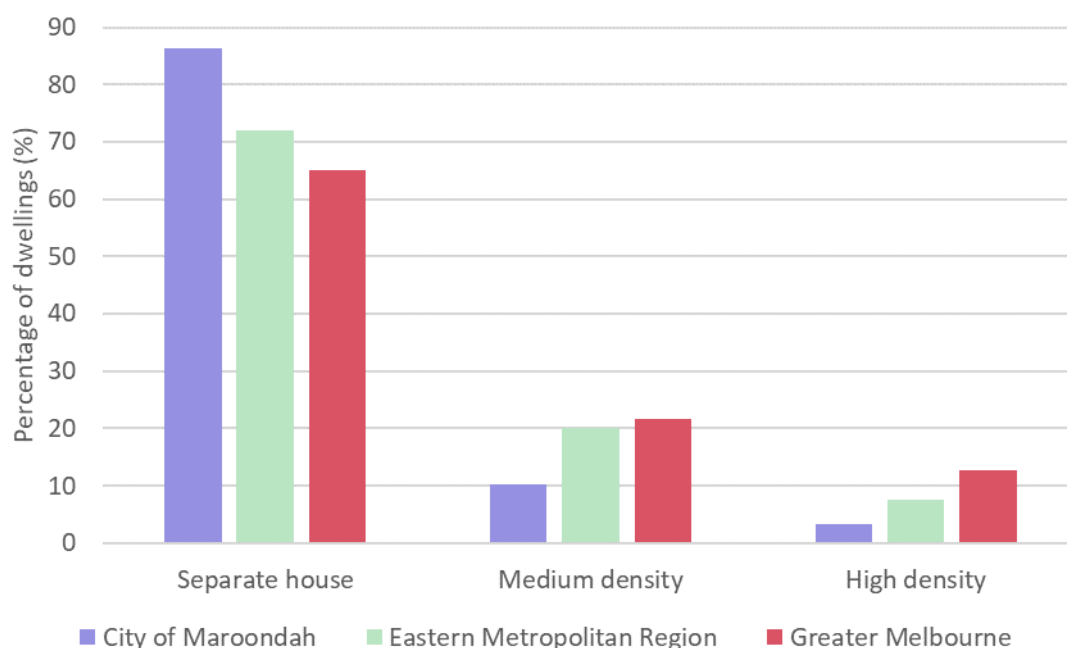
Maroondah's residential landscape is made up predominantly of separate dwellings (90% of housing stock). Compared to the Eastern Metropolitan Region and Greater Melbourne, Maroondah has a lower proportion of medium and high-density dwellings (Figure 17).

The share of dwelling types in the municipality does not necessarily align with the household types which, as illustrated in the previous section (Figure 12), is seeing an increase in lone person households. This suggests that there will need to be an increase in the diversity of housing stock in Maroondah to meet the needs of its current and future community and to support all ages and life stages living in the municipality. Key trends and demographic changes influencing the demand for different dwelling types include:

- **An ageing population** leads to a greater demand for smaller and age friendly dwellings as some of Maroondah's older population seeks to downsize from their family home.
- **Gentrification** of some areas in the municipality can create a greater demand for 'high-end' apartments and dwellings in activity centres, while displacing some residents on low incomes, pushing them further out of town centres.
- **Increasing cultural diversity** in the municipality impacts the typical household composition as multigenerational living can be common in some cultures. Dwelling types therefore may be required to accommodate larger families.

In addition to the above, with increased ageing there will be a demand for increased residential aged care. Maroondah's *Housing Strategy Refresh* (2022) estimates that there will be a demand of 390 additional aged care beds over this time (2021-2041).⁹

FIGURE 17: DWELLING TYPE (2021)



Source: ABS (2021)

Perceptions of safety

According to the 2015 VicHealth Indicators Survey¹⁰, most (91.4%) of the surveyed residents in Maroondah felt safe walking alone during the day, which is comparable to the Victorian average (92.5%). However, at night, less than half (47%) of Maroondah residents reported feeling safe, which is less than the Victorian average (55.1%). These results indicate more can be done to increase perceptions of safety for residents at night. This could include elements such as increased lighting, increased passive surveillance of street frontages through good design, and increased activation of key areas.

Homelessness

The 2021 ABS Census estimates that there are over 470 people experiencing homelessness in Maroondah and a further 235 people living in crowded dwellings. Homelessness has increased by 46 per cent since 2016 (321 persons).

⁹ Maroondah Housing Strategy 2022 Refresh

¹⁰ https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/Vic161_Maroondah_indicator_v5.pdf

This alarming increase is indicative of an increasingly inaccessible and unaffordable housing market, particularly for vulnerable groups such as the young, the elderly, and single women aged over 55. With 33 per cent of rental households spending 30 per cent or more on housing, as noted earlier, and the increasing cost-of-living, without increased access to housing and associated support services the rates of homelessness may increase in the future.

The City of Maroondah is a member of the *Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Group*, 13 councils in Melbourne's east and south-east working collaboratively to respond to homelessness and advocate for major reforms to increase the supply of social housing in Victoria. Knox Council conducted an assessment of social housing needs in the region, finding that there was a demand for 41,610 social/affordable private rentals in 2021. The capacity to meet this lower cost rental housing need in 2021 was 65 per cent, meaning there was a shortage of 14,610. This shortage is projected to increase to 24,740 by 2041 unless 1,240 additional social housing/affordable private rentals are delivered annually.¹¹

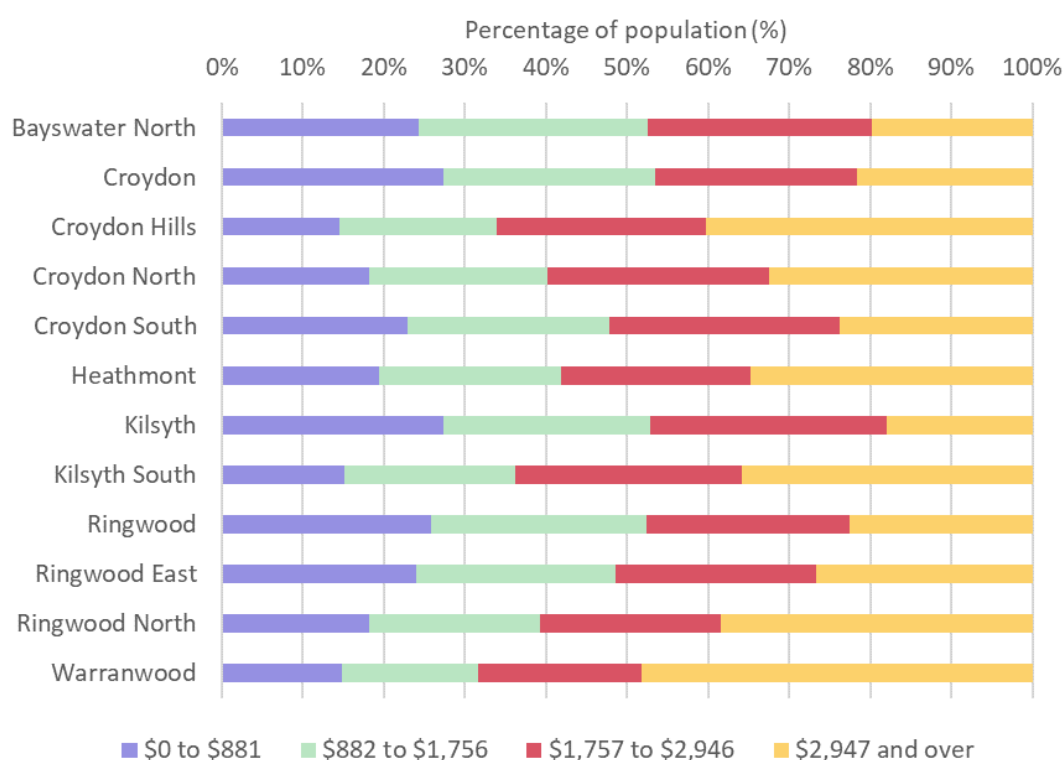
Household income

Maroondah has a lower proportion of high-income households (27.2%) (those with a weekly household income of \$2,947 and above) compared to the Eastern Metropolitan Region (30.2%) and approximately aligns with that of Greater Melbourne (27.8%). In contrast, Maroondah has a higher proportion of middle-income households (49.7%) (those with a weekly household income between \$882-\$2,946) and low-income households (23.2%).

At the suburb level, areas with the lowest household incomes include Croydon, Kilsyth (although only a small portion of this suburb falls within Maroondah) and Ringwood. In contrast, the areas with the highest household incomes are Warranwood, Croydon Hills, Kilsyth South and Ringwood North, where over 60 per cent of households have a weekly income of \$1,757 or more (Figure 18). This trend broadly aligns with the SEIFA index, which reveals areas of high socio-economic disadvantage and advantage.

¹¹ Regional Local Government Homelessness & Social Housing Group Charter Annual Report (2023) Executive Summary.

FIGURE 18: CITY OF MAROONDAH WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2021)



Source: ABS (2021)

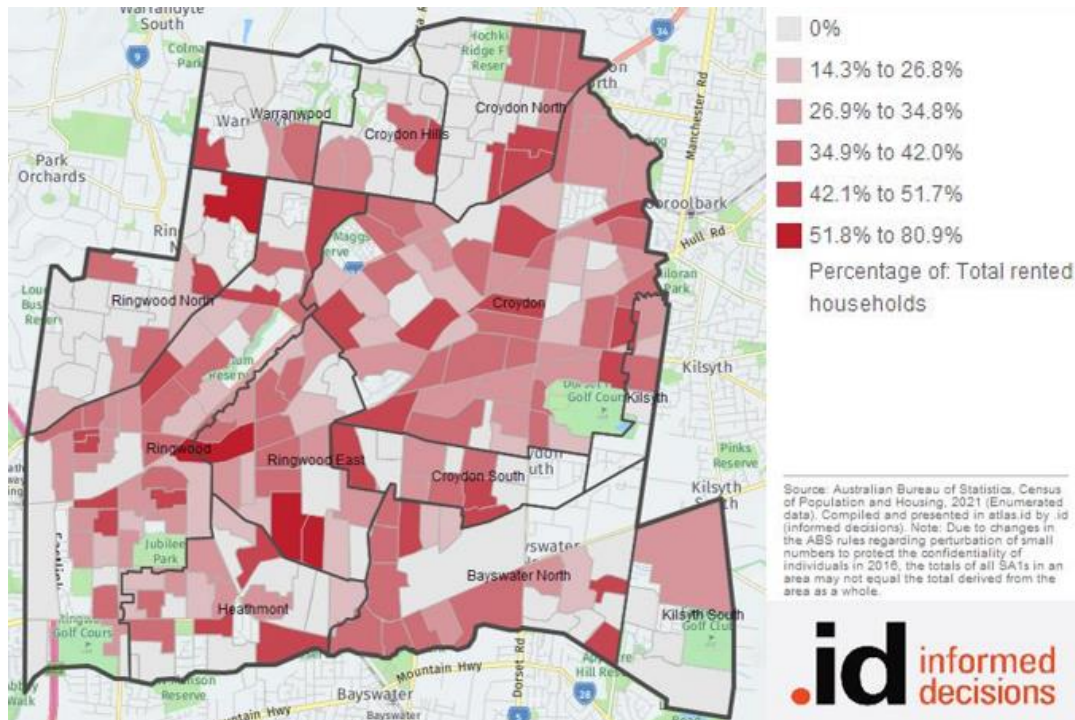
Housing stress

Rental stress - calculated as households where rental costs exceed 30 per cent of their income – is an increasingly pressing issue in Australia’s housing landscape as the cost-of-living rises, and the private rental market is becoming harder to access for low-income households. There are several areas within the municipality with a greater concentration of households experiencing rental stress. Each suburb in Maroondah can be seen to have at least one small area (SA1) identified as having over half of total households experiencing rental stress, as illustrated in Figure 19 overleaf.

It should be noted that the 2021 Census data was collected during the COVID-19 pandemic where there was an increase in affordable rental options. Since this time the supply of affordable rental options has dramatically decreased. Given this, the number (and share) of households experiencing several rental stress is likely to have increased in the intervening years.

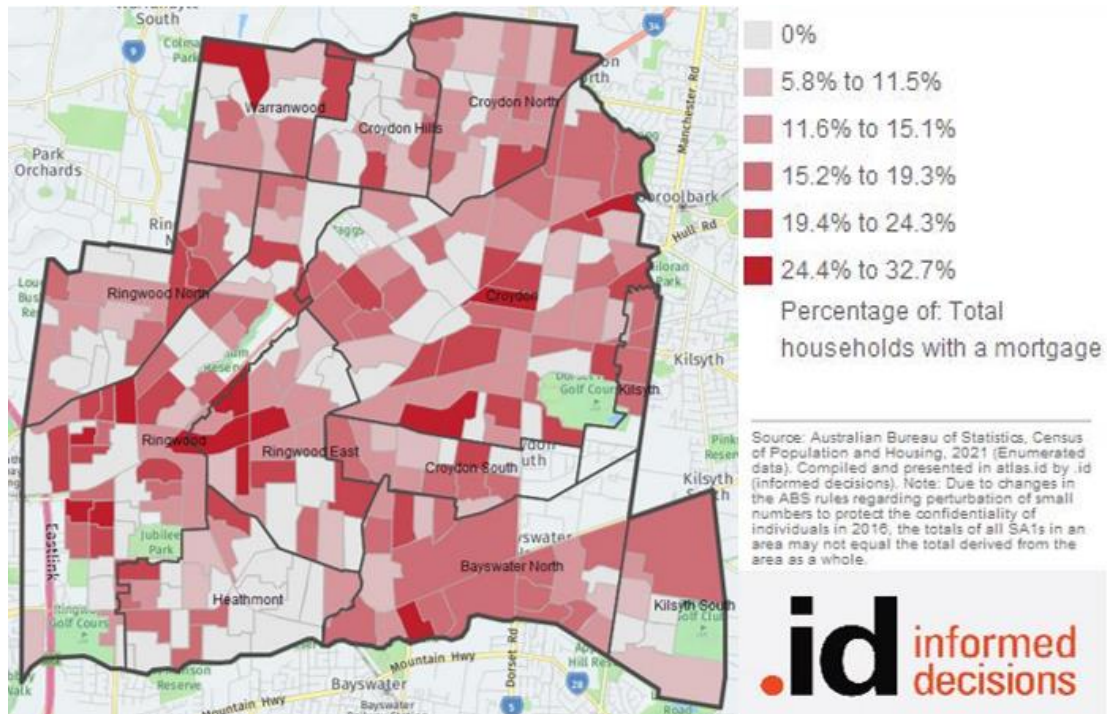
Mortgage stress – where mortgage costs exceed 30 per cent of a household’s income – is depicted in Figure 20 overleaf. The 2021 data indicates households across the municipality are experiencing mortgage stress, with a concentration of higher mortgage stress (24.4-32.7% of households) around activity centres, such as Ringwood and Croydon.

FIGURE 19: CITY OF MAROONDAH RENTAL STRESS (2021)



Source: .id Atlas, 2021

FIGURE 20: CITY OF MAROONDAH MORTGAGE STRESS (2021)



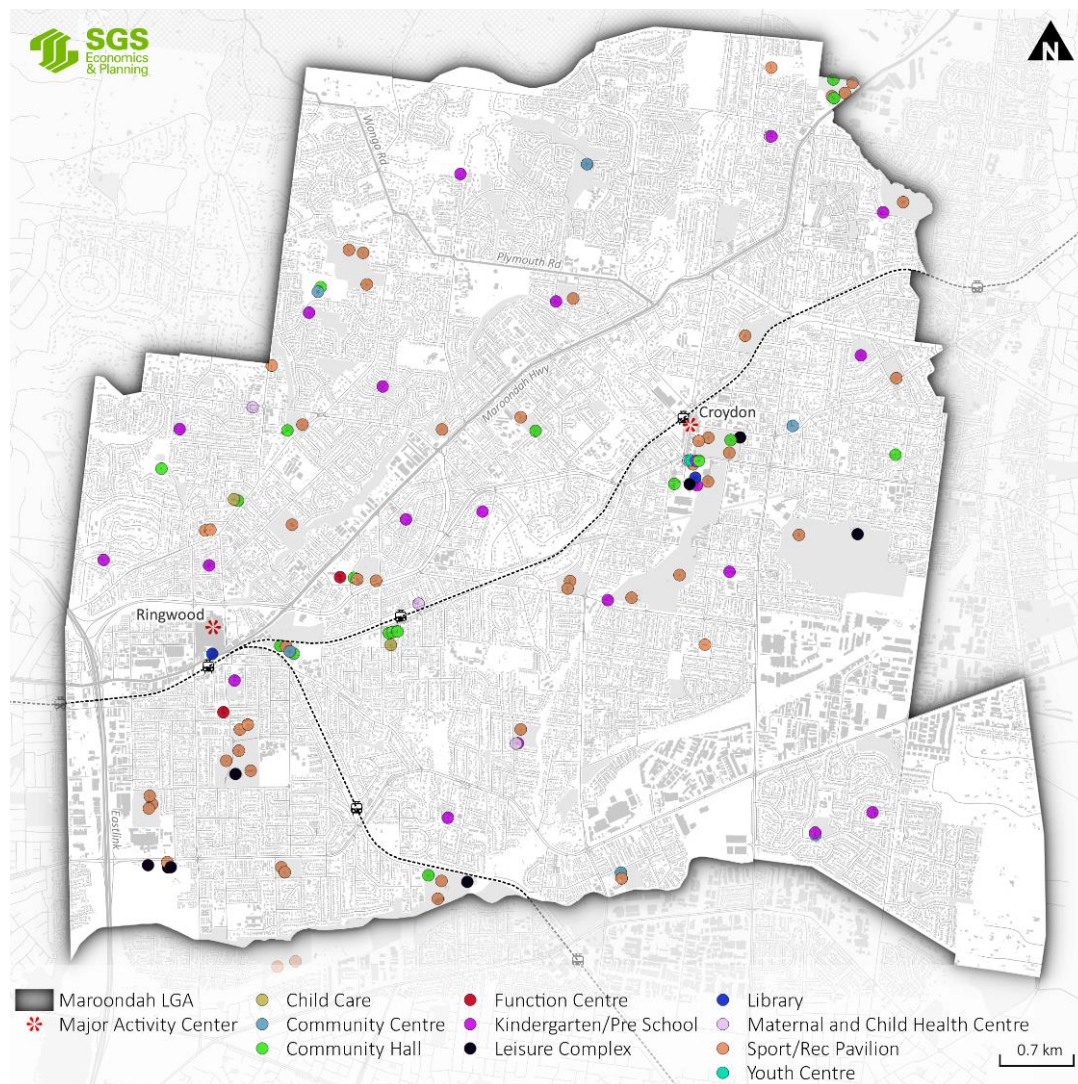
Source: .id Atlas, 2021

Community services and facilities

Current supply of facilities and services

The City of Maroondah provides over a range of facilities and services. The spatial distribution of Council-owned community facilities across the municipality (as shown in Figure 21) is concentrated around the two major activity centres (Ringwood and Croydon) in areas close to key transport links such as the Maroondah Highway and railway line. However, there are areas that have limited access to community facilities, such as Kilsyth South.

FIGURE 21: MAROONDAH COUNCIL OWNED COMMUNITY FACILITIES



Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

Some of Maroondah's facilities are ageing and may be unable to adapt to the future needs of the community. As the population grows, additional demand will be placed on community services and facilities to meet community needs and priorities.

A high-level supply and demand assessment of a selection of Maroondah's existing community facilities, using population forecasts and infrastructure benchmarks, reveals a potential undersupply of key facilities. As indicated in Table 7, MCH facilities are potentially already at an undersupply, with this forecast to increase with into the future. This finding should be tested against service utilisation rates and account for changing demographics into the future.

Maroondah currently has a slight undersupply of library services. This is set to increase to an undersupply of one facility by 2041. Consideration of an additional library should be undertaken.

There is a strong supply of community centres across the municipality. Community centres are often used to cater for a range of community and service needs, including older people and younger people. The age of these facilities along with fitness for purpose should be reviewed to ensure the facilities are able to adapt to changing community needs.

Youth service facilities is highlighted as undersupply both now and into 2041. Council has one youth services facility. Young people can access a range of other facilities across the municipality if it is designed to be inclusive to their needs. Existing facilities should be reviewed in consultation with young people to ensure their needs are being met.

To gain a more holistic understanding of current and future services and facilities needs within the municipality, Council should consider undertaking an in-depth community services and facilities needs assessment.

TABLE 7: SELECTED COUNCIL COMMUNITY FACILITIES SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Facility/service	Provision ratio*	Existing supply	Supply and demand	
			2021	2041
Maternal Child Health (MCH)	1 dual facility per 16,000 residents	5	-2.2	-3.81
Library	1 facility per 45,000 residents	2	-0.56	-1.13
Community Centre (medium size)	1 facility per 27,000 residents	6	1.7	0.78
Youth services	1 facility per 8,000 people	1	-13.4	-16.61

Source: SGS Economics and Planning using data supplied from Maroondah City Council (2023)

*ASR, 2018 provision ratios.

Council's service delivery is part of a broader network of services delivered by community groups and service providers operating in the municipality such as EACH Social and Community Health, Knoxbrooke, Eastern Health Child & Youth Mental Health Services, Anglicare, and the Australian Red Cross to name a few. These services provide health, training, and social supports for Maroondah's residents.

Arts spaces

Council has developed the emerging Ringwood arts precinct which includes the ArtSpace at Realm, Ringwood Town Square, and a walkable network of indoor and outdoor spaces. Over 100,000 people attend the exhibitions, activities and events at the Ringwood arts precinct annually. The art gallery at nearby Maroondah Federation Estate supports emerging artists, established artists and groups from the municipality and the eastern region. In Croydon, the Wyreena Community Arts Centre hosts community groups and operates art and craft classes.

Participation in arts networks and related events by local artists/community members was at 236 people in 2019, dropped significantly during the COVID-19 affected years of 2020 and 2021 at 99 and 59 people respectively, but is now up to 83 people in 2022.

Recreation

A key component of recreation in Maroondah is access to walking routes and green spaces that allow residents to enjoy the municipality's 652.8 hectares of open space. There are numerous walking routes, alongside shared path trails, distributed across the municipality (Figure 22 overleaf). There are also six historic walks in Ringwood, Croydon and Heathmont that highlight historic buildings and celebrate Maroondah's rich history.

Two significant aquatic and leisure centres are located in the major activity centres of Croydon and Ringwood, with an additional outdoor swimming pool in Croydon.

In addition, Maroondah has three indoor stadiums (The Rings, Maroondah Nets and Maroondah Edge) as well as 53 sports grounds (including oval, soccer and athletics tracks) to facilitate participation in organised sport. There are also two golf courses (Ringwood Golf and Dorset Golf) located in Maroondah.

FIGURE 22: MAROONDAH SIGNED WALKING ROUTES



Source: The City of Maroondah, <https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Explore/Walks-and-trails>.

3.4 Opportunities and challenges

Access to affordable and appropriate housing is a significant challenge across Australia. In Maroondah, the need to provide diverse housing and create liveable, sustainable neighbourhoods presents opportunities to innovate and collaborate within the region. Council's key role in addressing these challenges is through the Planning Scheme. This includes the consideration of density around activity centres and transport hubs, facilitation of affordable housing options, partnerships with the Victorian Government, and supporting the development and delivery of local neighbourhoods. In addition, Council advocacy should focus on increased investment in social housing and planning scheme reforms to promote the development of social and affordable housing.

TABLE 8: HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS- OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE FOR MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL

Challenges	Opportunities	Role for Maroondah City Council
Maroondah's growing population will increase demand for new housing.	Renewal of greyfield sites to create more housing in areas around activity centres.	Planning scheme, rezoning around activity centres and transport hubs to increase the density and diversity of housing
Housing does not meet the needs of current and future residents, with increasing numbers of single person households and an ageing population.	Increase the supply of diverse housing, including aged care facilities and medium density dwellings.	As identified above, planning scheme, rezoning, to increase housing diversity around activity centres and transport hubs
Increased homelessness and overcrowding, rising cost of living stress	Early intervention for prevention of homelessness Increase access to homelessness support services	Working with, and supporting, homelessness services
Lack of affordable housing within the municipality.	Encourage more affordable housing across the municipality	Active implementation of voluntary affordable housing agreements with developers Support for the Victorian Government affordable housing projects across the municipality Advocacy for increased investment in social housing and planning scheme reforms to enable development of social and affordable housing

Challenges	Opportunities	Role for Maroondah City Council
Limited applicability of planning for local neighbourhoods in Maroondah	Create resilient, liveable and connected neighbourhoods.	Proactively planning for enhanced liveability in local neighbourhoods
Maintaining and enhancing the leafy character of the municipality as the population grows	Facilitate a sustainable approach to redevelopment that includes green infrastructure and retaining tree canopy	Implementation of the municipality's Housing Strategy and Sustainability Strategy
Increased demand for services and facilities in line with population growth	Alternative service delivery models such as integrated community hubs, online services, and pop-up services to meet changing community needs.	Facilitate partnerships with other service providers to identify opportunities for co-location and integration of services
Ageing facilities are unable to meet changing community needs	Retrofit existing facilities / design fit for purpose new infrastructure	Undertake an asset management assessment of all community facilities to identify opportunities for retrofitting and/or asset disposal

Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

3.5 Community Vision

Based on the above section, the following themes, directions, and actions are recommended for the Community Vision.

Themes

- Neighbourhoods that promote liveability and support affordable and diverse housing.
- Community facilities that are adaptable, sustainable, and financially viable.

Key directions

- Increase diversity of housing to improve housing choice and ability for residents to downsize locally.
- Increase access to social and affordable housing across the municipality.
- Advocate for social and affordable housing within the municipality.
- Continue to implement and facilitate the delivery of local neighbourhoods.
- Colocation and integration of community facilities that supports flexible service delivery and high utilisation.
- Explore alternative service and facility delivery, partnerships, and funding opportunities.

Actions

- Explore partnerships and opportunities to facilitate the delivery of affordable housing (both through development applications and Victorian Government partnerships).
- Advocate to the Victorian Government for levers to increase social and affordable housing such as planning scheme reform to include mandatory affordable housing contributions.
- Lead the implementation of the Housing Strategy 2022 Refresh.
- Continuation of local neighbourhoods pilots, exploring the potential to expand the lessons learnt and local neighbourhood principles from the pilot in Croydon South to other suburbs in the municipality.
- Develop a community services and facilities plan to identify current and forecast service gaps, opportunities to increase utilisation of facilities, and facilities that are no longer required in their current format.
- Explore partnership opportunities to support the increased demand for community facilities and services within the municipality.

4. Economy and education

4.1 Changing conditions and trends impacting on the local economy and education

COVID-19 had a significant impact on the Australian economy, fundamentally changing the way in which many people work, the way we shop and the function of supply chains. *Maroondah Economic Business Insights* (REMPLAN, 2022) found that Maroondah's businesses fared relatively well throughout the pandemic and the overall employment and economic activity forecast is positive. However, lasting impacts are evident with the shift to hybrid work becoming the norm in many workplaces and online retail firmly established for goods and services. While international supply chains and labour shortages have had a lasting impact on the economy, they also provided an opportunity to increase resilience by strengthening local supply chains and, in turn, local employment.

Digitisation and data are modernising education provision, business operations and diversifying traditional workforce skills. This shift was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic which forced education providers and businesses to shift to online. Ensuring a high level of digital literacy for all residents will be critical to ensure they can access education, enter the workforce and participate in increasingly knowledge-intensive industries.

Digital service delivery and 'smart' infrastructure projects are changing the way individuals engage with councils. This includes digital platforms for engagement and 24-hour online services with a focus on user focussed design, as well as 'smart' infrastructure. Organisations need to be technology and data enabled, with a workforce that has the digital skills to support a culture of innovation.

The rise of advanced manufacturing is seeing the Australian economy shift from traditional manufacturing and agricultural sectors towards knowledge-intensive industries. Advanced manufacturing is an emerging sector that increases the capability of manufacturing by incorporating innovative technologies to improve efficiency and create high quality outputs. The Bayswater Business Precinct makes a significant contribution to the Melbourne economy, underpinned by a strong advanced manufacturing, industry 4.0 business presence. Traditionally a strong ecosystem of well-connected industries with strong local supply chains, the shift of manufacturing businesses out of the Precinct has impacted local business further down the supply chain. Supporting the ongoing transition to advanced manufacturing and industry 4.0 will be critical to the Precinct's ongoing success and its role as a local employment precinct.

The role of local centres is changing. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the shift to online retail and services. Consumer preferences and behaviour have also changed, with trends towards buying local, shopping and accessing services locally as more people work from home, and the growth of the wellness industry. Collectively, this shift is leading retail centres to focus on urban design and accessibility, offering a positive user experience and supporting a population-serving economy.

The need for a sustainable 'clean economy' will see industry shift towards more sustainable practices, net zero operations and circularity. Enabled by emerging technology, industry will look to create products designed for 'circularity' minimising end of life waste as well as minimising emissions during production.

The interest in a more **inclusive economic model** will see an increasing focus on creating sustainable local economies – economies that generate wealth and keep that wealth circulating in the local economy by growing and supporting local businesses and local employment opportunities.

4.2 Policy context

Manufacturing is a key industry in Maroondah. The *City of Maroondah Economic Business Insights* (REMPLAN, 2022) report identifies that supporting the sector will be critical for employment, supporting supply chain industries, economic activity, and innovation. This is also reflected in the Maroondah *COVID-19 Recovery Plan* (2021) as the pandemic highlighted the importance of local manufacturing and supply chains. *Advanced Victorian Manufacturing: A Blueprint for the Future* (2017) identifies a new vision for the future of manufacturing in Victoria as the *home to internationally competitive manufacturers* delivering high-value exports.

Maroondah's own manufacturing industry will be required to evolve over the next 30-years, with education institutions to play a crucial role in supporting the transition to advanced manufacturing. The *Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy* (2021) identifies the Precinct as a major employment hub, the second largest in Melbourne's Eastern Region, and acknowledges the critical need for digital transformation and advanced manufacturing for the Precinct to maintain a competitive edge and economic advantage.

Maroondah's Major Activity Centre and Metropolitan Activity Centre (MACs), as identified in Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, are the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre (RMAC) and the Croydon Major Activity Centre (CMAC). These MACs play an important role in the local economy, provide access to a diverse range of jobs and activities, and play a major role in service delivery.

Tourism and leisure play a significant role in the region. As one of seven local councils to collaborate on the *Melbourne East 2020 Regional Plan*, the City of Maroondah is part of the vision for the region to be *Australia's premier lifestyle and business destination* by driving economic growth across six priority areas, including precinct activation and accommodation. The Plan highlights opportunities for economic growth and collaboration, including the continued development of MACs.

The kindergarten reform announced by the Victorian Government in 2022, increased the hours of funded kindergarten for four-year-olds from 15 to 30 hours per week. This is on top of the previously announced addition of 15 hours of three-year-old kindergarten. This presents a significant service challenge for all councils, including Maroondah City Council. The Victorian Government *Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan 2020* (KISP) indicates that Maroondah will have a shortfall of 369 kindergarten places by 2029.¹² This assessment however was undertaken prior to the additional 15 hours of four-year-old kindergarten being announced. Given this, the shortfall in kindergarten places is likely to be much higher.

Further information on specific policies and strategies can be found in Appendix A.

¹² Department of Education and Training, (2020) 'Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan: City of Maroondah'.

4.3 Data and analysis

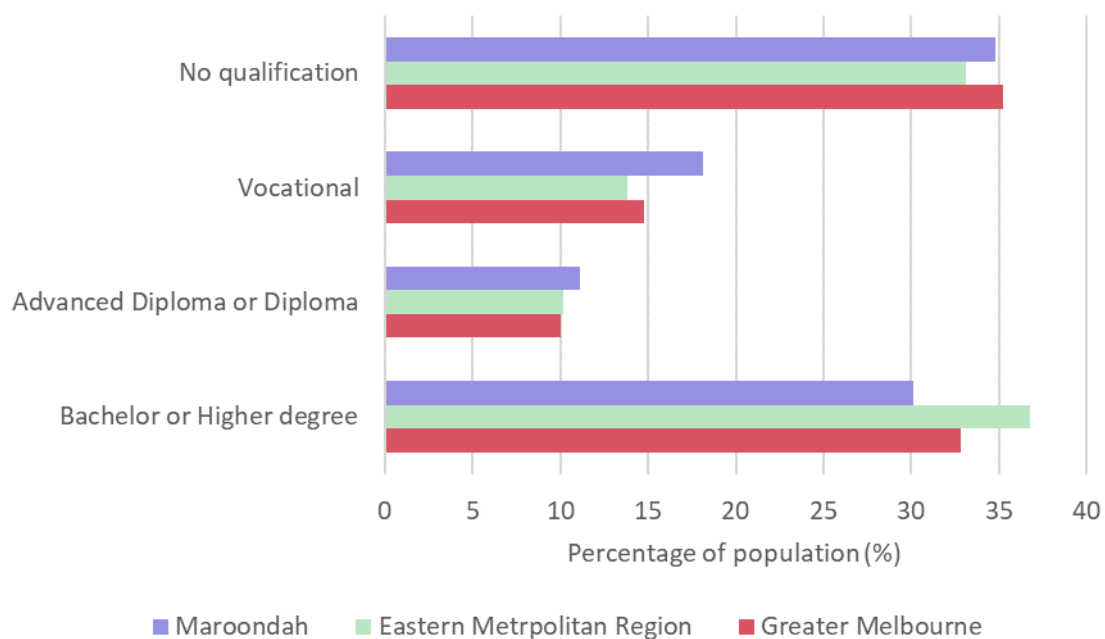
Education

Qualifications

There is a significant gap in educational attainment in Maroondah. Over 34 per cent of the population have no qualifications, a similar level to the Eastern Metropolitan Region (33%) and Greater Melbourne (35%) (Figure 23). A greater proportion of Maroondah's population has a vocational qualification (18%) than Greater Melbourne (15%) and the Eastern Metropolitan Region (14%).

The number of people in Maroondah with bachelor or higher degree has increased by six per cent since 2016, indicating that university education is becoming more common in the municipality.

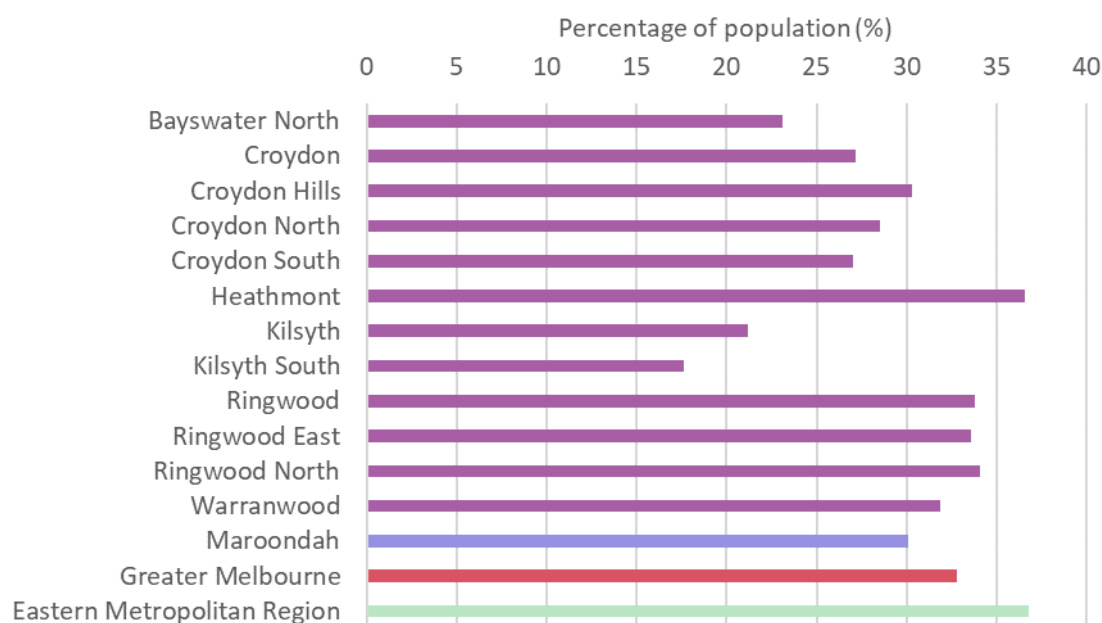
FIGURE 23: LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION (2021)



Source: ABS (2021)

At the suburb level, Kilsyth South (17.6%), Kilsyth (21.2%) and Bayswater North (23.1%), contain fewer people with a bachelor degree or higher compared to Maroondah (see Figure 24). However, only a small portion of Kilsyth falls within Maroondah. In the case of Bayswater North and Kilsyth, these results broadly align with the lower SEIFA scores within these areas (see Figure 8).

FIGURE 24: POPULATION WITH A BACHELOR DEGREE OR HIGHER (2021)



Source: ABS (2021)

Digital inclusion

According to the 2021 Australian Digital Inclusion Index (ADII) – a national survey to measure digital inclusion across three dimensions of access, affordability, and digital ability - Maroondah has an above average level of digital inclusion compared to the national average (73 vs 71.1).

Maroondah scored higher than the national average on access (+2) affordability (+0.9) and digital ability (+2.6). Across Australia, sections of the community are being left behind in terms of digital access and inclusion, including:

- mobile-only users
- people over 75 years of age
- people who did not complete secondary school
- people who rent from a public housing authority, and
- those who fall into the lowest income quintile.

It is likely these groups are experiencing similar challenges in Maroondah.

According to ABS 2016 census data, around 10 per cent of households in Maroondah did not have internet connection, compared to 11.3 per cent in Greater Melbourne.

As industry and services increase in digitalisation it will be important to ensure that people are not further isolated within the community. This may mean the addition of free public Wi-Fi to support those that do not have access to the internet, access to public computers, and digital literacy courses.

Kindergartens

There are 64 funded kindergarten services in Maroondah:

- 22 stand-alone kindergartens
- 39 kindergarten programs in long day care services
- 3 kindergartens in private schools.¹³

According to the Department of Education and Training (2020), the average age of Council's kindergarten facilities is more than 40 years and 75 per cent of the buildings only have one main room. The age, configuration and accessibility of these facilities limits the services that can be provided. The required works and/or replacements, alongside an increase in enrolment numbers due to population growth and the kindergarten reform, will require a significant investment in new kindergarten facilities from either Council or private service providers.

Volunteering

ABS Census data shows that in 2021 almost 14,000 residents in Maroondah volunteered, equal to 14.8 per cent of the Maroondah's population (aged 15+). Maroondah's rate of volunteering is greater than Greater Melbourne (12%) and equal to that of the Eastern Metropolitan Region (14.9%).

However, since 2016, the number of Maroondah residents who volunteered decreased by almost 5,000. This can be attributed to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown restrictions that kept people home.

Employment and workforce

The rate of labour force participation is similar across Maroondah, the Eastern Metropolitan Region, and Greater Melbourne, with around 30 per cent in part time employment and over 50 per cent in full time employment (Figure 25).

In Maroondah, there is a significant gender divide in the share of full and part-time work: 45 per cent of employed women are in part-time work, compared to just 20 per cent of males. This trend aligns with Greater Melbourne and reflects the gender impacts of women moving out of full-time work to take on caring roles. For women the longer-term impacts of this include less superannuation and reduced future income potential.

In 2021, Maroondah had a slightly lower proportion of unemployment at four per cent compared to 4.7 per cent and 5.3 per cent in the Eastern Metropolitan Region and Greater Melbourne respectively (Figure 25). The labour force profile for each of Maroondah's suburbs reflects a similar distribution, however, the rate of unemployment is highest in Ringwood East (4.8%), Ringwood (4.6%) and Croydon (4.3%) which largely aligns with the SEIFA index.

¹³ Department of Education and Training, (2020) 'Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan: City of Maroondah'.

FIGURE 25: EMPLOYMENT STATUS, 2021



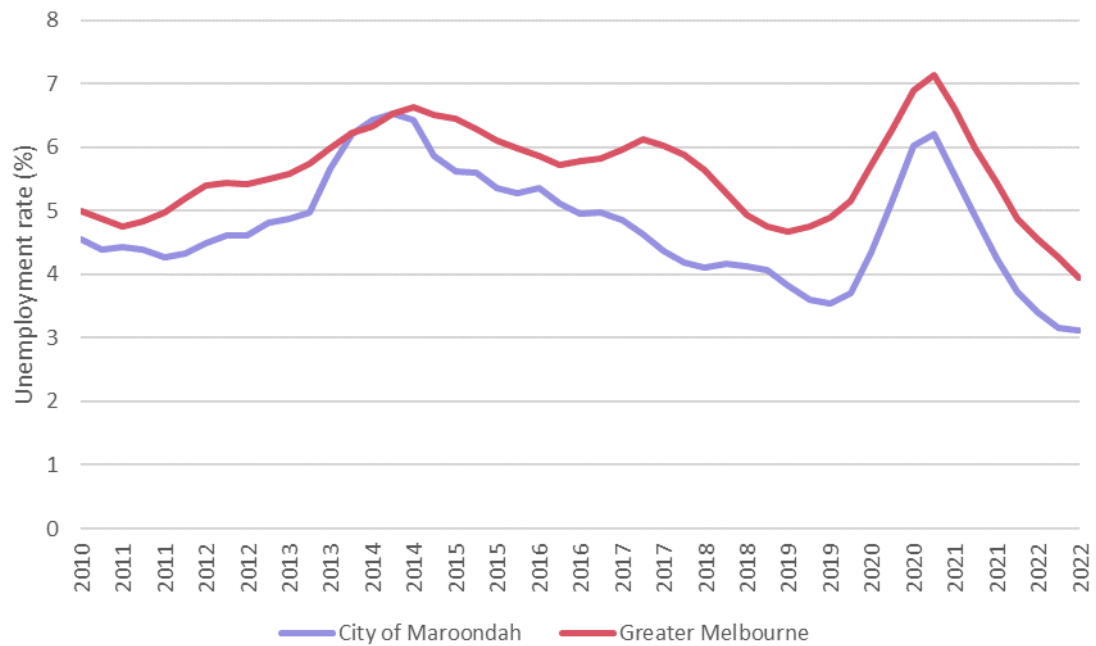
Source: ABS (2021)

Underemployment - the share of workers in the economy who want to and are available to work additional hours – has increased across Australia over the past several decades.¹⁴ Structural changes to Australia’s labour market, including an increase in the share of part-time work, has left many workers seeking additional hours, particularly in service industries.

In the December 2022 quarter, Maroondah’s unemployment rate had decreased to 3.1 per cent from 4.2 per cent in the previous year. The rate of unemployment is seen to have spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic in December 2020 and March 2021 when the rate of unemployment in Maroondah reached 6.2 per cent, and 7.1 per cent in Greater Melbourne (Figure 26). As national trends have indicated a return to work and economic recovery to pre-COVID-19 levels, the rate of unemployment has declined dramatically.

¹⁴ Reserve Bank of Australia (2021) Underemployment in the Australian Labour Market. Bulletin – June 2021.

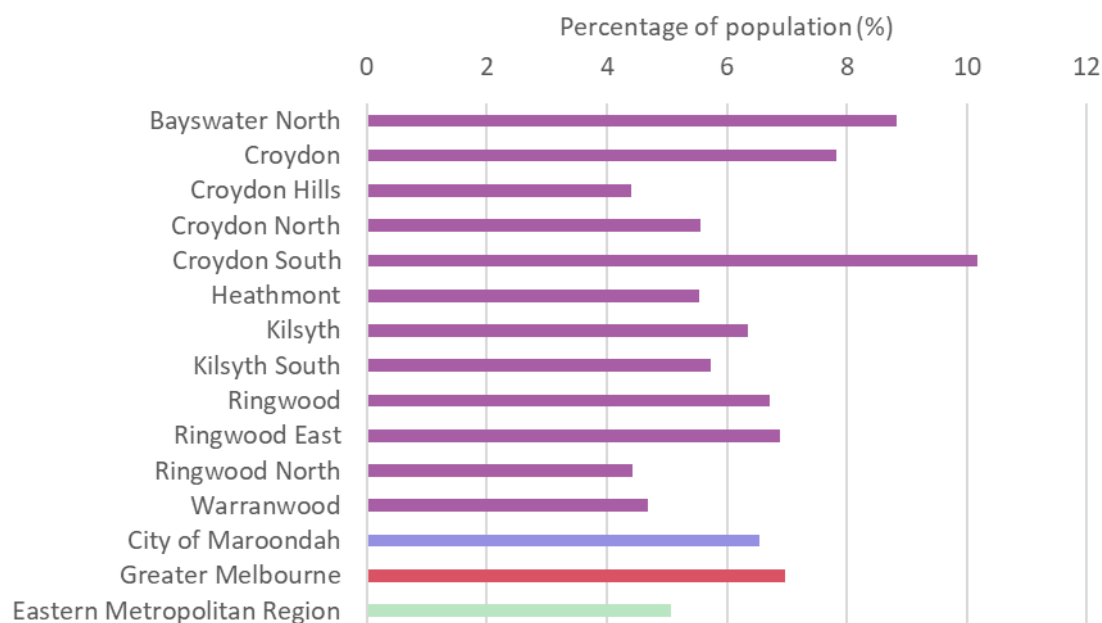
FIGURE 26: RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT 2010-2022



Source: ABS (2010-2022)

Rates of labour force participation and education engagement among Maroondah's young people (15- to 24-year-olds) point to the accessibility of education and labour markets. In 2021, 6.5 per cent of 15 to 24-year-olds were disengaged with employment and education, compared to 7 per cent in Greater Melbourne and 5.1 per cent in the Eastern Metropolitan Region. At the suburb level, Croydon South has the highest rate of youth disengagement (10.2%) (Figure 27).

FIGURE 27: YOUTH DISENGAGEMENT BY SUBURB (2021)

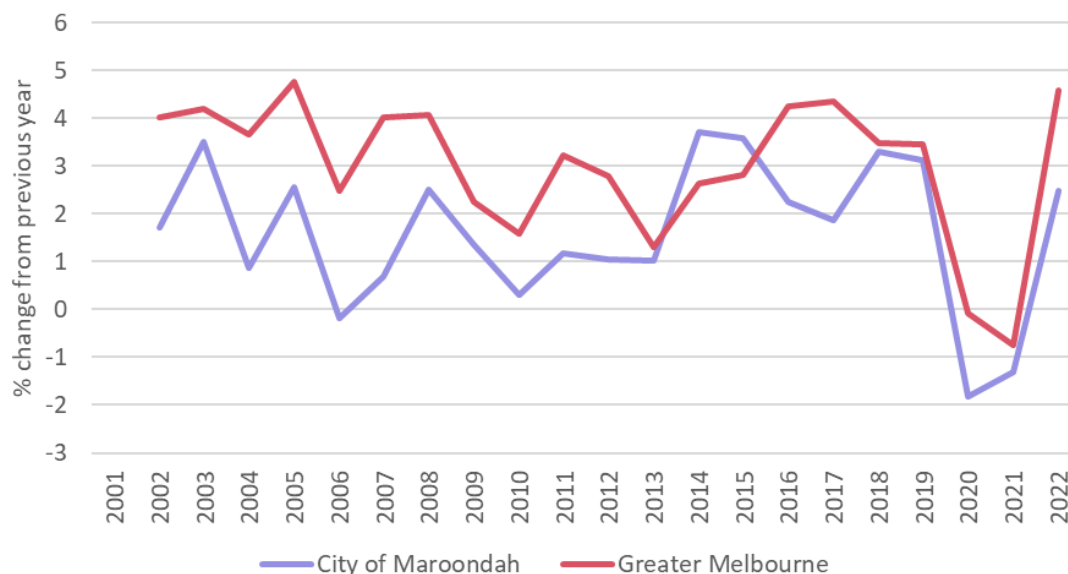


Source: ABS (2021)

Local economic development

The City of Maroondah's Gross Regional Product (GRP) was \$6,688 million in 2021-22. GRP increased by around 2.5 per cent from 2021 to 2022, after experiencing a period of decline during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2021) (Figure 28). Annual change in GRP in Maroondah follows a similar pattern to Greater Melbourne, which had a GRP of \$404,384 million in 2021-22.

FIGURE 28: ANNUAL CHANGE IN GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT 2001-2022 (%)



Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2023. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Businesses

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register, in 2022, there were over 10,000 registered businesses in the City of Maroondah (Table 9 overleaf). The number of registered businesses in Maroondah increased by around 6.5 per cent (671) from 2021.

Small businesses (0-19 employees) make up approximately 97 per cent (9,991) of registered businesses in Maroondah, representing 10 per cent of all small businesses in the Eastern Metropolitan Region and 1.7 per cent of all small businesses in Greater Melbourne.

The Maroondah City Council BizHub currently provides business development resources and services to the business community in the municipality. Supporting small businesses to locate and grow in Maroondah will require a continuation and possible expansion of these services.

TABLE 9: NUMBER OF BUSINESS AND STAFF SIZE (2022)

Staff size	Maroondah	Eastern Metropolitan Region	Greater Melbourne
Non-employing	5,802	58,989	368,103
1-4	3,188	28,901	149,776
5-19	1,001	7,819	42,588
20-199	228	1,876	10,649
200+	9	73	548
Total	10,228	97,658	572,636

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register (June 2022)

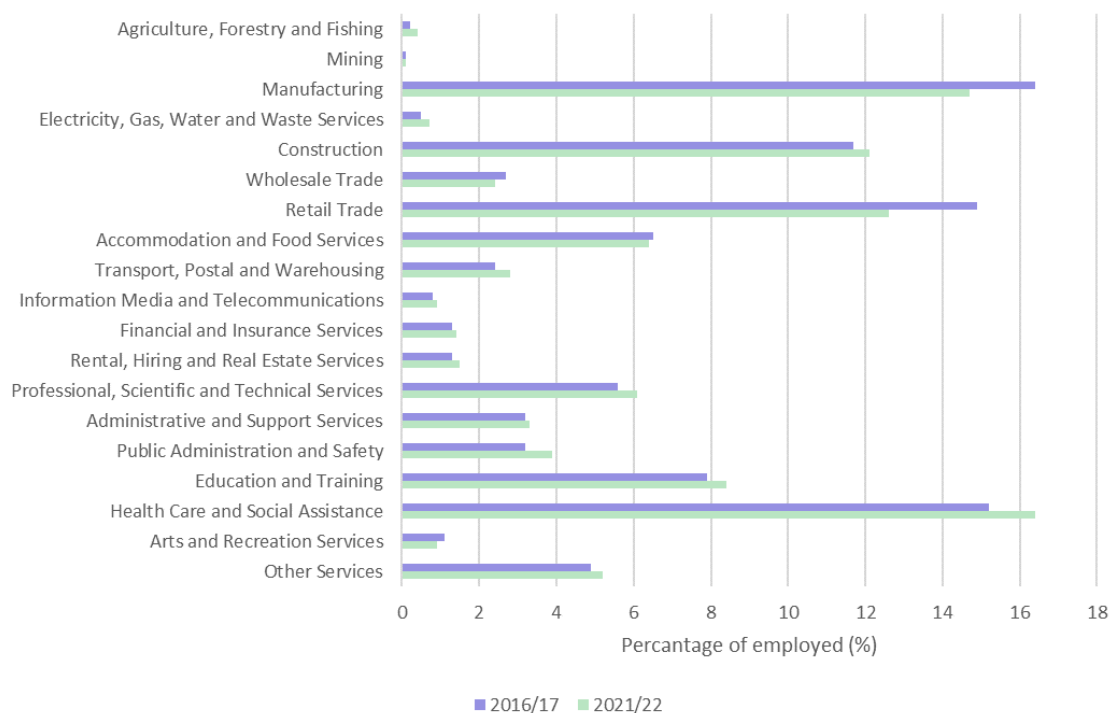
Industry

In 2016-17 Manufacturing was the largest industry in Maroondah by total employment (16.4%), however by 2021-22 Health Care and Social Assistance became the largest employing industry (16.4%) (Figure 29).

This change follows national trends as manufacturing is declining and population serving industries, such as health care and social assistance, are growing. The Health Care and Social Assistance industry is of particular significance to Maroondah, given its increasing ageing population and the presence of the Maroondah Hospital. Manufacturing, although declining, is still a key employer in Maroondah and the transition to advanced manufacturing will be critical to the longevity of the industry in the region.

Other significant industries in Maroondah include retail trade and construction, which made up 12.6 per cent and 12.1 per cent of total employment in 2021-22 respectively. The retail trade industry, however, experienced a slight decline in employment from 2016-17 to 2021-22 (2.3%), which can largely be attributed to the impacts of COVID-19 on retail.

FIGURE 29: TOTAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, MAROONDAH 2016/17 AND 2021/22

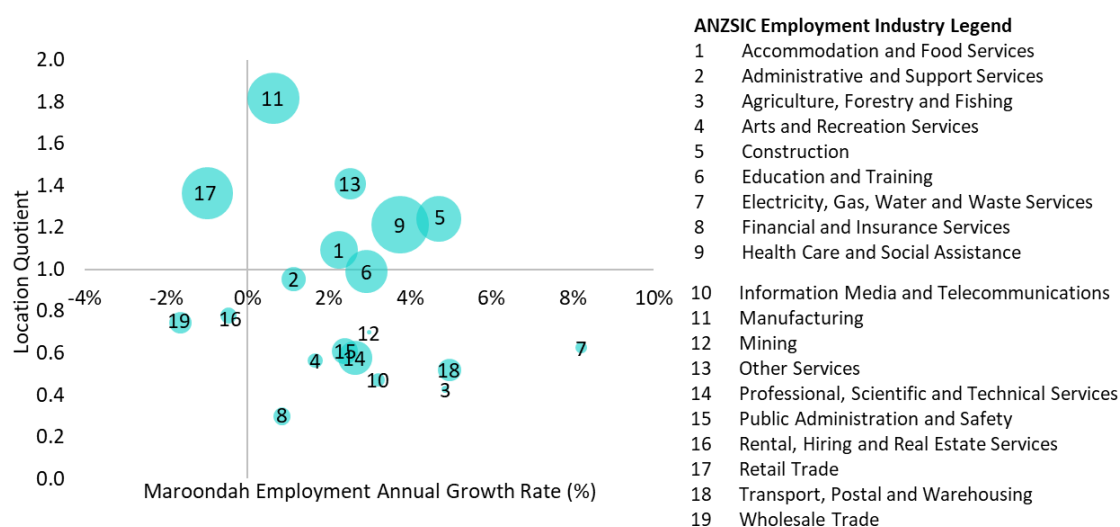


Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) (2023)

Figure 30 shows the Location Quotient (LQ) for Maroondah compared to Greater Melbourne. The size of the bubble indicates the number of people employed in the industry.

Several sectors have an LQ score above 1.0, indicating that they are more concentrated in Maroondah than in Greater Melbourne, and employment in these industries has increased (the average annual growth rate (AAGR) between 2016-2021 is above 0). These industries are important driver sectors for the municipality.

FIGURE 30: MAROONDAH LOCATION QUOTIENT AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH RELATIVE TO GREATER MELBOURNE, 2021



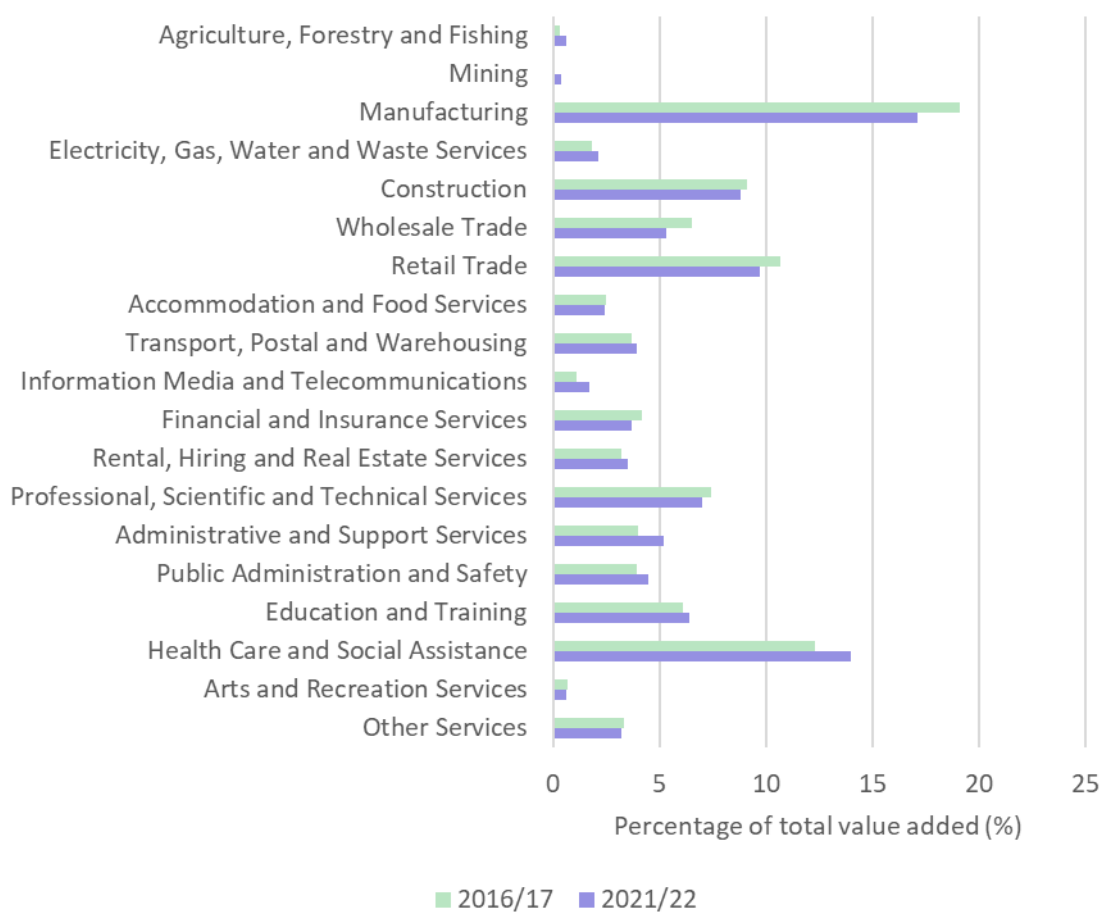
Source: SGS Economics and Planning 2023, ABS Place of Work 2016-2021

Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employment sector in Maroondah (17.2%), in line with regional and national trends that point to a growing population-serving economy and an ageing population. Maroondah has significant strengths in this sector which can be leveraged for local economic development, including the development of a new Maroondah hospital. Specifically, there is an opportunity to develop and support local supply chains around the new hospital, and to ensure residents are equipped with the necessary skills.

Manufacturing has a significant presence in Maroondah compared to Greater Melbourne, with an LQ score of 1.8. The sector is also the third highest employment sector in the municipality (13.6%). This highlights the significant role of industrial land in the Bayswater Business Precinct in contributing to the growth and value of Maroondah's economy.

The total value added by each industry shows manufacturing continues to play an important role in Maroondah's economy, contributing 19.1 per cent of Maroondah's value in 2016-17 and 17.1 per cent in 2021-22 (Figure 31). The shift to e-commerce and online retail is evident by the increase in transport, postal, and warehousing industries, and the decline in wholesale and retail trade. Health Care and Social Assistance is a strong and growing industry, contributing 14 per cent to Maroondah's total value, an increase of 1.7 per cent from 2016-17.

FIGURE 31: TOTAL VALUE ADDED BY INDUSTRY, MAROONDAH, 2016/17 AND 2021/22 (%)

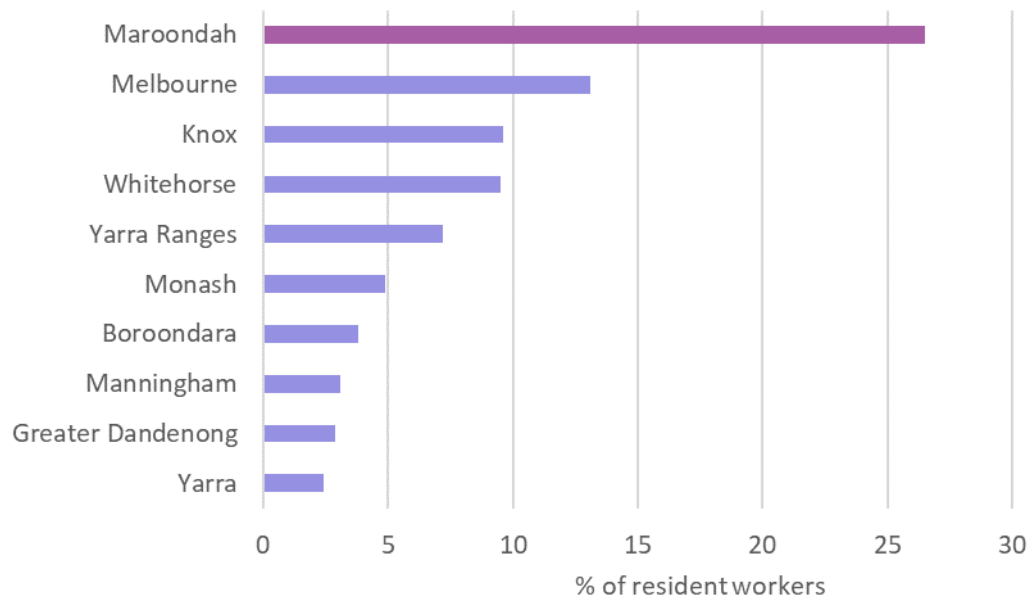


Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR), 2023.

Supporting a local workforce

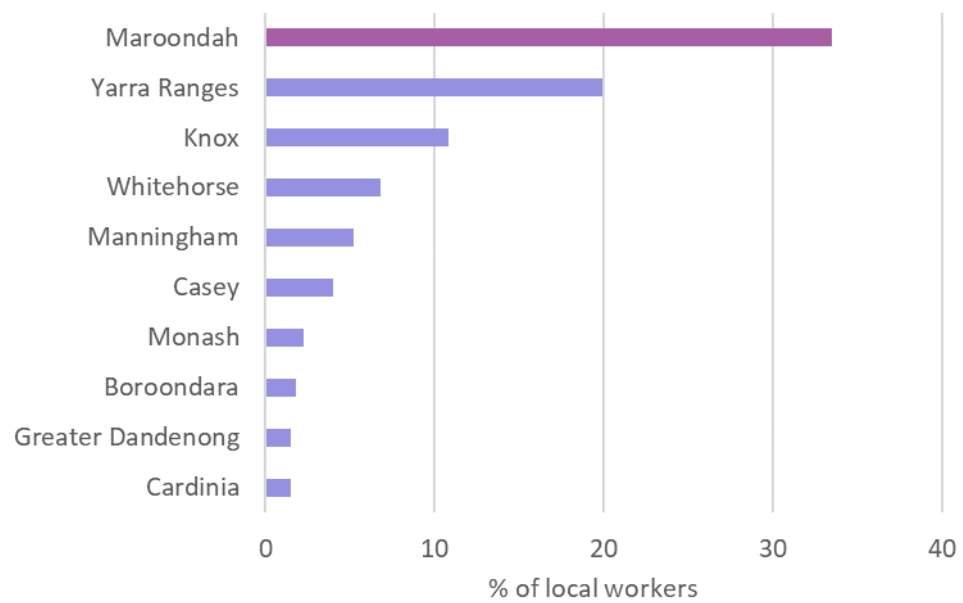
In 2021, over a quarter of Maroondah's residents were employed locally (Figure 32) and many more within the broader Eastern Metropolitan Region. Maroondah's residents represent over 33 per cent of the municipality's workers. A further 20 per cent come from the neighbouring Yarra Ranges, and around 11 per cent from Knox (Figure 33).

FIGURE 32: TOP TEN EMPLOYMENT DESTINATIONS FOR MAROONDAH RESIDENTS (2021)



Source: ABS (2021)

FIGURE 33: TOP TEN RESIDENTIAL LOCATIONS OF LOCAL MAROONDAH WORKERS (2021)



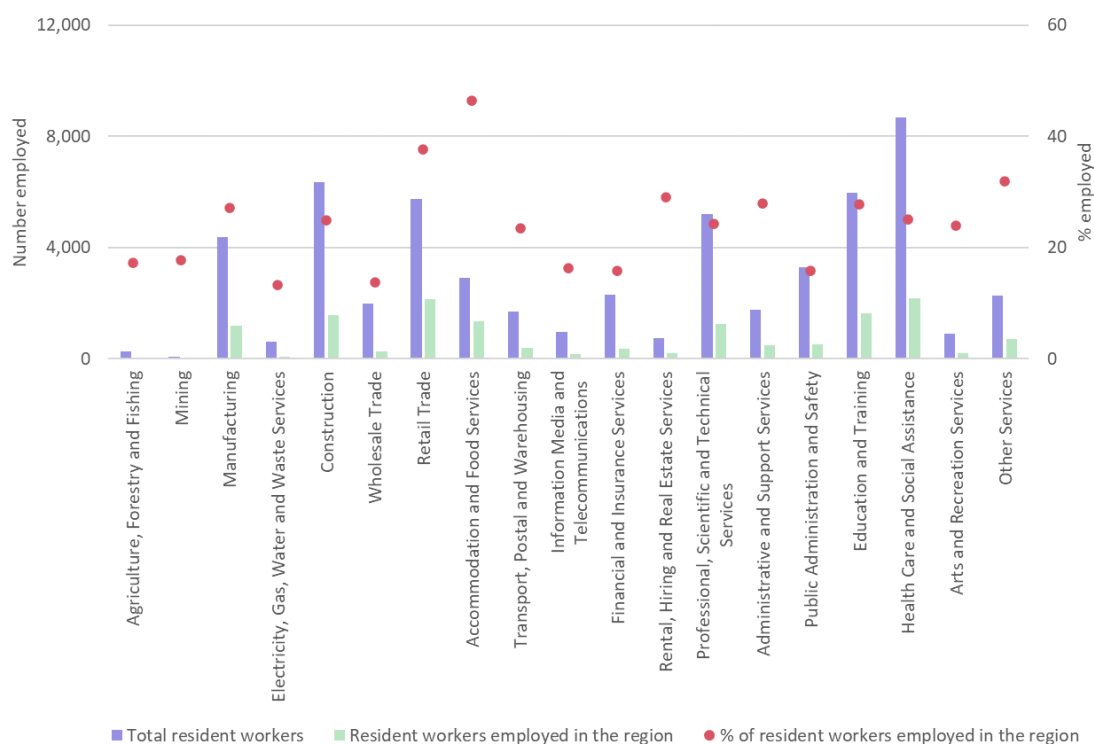
Source: ABS (2021).

As housing affordability decreases, the ability for key workers to continue living within the municipality will be critical. In 2021, the health care and social assistance industry had a 25.1 per cent self-containment rate, a 1.1 per cent decrease compared to 2016. At minimum, there should be an aim to maintain this self-containment rate and support key workers in industries such as health care to live locally via access to diverse and affordable housing.

The industry with the highest rate of self-containment in Maroondah is accommodation and food services (46.4%), followed by retail trade (46.4%), indicating a strong population-serving economy in Maroondah (see Figure 34). In contrast, industries with the lowest self-containment rate are electricity, gas, water and waste services (13.3%) and wholesale trade (13.8%).

Other industries with a low rate of self-containment in Maroondah include those in the knowledge economy, including information media and telecommunications (16.4%) and financial services (15.8%). These are sectors most commonly contained within specific areas in the metropolitan region. Overall, these results have stayed relatively similar in 2021 when compared to 2016 rates of self-containment.

FIGURE 34: CITY OF MAROONDAH EMPLOYMENT SELF-CONTAINMENT BY INDUSTRY, 2021



Source: .id economy (2021)

While the data indicates that Maroondah has the capacity to support a local workforce in population-serving industries, it also highlights resident's need to travel to employment in other sectors. Future infrastructure projects, such as the Suburban Rail Loop initiative, may have an impact as they will connect Maroondah's residents to employment opportunities across the region and connect potential workers to Maroondah.

Changing way of work

The compounding impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health measures put in place fundamentally changed where and how we work.

Comparing data from the 2011, 2016 and 2021 census, there was a clear shift to working from home and hybrid work arrangements. The proportion of people working from home in Maroondah increased by 24.8 per cent from 2016 to 2021 and similar increases can be seen across the region (Figure 35). However, between 2011 and 2016, when COVID-19 was not a factor, working from home increased by only around two per cent across all three areas, with Maroondah having the smallest share (1.7%).

It should be noted that the 2021 census data was collected during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic while residents were under lockdown restrictions. While it is uncertain how this trend will play out, it is likely that there will be a lasting effect in terms of hybrid work arrangements and the ability to work online for many occupations.

FIGURE 35: PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED POPULATION WORKING FROM HOME, 2016-2021



Source: ABS (2011, 2016, 2021)

4.4 Opportunities and Challenges

At a national level, the transition to a service-based economy is changing the role of manufacturing across Australia. In Maroondah, this presents an opportunity to pivot to advanced manufacturing. As industries change, become more digital, and embed the circular economy, it will be critical to ensure the local community have the skills and knowledge to be able to enter the workforce. In addition, Maroondah has the opportunity to partner with the Eastern Region to provide, support, and leverage economies across the east, including in the areas of health care and social assistance, and manufacturing.

Trends arising from COVID-19, such as global supply chain issues, labour shortages, and hybrid working arrangements will continue to impact the region, presenting Maroondah with an opportunity to strengthen local supply chains and innovation, particularly around health care and supporting industries.

Local government has a key role in supporting economic development through connecting businesses at a local and regional level, attracting businesses into the municipality, and reviewing council's own procurement and supply chains to ensure they are supporting the local market.

TABLE 10: ECONOMY AND EDUCATION- CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THE ROLE FOR MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL

Challenges	Opportunities	Role for Maroondah City Council
The shift to online work creates a deficit in commercial centres	Re-imagined centres to shift focus to experiential economy and community services	Encourage business and services to locate in activity centres through improved amenity and accessibility of centres and economic development principles Identify the role of neighbourhood strip shops in the retail hierarchy in the municipality
Traditional manufacturing is declining	Education and knowledge transfer to transition to advanced manufacturing and produce high value outputs	Facilitate relationships between universities, training organisation and local business
Global supply chains and labour shortages at risk due to global events e.g., geo-political tensions and COVID-19	Localised supply chains capture wealth and job creation within Maroondah	Industry attraction and retention strategy informed by a clear understanding of key industries and gaps /opportunities in the supply chain. Ensure suitable industrial/commercial land is preserved in Maroondah

Challenges	Opportunities	Role for Maroondah City Council
Low levels of university-level qualification attainment	Strengthen access to TAFE and higher education across the municipality	Work with training service providers and support agencies to connect individuals to learning opportunities relevant to local employment opportunities
Increased demand for kindergarten services	Encourage private and community providers to establish within the municipality	Facilitate partnerships and co-location opportunities (e.g. on or next to school sites) with Victorian Government. Work with Early Years Providers to support increased service delivery and potential partnership opportunities. Update kindergarten demand to reflect services changes and monitor participation, particularly of at-risk groups

Sources: SGS Economics and Planning (2023).

4.5 Community Vision

Based on the above section, the following themes, directions, and actions are recommended for the Community Vision.

Themes

- A strong and adaptable local and regional business network.

Key directions

- Build the capacity of businesses to capture growth locally, encourage innovation and develop strong local business supply chains.
- Promotion of Maroondah's competitive strengths to enhance industry mix.
- Boost local business strengths to build and spread industry specialization from within.
- Connect young people to educational opportunities to the develop skills required for future jobs growth.

Actions

- Support businesses to connect and leverage local supply chains.
- Support existing businesses to transition, with a focus on new technology, sustainability, and circular economy.

- Actively promote the strengths of Maroondah to build and enhance economic opportunities for the municipality.
- Support the development of business initiatives that are committed to providing employment and training opportunities for young people.

5. Transport

5.1 Changing conditions and trends impacting on transport

COVID-19 changed how and where we travel. Commuting has not returned to pre-pandemic levels as hybrid working and work-from-home has become the norm in many professions. The COVID-19 pandemic has had lasting effects on the movement of freight, as industries were forced to reconsider supply chain efficiencies.

The rise of smart mobility is shaping how we get around. Mobility-as-a-service (MaaS) platforms are enabling consumers to get real time data, plan and pay for their trips, and easily share cars, bicycles and scooters. In tandem, micro mobility (small and lightweight vehicles including scooters and skateboards) has taken off, with some councils in Melbourne trialing shared-scooter technology. These shared transport services are helping to solve the challenge of first-and-last mile transport and creating an integrated transport system. This enables a shift away from traditional car (or bike) ownership and towards enabling users to access the 'best' mode(s) of travel on a trip-by-trip basis.

Congestion and the environmental impacts of the car are driving a shift towards active and public transport. The shift towards electric vehicles (EVs) is well established and growing. With this shift comes the urgent need to increase the charging network and prepare residential and commercial buildings for the uptake of EVs. A transition to EVs will not itself address congestion or negate the infrastructure costs and amenity impacts of delivering the roads and parking required to support increasing car ownership. In municipalities with high car-dependence, such as Maroondah, the introduction of EVs will be an important factor in achieving a more sustainable, integrated transport system, to reduce transport-related emissions.

Significant investment in public transport and road infrastructure in the region includes level crossing removals at Bedford Road, Ringwood, Dublin Road, Ringwood East and Coolstore Road, Croydon and the creation of new stations at Ringwood East and Croydon, reducing congestion and improving connectivity within the municipality. Bus priority infrastructure will enable buses to move more safely, efficiently and reliably. Realignment of bus routes and additional new routes to reflect the growing population and changes in land use will ensure a connected local transport network that meets community needs. Upgrading bus stops and increased service frequency will all deliver improved services for commuters. The North East Link will improve connection to Melbourne's north and Melbourne Airport.

Equity of access, particularly in the context of the increased cost of living, ensures people are able to access services, employment, and education to enable participation in employment and community life. A well connected, local, reliable and accessible public transport network, supported by active transport infrastructure, needs to support all residents. With the rise of EV's, equitable access to charging infrastructure will be important, acknowledging that lower income households are often the last to adopt new technologies.

Recognition of the wider mental and physical health benefits of public and active transport options, along with the environmental benefits, is seeing a renewed focus on **walkable neighbourhoods** and connected, healthy communities.

5.2 Policy context

Sustainable and integrated transport services that reduce car dependency are identified as a priority in local, regional and State policy. At the regional level, Maroondah is a member of the Eastern Transport Coalition whose campaigns include extending tram and bus services in the Eastern suburbs, upgrading pedestrian and cycle paths, and investing in a Trackless Rapid Transit (TRT) between Caulfield and Rowville. The Coalition also advocates for the delivery of planned public transport works, such as the Suburban Rail Loop.

Active transport is strongly promoted in local policy. The *Physical Activity Strategy 2015-2020* identifies the need for a sustained holistic approach across physical infrastructure, education and enforcement to bring about a substantial mode shift towards active transportation. Local priorities in the sector align with State policy, recognising the fundamental role of active transport in achieving key planning objectives such as *Plan Melbourne's* local neighbourhoods.

Movement and Place (2019) is a Victorian Government framework that reflects a holistic way of thinking about transport links and the function of streets, serving as key places and destinations. The framework provides guidance for improving the integration of transport modes, public safety and amenity.

Zero emissions vehicles (ZEVs) or electric vehicles are rapidly becoming a critical part of Victoria's roads. Victorian Government policy, such as the *Transport Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022–2026* and the *Transport Sector Emissions Reduction Pledge 2021-2025* both outline the need to transition to electric vehicles (where private vehicles are still necessary) to mitigate emissions and contribute to climate change targets. The Pledge sets the following targets:

- Zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) will make up 50 per cent of all new light vehicle sales by 2030
- All new public transport bus purchases will be ZEVs from 2025
- 400 ZEVs will be added to the Victorian Government fleet by 2023
- Active transport will make up 25 per cent of mode share by 2030.

Further information on specific policies and strategies can be found in Appendix A.

5.3 Data and analysis

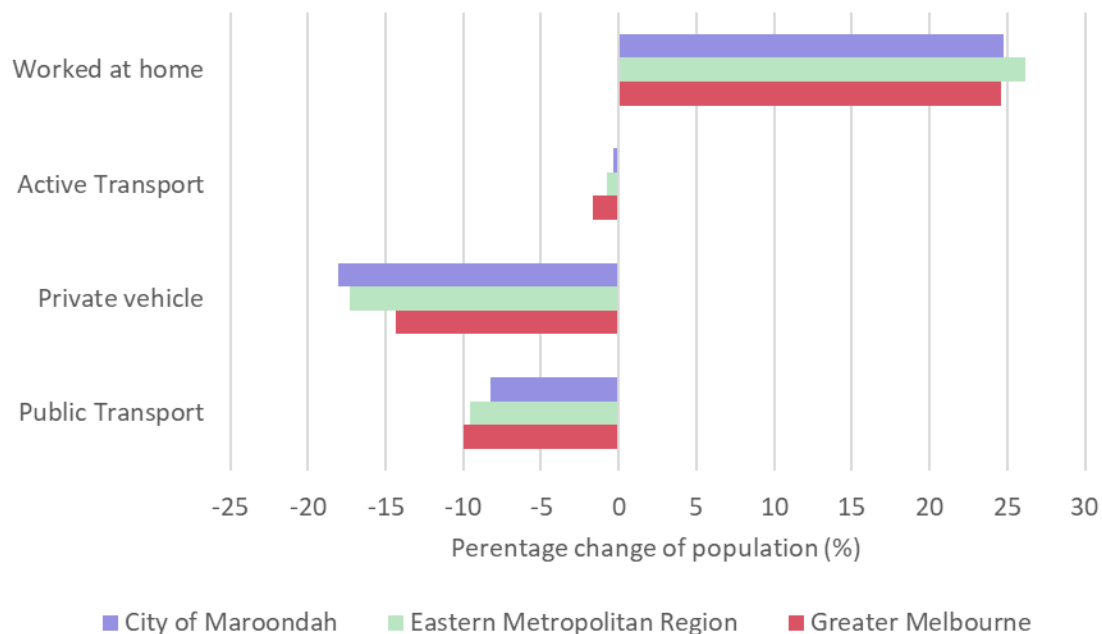
Journey to work

With around 75 per cent of Maroondah's working population leaving the municipality for work, the method of travel they take has a significant impact on transport infrastructure, resident wellbeing, and the environment.

In 2016, over 70 per cent of residents commuted in a private vehicle. This was higher than in Greater Melbourne and the Eastern Metropolitan Region, where rates of public transport and active transport exceeded that of Maroondah.

The change in 2021, as illustrated in Figure 36, reflects the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and stay at home orders which led to a sharp increase in working from home. It is expected that the increase in working from home will decrease, however many industries will continue to support hybrid working arrangements.

FIGURE 36: METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK 2016-2021 CHANGE (% OF EMPLOYED POPULATION)



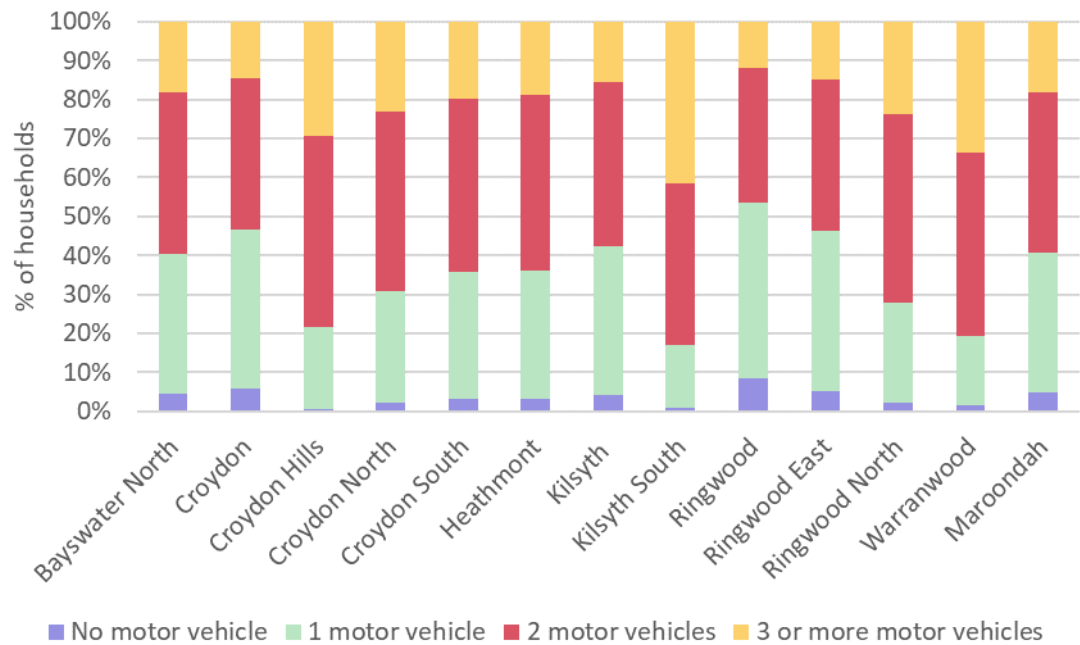
Source: ABS (2021).

Car dependency

The high rate of private vehicle usage for journeys to and from work in Maroondah correlates with the high rate of car ownership: only 4.7 per cent of households did not have a motor vehicle in 2021, compared to 8.5 per cent in Greater Melbourne. Households without a car in Maroondah are typically located in southern and central suburbs that are closer to the Melbourne CBD and/or activity centres. These suburbs include Ringwood and the central areas of Croydon. As shown in Figure 37, Ringwood

has the highest rate of households with no car (8.2%) while in Croydon Hills and Kilsyth South, less than one per cent of households live without a car.

FIGURE 37: CAR OWNERSHIP IN MAROONDAH (% OF HOUSEHOLDS) (2021)

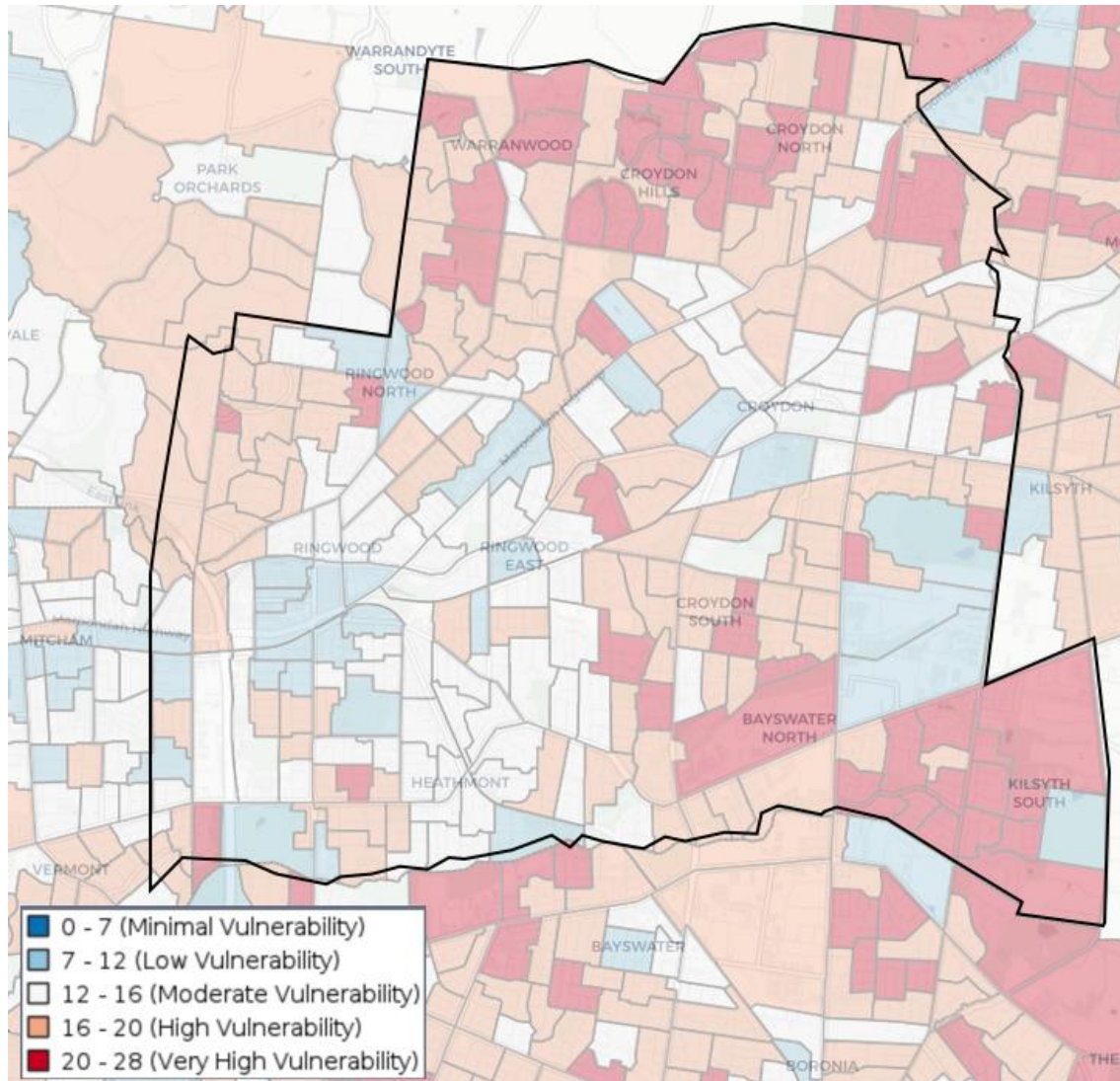


Source: ABS (2021)

The Vulnerability Indices for Mortgage Petroleum and Inflation Risks and Expenditure (VAMPIRE) index assesses socio-economic oil price vulnerability in Australian cities based on an analysis of socio-economic indicators from the ABS census. The 2016 index for Maroondah (Figure 38) indicates a considerably high proportion of areas deemed as having moderate, high or very high vulnerability.

Areas in the north (Warranwood, Croydon Hills, Croydon North) and eastern (Kilsyth South) outskirts of Maroondah are shown to have the highest vulnerability, suggesting that these areas have a higher dependency on private vehicles and are most at risk in the face of rising petrol costs and increased costs of living.

FIGURE 38: MAROONDAH VAMPIRE INDEX, 2016



Source: Aurin (2016) <https://map.aurin.org.au/>

Public Transport

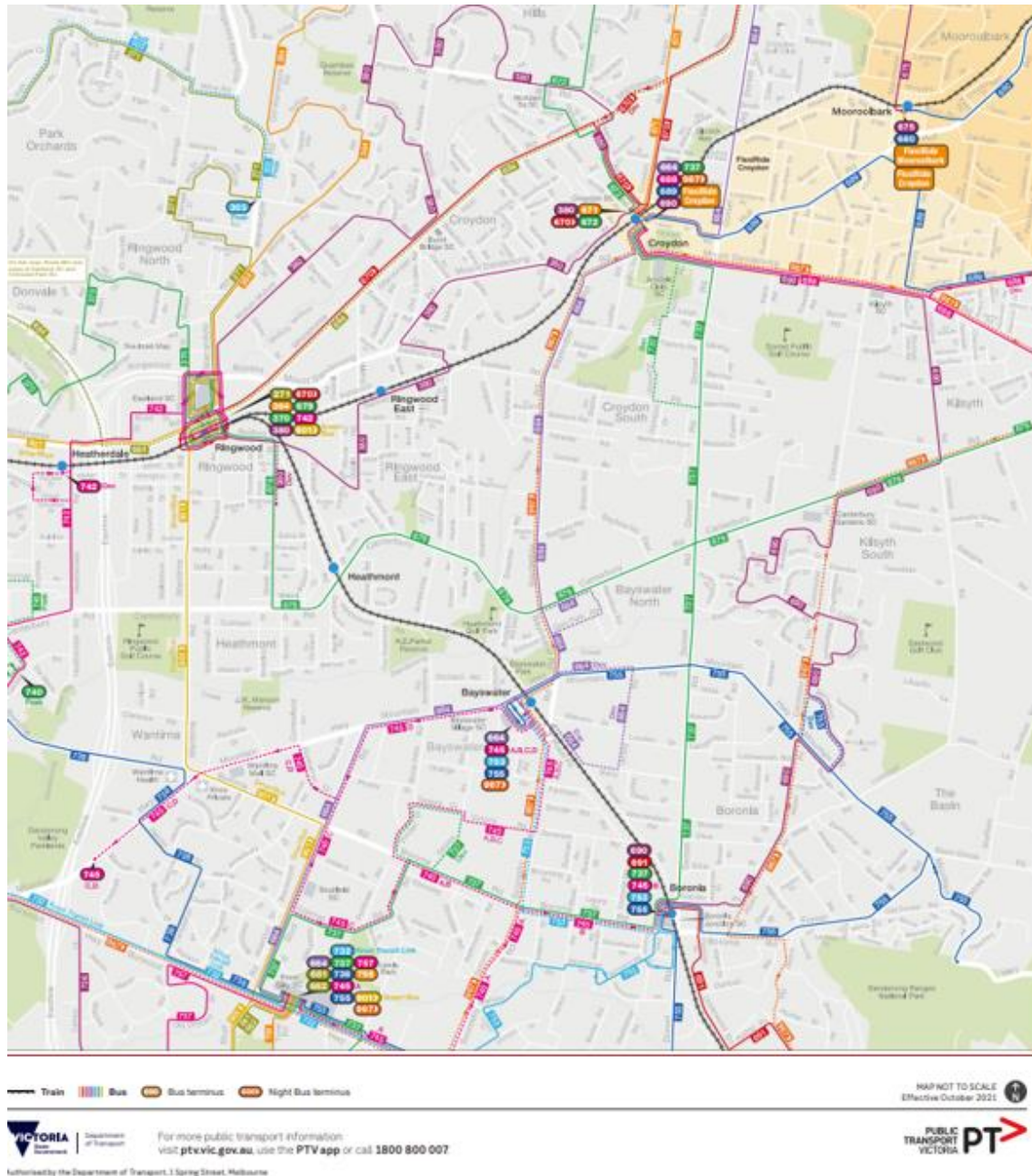
Maroondah is well serviced by its road network, however access to public transport is limited in many areas of the municipality. A bus network services much of the municipality, including connecting suburbs across Maroondah to Ringwood, Ringwood East, Croydon, Heathmont and Heatherdale train stations. Access to public transport is more challenging for suburbs further removed from the Belgrave and Lilydale railway lines. The bus network also has a limited frequency and coverage, with significant areas of Maroondah only serviced by a telebus service (FlexiRide).

Research by the Eastern Transport Coalition¹⁵ (ETC) indicates significant service improvements are required. Jobs, homes, services and communities are not sufficiently connected via the existing network. The ETC research found the existing bus services network is no longer aligned to changing urban land use and activity. For example, the Maroondah Hospital and the Bayswater Business Precinct, both significant employers in the region who suffer from poor access as a result of indirect connections.

In addition to the need for new services and route realignment, the ETC research found poor bus service frequency on most routes and poor bus stop accessibility. The bus network is illustrated in Figure 39 overleaf.

¹⁵ Eastern Transport Coalition (undated) Bus Network Review Considerations: Issues and Case Studies

FIGURE 39: MAROONDAH BUS NETWORK - PUBLIC TRANSPORT VICTORIA



Source: PTV, 2021

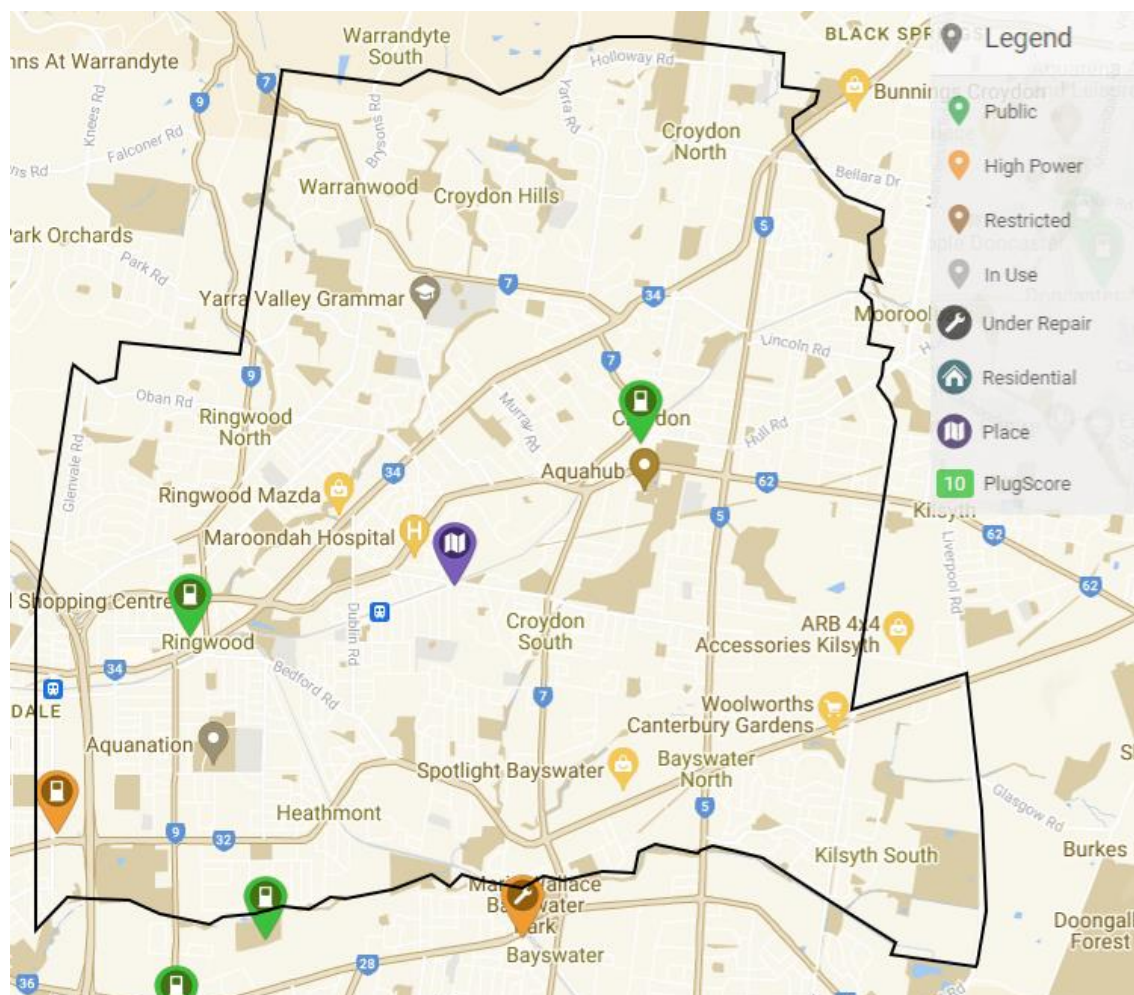
The transition to electric vehicles

With Australian and Victorian Government targets to increase the number of electric vehicles on Australia's roads, Maroondah will need the necessary charging infrastructure to support this transition.

According to Plug Share, an online database of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, in 2023 Maroondah has three public electric vehicle charging stations within the municipality boundary (Figure 40). The implementation of EV infrastructure involves both at home charging as well as public charging

infrastructure. Public charging infrastructure is being implemented across a range of stakeholders including Australian, Victorian, and local Government and the private sector.

FIGURE 40: ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE, MAROONDAH



Source: Plug Share (2023) <https://www.plugshare.com/>

Active transport

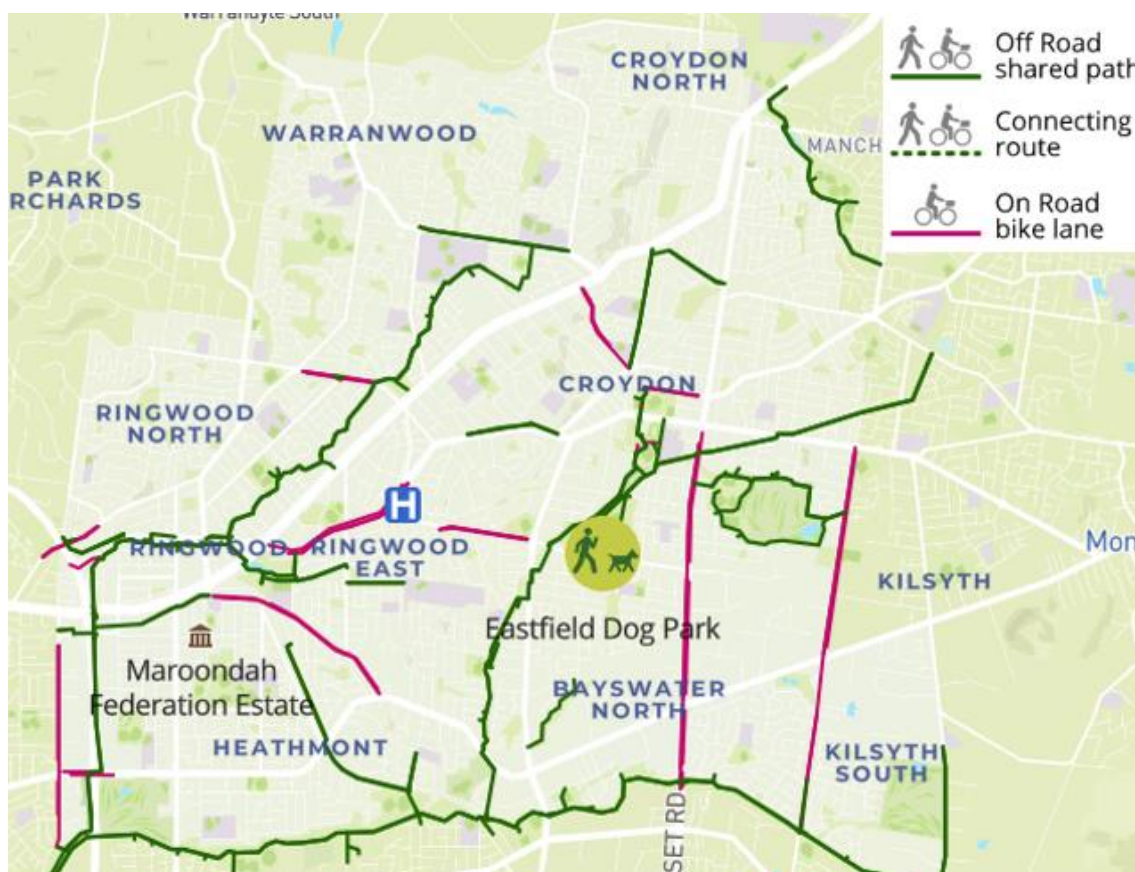
Maroondah has a low proportion of residents travelling to work by active transport options (1.4%) compared to Greater Melbourne (2.7%) and the Eastern Metropolitan Region (1.9%) (ABS, 2021). A similar pattern was seen in 2016, with the proportion of Maroondah residents commuting by active transport (1.7%) under half the rate of Greater Melbourne (4.4%) and one per cent less than the Eastern Metropolitan Region (2.7%). This is indicative of the lack of integrated transport infrastructure in Maroondah; cycling paths, train stations, and regular bus routes do not always connect with each other or provide coverage for many areas of the municipality. There are also significant upgrades needed to cycling infrastructure to make it feel safe and appealing to residents. For example, the

Maroondah Highway Bicycle Lane - the spine of the Maroondah Bicycle Network – requires additional safety measures, such as service lanes, to help connect it to activity centres.

Maroondah’s sustainable transport links include 83 kilometres of cycling paths and shared paths¹⁶. The spatial distribution of these cycling lanes and shared paths indicates that connectivity is greater in the south of the municipality and around major activity centres (Ringwood and Croydon), with improvements to be made to connect the northern suburbs (Ringwood North, Croydon North, Warranwood) through implementing active transport links.

In 2022, 90.7 per cent of households were within 200 metres of a bicycle facility and/or 400 metres of a bus and/or 800 metres of a train station¹⁷. However, with the majority of residents (75%) commuting outside of Maroondah for work, the City of Maroondah will need to take an integrated approach to transport to promote active transport in conjunction with public transport.

FIGURE 41: MAROONDAH ACTIVE TRANSPORT ROUTES



Source: The City of Maroondah, <https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Explore/Walks-and-trails>.

¹⁶ Maroondah City Council 2040 Indicators (unpublished)

¹⁷ Maroondah City Council 2040 Indicators (unpublished)

5.4 Opportunities and challenges

The transport sector contributed to around 25 per cent of Victoria's carbon emissions in 2019.¹⁸ To help reduce these sector emissions the City of Maroondah is faced with the challenge of introducing new transport technologies, reducing car dependency, and increasing sustainable modes of transport. In doing so, ensuring equitable access to EV infrastructure and supporting disadvantaged groups who are likely to be the least able to afford to transition to EV's despite their car dependency will be important.

TABLE 11: TRANSPORT - OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE FOR MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL

Challenges	Opportunities	Role for Maroondah City Council
Relatively high levels of car dependency and low active and public transport use across Maroondah	Increase active transport infrastructure and public transport connections	Advocacy to the Victorian Government for active transport on State roads with a focus on on-road bike lanes, addressing gaps in the Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) footpath network, and connecting shared trails Advocacy to the Victorian government to improve access to public transport Encourage behaviour change via actions such as promoting the health benefits of active transport, information on existing cycling and walking infrastructure including connections to public transport and end of trip bicycle parking in local centres, and the promotion of events such as walking school bus and ride to work day.
Equitable access to EV infrastructure across the municipality	Increase the EV charging network with a focus on less advantaged households	Partnerships to improve the provision of EV charging infrastructure co-located with Council services Apply an equity lens to provision of EV charging infrastructure
Planning for new smart mobility solutions	Create an enabling environment for mobility-as-a-service platforms (technology that improves access to mobility services such as providing trip information and easy payment) and micromobility	Policy and infrastructure development to support the roll out of mobility-as-a-service platforms and micromobility, such as bike and scooter share programs.

¹⁸ <https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorian-government-action-on-climate-change/Transport-sector-pledge-accessible.pdf>

Challenges	Opportunities	Role for Maroondah City Council
Gaps in active transport infrastructure	Integrated infrastructure to support active transport	Review of walking and cycling infrastructure to identify active transport gaps. Partnerships with the state and or private developers to support increased infrastructure delivery

Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

5.5 Community Vision

Based on the above section, the following themes, directions, and actions are recommended for the Community Vision.

Themes

- Well-connected community with accessible and reliable sustainable transport options.

Key directions

- Improve active transport with a focus on local connections to employment, education, and services.
- Advocate for improved public transport e.g. more frequent and direct connections across the municipality.
- Explore opportunities to support transition to new technologies e.g. EVs.

Actions

- Advocate for improved frequency of bus services as well as increased service delivery to areas that are currently within a transport gap.
- Continue to implement Council's Principal Pedestrian Network construction program to reduce gaps across the network.
- Identify preferred locations for EV charging within Maroondah as well as partnership opportunities.

6. Environment

6.1 Changing conditions and trends impacting on the environment

Climate action to mitigate emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change is a global challenge that requires urgent action. The impacts of climate change are increasingly evident in every facet of life, from the increasing prevalence of extreme weather conditions and natural hazards to global supply chain disruptions.

Net zero and energy efficiency measures are leading to retrofitting of existing infrastructure to incorporate sustainability improvements, while new infrastructure is increasingly including considerations of embodied energy – the energy that is used to produce infrastructure - and energy efficiency during operation.

Climate resilient infrastructure will become a priority, requiring a change in the way infrastructure is developed and delivered and the materials used, as infrastructure needs to be able to withstand the physical impacts of increased temperatures, heatwaves, sea levels, storms, bushfire intensity and changes to rainfall and flooding, along with the chemical damage that occurs when materials deteriorate more rapidly, such as increased concrete erosion or bitumen oxidation due to increased weather.

Decarbonisation is being driven by technological advances such as renewable energy, low carbon transportation and energy efficiency. The Victorian Government set a long-term target of reducing emissions to net zero by 2050 in 2017, with the Government more recently announcing its intention to move the target to 2045. This will require a significant shift in electricity production moving from coal fired to renewables, predominantly wind and solar, supported by a shift toward electrification of energy services and away from gas, households moving away from gas heating and cooling and cooking. Technology is enabling the integration of distributed energy sources, such as connecting roof top solar and small-scale battery storage at the neighbourhood level. For the built environment, this is reflected in an increasing focus on the need to increase energy efficiency and reduce embodied energy in buildings, along with a shift to EV's and active and public transport.

The transition to the circular economy aims to eliminate waste and to keep resources in a continually flowing loop, using products and materials multiple times through reuse and recycling. This is changing how we collect waste and divert products from the waste stream. It is also changing the materials used in products and packaging. The introduction of the four-stream waste and recycling standard in Victoria will help reduce landfill and to extract more value from these resources, as well as create the necessary demand to establish recycling processing facilities, and products made from these recycling materials.

Green infrastructure – vegetation that provides ecosystem services – has multiple benefits, from cooling environments, reducing flooding and boosting biodiversity, to improving health, education, and quality of life. The provision of green infrastructure not only considers those areas most impacted by urban heat and flooding but also the most vulnerable communities, such as older community members and those in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage.

6.2 Policy context

The **Climate Change Act 2017** introduces a new set of policy objectives and guiding principles to embed climate action in government decision making. At the local level, the municipality's response to climate change is outlined in Maroondah's *Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy 2018/19-2021/22* and more recently the *Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031*. The City of Maroondah achieved carbon-neutral status in 2020, and the *Sustainability Strategy* sets a target for Maroondah to maintain this into the future. At the Regional level, the City of Maroondah is one of eight participating councils in the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.

The **transition to the circular economy** has gained traction across all levels of government in recent years. The *Circular Economy Act 2021* includes laws to implement a new container deposit scheme in Victoria, four-stream household waste and recycling system which includes the collection of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO). Maroondah's *Waste, Litter & Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030* reflects these circular economy principles. Over the last 30 years recycling has been considered a critical Council service. Council's *Financial Plan 2021/22* notes that for waste services to be delivered effectively and efficiently across the municipality, including kerbside recycling, the charge to rate payers will have to reflect full cost recovery.

Protecting the natural environment and leveraging ecosystem services provided by green infrastructure is an increasingly significant policy priority across Victoria. *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* sets targets for all Victorians to protect the natural environment. The *Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030* identifies indigenous vegetation as critical, along with the ecosystem services they provide such as maintaining air and water quality.

Access to nature and green open space, reserves, parks, and tree canopy is critical for supporting health and wellbeing and helping to mitigate climate impacts and resilience to extreme weather events. The City of Maroondah's *Open Space Strategy* (2016) provides strategic direction for open space provision and enhancement in Maroondah over a ten-year period (2016-2026). It notes that the community places an emphasis on Maroondah being a 'leafy green' place with high-quality open spaces, recreational facilities, bushland and parks. The challenge of meeting these high community expectations within Maroondah is how Council will maintain and enhance open space environments within the bounds of finite resources.

Further information on specific policies and strategies can be found in Appendix A.

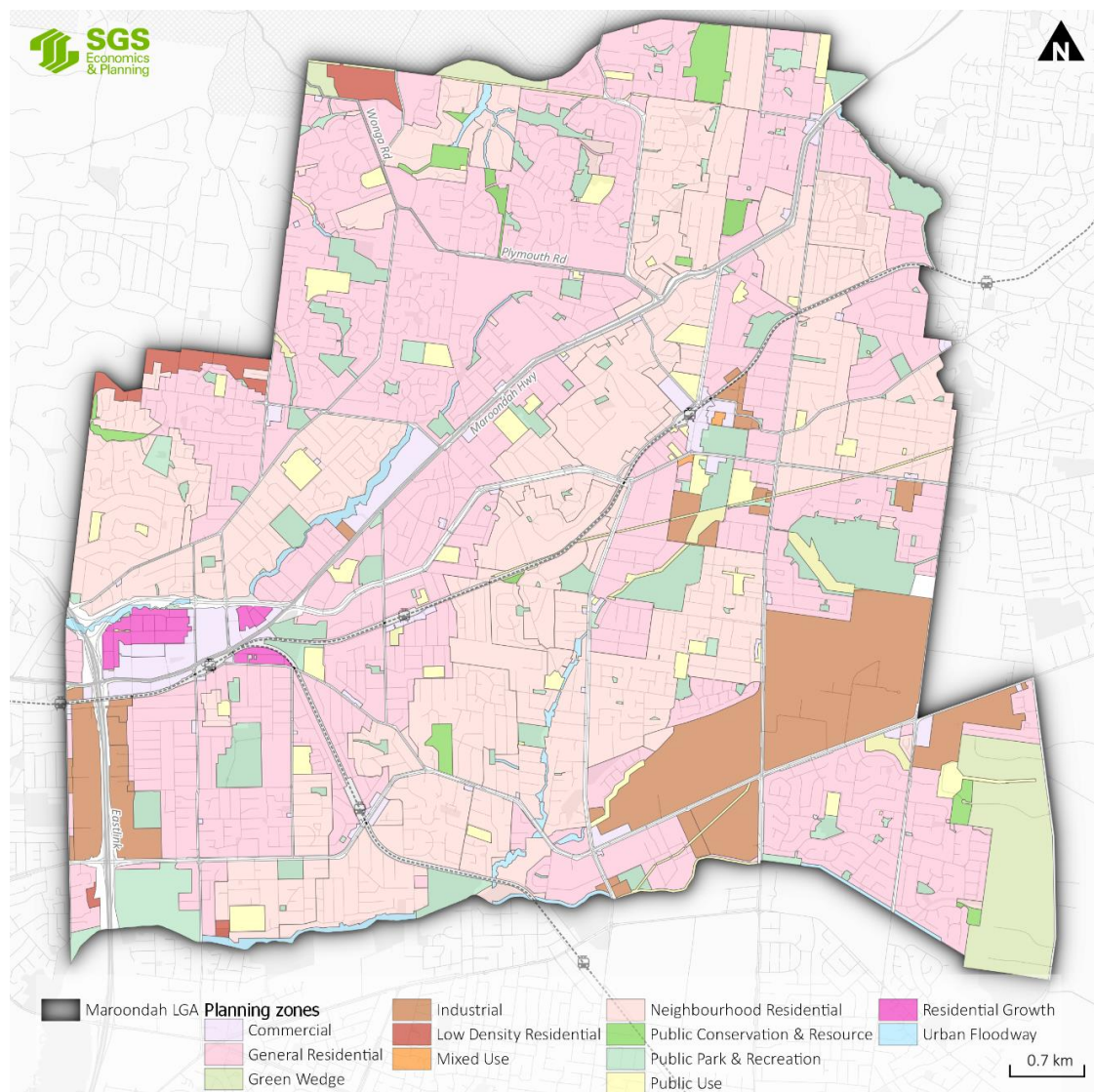
6.3 Data and analysis

Natural assets

Land use

The majority of land in Maroondah is zoned for residential use, including Ringwood which contains a Residential Growth Zone near the train station, indicating that there will be substantial change in the form of medium density growth. Industrial zoned land is predominantly in Maroondah's southeast around Bayswater (Figure 42). Planning zones used to protect natural assets and open space, such as the Public Park and Recreation Zone or Public Conservation and Resource Zone, are scattered throughout the municipality.

FIGURE 42: MAROONDAH PLANNING LAND USE ZONES

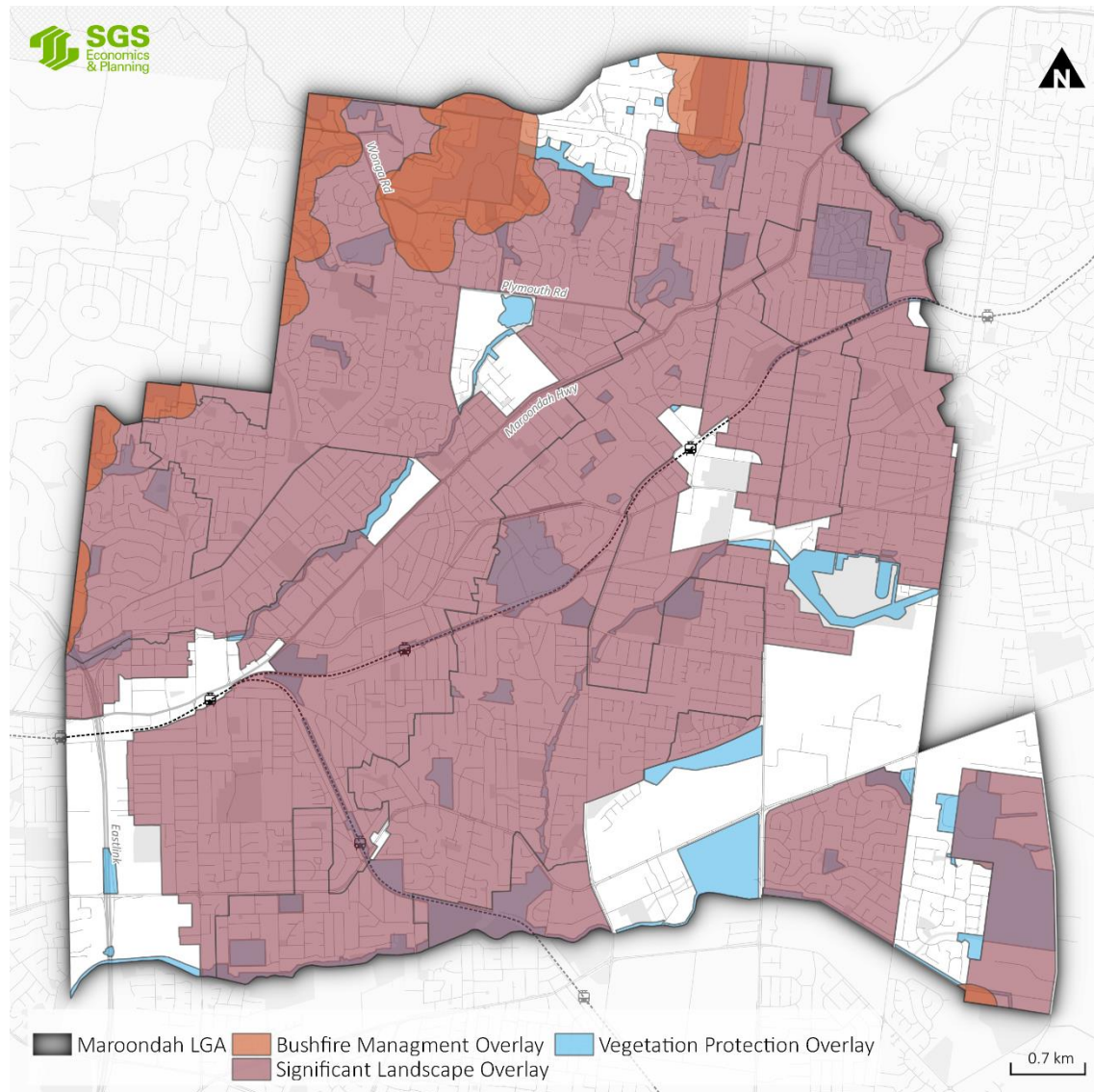


Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023). Note: zone classifications have been simplified for illustrative purposes.

Biodiversity

Maroondah has a relatively wide distribution of sites of biological significance, with just under 80 per cent of land covered by a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) or Vegetation Protection overlay (VPO) (see Figure 43). There are 109 sites of biological significance in Maroondah, including 19 of national significance and 65 of state significance. These sites occupy 12 per cent of all land in Maroondah.

FIGURE 43: MAROONDAH PLANNING OVERLAYS (2021)



Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023). Note: this map does not illustrate all planning overlays in Maroondah, only overlays relevant to environmental protection are displayed.

The 2018 *Victoria State of the Environment Report* illustrates that biodiversity has decreased significantly over the past two centuries. The report attributes this loss to land clearing, fire, pest plants and animals, land development, river regulation, water pollution and reduced resilience as a result of climate change.

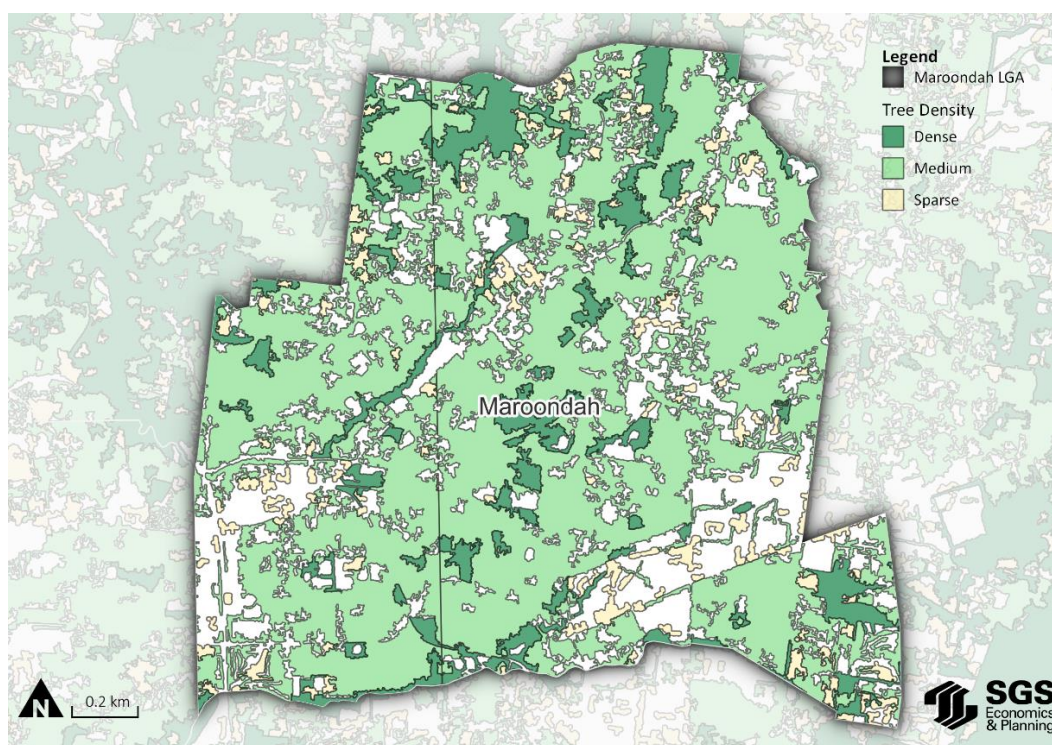
Within Maroondah, it is estimated that out of 566 native plant species, 78 are presumed to be locally extinct and 177 species are considered to be critically endangered locally. In terms of fauna, 32 of the 203 indigenous vertebrate animal species (mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, and fish) are considered to be locally extinct, and a further 12 species have not been recorded in nearly two decades.¹⁹

Tree canopy

Current tree density data indicates that a majority of the municipality has a medium degree of tree canopy coverage (Figure 44). The areas of Maroondah with the highest and densest tree coverage are those that border Manningham and Yarra Ranges. The south-eastern part of the municipality has sparse tree density, which correlates with the concentration of industrial uses. Areas along the main roads also have sparse tree density, which has implications for cooling and shading in these locations.

Data from 2021 indicates that Maroondah's tree canopy covers 27.6 per cent of the municipality, an increase of almost 2 per cent from 2019 (25.9%). Maroondah has also increased its tree planting activity (including understory plants), planting over 40,000 trees and plants in 2022.

FIGURE 44: MAROONDAH TREE DENSITY (2022)



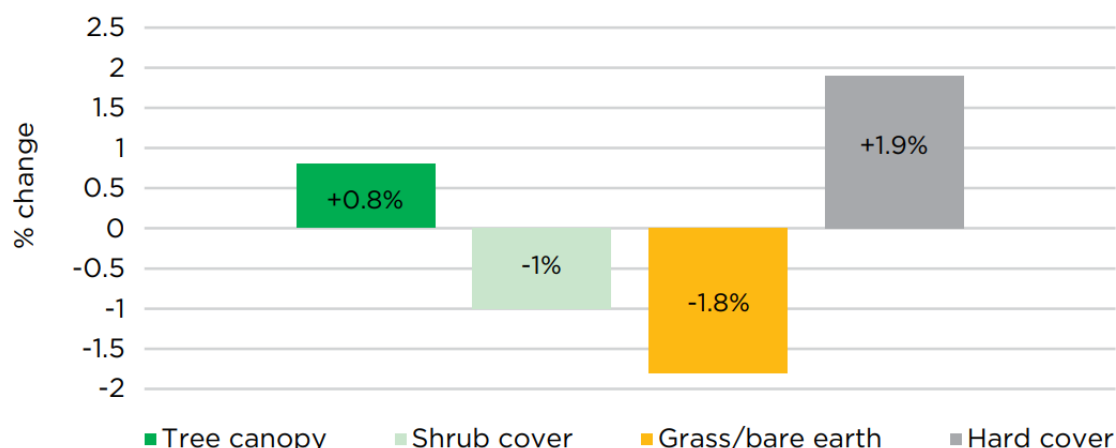
Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

¹⁹ City of Maroondah (2020) Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030.

Figure 45 demonstrates the increase of hard surfaces in Maroondah, with shrub cover and grass/bare earth cover decreasing between 2011 and 2016 (-1% and -1.8% respectively) and hard cover surface increasing (+1.9%).

This has implications for the municipality's ability to supply and sustain canopy trees and shrubs through a loss of soil and space, as well as potentially contributing to biodiversity habitat loss. A reduction in permeable land also has negative impacts in terms of water runoff and drainage.

FIGURE 45: MAROONDAH PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN COVER CLASS 2011-2016



Source: Kaspar (2018) Maroondah Canopy and Landscape Analysis 2011 to 2016 (from Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030)

Open space

Maroondah hosts a total of 578 parks and reserves. This includes: 53 sports ovals, 44 bushland reserves, and 2 golf courses.

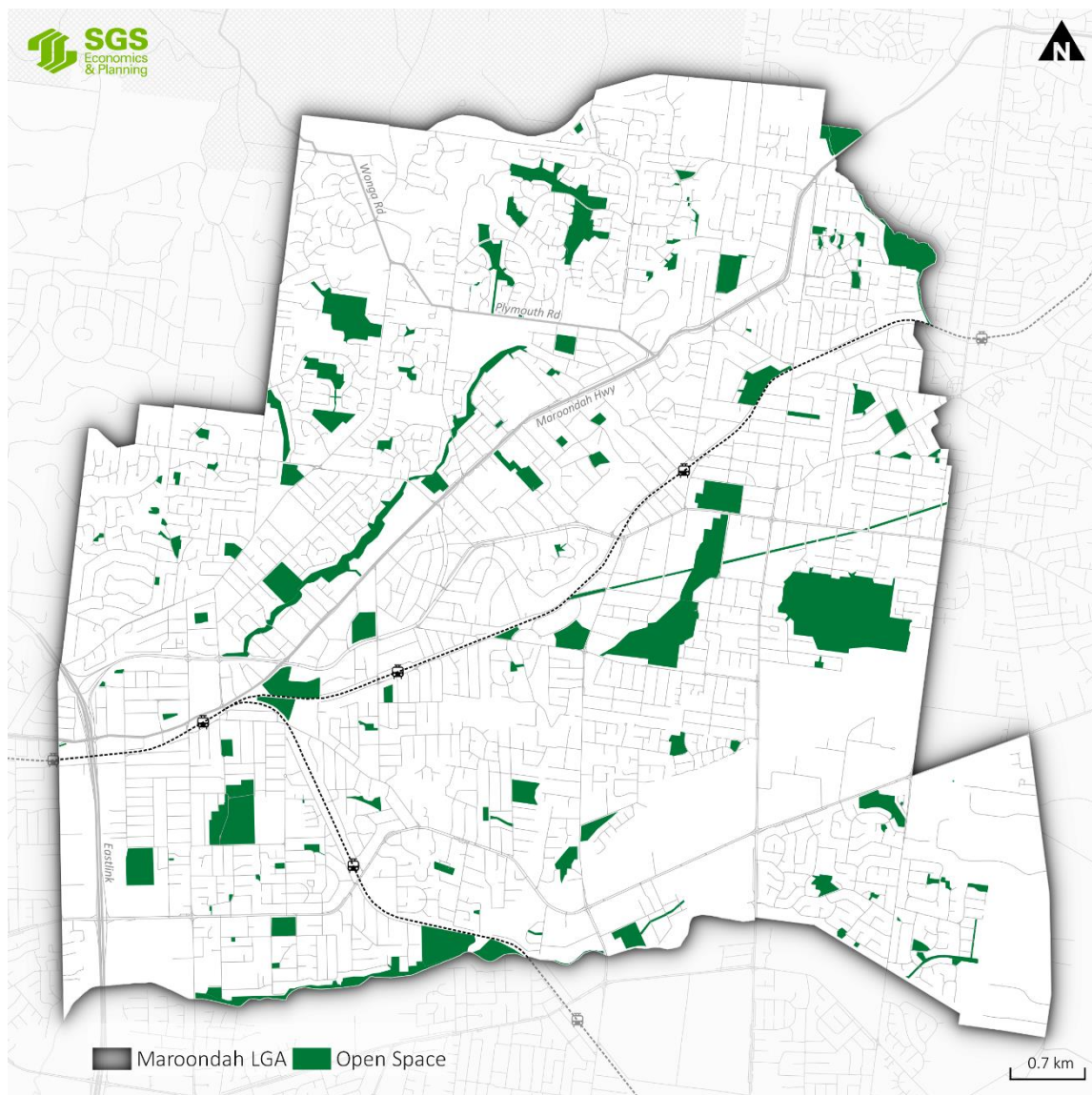
Maroondah has around 650 hectares of open space, equivalent to 11 per cent of its land area.²⁰ A key asset to liveability is public open space however it is important that this open space is publicly accessible, within a 400m walkable catchment of residential dwellings, is diverse (e.g., provision of regional, district and local open spaces), and has a high quality of standard.

As the residential population increases it will be important that access to open space is maintained and improved. One way in which Council can support this is through the Planning Scheme. Currently the Maroondah Planning Scheme (Clause 53.01 Schedule) includes a five per cent contribution for public open space on all subdivisions and an eight per cent contribution to land at the south west corner of Canterbury Road and Dorset Road, Bayswater North.

Council should continue to review access to open space to ensure adequate development contributions are being collected and the spending of these contributions are being directed in the areas of highest need.

²⁰ https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/documents/strategies/open_space_strategy.pdf

FIGURE 46: CITY OF MAROONDAH OPEN SPACE - RESERVES



Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

Climate change and natural hazards

The impacts of climate change are already affecting the lives of the Maroondah community. Looking forward, temperatures are set to rise, and the occurrence of extreme weather events and natural hazards is forecast to increase. Most notably, the community will suffer from increased flood events, and vulnerability to extreme heat and bushfires. These impacts will be felt most strongly among vulnerable populations (such as older community members and people in low incomes).

Infrastructure and the built form (including housing) will need to withstand the physical impacts of climate change and increased natural hazards, as well as overcome the damage that occurs when materials are exposed to extreme heat and increased weather, causing them to deteriorate more quickly.

The Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) is working to change the Victorian Planning Scheme to incorporate provisions that would see Environmentally Sustainable Design principles applied to the built environment. With a view to sustainability and wellbeing the focus is on net zero emissions, energy efficiency, water conservation, biodiversity protection, comfortable design and increasing resilience to climate change impacts.

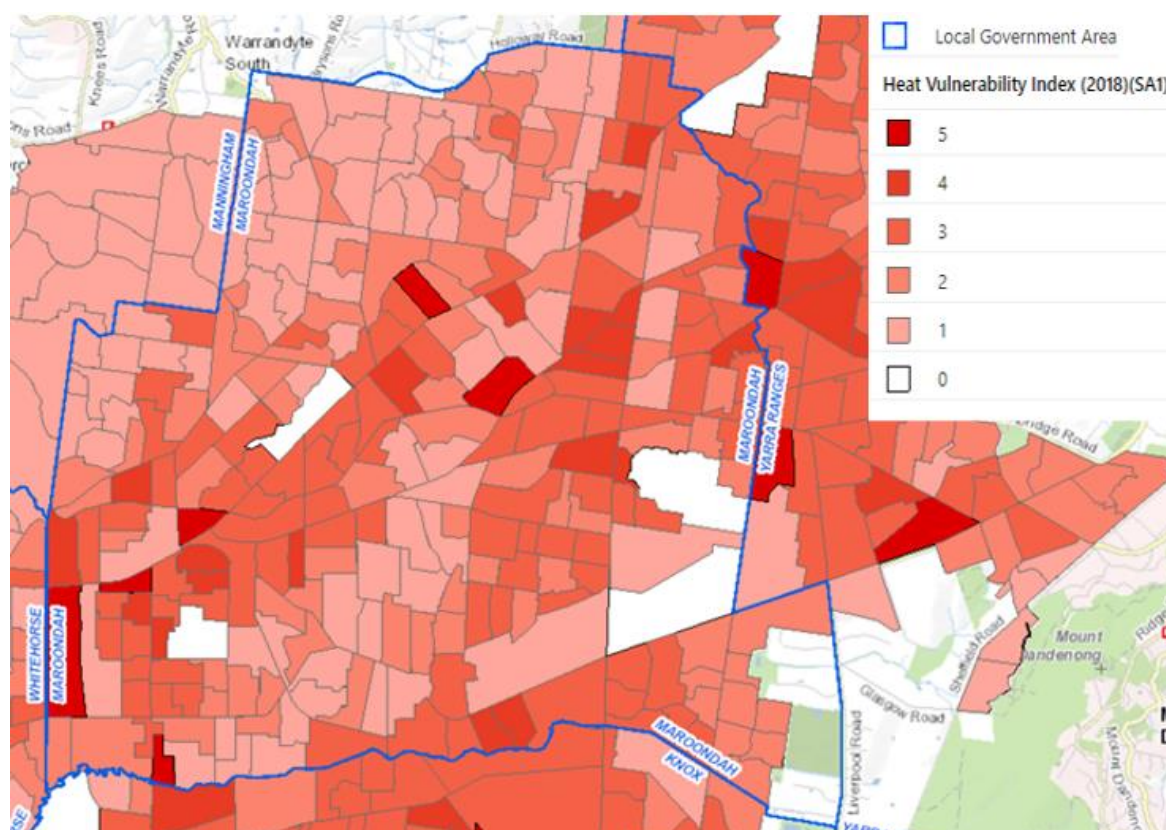
How the City of Maroondah responds to climate change today will have a significant impact on the municipality in 2050.

Heat vulnerability

Figure 47 highlights which areas in Maroondah are the most vulnerable to heat, measured through a combination of heat exposure, sensitivity to heat (due to land cover, population density and age) and adaptive capacity (for example, socioeconomic advantage or disadvantage). The higher the index scale, the higher the vulnerability to heat (represented by the darker red colour).

The areas most vulnerable to heat tend to fall along the main transport routes, including Maroondah Highway, Mt Dandenong Road and the railway lines, and in the municipality's most built-up areas of Ringwood and Croydon. This indicates a greater need to plan for urban heat mitigation in these vulnerable areas.

FIGURE 47: HEAT VULNERABILITY INDEX (2018)



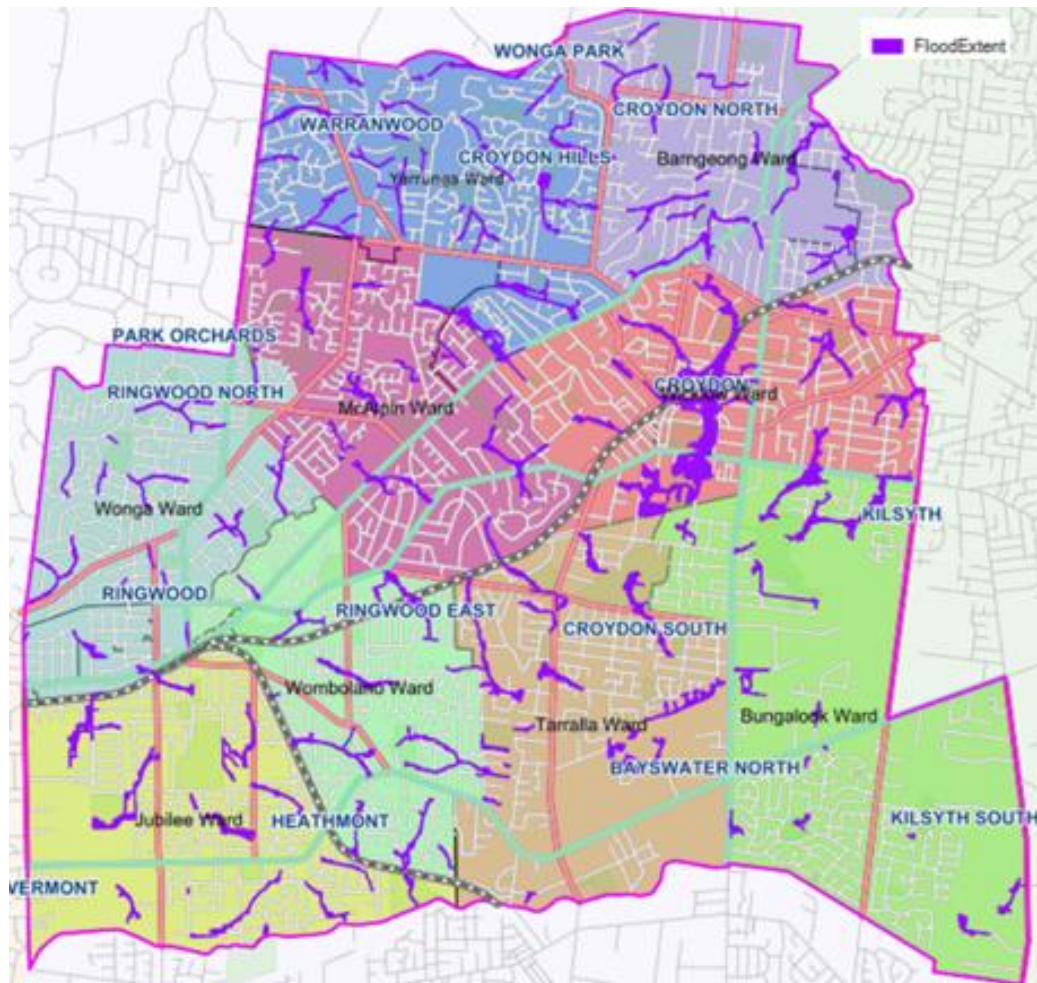
Source: The State of Victoria Department of Transport and Planning, Cooling and Greening Map (2023)

Flooding

Maroondah has experienced several severe storm events over the past decade. The municipality's stormwater drains have been designed to provide flood protection for rainfall events up to a five-year average recurrence interval (ARI) storm. However, flood modelling (Figure 48) shows most suburbs may be impacted to some extent into the future.

This highlights the critical need for blue and green infrastructure – vegetation and permeable surfaces – alongside grey infrastructure, to help mitigate flood risk.

FIGURE 48: MAROONDAH FLOOD MODELLING



Source: mapimage.net (2023)

Bushfires

There is a relatively low level of bushfire risk within Maroondah, with only a few areas subject to a bushfire management overlay (BMO) near Croydon Hills (see Figure 43). However, Maroondah is surrounded by areas subject to a BMO (in the neighbouring local government areas of Yarra Ranges and Manningham).

Emissions

The City of Maroondah's Climate Active Public Disclosure Statement (2022-23 financial year) measures the carbon emissions produced by Council staff and operations. This includes through accommodation and facilities, air transport, cleaning and chemicals, electricity (including street lighting), food, information communication and technology, services and equipment, land transport, office equipment and supplies, postage, courier and freight, professional services, stationary energy, operational waste to landfill, potable water, working from home.

Table 12 summarises the total carbon emissions measured in the municipality from 2019 to 2023.

TABLE 12: CITY OF MAROONDAH CARBON EMISSIONS 2019-2023

Year	Total carbon emissions
Base Year: 2019-20	18,866
Year 1: 2020-21	16,368
Year 2: 2021-22	16,031
Year 3: 2022-23	6,691

Source: Maroondah City Council (2022) Climate Active Public Disclosure Statement

The significant reduction in carbon emissions between 2021-22 and 2022-23 is largely due to Council's participation in the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), a power purchase agreement sourcing all Council's large market electricity sites from 100 per cent renewable resources. The highest current emissions from Council are stationary energy and transport.

The City of Maroondah achieved a carbon neutral status in 2020, meaning it produces net zero greenhouse gas emissions. However, to maintain this status and strengthen the municipality's response to climate change, actions to reduce emissions must continue.

Waste

In the 2019-20 financial year, Maroondah sent 20,144 tonnes to landfill and generated 11,259 tonnes of commingle recycling and 15,261 tonnes of garden waste.

In 2021-22, 55.5 per cent of Maroondah waste, recyclables and green organics were collected from kerbside bins and diverted from landfill. Alongside kerbside collection and traditional recycling and waste centres, Council also provides a recycling station at the Realm centre for items including e-waste, batteries, and sharps.

The City of Maroondah will be the first Council to supply municipal solid waste to the Maryvale Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility to be built in Victoria's Latrobe Valley. The project will not only divert Maroondah's waste from landfill but help to power the Opal Australian Paper Mill at Maryvale. Maroondah is anticipated to supply the Maryvale EfW facility with around 20,000 tonnes of non-recyclable household general waste each year.

6.4 Opportunities and challenges

The most significant challenge facing Maroondah's environment is climate change. With increasing extreme weather events and natural hazards, Maroondah's rich natural assets and way of life are under threat. Bayswater North, Croydon, Kilsyth South, Ringwood, Ringwood East and Heathmont have a history of flooding with the last significant flood event in February 2011. Since then, the municipality has experienced a number of severe storm events which have impacted the community.

However, there are opportunities to mitigate emissions and build resilience by adopting new technologies, such as EVs and waste-to-energy facilities, and promoting green infrastructure and sustainable practices, such as water sensitive urban design.

TABLE 13: ENVIRONMENT - OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE FOR MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL

Challenges	Opportunities	Role for Maroondah City Council
The impacts of climate change threaten public health, infrastructure, and natural assets	Utilise green infrastructure to build resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate change	Integration of ESD within Planning Scheme and the delivery of Council infrastructure. Integration of climate resilience within Master Plans and Structure Plans
Development encroaches on open space and natural habitats	Maintain and promote a network of green spaces	Take a holistic approach to urban greening that includes recreation and open space, land use planning and transport planning.
Decarbonisation demands new technology and mitigation actions	Explore partnerships to trial new technology and mitigation actions	Explore partnerships and potential grant opportunities
Increase in the severity and occurrence of flooding events	Incorporate water sensitive urban design and promote green infrastructure	Planning scheme amendment to incorporate ESD

Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

6.5 Community Vision

Based on the above section, the following themes, directions, and actions are recommended for the Community Vision.

Themes

- A resilient, adaptable, and environmentally sustainable municipality and community.

Key directions

- Integration of blue and green infrastructure across the municipality.
- Delivery of sustainable infrastructure, incorporating principles of ESD and water sensitive urban design.
- Empowering the community to increase their sustainable practices, resilience, and ability to respond to natural disasters.

Actions

- Incorporate ESD, water sensitive urban design, and a focus on green infrastructure into council infrastructure projects and precinct planning.
- Explore partnerships to trial new technology and mitigation actions, such as carbon positive infrastructure.
- Work with and support the community to adapt and mitigate climate change through education and access to funding to transition to renewable energy.

Appendix A: Maroondah City Council Policy Context

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
Maroondah 2040 Community Vision & key Council documents		
Maroondah City Council Adopted Budget 2022/23	Local	Maroondah City Council allocates resources for the provision of a broad range of services to the community. The figures below show how much is allocated to each area for every \$100 that Council spends. – Leisure and Culture: \$22.32 – Environment: \$24.19 – Capital Works: \$25.95 – Community Support: \$9.94 – Transport and Access: \$10.14 – City Development: \$7.46 Capital works budget 2022/23: \$51.69 million 2022/23 rate rise is capped at 1.75%
Asset Plan (2022)	Local	The Asset Plan guides the management of assets owned by Council, valued at \$2.1 billion at the time of writing. The Plan identifies a number of factors affecting the financial sustainability of Council, such as, increasing cost of construction, rate capping, ageing assets, COVID-19, and potential reduction in government grants. There are also political factors, such as, the increased requirements under the <i>Local Government Act (2020)</i>. The Plan also recognises the impact of climate change on assets.
Asset Management Policy (2021)	Local	The Asset Management Policy was developed by Maroondah City Council in 2021 to provide clear direction on asset management. The asset management vision is: <i>“Council will provide assets that are accessible, safe, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community and the contemporary environment.”</i>

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
Maroondah City Council Adopted Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2030/31	Local	The Financial Plan provides a 10 year financially sustainable projection regarding how the actions of the Council Plan may be funded to achieve the Community Vision. The impact of the pandemic on Council has been profound, with the closure of leisure facilities resulting in a significant loss in user fees and redirection of expenditure to the COVID-19 response. The Financial Plan annual forecast indicates the spending decreased from 2020/21 to 2021/22 but is forecast to increase again annually over the next decade. The amount of income coming from grants (capital) is forecast to decrease significantly over the next decade while income from rates and charges increases.
Maroondah 2040 – Our future together Community Vision (2021 update)		<i>Maroondah 2040 – Our future together Community Vision</i> outlines the shared community vision for Maroondah and provides a long-term roadmap for the community, Council and other levels of government to partner together and create a future that enhances Maroondah as a great place to live, work play and visit. Maroondah 2040 Community Vision states: <i>In 2040, Maroondah will be a vibrant and diverse city with a healthy and active community, living in green leafy neighbourhoods which are connected to thriving and accessible activity centres contributing to a prosperous economy within a safe, inclusive and sustainable environment.</i> The document identifies eight broad outcome areas: – Safe, healthy and active – Prosperous and learning – Vibrant and culturally rich – Clean, green and sustainable – Accessible and connected – Attractive, thriving and well built – Inclusive and diverse – Well governed and empowered. The document also outlines the progress made to date (2021) and identifies external trends, that as a community will need to be planned for and responded to, including: – Mental wellbeing and resilience – Economic and employment opportunities – Mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change – Waste management

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		– Transport choices (e.g. electric vehicles) – Housing growth and local neighbourhood planning principles – Cultural diversity, local indigenous culture, and gender equality – Social equity (including housing affordability). Many of these trends and issues remain relevant for the Maroondah 2050 Community Vision.
Draft Maroondah City Council Plan 2021-2025 – 2023/24 Update	Local	The <i>Maroondah City Council Plan 2021-2025</i> is Council's medium-term strategic document. It sets key directions and priority actions for a four-year period to work towards achieving the long-term Community Vision outlined in Maroondah 2040. The Plan draws on the eight future outcomes identified in the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision. It outlines the key directions, priority actions and indicators relevant to each outcome. The Plan indicates significant projects for delivery, including infrastructure upgrades to sporting facilities, implementation of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> and <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, development of a climate change strategy, and redevelopment of the Karralyka arts facility. Many of the key directions will remain relevant for the foreseeable future.
Maroondah 2040 Research Report (SGS, 2013)	Local - research	Undertaken by SGS in 2013, this research provided an overview of key issues and trends to help inform the development of the Maroondah 2040 community vision. The report is organised under five themes: Place, People, Economy, Environment, Governance. Many of the findings of this report will carry over from 2013 to today.
Maroondah 2040 Background Review for the 2018-19 Update (Nott, 2018)	Local - research	Maroondah City Council commissioned Tim Nott and Collaborations to review the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision in 2018/19. The report responds to the eight outcome areas outlined in the 2040 vision with updates on the progress made, important trends and implications for Council. The review identified the following key changes in the operating environment that may impact on the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision: – Impacts of climate change – Automation and AI, including the impact on employment opportunities in Maroondah

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		– Local neighbourhoods, sustainable growth, and affordable housing – Waste management – Reform in approach to disability, including the introduction of the NDIS – Council's role in promoting healthy communities – Increasing cultural diversity and rising income inequality The review identified the following issues as priorities for conversations with the community in updating the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision, many of which will continue to influence the City over the next 30 years: – Responding to the impacts of climate change – Changes in the employment landscape – The need for improved digital skills in the context of employment opportunities and service delivery – Local neighbourhood planning as a key platform to deliver sustainable urban form – Action on mental health – Prevention of family violence – Celebration of cultural diversity and indigenous culture – Promotion of social equity
People and wellbeing		
Maroondah COVID-19 Social Profile 2020	Local	Maroondah City Council developed a social profile of the municipality as a tool to support sustainable recovery outcomes and community resilience regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The Profile draws on various datasets, including .id and ABS, to develop a picture of the demographic profile of the municipality. Indicators include: age, sex, languages spoken, social isolation, mental health and disabilities (among others). The profile highlights the vulnerable populations in Maroondah who felt the impacts of COVID-19 most significantly.
Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025	Local	The <i>Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025</i> builds on the work on the previous Active and Healthy Ageing Initiative: Towards an age-friendly Maroondah 2015–2020 strategy and comprises six domains of influence that contribute to creating an age-friendly community and span

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		many aspects of Council services providing support for positive ageing actions. Six priority areas for the next five-year period are: respect, social connections, community, health and wellbeing, safety and security, and quality of life.
Maroondah COVID-19 Recovery Plan	Local	The <i>Maroondah COVID-19 Recovery Plan</i> provides strategic direction for the City's recovery from the pandemic. The Plan outlines Council's approach to community-led recovery which included support for people and businesses. The Plan also indicates that COVID-19 enabled residents to gain a greater understanding of local neighbourhood planning and its benefits. The Plan uses a framework of 'Recovery Capitals': natural capital, social capital, financial capital, cultural capital, political capital, built capital, and human capital. Under each form of capital, Council outlines priority actions.
Maroondah COVID-19 Secondary Impact Assessment	Local	The Assessment shows that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns had a significant effect on Maroondah's residents. The Assessment outlines areas of focus for recovery, including: – Community connectedness, such as local events and support groups. – Safety, health and wellbeing, including opportunities to increase physical activity. – Mental health, including affordable and accessible mental health services. Maroondah has employed a model of post-disaster recovery capitals, which highlights how the social, economic, cultural, human, political, natural and built environments impact on health and wellbeing.
Maroondah City Council Gambling Policy and Local Planning Policy for Electronic Gaming: Background Report (DRAFT) 2018	Local	SYMPlan was commissioned by Maroondah City Council to develop the report in 2018 to underpin the Maroondah City Council Gambling Policy. The findings of the Report include a recommendation for Council strategies and actions: <i>"to seek to increase access to non-gaming social, leisure, recreational and entertainment activities during the winter months when gaming expenditure is at its highest in the municipality."</i> The Policy reflects Maroondah's drive to create an inclusive and healthy environment by adopting a health and wellbeing approach to gambling-related harms.

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing, and Resilience Strategy 2021-2023	Local	The <i>Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing, and Resilience Strategy</i> is Council's key social planning document that describes how Council and partners will work towards achieving enhanced community wellbeing, liveability and resilience over the next 10 years. The Strategy replaces the previous Health and Wellbeing Plan and meets statutory requirements (<i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i>). The Strategy identifies six focus areas: – Healthy lifestyles – Liveable neighbourhoods – Safe communities – Social inclusion – Embracing diversity – Social harms (gambling, alcohol etc.) It includes the following vision, <i>"In 2031, Maroondah will be a liveable, healthy and resilient community where everyone can belong, thrive and grow."</i>
Ageing Well in a Changing World	State	<i>Ageing Well in a Changing World</i> is a report developed by the Commissioner for Senior Victorians in 2020. It reflects the views of senior Victorians on what it means to 'age well'. The report identified the "Eight Attributes of Ageing Well". 1. A positive attitude 2. Life has purpose and meaning 3. Respected and respectful 4. Connected to family and friends 5. In touch with a changing world 6. Safe and secure at home and financially 7. Able to manage health issues including mental health 8. Able to get around The report also identified five initial priority areas for action at the Victorian Government level.
Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy (2016)	State	Safe and Strong is Victoria's Gender Equality Strategy which sets out a framework to reduce violence against women and deliver gender parity. The plan emphasises that gender equality delivers social benefits, as inequality in society is associated with lower community cohesion and higher rates of anti-social behaviour, social isolation, and violence.

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
Draft Maroondah Disability Action Plan 2022-2026	Local	The <i>Draft Maroondah Disability Action Plan 2022-2026</i> is a four-year document outlining Council's actions to reduce key issues faced by people with disabilities, and their families and carers, in Maroondah, and to create opportunities for people with disabilities to participate equally in the life of the community. The draft Plan sets a vision for Maroondah: <i>"Maroondah will be an inclusive and accessible community that provides an equitable opportunities for people of all abilities, their families and their carers to actively and fully participate."</i> The Plan is underpinned by five principles: autonomy, opportunity, human rights, diversity, and accountability. The Plan emphasises the values of inclusion and accessibility that are integral to Maroondah's community, in particular residents with a disability, and their families and carers.
Youth Strategy 2017	Local	The <i>Youth Strategy 2017</i> provides clear strategic direction to guide and focus Council's work with, and for, people aged 10 to 25 who live, work, study or play in the City of Maroondah. The Strategy includes a vision for Maroondah's young people: <i>"Maroondah's young people are flourishing as part of a healthy and thriving community."</i> To raise the wellbeing of Maroondah's young people, Council aims to provide high quality and accessible services and activities. Continuation, and expansion, of Council's community facilities and youth programs will be critical to achieving the vision.
Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network	Regional	At the regional level, Maroondah is a member of the Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network which aims to improve access to services and improve local healthcare.
Aged Care and Other Legislation Amendment (Royal Commission Response No. 1) Act 2021 & 2022 (implementing Care Reform Act)	Federal	The <i>Aged Care and Other Legislation Amendment</i> came into effect in 2021 to amend Aged Care legislation. A further amendment came into effect in 2022. Work on a new aged care Act is underway. The reforms cover both residential aged care and in-home care packages, with notable changes that will affect council and other service providers including: – A strong shift towards the marketisation of services, aimed at providing users with more choice and better service resulting from market competition, new and stronger regulation for provider responsibilities, requirements and reporting, and more transparency.

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		– A shift in focus from residential aged care to home-care through the Support at Home program. This program is still being developed with inputs from older Australians and community stakeholders. – The creation of new face-to-face services in Services Australia facilities designed to make it easier for consumers to use My Aged Care and access services.²¹ Reforms to the aged care system resulting from the 2021 <i>Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety</i> are likely to have a significant impact on local government's involvement in aged care provision. Local governments will need to consider whether they are better positioned to continue to deliver services directly, or focus on continued reinvestment into planning, programs, and activities for their older community members (a positive ageing focus).
Inclusive Victoria: State Disability Plan 2022–2026	State	<i>Inclusive Victoria: State Disability Plan 2022–2026</i> is Victoria's fourth state disability plan. The Plan sets out actions that will help the Victorian Government meet its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Plan describes how the Victorian Government will recognise and address forms of structural discrimination that people with disability face and build accessibility into everything that government does. The Plan contains six systemic reforms and 22 priority areas, grouped under four pillars: Inclusive Communities, Health, Housing and Wellbeing, Fairness and Safety and Opportunity and Pride.
NDIS Amendment (Participant Service Guarantee and Other Measures) Act 2022	Federal	The legislation (effective July 1st 2022) is centred on improving the experiences of participants, their families and carers and builds upon the recommendations of the 2019 Tune Review. As well as legislating the Participant Service Guarantee, the Bill introduces changes to provide more flexibility to participants by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), and to make it easier for participants to vary their plans, without the need for a lengthy review. The City of Maroondah may be required to support the implementation of the Act and advocate for the needs of people with disability in their communities. The expansion of the NDIS and the increased availability of disability services

²¹ Aged Care Financing Authority (2021), Ninth report on the Funding and Financing of the Aged Care Sector, p. 48, <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/ninth-report-on-the-funding-and-financing-of-the-aged-care-industry-july-2021>

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		may have implications for Maroondah's local government services.
Housing and neighbourhoods		
Maroondah Housing Strategy 2016 and 2022 Refresh	Local	The <i>Maroondah Housing Strategy</i> provides strategic direction to guide future residential growth, enhance liveability, and meet housing requirements through to 2040. The Vision for housing in Maroondah: <i>"In 2040, Maroondah will have high quality housing environments in appropriate locations that meet the community's diverse and changing needs. There will be a wider range of living options and housing will increasingly be revitalised in affordable, sustainable and well-designed ways. Maroondah's activity centres will be more accessible and provide a broader range of services that meet community needs. In partnership with the community, Council will continue to plan for housing growth strategically backed by a strong evidence base."</i> The Strategy identifies the following key issues for the future of housing: affordability, diversity, and infrastructure. There are five key focus areas to achieve the Vision: – Responding to social, economic and demographic change – Managing growth and changing housing needs – Protecting and enhancing our environment and neighbourhoods – Improving affordability, accessibility and social housing opportunities – Building on and improving the planning framework. Maroondah will undergo significant change as Melbourne grows. Between 2021 and 2041, Maroondah is expected to see an increase in 562 households a year. In total, this translates to a demand of 11,240 additional dwellings to accommodate these households. There will also be demand for 390 additional aged care beds over this time.
Housing Demand Study – Maroondah, 2015	Local	In 2015, Spatial Economics was commissioned by Maroondah City Council to provide a detailed analysis of population and dwelling demand for the City of Maroondah. This analysis was used to inform the <i>Maroondah Housing Strategy</i>.
Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance	Regional	Maroondah City Council is one of six participating councils in the Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance which advocates for increased investment in social and affordable housing.

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Charter Group	Regional	The City of Maroondah is a member of the <i>Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Group</i> , 13 councils in Melbourne's east and south-east working collaboratively to respond to homelessness and advocate for major reforms to increase the supply of social housing in Victoria.
Plan Melbourne 2017	State	<i>Plan Melbourne 2017-2050</i> classifies three Metropolitan Activity Centres (MAC's) in the municipality: the Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP)²², the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre (RMAC), and the Croydon Major Activity Centre (CMAC). The Plan identifies policies to facilitate the supply of affordable housing and introduces the local neighbourhood living concept to increase the liveability, accessibility, and sustainability of how Victorians live. Local neighbourhoods are defined in Plan Melbourne as a neighbourhood <i>that is all about 'living locally'[and] allowing people to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute return walk from home, with access to safe cycling and local transport options.</i> The future growth and development of the City of Maroondah is anticipated to be a significant focus of public and private investment, employment growth and renewal in Melbourne's outer-east.
Victoria's Big Housing Build	State	Announced in 2020 as a stimulus response to the COVID-19 pandemic – allocates \$5.3 billion over four years to build over 12,000 new social housing dwellings. Under the Big Housing Build, \$45.85 million is allocated to Maroondah.
Maroondah Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025	Local	The <i>Maroondah Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025</i> sets out the key directions for arts and cultural development in Maroondah over the next five years. The Strategy identifies three outcome areas to guide the work of the Council and its partners over the five-year period: – A culturally active, engaged and connected community – Vibrant places and spaces – A City which is creative, flourishing and values the arts The Strategy outlines the City's key cultural facilities and assets and identifies future developments such as the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct and further development of the Ringwood arts precinct, as well as the

²² BBP spans across three local governments: Yarra Ranges Council, Knox City Council, and Maroondah City Council.

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		important work of developing the arts and creative participation across Maroondah. The Strategy is aligned with the Public Arts Policy.
Equally Active Strategy 2019	Local	The <i>Equally Active Strategy 2019</i> is a strategic document aimed at increasing gender equity in male-dominated sports and non-sport activities. The Strategy builds on the recommendations of Council's <i>2015 - 2020 Physical Activity Strategy</i> which highlighted women as a specific population that will require targeted actions to make a positive impact on the current low physical activity levels. The Strategy's vision is: <i>In Maroondah, women and girls will have equal opportunity to undertake sport and recreational physical activity in environments where they feel welcomed, supported and safe.</i> The Strategy emphasises the values of inclusion and accessibility for female participation in sport.
Physical Activity Strategy 2015-20	Local	The <i>Physical Activity Strategy 2015-20</i> outlines strategic priorities to 'get people moving' in Maroondah alongside a five-year action plan. The Strategy outlines Council priorities under four themes: - Active travel - The future of sport - Activating open space - Schools and workplaces Under these four themes, there are a range of opportunities for Council to provide services and infrastructure to support the community. Including expansion of the pedestrian and cycling network, utilisation of public open space for community activities, promotion of sports facilities and clubs at all levels, and the expansion of Maroondah's leisure facilities for greater community use (e.g. school hire or corporate packages).
Melbourne Eastern Region Sport and Recreation Strategy (2022)	Regional	The <i>Melbourne Eastern Region Sport and Recreation Strategy</i> identifies the gaps in regional sport and recreation facilities and shared trails and outlines the vision for the future provision of regional facilities in Melbourne's East. The Strategy establishes a vision for the region to, <i>"Improve the health and wellbeing of the Melbourne East Region through the provision of high quality regional level sport and</i>

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		<i>recreation facilities and experiences that meet a demonstrated need."</i> The Strategy identifies the need for investment in co-located, multipurpose facilities in order to create efficiencies across the regional sport and recreational network. In Maroondah, Council should seek to apply these principles to community infrastructure and work collaboratively with other Council's in the region to ensure sufficient provision.
Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051	State	<i>Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051</i> provides a practical roadmap for action over the next 30 years, identifying the top infrastructure priorities for Victoria. It seeks to ensure infrastructure projects, policies and reforms work to reduce disadvantage, build on economic strengths and address environmental risks.
Economy and education		
City of Maroondah Economic and Business Insights (REMPAN, 2022)	Local	REMPAN was commissioned on behalf of Maroondah City Council to undertake a review of the state of the economy and business in the municipality, post COVID-19. The report identifies three major employment centres: the Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP), the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre (RMAC), and the Croydon Major Activity Centre (CMAC). (The BBP crosses three Local Government Areas). REMPAN found that Maroondah's businesses fared relatively well throughout COVID-19 and the overall employment and economic activity forecast is positive. Manufacturing is a key industry in the municipality, and supporting the sector will be critical for employment, supply chain industries, economic activity and innovation. Manufacturing plays a critical role in Maroondah's economic profile. Support for the sector, as it transforms to advanced manufacturing, is necessary to uphold local manufacturing jobs and supply chains.
Melbourne East 2020 Regional Plan	Regional	The City of Maroondah is one of seven local councils to collaborate on the Regional Plan for the Melbourne Eastern region. The Plan sets a vision for the region to be <i>Australia's premier lifestyle and business destination</i>. The Plan outlines six regional priorities to drive economic growth: – Investment attraction – Accommodation – Precinct activation – Connectivity

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		– Employability – Import replacement. Opportunities to support economic growth in the City of Maroondah should be aligned with this Regional Plan. Collaboration between the regions councils is key to its success.
Eastern Region Group of Councils (ERG) Strategic Plan 2021-2025	Regional	The ERG Strategic Plan outlines the strategic direction and vision for the region over a four-year period. The Plan sets a vision for the region <i>“to be a connected, healthy, sustainable and prosperous region.”</i> The Plan emphasises the strength of regional connectivity & working together in the region.
Advanced Victorian Manufacturing: A Blueprint for the Future (2017)	State	Victoria’s advanced manufacturing blueprint sets a future vision for the manufacturing sector with a focus on advanced technologies, STEM education and delivering high-value exports. Maroondah’s own manufacturing industry will be required to evolve over the next 30-years, with education institutions play a crucial role in the transformation to advanced manufacturing.
Kindergarten Reform	State	In 2022, the reform introduced funded kindergarten for families: – A 15-hour per week program will be available to four-year-old children – a 5-to-15-hour program will be available to three-year-old children per week. The Government later announced an increase to 30 hours of four-year-old kindergarten beginning in 2025, and by 2030 every four-year-old will be entitled to a free, 30-hour-a-week program. Projections indicate that Maroondah will have a shortfall of kindergarten places in the municipality, peaking at 369 in 2029.²³
Transport		

²³ State of Victoria Department of Education and Training, 2020, ‘Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan – City of Maroondah’
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/funding/maroondah-kisp-signed.pdf>

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
Maroondah City Council Road Management Plan 2021-2025	Local	The <i>Maroondah City Council Road Management Plan 2021-2025</i> supports a safe and efficient integrated transport system.
Physical Activity Strategy 2015-20	Local	The first Council Priority established in the Physical Activity Strategy is active travel. The Plan recognises the economic, community connectivity and health and environmental benefits associated with promoting active transport and the fundamental role it plays in many primary objectives of planning, such as local neighbourhoods. The Plan identifies the need for a sustained holistic approach of physical infrastructure, education and enforcement to bring about substantial mode shift towards active transportation. The Plan outlines the following opportunities for Maroondah City Council: – Encourage people to walk and cycle by changing attitudes and behaviours – Collaborate to improve provision for predominately walking and cycling, but also other forms of active travel, i.e. scooter or skateboarding. – Create pedestrian friendly built environments and public spaces. – Increase the safety of walking and cycling. – Continue to integrate the pedestrian and cycling networks within the public transport network. A new Physical Activity Strategy is currently under development.
Eastern Transport Coalition	Regional	The Coalition advocate for sustainable and integrated transport services that reduce car dependency. Campaigns include extending tram and bus services in the Eastern region, upgrading pedestrian and cycle paths, and investing in a Trackless Rapid Transit (TRT) between Caulfield and Rowville. The Coalition also advocates for the delivery of planned public transport works, such as the Suburban Rail Loop.
Movement and Place Framework (2019)	State	<i>Movement and Place</i> is a state-wide framework that reflects a holistic way of thinking about transport links and the function of streets, serving as key places and destinations. The framework provides guidance for improving the integration of transport modes, public safety and amenity.
Transport Sector Emissions Reduction Pledge 2021-2025	State	The <i>Transport Sector Emissions Reduction Pledge 2021-2025</i> outlines the State's ambitions to mitigate emissions in the sector. It includes the following key targets:

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		– Zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) will make up 50 per cent of all new light vehicle sales by 2030 – All new public transport bus purchases will be ZEVs from 2025 – 400 ZEVs will be added to the Victorian Government fleet by 2023 – Active transport will make up 25 per cent of mode share by 2030. These state-wide targets, particularly in regard to ZEVs will have significant impact on the future of Maroondah's transport provision and streets.
Environment		
Open Space Strategy 2016	Local	The Maroondah <i>Open Space Strategy 2016</i> provides strategic direction for open space provision and enhancement in the municipality over a ten-year period (2016-26). The Strategy aligns with the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision through 15 policy positions established to guide and underpin decision making regarding open space in Maroondah in the areas of open space engagement, planning, development, management and promotion. The Strategy sets Council's position on how it will make key decisions that impact on open space, the people who use it, and the protection of the natural environment.
Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy 2018/19-2021/22	Local	The <i>Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy 2018/19-2021/22</i> outlines how Maroondah City Council and its partners will work towards a more climate adapted Maroondah over the next four years. The Plan has four overarching objectives: 1. Plan for and manage the risks of climate change, in particular, drainage and extreme weather events. 2. Seek opportunities for partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders and the community that support climate change adaptation. 3. Use the natural environment to build our adaptive capacity – while a risk in itself, the natural environment can also be used to help in climate change management. 4. Encourage future-proofing design – foster spaces capable of adapting to change and responding to current and future risks.

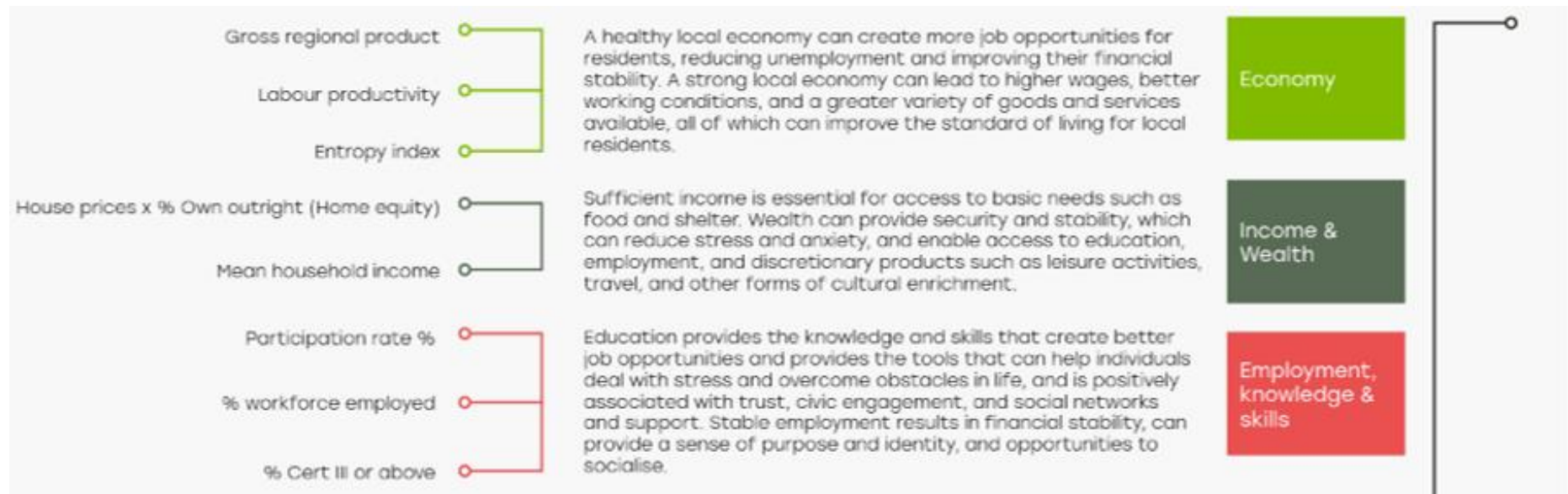
Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		It also identifies 42 climate change risks to Council and 25 key directions to increase climate adaptation in the municipality. Focus areas include: – Reduce the vulnerability of the people at risk in Maroondah – Reduce the vulnerability of the places at risk in Maroondah – Embed Council’s commitment to climate change The <i>Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy 2018/19-2021/22</i> is under review and will be replaced with a Climate Change Plan.
Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031	Local	The Strategy focuses on six outcome areas that will provide the foundation to support Maroondah’s environment and social and economic systems over the next 10 years. The six outcome areas are: the Built Environment, Climate Change, Community Connections, Green Economy, Green Infrastructure, and Governance, Evaluation and Improvement. The City achieved, and has maintained, carbon-neutral status since 2020.
Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030	Local	The <i>Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030</i> intends to protect, enhance and restore vegetation in the municipality’s natural and urbanised areas alike. The Strategy establishes the following vision: <i>“In 2040, more people are deriving the health and wellbeing benefits, and more plants and animals are deriving the habitat benefits, of living amongst abundant and diverse vegetation in Maroondah.”</i> The Strategy identifies key directions and priority outcomes: 1. A more liveable Maroondah – more tree canopy 2. More nature throughout Maroondah – protect & improve habitats 3. Council support
Waste, Litter & Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030	Local	Maroondah adopted its 10-year waste strategy in 2021 to align with Victorian Government Policy and drive key initiatives to reduce waste and undertake steps to improve recovery. With the adoption of Council’s 10 Year Waste Strategy, in conjunction with the Victorian Government’s <i>Recycling Victoria Policy</i>, Maroondah will continue investing in the

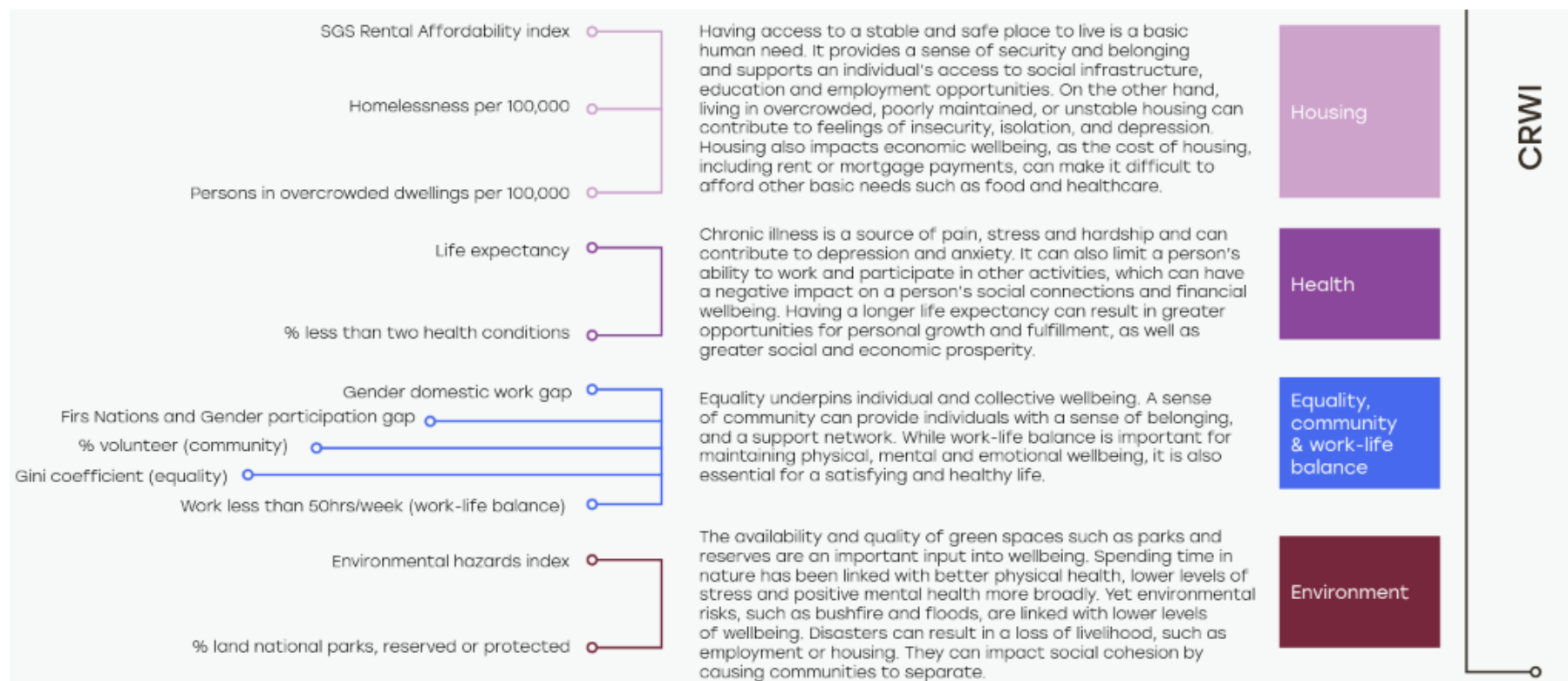
Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
		initiatives and the infrastructure required to deliver on the outcomes set out over the course of the next decade. For waste services to be delivered effectively and efficiently throughout the municipality and particularly recycling, incorporating kerbside collection, green waste and recycling, the charge will be full cost recovery. The charge for 2022/23, incorporating kerbside collection, green waste, the introduction of Food in Organics (FOGO) initiatives and recycling, will increase by just over 6% from the 2021/22 level. This increase in price, assists the municipality in maintaining its contractual relationship with its recycling contractor and ensures a reliable and environmentally friendly waste processing service is delivered. Over the next 10 years, and beyond, Maroondah will focus on transitioning to the circular economy.
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Regional	The Alliance aims to facilitate the region's transition to net zero by 2030 through innovative climate mitigation and adaptation projects, influencing policy and building the capacity of leaders.
The Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021	State	The Victorian Government has a 10-year circular economy policy and action plan to transform the State's household recycling services to a circular economy. The Act saw the establishment (on 1 July 2022) of Recycling Victoria, a dedicated government business unit to oversee and provide strategic leadership for the waste and recycling sector. It will also introduce a four-bin system and container deposit scheme to improve the value captured from the materials we all recycle. The Act signals that Maroondah will need to focus on the circular economy and make changes to the service charge to cover all aspects of waste management.
The Climate Change Act 2017	State	The Act sets the direction for Victoria's climate change response, including a long-term target of reducing the state's emissions to net zero by 2050. The Act introduces a new set of policy objectives and guiding principles to embed climate action in government decision making. Maroondah will need to contribute to mitigation efforts to reach the net zero emissions by 2050 target across the state.

Document	Type	Summary and implication for Maroondah
Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037	State	The document sets state-wide targets for all Victorians to connect with nature, protect the natural environment and for government organisations to contribute to environmental-economic accounting (a framework that organises statistical information to help decision-makers better understand how the economy and the environment interact) by 2037.

Appendix B: Cities and Regions Wellbeing Index Approach

The image below outlines the indicators that form the seven objective wellbeing indicators in the SGS Cities & Regions Wellbeing Index.





Appendix C: References

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (2021) *Chronic condition multimorbidity*. Australian Government. Online: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/chronic-disease/chronic-condition-multimorbidity/contents/chronic-conditions-and-multimorbidity>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (2021) *Australia's youth: COVID-19 and the impact on young people*. Online: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/children-youth/covid-19-and-young-people>

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