Melton City 2041

THE CITY WE CREATE

DRAFT

CITY OF MELTON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Council acknowledges First Nations peoples living and working in the City of Melton and recognises the people of the Kulin Nations as the original custodians of the land now known as the City of Melton. Council pays respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Thank you to all the community members, Council staff, local service providers and community groups, who contributed valuable insights which informed the development of this document.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements 2
Mayor's Foreword 4
Vision Statement 5
Introduction 6
Background 7
Community Vision Consultation 7
Revisions to The Community Vision 2036 7
Our Community Today 8
Our Traditional Owners 8
Community Diversity 8
What Did our Community Say? 11
How Do We Make Our Community Vision A Reality? 12
Our Community Vision Themes 14
Theme 1 | Our Socially Connected City 15
Theme 2 | Our Thriving Natural Environment 16
Theme 3 | Our Well-Built City 17
Theme 4 | Our Strong Local Economy 18
Theme 5 | Our Actively Engaged People 19
Monitoring and Evaluation 20
Related Documents 20

MAYOR'S FOREWORD

I am delighted to present Melton City 2041—The City We Create.

Melton City 2041 is our shared vision for the future of the City of Melton and it's my privilege to lead its development on behalf of our community.

As an update to our original Community Vision 2036, it's a real pleasure to reflect on the progress we have made so far in transforming our City into an exciting, vibrant and more liveable place for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

This aspirational vision includes outcome indicators to ensure we all continue to work on our collective goals, and recognises Council's commitment to working with our community, and other key partners, to deliver the future we all envision.

I thank all of you who have taken time to ensure that this Community Vision reflects our collective needs, hopes and dreams. Personally, as a local resident, I'm excited by this vision and look forward to updating you on the progress we are making towards realising it together.

Cr Kathy Majdlik
Mayor, City of Melton

VISION STATEMENT

In 2041, our community is vibrant and welcoming.

We are actively engaged in our community, we value each other and create a sense of belonging that celebrates our diverse and evolving City together.

We are progressive in promoting liveability and sustainability, we nurture our natural environment, and we manage our growth in a way that fosters connection, inclusion and trust.

We are a healthy community with abundant quality open spaces and places to support active lifestyles, mental health and wellbeing. We have access to a state of the art hospital and local health and community services.

We are known as a learning City and for our pioneering innovation that delivers abundant local employment opportunities.

This vision statement was developed by the City of Melton Community Panel in March 2021.

INTRODUCTION

Melton City 2041 is our community's vision for the City of Melton. It was developed by our community, for our community. It will help shape the future of our City by clearly outlining our shared aspirations and priorities for what we want to see achieved in our community in the next two decades.

Melton City 2041 ensures that the community's voice, needs and aspirations are at the heart of Melton City Council's (Council) work. It provides a long term vision for the municipality along with five themes for achieving that vision that are based on evidence of current and future needs, as well as in depth community consultation.

Ensuring that the Community Vision is the best reflection of the community's aspirations has never been so important. The Community Vision is now legislated to be incorporated into Council planning, decision making, programs, services and advocacy. Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Community Vision will guide Council's work through the development and implementation of its Council and Wellbeing Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan.

Melton City 2041 will help to:

- demonstrate who we are, what we want and where we want to be as a community in 2041
- inform Council, other levels of government and local community organisations in their planning and prioritisation of resources that reflect our needs
- inform the direction of a number of strategic Council documents to ensure they align with our priorities
- maintain focus on what's important to our community, track progress and measure impacts and achievements over time.

As our community evolves, the Community Vision will be reviewed and updated to reflect community aspirations of the day, to ensure it maintains relevance.

No one area of Council, community or other levels of government can help to achieve the Community Vision alone, we all have our part to play.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, *Melton City 2036 – The City We Imagine* was developed as the City's first Community Vision. This review delivers on the commitment to review and update the Community Vision on a regular basis.

Melton City 2041 represents an update to 'The City We Imagine' to reflect the current opportunities and challenges faced by our growing community. In 2021, we no longer need to imagine what the City will look like when it is developed, it's happening all around us. It's now a City well on its way, experiencing growth and change right across the municipality. With growth and change comes increased expectation and excitement for what is to come. Melton City 2041 captures our community's updated vision.

Like the first Community Vision, it focuses on liveability and structures the themes around the *built, social, economic and natural environments.* A fifth theme has been added which recognises the need for our community to have open and transparent dialogue with Council and others. As a community, we not only want to be heard, we expect to be engaged in the decisions that affect us.

This update to our Community Vision also recognises the resilience of our people, and our nuanced, yet cohesive direction towards COVID-19 recovery.

COMMUNITY VISION CONSULTATION

Early in 2020, the community was invited to help reshape our original Community Vision—*Melton City 2036—The City We Imagine*. By March 2020, the sudden impact of COVID-19 meant that scheduled face-to-face community discussions went almost exclusively online. Despite this, over 500 of us shared what we love about living in the City of Melton and critiqued what needed to be updated and revisited from the original Community Vision developed in 2017.

In early 2021, Council brought together the City of Melton Community Panel - a panel of 41 randomly selected residents, who were broadly representative of the community as a whole, and who reflected the diversity of neighbourhoods, ages and backgrounds of the community. In March 2021, through deliberative engagement, the Community Panel were invited to contribute the vision statement for Melton City 2041, along with its new title.

Other data sources used to shape the Community Vision include online forums, the Annual Household Survey, participation in community workshops and input provided at community festivals and events (pre March 2020).

REVISIONS TO THE COMMUNITY VISION 2036

This draft Community Vision 2041 includes updates based on community feedback. The main changes include a refresh of the themes, with 'our actively engaged people' now becoming a central theme in its own right.

The content has also been updated to reflect the changes to the *Local Government Act 2020* (VIC) and alignment with strategic Council documents. Other minor changes in language and the general layout of the document have also been updated.

OUR COMMUNITY TODAY

Over 180,600 residents call the City of Melton home. Over the next decade, we are expected to reach 273,000 people. By 2051, we will be home to nearly half a million people.

Each week, the municipality increases by 147 people, including 52 babies, or 49 families calling the City of Melton their new home (this equals to one additional street being built every week and a need for two additional kindergarten classes).

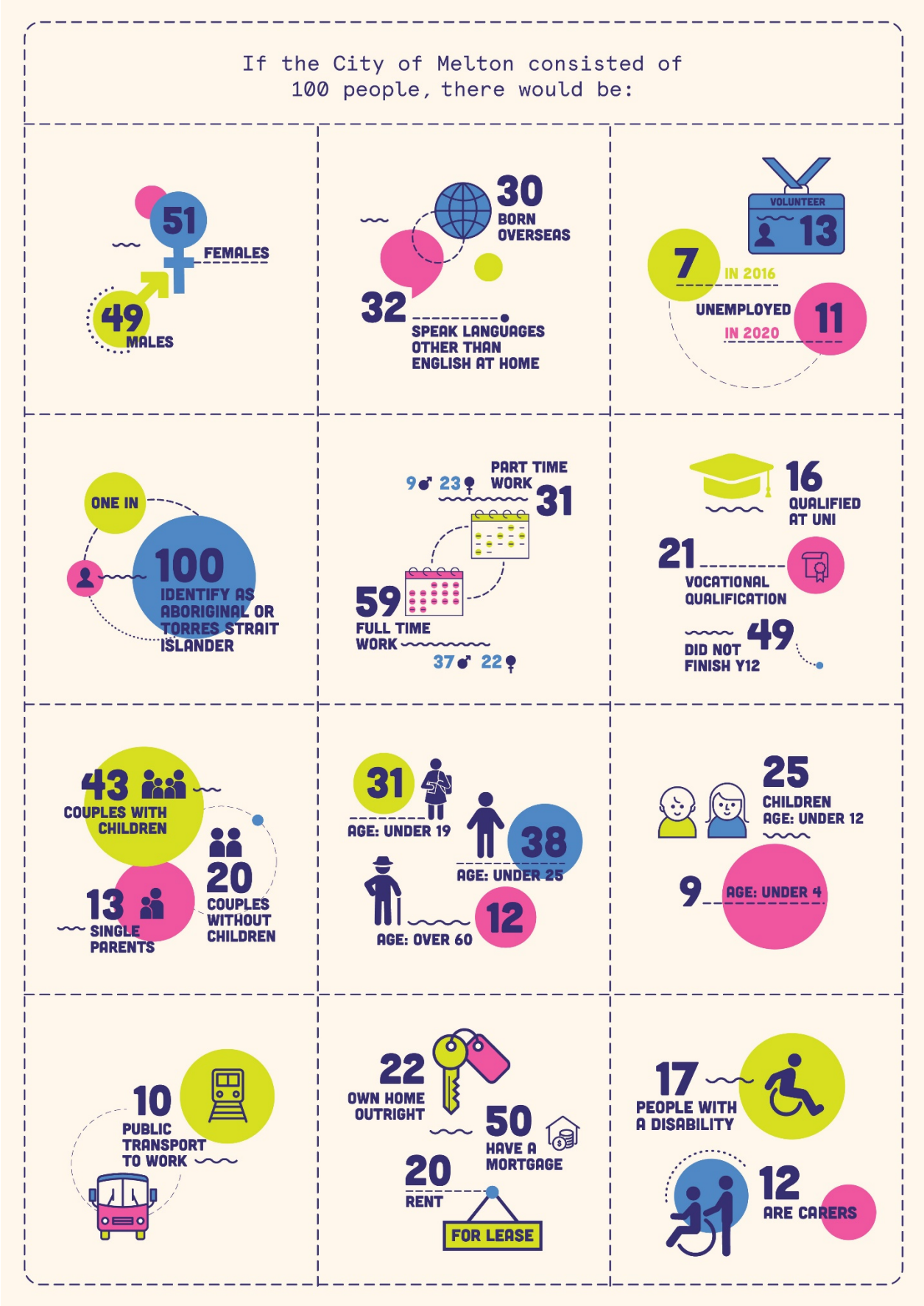
We remain one of the youngest regions in Australia with 54 per cent of residents under the age of 35 and 62 per cent under the age of 40. Although, over the next 20 years, our ageing population will also increase by 152 per cent.

OUR TRADITIONAL OWNERS

There are three Traditional Owner Groups within the City, the Wurundjeri, Wadawarrung and Bunurong peoples, and a large Aboriginal community which comprises Aboriginal community members from nations and clans across Australia. We recognise that the composition of Aboriginal communities in the City of Melton is multifaceted, and the delivery of self-determination must encompass more than speaking with one group, and requires more than consulting with different groups. True self-determination within municipal boundaries is to ensure that all cohorts in the community are represented with equitable voice, and that decisions which affect Aboriginal communities in the City of Melton are made, at the very least, in partnership with local Aboriginal communities.

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY

More Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and community call the City of Melton home than other parts of Melbourne and Victoria (Melton 1%, Greater Melb. 0.5% and 0.8% VIC, Profile id). Nearly a third of us speak a language other than English (32%) and around the same number were born overseas (30%). The City of Melton is among the top five settlement locations for humanitarian visa holders and the top ten for family class visas. As the bulk of our City's population growth is expected to come from migration, as opposed to natural population increase, it is likely that the cultural diversity of our City will continue to thrive well into the future. Around 17 per cent of our community have a disability. The number of people with additional needs is likely to increase as we age and the population grows.


If the City of Melton consisted of 100 people, there would be:
51 FEMALES
49 MALES
30 BORN OVERSEAS
32 SPEAK LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME
VOLUNTEER 13
7 IN 2016
UNEMPLOYED
IN 2020 11
ONE IN 100 IDENTIFY AS ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
9 23 PART TIME WORK 31
59 FULL TIME WORK
37 22
16 QUALIFIED AT UNI
21 VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION
49 DID NOT FINISH Y12
43 COUPLES WITH CHILDREN
20 COUPLES WITHOUT CHILDREN
13 SINGLE PARENTS
31 AGE: UNDER 19
38 AGE: UNDER 25
12 AGE: OVER 60
25 CHILDREN AGE: UNDER 12
9 AGE: UNDER 4
10 PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO WORK
22 OWN HOME OUTRIGHT
50 HAVE A MORTGAGE
20 RENT
FOR LEASE
17 PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY
12 ARE CARERS

In 2020, Council asked the community some specific questions. If the City of Melton was 100 people, there would be:

WHAT DID OUR COMMUNITY SAY?

Many of us believe that the City of Melton is a great place. We love our parks and green spaces, local shopping opportunities, libraries and leisure facilities and the 'sense of community'. We value the affordability and the country feel in an area that is a reasonable commuting distance to Melbourne's CBD.

We also think the challenges we face as a community include a lack of well-connected public transport, a local hospital and educational and employment opportunities. We are not happy with traffic congestion, road conditions and littering. We are concerned with the growing feeling of being unsafe in our own community.

The Australian bushfires in early 2020 refined our focus on global warming, renewing our interest to do more to help the environment and be more sustainable, and heightening our awareness of our community's vulnerability to climate change.

COVID-19 and the state of emergency had us digging deeper to find previously untapped levels of personal and community resilience. Our diverse, vibrant community, embraced new opportunities and challenges like never before. The experience of COVID-19 motivated us to reflect on the ideas and wishes from Melton City 2036, and create a more refined and aspirational Community Vision for 2041.

HOW DO WE MAKE OUR COMMUNITY VISION A REALITY?

Working closely with our community, Council is well placed to drive the implementation of the Community Vision. Together we will navigate the way forward, in meeting our community aspirations and improving the liveability of our City. The Community Vision is the ultimate guide to the work of Council, supported by the City of Melton Advocacy Priorities.

Melton City 2041 ensures that the community's voice, needs and aspirations are at the heart of Council's work. Council accepts responsibility for carriage of the Community Vision and will use it to guide the direction of their work.

Everyone who lives, works, studies, recreates or visits the municipality has an active role to play in helping achieve our Community Vision. Working together, with our community, Council, private industry, governments and not-for-profit agencies will be required.

Informed through deliberative engagement, the Community Vision is the pinnacle of Council's strategic planning framework. Below is a framework outlining where the Community Vision sits in relation to other key Council documents.

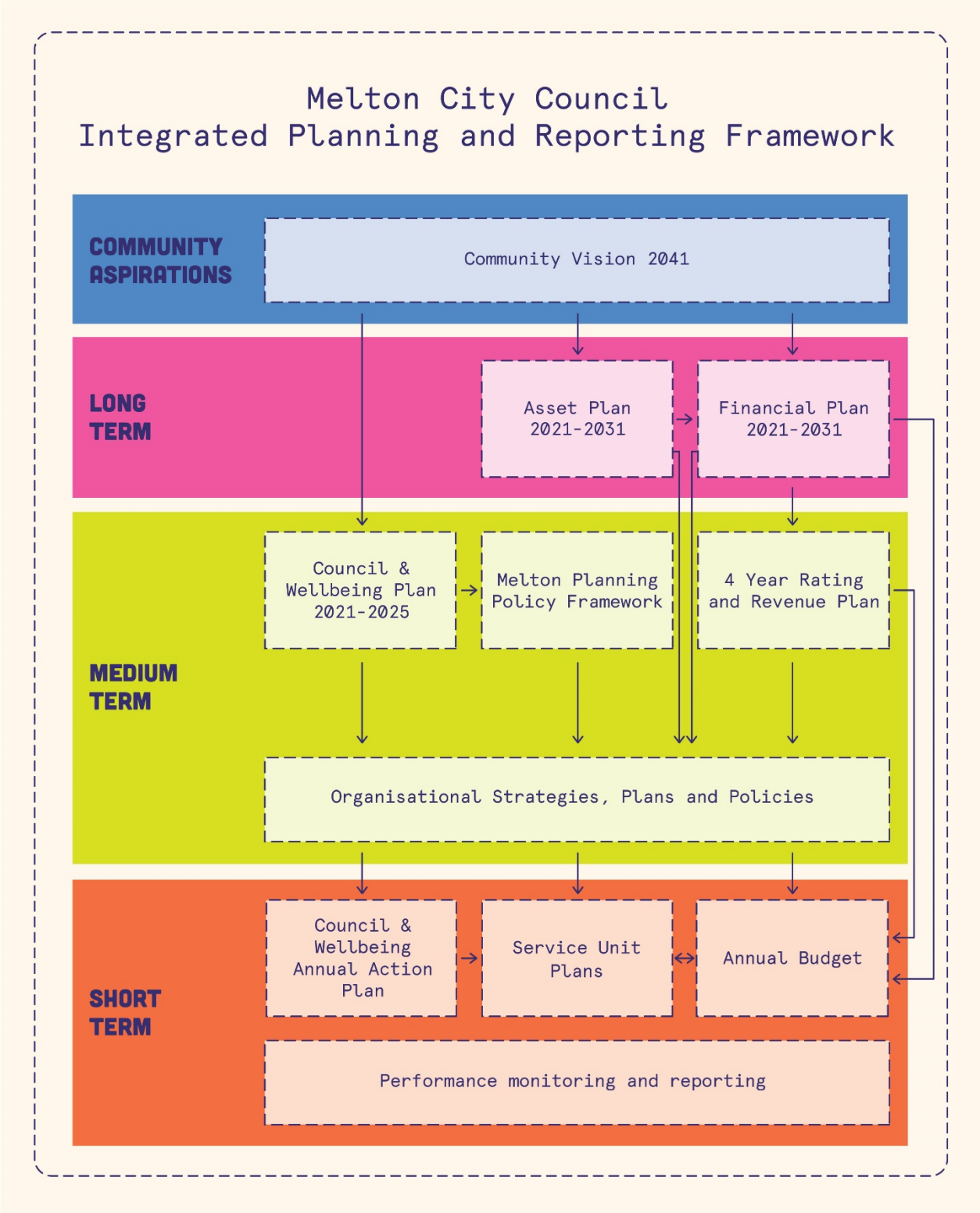


Diagram 1. Melton City Council Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

OUR COMMUNITY VISION THEMES

Five themes frame the priorities that are most important to our community. By focusing our efforts on these themes, we will be able to monitor the progress of our City growing even more liveable and vibrant over time. The five liveability themes are:

THEME 1

Our socially connected City

THEME 2

Our thriving natural environment

THEME 3

Our well-built City

THEME 4

Our strong local economy

THEME 5

Our actively engaged people

Diagram 2. Community Vision 2041 Themes

THEME 1 | OUR SOCIALLY CONNECTED CITY IS:

- clean, welcoming and safe
- inclusive and nurturing
- diverse, active and socially connected
- intolerant of all forms of discrimination and inequity.

In 2041, we have retained our warm and open 'country feel' as we continue to grow into our own unique, self-sustaining region. We have maintained our image as a City that works together, and is a safe place to live, recreate and work.

We feel welcome and secure within our neighbourhoods and throughout our City. Homes and local streets are well presented and maintained, fostering a sense of pride and safety. We know our neighbours and greet new friends as we pass them in the streets.

An open acceptance of our differences underpins our sense of community and belonging. We celebrate the amazing cultures that make up who we are and contribute to our shared identity.

Local police and protective services officers have a positive presence in our City and a strong connection with community members of all ages.

Clean and welcoming indoor and outdoor spaces that are accessible for all abilities across our City, and encourage people to get together. Regular community-led events, festivals and activities excite and are inclusive of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

We are fit and healthy and have access to safe and nutritious food. Identified gaps in health and community services have been addressed and resilience of local community strengthened.

Participation in sport and other recreational interests is prominent in our active lifestyles. We have many opportunities to volunteer, in ways that suit our lifestyles, skills and abilities and to be part of numerous and various community activities.

How will we know if we are achieving a socially connected City?
ACHIEVEMENTS WILL BE TRACKED THROUGH: • improved connection among people and place (Annual Household Survey) • improved mental health and wellbeing (self-reported, DHHS Population Health Survey) • enhanced social cohesion, improved feelings of safety (Victorian Crime Statistics, Annual Household Survey) • programs and activities that encourage inclusion of all abilities, genders and cultural cross-sectional community connectivity (Community program evaluation and feedback reporting).

THEME 2 | OUR THRIVING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS:

- natural spaces for wildlife and people
- a green City shaded by trees
- sustainable planning, design, development and conservation
- sustainable use of drinking and other water sources.

In 2041, natural green spaces are abundant and flourishing throughout our City. Our population, housing and infrastructure growth is sustainable and in balance with our preserved grasslands, forests, wetlands, waterways and wildlife.

Native and other trees feature and are well maintained in urban areas to provide shade, wildlife habitat and to beautify our streets. The City is connected to nature and walking and cycling pathways. Natural assets and environmentally sustainable design are key considerations in planning and building new developments.

We value our existing natural spaces, native grasses and plants. Our natural spaces and waterways are kept clean and are used in sustainable ways. We continue to enjoy outdoor activities such as walking and water sports.

Local parks and woodlands are established and maintained. These areas serve as both a habitat for wildlife and as places where people can go to breathe, relax and have fun.

Our community has adapted to climate change and we work together to reduce waste and improve recycling processes. Renewable energy sources are used to power our homes, businesses and facilities. As a community, we seek to protect our natural environment by reducing carbon emissions.

How will we know if we are achieving a thriving natural environment?
ACHIEVEMENTS WILL BE TRACKED THROUGH: • decreased waste and increased reuse of materials (Melton Recycling Facility reporting) • reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (Corporate emissions reporting) • decreased local household and business greenhouse gas emissions (Melton, municipal emissions snapshot, snapshotclimate.com.au) • satisfaction with Development in New Growth Areas (Annual Household Survey) • progress reporting on the implementation of Council's Environment Plan, Integrated Water Management Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

THEME 3 | OUR WELL-BUILT CITY INCLUDES:

- well planned neighbourhoods with linking footpaths, bike lanes and active transport options
- lots of parks and open spaces in unique local suburbs
- efficient public transport and a free flowing road network
- accessible schools, recreation and leisure facilities, a public hospital and health and community services.

In 2041, we have easy access to places we need to get to in order to work, learn and play.

Housing is affordable and is able to meet our changing needs as we age. Our neighbourhoods have inviting public spaces that encourage people to spend time outdoors which attract people who move to our City in search of a safe and friendly community.

The City is easy to get around. More people choose to walk, ride or use public transport within our community than ever before. Linking bike lanes, good quality roads and flexible public transport connect us to other suburbs within our City, as well as to other areas and employment precincts in Melbourne. For longer journeys, we enjoy frequent, linking and safe public transport options.

Shopping opportunities and services are positioned close to homes, servicing our growing neighbourhoods. Quality tertiary education facilities within our City create job-ready graduates. Within our City, we have access to a public hospital and the range of quality health and community services we need.

We enjoy spending time in accessible open spaces, such as parks and gardens and our high quality recreation and leisure facilities. There are many well maintained skate parks, playgrounds and outdoor sports grounds equipped with up-to-date facilities, which are popular meeting places for all members of our community. Indoors, we have a choice of well appointed community hubs, leisure and recreation centres, aquatic facilities, and entertainment options. These spaces meet the varied access and mobility needs of our community.

How will we know if we are achieving a well-built City?
ACHIEVEMENTS WILL BE TRACKED THROUGH: • improved active transport available within neighbourhoods (Annual Household Survey, Transport planning and evaluation) • transport linkages connecting people to where they need to go (Annual Household Survey, Transport planning and evaluation) • health and community services gaps identified and addressed (Health and Community Services Attraction Strategy outcome reporting).

THEME 4 | OUR STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY PROVIDES:

- opportunities for education, job training and lifelong learning
- a mix of local employment
- fun and interesting places for residents and visitors
- unique local business and attractions.

In 2041, our economy remains vital to the success of our City as a place where people can access quality education, participate in the community and find work.

Local business and shopping opportunities are many and varied, from daily grocery needs to large town centres with high-end products and services. Neighborhood town centres are thriving, with a great range of indoor and outdoor cafes and restaurants which provide food and entertainment.

Attracting and supporting a range of businesses and industries to our City has created a strong local job market. This is assisted by our proximity to airports and ports, and the strategic and much needed hospital and associated education and employment offerings. More local employment has resulted in fewer of us travelling long distances to work outside our municipality.

We are a learning City with local tertiary education and job training available to people of all ages and abilities. Our City provides a range of career opportunities, particularly for young people and those returning to the workforce, through up-skilling or varied work arrangements.

Our City is a fun and interesting place to live, play and visit. Our commercial and nature-based tourism attractions draw visitors from other regions, while local residents enjoy them just a short distance from home.

A number of iconic events showcase our City as a place for celebration and togetherness for residents and visitors. Each suburb is unique and local events and activities help attract tourism to support our economy.

How will we know if we are achieving a strong local economy?
ACHIEVEMENTS WILL BE TRACKED THROUGH: • education, job training and other lifelong learning opportunities created within the City (www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/australian-jobs-report) • new jobs created and diversity of jobs on offer (www.remplan.com.au/economy) • analysis of LGA specific workforce, industry and education trends, and changes in employment data (www.myvictoria.vic.gov.au/city-of-melton-LGA24650) • youth, gender equitable and diverse ability earning opportunities (qualitative data sources).

THEME 5 | OUR ACTIVELY ENGAGED PEOPLE ARE:

- having fair, equitable and open dialogue with Council
- collaborating through accessible and transparent governance processes
- encouraged to deliberate and contribute to the development of Council projects that affect our lives.

In 2041, strong relationships are nurtured between our community and Council. We share our stories and work together in achieving our shared vision. The contributions we make to the work of Council is welcomed and valued.

The opportunity to provide feedback is timely and the mechanisms that enable us to get involved are relevant and accessible. Effort is taken to make sure we have what we need to be able to deliberate on the issues that impact on us. Diverse community voices are heard and shared with others in the community to reflect on and continue to enrich our collective understanding of each other.

Decision making processes are clear and transparent. Our community is encouraged to be part of evaluating success in achieving the Community Vision.

How will we know if we are actively engaged?
ACHIEVEMENTS WILL BE TRACKED THROUGH: • active communication, and advocacy pathways established and maintained (Melton City Council community engagement reports) • level of participation and representation across community groups, volunteering, networks, programs and interests (Annual Household Survey) • governance ratings (Annual Household Survey) • level of agreement with *statements about community* (Annual Household Survey) • deliberative engagement, feedback, reflection and evaluation (Melton City Council community engagement reports).

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

As our community evolves, the Community Vision will be reviewed and updated (at least every four years), to ensure it remains relevant. The evaluation indicators included under each liveability theme provide important data for performance monitoring.

An assessment against the indicators will be reported on every four years. It is expected that over time the data sources will be adapted to suit the most reliable and relevant information available at the time.

Should the need to make any significant changes to this Community Vision occur, including variation of the proposed performance indicators, an updated version, highlighting proposed changes will be made available on Council's website, along with a public notification inviting community feedback. A schedule of any changes to the suggested data sources will form an appendix to this Community Vision document, should such changes occur.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Melton City 2041 will directly influence the Council and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, which sets Council's strategic direction for the next four years under the legislation of the *Local Government Act* 2020 and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.* The other strategic Council documents it will directly influence include the Financial Plan 2021-2031 and the Asset Plan 2021-2031.

The other important area of legislation to the achievement of Melton City 2041 is the *Planning and Environment Act 1987,* which establishes Council's role as the Responsible Authority for land use, development planning and approval. The Melton Planning Scheme, which incorporates the Planning Policy Framework and all other related planning ordinances and Precinct Structure Plans are intrinsic to us achieving our Community Vision.

No one area of Council, community or other levels of government can help to achieve the Community Vision alone, we all have our part to play and we look forward to realising our collective vision together.