

Sustainable & livable:

Built Environment Policy



Photo by Tom Rumble

Yarra Greens Policies
September, 2020

We are committed to creating a liveable, sustainable and beautiful Yarra for current and future generations. We support environmental and heritage protection, more public and affordable housing, green open space, fair and accountable processes, design excellence and improved amenity for new developments.

We commit to:

Sustainable neighbourhoods

- We want planning and development outcomes that meet sustainable neighbourhood planning objectives. We acknowledge the limitations of the State planning system in providing fair outcomes for people and the environment and will advocate for reform.
- Advocate for reform of the State planning system so that it better meets the needs of the community and the environment.
- Support high quality housing on grounds of sustainability, liveability and economic viability.
- Facilitate the development of a long-term 20 year vision and plan for Yarra in collaboration with the community.
- Plan for the provision of aged care facilities and use planning mechanisms to safeguard their development in future.
- Ensure that levies on new developments through the Developer Contribution Scheme benefit the whole community.
- Promote the highest possible environmentally sustainable design standards for new developments in

order to reduce emissions, save water and energy, and reduce waste during construction and the building's lifetime.

- Encourage existing residential and commercial buildings to be retrofitted with sustainability features such as solar panels, insulation and grey water systems.
- Advocate for the rectification of flammable cladding and other defects due to deficient building surveying and certification.
- Reduce barriers to including environmentally sustainable design features on heritage buildings.

Heritage

- Protect and celebrate Yarra's heritage buildings and precincts.
- Protect and celebrate our heritage shopping strips and streetscapes.
- Support the protection and celebration of the Royal Exhibition Building World Heritage Environs Area.

Affordable housing

- Encourage affordable housing providers to increase supply in Yarra.
- Advocate for inclusionary zoning and continue to support the minimum inclusionary quota for affordable housing in new developments.

- Advocate for Victorian legislation for rent control and stronger rights for tenants.
- Support the provision of social and affordable housing options in proximity to public housing, so people have better opportunities when transitioning out of public housing locally, and are able to maintain connection with their community.

Public housing

In planning for the needs of our growing community, we will:

- Advocate for better and more public housing, address housing affordability.
- Advocate for greater provision and diversity of public housing and appropriate aligned services, to meet the needs of those on low income, or who find themselves homeless.
- Advocate for the maintenance and upgrade of existing public housing and associated facilities, ensuring tenants have enough space to live in, that amenities are in good, functioning order, and that tenants have culturally and linguistically appropriate services available to them.
- Support the adaptation of public housing to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as heat stress.
- Oppose the sell-off of public housing sites in Yarra.
- Oppose the conversion of public housing to social or affordable housing.



- Oppose the privatisation of public housing by the State Government.
- Advocate for the establishment of a charter of rights for public housing tenants.
- Advocate for the establishment of a Public Housing Ombudsman to handle issues, concerns and complaints regarding the relevant department and its contractors.
- Promote the importance of significant open space on public housing estates.

Community infrastructure

- Work with State Government agencies, departments, and other parties to plan for the long term educational needs of Yarra's growing communities and the co-location of complementary facilities.
- Encourage and plan for the provision of Council and other services in multipurpose facilities (such as recreation, health and community centres) to foster the efficient and sustainable creation of community hubs that meet the diverse needs of our growing neighbourhoods.

Accessible, fair and accountable

- The Greens do not accept donations from developers, and will advocate for a ban on donations from property developers, construction companies and related consulting service providers to Councillors, candidates, and political parties.
- Ensure fair and transparent engagement and community consultation is undertaken for planning controls, policies, and planning-related decisions.



Photo by Agathe Marty

To find out how you can get involved in with your local greens community, or to read our other policies, please visit:

greens.org.au/vic/lga/yarra

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