

Revitalise Our Communities: Covid Recovery Policy



Yarra Greens Policies
September, 2020

We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on people, communities and businesses. It has forced us to change every aspect of our lives - how we socialise, travel, consume, relax and work. We will work to ensure that Yarra emerges from the worst of the pandemic more resilient, better connected, healthier and greener.

We see this as a unique opportunity to build a sustainable local economy, to address systemic inequality, to transition away from fossil fuelled transport and to transform our public spaces for the better. We support health strategies that minimise further impact to the health of our communities and the economy. We support an economic and social recovery package that leaves no one behind and makes a more equal Yarra.

We commit to:

Support those who have been hard-hit

- Continue to support 'hardship' options for businesses and individuals who are unable to make rate payments due to financial difficulty arising from the pandemic and where appropriate.
- Recognise that our ability to react to the pandemic intersects with, reflects and informs our ability to respond to other crises, including the climate and the inequality crises, and that their solutions should be aligned to build community and environmental

resilience.

- Acknowledge that casual workers and lower-income earners have been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic, and in response, accelerate and amplify our attention to foundational policies addressing homelessness, public housing, equity and building up our local economies.
- Monitor the impact of the pandemic on the creative and performing arts sector and seek ways to support its vitality in Yarra.
- Acknowledge that the pandemic has disproportionately affected women in terms of job loss and caring responsibilities, and widened the gender gap.
- Support services that deliver a strong and consistent response to the surge in domestic violence during the pandemic and beyond.
- Acknowledge that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted the employment of young people, especially from migrant and refugee backgrounds, and encourage programs that support their entry into or retention in the workforce as we build back better.
- Support the adaptation or configuration of Council spaces, both indoor and outdoor to enable safe exercise, transit, socialising and service uptake.
- Seek and support initiatives to provide space for people to safely follow physical distancing regulations while exercising, socialising, in transit and in retail areas during the pandemic.



Photo by Joris Visser

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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Revitalise our high streets

- Introduce and support initiatives that increase outdoor dining.
- Upgrade streetscapes with improved footpaths and tree coverage.
- Encourage creative pop-ups to activate vacant shop fronts.
- Work towards creating vibrant pedestrian hubs in local communities across the municipality.
- Call for a new Shopping Strips Revitalisation Unit embedded in the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to oversee the plan.
- Support street festivals and outdoor cultural events.
- Advocate for further support for small businesses and workers to get through the COVID-19 pandemic.