

Myndham 2050 Community Vision

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2024/25 Progress Report





Image: Mooroop Yarkeen by Tommy Day / Jirri Jirri

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About this progress report

Each year, Council checks in on the progress we have made and reports back on what has been delivered to support the community's priorities.

The final progress report before Council was required to review the Wyndham 2040 Vision can be found on Council's website.

Following the biggest <u>deliberative process</u> of its kind in Victoria, the refreshed Wyndham 2040 Community Vision was updated.

Building on this strong foundation, the $\underline{Wyndham\ 2050}$ Community Vision was officially presented to the Council at their meeting on 25 March 2025.

This progress report provides a snapshot of Council work presented against the refreshed priorities, of the Wyndham 2050 Community Vision.

Additional information about Council's performance can be viewed in the <u>Annual Report 2024/25</u> and the <u>Council Adopted</u> Strategies and Plans Progress Report 2024/25.

Wyndham Community Vision 2024-25 Progress Report



The Vision is supported by the following priorities:



Health and Wellbeing

Fostering the wellbeing of Wyndham Citizens on all levels, physical, mental and social, with a focus on mental health, expansion of affordable community sports and access to cleaner and safer open spaces and facilities/amenities.



Transport

Advocate for more frequent public transport (more and small bus loop), Infrastructure improvements i.e. Council owned roads and maintain existing roads



Public Safety and Crime Prevention

Prioritise and expand public safety and crime prevention measures through implementation of social cohesion programs, youth programs, and preventative community measures.



Connected Community

Foster community inclusion and engagement by boosting communication and transparency. On what's available and what's on in Wyndham, that supports a multicultural and diverse community.



Infrastructure and Planning

Develop infrastructure early to meet planned and forecasted growth needs and enhance public transport with more buses, to bolster inter-suburb connectivity. Preserve the municipality's green wedge to strengthen economic growth.



Sustainability and Environment

Nurture agriculture and work towards a climate focused and sustainable environment with a focus on waste and recycle management.



Recreation and Tourism

Boost community events through arts, culture and activities for all Wyndham community groups. Encourage Tourism by showcasing Wyndham's hidden gems, history, heritage and culture.



Civic Pride and Beautification

Protect the land, sea and coastlines of Wyndham by keeping the area clean, increasing green space and canopy cover to improve the visual aesthetics and ensure Wyndham is an attractive and appealing city.

Keeping the community informed

It is Council's role to keep the community informed on progress made towards the Vision, as explained below.

1. Vision Progress Report What has Council done

Council's main role in implementing the Wyndham 2050 Community Vision is one of leadership and working in partnership with many stakeholders to improve the liveability and the wellbeing of its residents, now and into the future

An annual progress report will outline specifically what Council has delivered through its Council Plan 2025-29 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan), over the financial year towards the Community Vision and its priorities. This report is in addition to the Council Annual Report which provides extensive detail on the work of Council.

2. Tracking the Vision Survey How the community is feeling

Every second year, commencing in 2025/26 Council will conduct a qualitative survey to determine community sentiment about how Wyndham residents feel the community is tracking towards the Vision and its priority areas.

3. Census and other relevant data Who the community is

Quantitative data specific to Wyndham will be updated and reported on as it becomes available. A positive trend on these indicators will demonstrate that as a community, we are heading towards achieving the Vision. See Appendix 1 for a list of indicators that will be tracked

Additional information about Council's performance this financial year can be viewed in the Annual Report 2024/25 and the Council Adopted Strategies and Plans Progress Report 2024/25. All reports are available on Council's website.



Fostering the wellbeing of Wyndham Citizens on all levels, physical, mental and social, with a focus on mental health, expansion of affordable community sports and access to cleaner and safer open spaces and facilities/amenities.

What is Health and Wellbeing?

Our health and wellbeing are determined in part by where we live. The circumstances in which we are born, and the environments in which we live and grow, make a big impact on our quality of life.

The community have told Council they want Wyndham to be a place where everyone can access health services including hospitals, mental health support services, and aged care.

When compared to other parts of Victoria, in the <u>Victorian</u> <u>Population Health survey</u>, the Wyndham population has higher rates of obesity, lower levels of physical activity and lower levels of the recommended daily consumption of fruit and vegetables. Almost a quarter of residents have low satisfaction levels with their quality of life and a quarter have suffered anxiety and/or depression.

What is Council's role?

The <u>Local Government Act 2020</u> requires Council to provide good governance for the benefit and wellbeing of the community and the <u>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</u> requires Council to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Therefore, Council has a major role in protecting, improving, and promoting the health and wellbeing of its residents by ensuring everyone is provided with an environment that affords them the opportunity to achieve a high quality of life. The currently elected Council communicates its commitments towards delivering the long-term aspirations described in the Wyndham 2050 Community Vision through the Council Plan 2025-29 incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

A major Council commitment is to lead and foster partnerships that focus on improving the health status of the Wyndham population through the provision of services, programs, supports and infrastructure.

Council is not a direct provider of hospitals or core health services, but given its broad range of responsibilities, it can impact a wide range of areas that contribute to the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Work toward this priority undertaken by Council in 2024/25

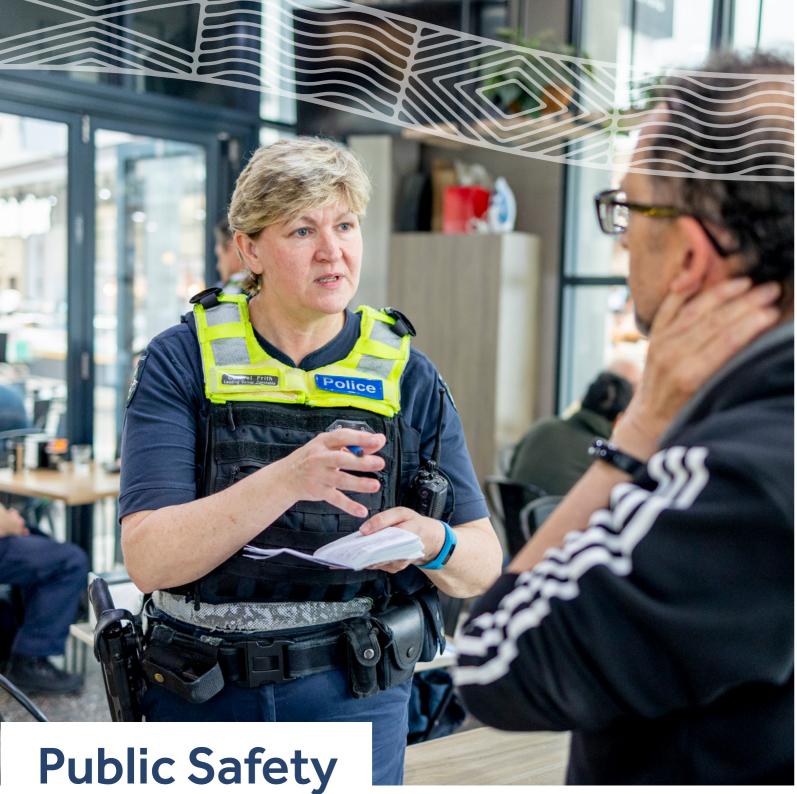
- A Wyndham Health Status report was developed in January 2025 and the Wyndham Health Forum was held in February 2025, with Council and Wyndham's health and community service providers. These initiatives were undertaken in partnership to identify current and future healthcare needs unique to Wyndham, and helped to finalise and prioritise areas of focus for the 2025-2029 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- Council continues to be an active member of the <u>Wyndham Health</u>, <u>Homelessness and Housing Alliance</u> (H3). The
 H3 Alliance is a partnership of health, housing and
 homelessness service providers working collectively within
 the Wyndham municipality, in a place-based approach to
 address issues that lead to housing vulnerability for the
 Wyndham community, outlined in the <u>Wyndham H3 Alliance</u>
 Strategic Plan 2024–2027.
- A mobile family health and wellbeing service has been introduced to deliver Maternal and Child Health (MCH) consultations, immunisations, sleep settling programs and parenting information and supports. The Maternal and Child Health Van is fully operational and will bring important maternal and child health services to more families in Wyndham by visiting areas without a physical MCH site. Locations are based on demand.
- Much of Council's capital works budget is allocated to sport and recreational infrastructure, aiming to deliver accessible and high-quality community spaces and provide opportunities for the Wyndham community to enjoy connection and be physically active. In 2024/25 significant works have been completed at the following sites;
- Galvin Park Sexton Sports Pavilion (Werribee)
- <u>Galvin Park Tennis Courts</u> (Werribee)
- Lawrie Emmins Reserve Gateway and Youth Precinct (Laverton North)
- Construction works have commenced at <u>Jamieson</u>
 <u>Way Community Centre</u> (Point Cook), <u>Holyoake Avenue</u>
 (Manor Lakes) and <u>Fortitude Drive</u> (Truganina).
- The Hidden Disability Sunflower initiative continues to be supported and has been extended across community touchpoints. This program supports people to discreetly show their hidden disability or condition, by wearing an official lanyard, wristband or badge. Displaying a hidden sunflower can signify that someone may need a helping hand, understanding, or more time in shops, at work, on transport, or in public spaces fostering care, safety and connection across the Wyndham community.

Council Adopted Strategies and Plans that contribute to this priority

- Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2023-2025
- Active Wyndham Strategy 2019-2024
- Affordable Housing Strategy 2022-2025
- Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy Statement 2023-2025
- Gender Equity Action Plan 2021-2025
- Lifecourse Framework 2022-2026
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2025

Updates on progress towards all Strategies and Plans can be found on Council's **website**.

- Council held a 'free annual health check day' in collaboration with <u>IPC Health</u>. Approximately 200 residents had their blood pressure and blood sugar levels checked, with many referrals made for additional care.
- Council partnered with GenWest in relation to the <u>Action for Equity Strategy 2024-2030</u>: A sexual and reproductive health strategy for Melbourne's West aiming to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes for all people in the West. The plan is supported by a collaborative partnership of 14 organisations, including women's and community health services, local and state government, multicultural health organisations, LGBTIQA+ specialist organisations and a primary health network.
- Council continues to be an active member of the <u>Local Government Working Group on Gambling (LGWGOG)</u> and the <u>Alliance for Gambling Reform</u> and is committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of all Wyndham residents by working to prevent the many financial and social harms associated with gambling.
- Council continues to advocate for youth mental health needs in Wyndham, including advocacy and better linkages with the <u>Northwest Melbourne Public Health Network</u> (NWMPHN) which supports community health services to connect with each other to improve care and strengthen the primary health care system in the Northwest region.



and Crime Prevention

Prioritise and expand public safety and crime prevention measures through implementation of social cohesion programs, youth programs, and preventative community measures.

What is public safety?

Safety can mean different things for different people and includes safety in the home, in community spaces and on public transport.

Our community have told us they want safer community spaces, including increased lighting on streets and in parks, and a greater police presence to tackle crime and anti-social

behaviour. Community members also said they want to feel safe at home and have highlighted the need to focus on decreasing the instances of domestic violence in the community.

Prioritising these areas can help to protect residents, businesses, and public spaces and foster a sense of trust and wellbeing throughout the community.

Council Adopted Strategies and Plans that contribute to this priority

- Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025
- Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy Statement 2023-2025
- Resilient Wyndham 2021-2025
- Road Safety Strategy 2022-2032

Updates on progress towards all Strategies and Plans can be found on Council's <u>website</u>.

What is Council's role?

While Council does not police crime, it has an important role to play in relation to community safety. Council provides many services that support community safety including emergency management, food safety, school crossings, building permits and planning for community open spaces and infrastructure.

Council can better consider safety when planning for community spaces and will continue to implement Council's Open Space Lighting Policy to improve safety in outdoor spaces.

Council can also enact local laws to deal with community safety issues such as public health, management of council property, environment, and amenity. Local laws often apply to noise, fire hazards, abandoned vehicles, burning off, animals in public spaces and nuisance pets.

Council also has an important role to play as an advocate for the City, working with relevant stakeholders and both the State and Federal Governments to ensure safety issues affecting the community are heard and community concerns are addressed, including advocacy for increased police resources for the City.

Creating safe communities is a shared responsibility. Council continues to partner with community groups and relevant agencies to ensure all people feel safe in Wyndham regardless of their background, age or gender. Council's website also offers information and rescources on aimed at helping residents to be safe in their homes or when out and about in Wyndham

Work toward this priority undertaken by Council in 2024/25

- Delivered the Empowering Communities Initiative which supported local communities in addressing the causes of crime and improving perceptions of safety by enabling them to design and lead innovative, evidence-informed initiatives.
- Council participated in the 16 Days of Activism Against
 Gender Based Violence (25 November 10 December
 2024) and hosted a roundtable discussion on Taking Action
 Against Technology-Related Abuse in partnership with the
 Western Region Preventing Violence Together (PVT) and
 Women with Disabilities Victoria.

- Forty-nine emergency defibrillator units have been installed across all Council Community Centre facilities to provide access to lifesaving emergency equipment should the need arise.
- Supported <u>Sustain Australia</u> to establish the <u>Wyndham Food Collective</u> which works with local food producers (including representatives from areas of sustainability, gardening, farming, and community health) to collaborate, network and integrate across the local food sector to increase access to food for our most vulnerable households.
- Secured funding from the <u>Disaster Ready Fund</u> to produce English and translated community videos for the Disaster Ready Fund project <u>'Are You Ready?'</u> to strengthen and enhance community emergency preparedness.
- Wyndham City is reviewing its <u>Domestic Animal</u>
 <u>Management Plan (DAMP)</u> which guides decision making in relation to animal management for dogs and cats. Public consultation undertaken highlighted an issue with the nuisance and overpopulation of unowned cats in Wyndham. Council is now finalising Wyndham's Cat Management Strategy which aims to promote cat welfare and responsible ownership while protecting native wildlife, the environment and community from the negative impacts of cats.

Advocacy

Two key projects which Council advocated for and continue to support have progressed this year. Both will contribute towards safety and crime prevention outcomes for Wyndham.

- The Point Cook Police Station commenced construction in January 2025, a \$25 million investment by the State Government
- Wyndham Law Courts construction is complete. The State Government has committed \$114 million of staged operational funding for the 2025/26 financial year.



Infrastructure and Planning

Develop infrastructure early to meet planned and forecasted growth needs and enhance public transport with more buses, to bolster inter-suburb connectivity. Preserve the municipality's green wedge to strengthen economic growth.

Why are Infrastructure and Planning important?

The population of Wyndham is forecast to double by 2050, to just under 500,000 residents.

Planning ahead and building important infrastructure early helps make sure our growing community has what it needs. It also helps manage growth, ease traffic congestion, and keep Wyndham a liveable, well-connected place to live. Developing this necessary infrastructure in a timely manner helps to reduce pressure on existing services and improves overall quality of life for our residents.

Better connections between suburbs help residents reach jobs, schools, and essential services, while also supporting our local economy and helping people stay connected to their community.

The Victorian State Government is responsible for planning, funding, and delivering the public transport network across the state. This includes trains, trams, and buses. Through the <u>Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)</u>, the State Government decides where and how public transport services operate.

Wyndham City works closely with the State Government by providing advice and advocating for services that reflect local needs, such as new bus routes, improved train services and infrastructure, and better connections between suburbs. By working together, councils and the State Government aim to build a transport system that is reliable, accessible, and supports the way people live, work, and travel.

What is Council's role?

While the State Government provides the direction and policy settings for the development of the City, one of Council's core functions is to plan for the delivery and maintenance of the required community infrastructure. No other organisation can do this on behalf of the Wyndham community.

The $\underline{\text{Wyndham Plan 2023-2040}}$ was created with input from the community and helps guide the Council's land use planning approach towards ensuring the City is developed in line with what residents have described they want through the Wyndham Community Vision.

Council currently has over \$4 billion dollars of infrastructure, including buildings, stormwater drainage, open space, and transport infrastructure (roads, paths, bridges). The value of Council's assets is expected to continue growing into the future and managing this level of growth will be a challenge.

Council is a major provider of community facilities, including kindergartens, libraries and sporting facilities. It is the responsibility of Council to ensure community infrastructure is fit for purpose, safe and maintained at acceptable and reasonable standards. It uses money from developers to help build community infrastructure in growing areas; although this money sometimes isn't enough to cover what is required.

For this reason, Council also plays a role in fostering partnerships with both State and Federal governments, whilst advocating for investment for the provision of new and upgraded community infrastructure, including sporting facilities, primary, secondary and tertiary education.

Work toward this priority undertaken by Council in 2024/25

- Council delivered \$145 million (87 per cent) of our budgeted <u>Capital Works Program</u> for 2024/25, with upgraded roads, a new community centre, sports facility upgrades, new and improved open spaces and playgrounds transforming how residents live, play and connect. All community members are able to keep up to date with our capital works program via the Wyndham City's Capital Works Dashboard.
- A new <u>Asset Plan 2025-2035</u> was adopted by Council in June 2025 which will provide a strategic overview of how Council manages the community's infrastructure and assets. It was informed by the <u>Wyndham 2050 Community</u> <u>Vision</u> and incorporated recommendations from the community.
- As Wyndham continues to grow, there is a need to manage development while preserving important heritage assets. Council has progressed the development of a Irruganina Heritage Network Strategy which aims to protect and celebrate heritage places in Truganina and Tarneit, ensuring these sites continue to define our community's identity and character.
- In collaboration with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Council has supported the review of the <u>East Werribee Employment Precinct Structure Plan</u> which aims to create a more resilient and productive economy, accommodate population growth and give people access to high quality jobs close to where they live.

Council Adopted Strategies and Plans that contribute to this priority

- Asset Plan 2025 2035
- Dog Off Lead Plan 2022-2027
- Wyndham Active Transport Strategy 2020 2025
- Wyndham Integrated Transport Strategy 2023 2028
- Wyndham Plan (Framework) 2023 2040

Updates on progress towards all Strategies and Plans can be found on Council's <u>website</u>.

- To work toward the City of Wyndham being well connected and accessible, Council has provided input into the Wyndham Traffic Management Action Plan, managed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). This Action Plan aims to ensure the safety and amenity of road and footpath users and set out how traffic, pedestrians and access will be managed in specific areas throughout Wyndham.
- Council has provided transport planning advice for new local schools, and to the DTP regarding local bus routes, bolstering our commitment to ensuring travel in Wyndham is efficient and sustainable.

Advocacy

East Werribee Precinct remains a high priority and Council continues to work closely with the State Government to progress this precinct. The opportunity for local jobs is crucial for Wyndham residents. In the 2025/26 State budget the East Werribee Precinct received additional funding of \$21.227 million for costs relating to the scope of infrastructure and site preparation.

Wyndham City was also represented on the East Werribee Employment Precinct Stakeholder Reference Group, a State Government advisory committee tasked with providing advice on the future of the precinct.

Council submitted a <u>budget request</u> for and received \$190,000 for the Manor Lakes Community Centre and Library to help fund improvements to the Community Centre's outdoor recreational space. Other successful advocacy in the 2024/25 financial year includes \$5 million towards the upgrade of Soldiers Reserve Recreation Reserve pavilion, and \$5 million towards the Saltwater Recreation Reserve pavilion.



Advocate for more frequent public transport (more and small bus loop), Infrastructure improvements i.e. Council owned roads and maintain existing roads.

Why is transport important?

Transport is essential to the viability and sustainability of a community. Reliable transport networks allow people to move efficiently between home, work, school, and essential services. They also support the flow of goods and materials, which is critical for local businesses and the wider economy.

Public transport plays a key role by offering an affordable, accessible, and efficient option for residents and visitors. It helps reduce reliance on private vehicles, easing congestion and lowering emissions, while ensuring that more people can connect with jobs, education, and services.

Effective transport planning helps reduce traffic congestion, improves safety, and help to lessen environmental impacts. It also makes the community a more accessible and attractive to residents, visitors, and investors.

With all levels of government investing in effective transport systems, together they can strengthen economic activity, enhance mobility, and improve quality of life.

Public transport is planned and managed by the State Government's <u>Department of Transport and Planning</u>.

What is Council's role?

Council does not provide all roads and associated infrastructure needed by the community. Arterial roads are funded by both the State and Federal Government.

Council does play two vital roles: the delivery of local assets and infrastructure and advocating for transport funding for Wyndham

Council has responsibility for the provision and maintenance of local roads, footpaths, and carparks, currently at a value of \$2 billion and growing. It does this through its commitments within the Road Management Plan and the Asset Plan. Wyndham is committed to building a safer, better-connected future for Wyndham through a 10 year 'Connecting Wyndham' road project launched in July 2024, with a \$350 million investment in road improvements over the next ten years.

In addition, Council's <u>Road Safety Strategy</u> which guides Council's approach to creating a safe road network addresses the main factors that could contribute to car accidents and the Wyndham Integrated Transport Strategy assists in shaping a transport system that better connects all forms of transport.

It is also Council's role to advocate and work with State and Federal Governments to ensure investment is secured for the upgrade of existing arterial roads and highways and the construction of new road connections to ease congestion.

Whilst Council is not a direct provider of public transport, it does have an important role to advocate on behalf of the Wyndham community. Public transport has continued to be one of the Council's top advocacy priorities.

The advocacy priorities of Wyndham City relating to public transport includes the construction of additional railway stations on both the Regional Rail Link (RRL) at Black Forest Road, Sayers Road and Truganina, electrification of Regional Rail Link (RRL) and the construction of a link between the metro and regional lines to better connect residents. Council's commitment to improving public transport connections is also presented within the Wyndham Integrated Transport Strategy 2023-2028.

Work toward this priority undertaken by Council in 2024/25

- An investment of \$45.7 million in road upgrades as part of Council's Capital Works program 'Connecting Wyndham', which is helping to create safer, more durable, and betterconnected streets across Wyndham.
- Council's Road Management Plan (RMP) guides road and footpath maintenance across Wyndham, aiming to ensure that Council's assets are safe. The Plan has been updated and will be formally adopted by Council later in 2025.
- Inspections are carried out year-round to ensure a safe and efficient municipal road network and the current financial year saw 2,585km of paths inspected (requiring 75,330 entries), 5,000m2 of path repairs and 9,984m2 of path renewals.
- Laverton Creek shared user path was opened to the community. The new 720-metre path connects the Federation Trail with the existing Laverton Creek path to Dohertys Road, enhancing the shared path network in the Truganina Employment Precinct.
- To encourage the use of safe and active transport in Wyndham's young people, Council has supported selected local schools to undertake a number of programs and activities including;
 - Ride 2 School Day and Walk Safely to School Day
 - 'Active Travel to School' program
 - <u>Dr Cranky with the Breaks</u> program
 - The Gear Up! program, delivered in collaboration with the <u>Wyndham Park Community Shed</u>
- To showcase the many bike trails and walking paths for the community to explore throughout Wyndham, Council developed an <u>interactive online map</u> which will be continually updated as more existing shared paths are added and new shared paths are constructed.
- Wyndham's Integrated Transport Strategy (WITS) guides Council's approach to the most pressing concern for residents in Wyndham; transport and traffic. Council works with the Victorian State Government in providing transport advice and input on a several major projects relating to road and transport infrastructure. In 2024/25 these projects included:
- Ison Road (Werribee)
- West Tarneit Station (Tarneit)
- Boundary/Derrimut Road intersection upgrade (Tarneit)
- Ballan Road intersection project (Wyndham Vale)

Council Adopted Strategies and Plans that contribute to this priority

- Road Management Plan 2021-2025
- Road Safety Strategy 2022 2032
- Wyndham Active Transport Strategy 2020-2025
- Wyndham Advocacy Strategy 2024-2026
- Wyndham Integrated Transport Strategy 2023 2028

Updates on progress towards all Strategies and Plans can be found on Council's website.

Advocacy

Roads and public transport are some of Wyndham top advocacy priorities. Council regularly advocates for new and upgraded arterial roads, better bus services, additional train stations, and improved frequency.

This year Wyndham has received State Government funding for:

Public Transport

- · New bus routes:
- Route 186 between Tarneit Station and West Tarneit Station, and rerouting of the 182
- Route 140 between Rockbank Station and Tarneit Station via Mt Atkinson

• Improved bus services:

- Route 153 bus service uplifts and more frequent services to improve access to the Wyndham Law Courts precinct
- Route 441 extended to provides further access into Riverwalk to Kings Leigh Estate
- Routes 170, 180, 190, 192 to receive late-night services
- Two new bus services for the Point Cook South Specialist School which is opening in 2026
- Additional train services including additional peak services on the Werribee Line

Roads

- Council successfully advocated to the Federal Government in the 2025 election and secured \$85m towards the Wyndham Ring Road, connecting Manor Lakes to Tarneit.
- Funding for road projects in partnership with Commonwealth Government including Point Cook Road, section between Jamieson Way to Dunnings Road (Point Cook).
- Received \$333 million towards the upgrade of the Werribee Main Road intersection (Werribee).
- Funding for the intersection upgrade at Greens/Ballan/ McGrath Roads and the Ballan Road upgrade (Werribee) was previously committed, with works in progress.

In addition, Council's recent application to the Growing Suburbs Fund was successful with a \$1 million grant to support Council to deliver the Werribee South Beach and Bay Trail (shared path) Project.



Recreation and Tourism

Boost community events through arts, culture and activities for all Wyndham community groups. Encourage Tourism by showcasing Wyndham's hidden gems, history, heritage and culture.

Why are recreation and tourism important?

Recreation and tourism play a vital role in supporting the wellbeing of a community. Quality recreational facilities and tourism offerings can improve the quality of life for residents. They encourage community connections, support a healthy active lifestyle, enhance the overall attractiveness of the region and can build local pride.

Tourism contributes directly to the local economy by creating jobs, attracting investment, and increasing revenue for local businesses. Tourism also helps build the area's reputation as a desirable place to live, work, and visit.

By prioritising recreation and tourism, local councils can foster economic stability and strengthen community ties including supporting visiting friends and relatives

Council Adopted Strategies and Plans that contribute to this priority

- Wyndham Public Art Plan 2022-2032
- Wyndham Visitor Economy Strategy 2024–2028

Updates on progress towards all Strategies and Plans can be found on Council's <u>website</u>.

What is Council's role?

Council works to ensure Wyndham is an attractive and vibrant place to visit, aiming to enhance the activation of the City by collaborating, supporting and promoting our entertainment, hospitality, and small business industries. Council is also committed to driving growth and activation of the tourism economy and activity centres.

Council has committed to the delivery, support and promotion of creative industries including <u>arts</u>, <u>events</u> and festivals that contribute to Wyndham's liveability.

Each year Council programs and activities which support this priority, Including:

- Provision of grants and sponsorships for events and festivals
- Partnerships with major sporting clubs which promote visitation (Western United [A League] and Werribee Football Club [Victorian Football League])
- Promote Wyndham's visitor experiences through the Werribee Visitor Information Centre and <u>www.visitwerribee.</u> <u>com</u>
- Deliver a series of programs and smaller events which support our community and our visiting friends and relatives tourism outcomes, such as Active Wyndham, Green Living Series, Ibrary programs and the calendar of events offered by community centres.

Work toward this priority undertaken by Council in 2024/25

- Delivered a suite of major events to the Wyndham community to enjoy such as Children's Week Picnic, the State Rose and Garden Show, Park Lounge and the Australia Day celebrations. Highlights this year included:
 - LIT at Wyndham Park. The festival spanned 14 nights (27 March 13 April 2025) offering interactive installations and large-scale light works. The event delivered a significant boost to local businesses, energising our vibrant city centre with increased visitation.
- Treaty in the Park, a new joint initiative from the <u>First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria</u> and Wyndham City Council, was held in November 2024 in Wyndham Park. This event, an all First Nations lineup and was attended by over 2,000 people.

- Wyndham's Community Centres are welcoming and vibrant places providing a range of services, activities and programs that are low-cost and for all ages and interests. Council operates 18 community centres across Wyndham, with Lollypop Creek Community Centre opening in July 2024 as the newest addition. An open day was held in March 2025 and the Program and Activity guide can be found on Council's website. Wyndham City's MyWyndham interactive map allows you to search for Community Centres closest to you.
- Wyndham Cultural Centre is home to the Theatre which hosts an annual program of performers, touring productions and homegrown local talent, and to the Wyndham Art Gallery, which showcases the work of new and emerging artists. Significant refurbishment works have been completed, and the centre is set to reopen in July 2025. The upcoming program will reflect Wyndham's diverse community and repositions the Wyndham Cultural Centre as a vibrant, inclusive hub for arts and cultural engagement.
- Council introduced a visitor shuttle bus service for Werribee and surrounds, making it easier for visitors to travel between Werribee City Centre and some of the region's biggest tourism attractions. The initiative is designed to help spread visitation between the local attractions encouraging visitors to stay longer and discover something and spend more on the local businesses.
- "Narrarrang Ngarri" a 50-metre-long suspended sculpture by Wadawurrung artist Kait James has been installed along Federation Trail as part of the Greening the Pipeline (Zone 5) project. Honouring the cultural significance of She-oaks to the Kulin Nations, the artwork can be experienced from the Federation Trail near the new amphitheatre at Skeleton Creek Aqueduct, creating an immersive environment for visitors.



Foster community inclusion and engagement by boosting communication and transparency. On what's available and what's on in Wyndham, that supports a multicultural and diverse community.

Why is a connected community important?

By fostering inclusion and encouraging active engagement, councils can ensure that all residents feel informed, valued, and able to participate in community life.

Clear and consistent communication about local services, events, and opportunities helps people make the most of what's available in their area. When residents know what's on and how to get involved, it strengthens social ties, builds local pride, and improves overall wellbeing.

For a multicultural and diverse community like Wyndham, being connected means more than just sharing information - it means making sure that everyone can access and understand what's happening around them. This helps break down barriers, promotes equity, and ensures that all voices are heard.

By boosting communication and transparency, Councils can support stronger relationships, increase community participation, and create a more inclusive, cohesive place to live.

What is Council's role?

Council is a major provider of community centres which provide a range of services, activities and programs that are low-cost for all ages and interests. Some centres are integrated with library services, youth services and customer service desks. Council is also proud of the suite of events it hosts and supports each year. All events are promoted on Council's website What's On and community are also invited to include their events to the calendar.

Council utilises a variety of communication tools to provide information and foster connection, inclusion and engagement throughout Wyndham City. Some of these include:

- Council's website
- Social media including <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>X</u>, <u>YouTube</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u>
- Wyndham News; a monthly magazine for residents to keep up to date about Council's key projects, initiatives, major events, programs and activities.
- <u>Visit Werribee</u>; a website for potential visitors and local community to learn more about local attractions, food/drink offerings and accommodation unique to Wyndham.

 Werribee Visitor Information Centre; located at the entry to Werribee Open Range Zoo, the centre is s supported by Council staff and volunteers who can share local knowledge and provide advice on guide on where to go, and what to see in Wyndham.

Council also uses an online engagement platform <u>The Loop</u> to seek feedback from community. Community members can sign up to The Loop to stay informed, share ideas and shape projects that matter to you. Both Council's <u>website</u> and The Loop platform can be translated into different languages spoken throughout the diverse Wyndham community. Additional translation options are also available on Council's website including details for <u>Translating and Interpreting</u>. Services and the National Relay Service.

Wyndham also has a dedicated <u>Community Connector</u> team help residents find and connect with local service options including free Community Counselling, food relief with the Food Bank at the Youth Resource Centre, 24-hour family violence and mental health support.

Work toward this priority undertaken by Council in 2024/25

- Following the 2024 Council election, Council engaged the community in the biggest deliberation of its kind in Victoria. This <u>deliberative process</u> informed the review of the <u>Wyndham Community Vision</u>, the development of the <u>Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan)</u>, and reviews of the Council's <u>Long Term</u> Financial Plan and Asset Plan.
- The <u>Community Engagement Policy 2025-29</u> was adopted by Council in June 2025, recognising the importance of our community having a say on the decisions that affect their lives. This policy helps Council ensure community engagement in Wyndham is genuine, transparent and appropriate.
- A <u>Customer Charter</u> was launched to the community in July 2024 reflecting Council's commitment to putting customers at the centre of all we do, ensuring responsiveness and transparency in every interaction. To improve how customers interact with Council, we have implemented a new <u>Digital Experience Platform</u> which makes it easier to lodge service requests. Further enhancements will continue throughout the next financial year.
- Volunteering helps to improve health and wellbeing and increases community connection by fostering active participation and a sense of purpose. Wyndham City is committed to providing an avenue for volunteering, both within Council, and in the broader community. Wyndham City hired 40 community members into volunteer roles this year across a range of programs, supporting a total of 683 people and organisations around volunteering, from providing local recommendations to workshops and training.
- Council's <u>Volunteer Expo</u> was deliver in May 2025 and reached over 400 community members this year, directly resulting in the recruitment of 149 new volunteers to local organisations in need of support.

Council Adopted Strategies and Plans that contribute to this priority

- Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026
- Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029
- <u>Library Service Strategy 2018-2040</u>
- Wyndham Visitor Economy Strategy 2024–2028

Updates on progress towards all Strategies and Plans can be found on Council's website.

- Wyndham's Community Grants Program allows community and not-for-profit organisations the opportunity to develop and lead innovative projects that will further support and strengthen the Wyndham community. A review of the Community Grants and Subsidies Policy is complete and will be presented to Council in Quarter 1 (July-September 2025).
- Park Lounge, a celebration of queer culture and expression, was held in Kelly Park, Werribee on Saturday 1 February 2025. This was the largest <u>Midsumma Festival</u> celebration in the West, providing a safe, inclusive and welcoming event for the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies.
- <u>Cultural Diversity Week</u> (17-22 March 2025) celebrations were held at the Wyndham Civic Centre for a special event including music and dance performances, highlighting the diverse and rich cultural heritage we experience in Wyndham. The event was delivered in partnership with <u>IPC Health</u>, <u>Services Australia</u>, <u>Fire Rescue Victoria</u>, and Wyndham Community & Education Centre.
- Wyndham <u>Seniors Festival</u> 2024 was held in October 2024 with Council hosting 45 diverse events under the theme 'Explore. Engage. Evolve'. The festival saw approximately 1,500 seniors participate in activities which included dancing sessions, craft, self-defence to encourage seniors in Wyndham a variety of opportunities to build connection and self-worth by getting involved.
- The <u>Wyndham Open Space Community Garden Policy</u> was adopted by Council in July 2024, recognising the important role community gardens play by providing places where community can come together to learn and share, make friends, practice cultural traditions, and connect with nature.
- Wyndham City offers a range of support, events and initiatives for the <u>Wyndham business community</u>. Highlights from 2024/25 include:
 - The <u>Proudly Wyndham Business Expo</u> (November 2024) provided the opportunity for local Wyndham businesses to come together, showcase their products and services, foster collaboration and expand local supply network.
 - A <u>Women in Business Cocktail Evening</u>; a specially curated <u>International Women's Day event</u> for local businesses themed 'March Forward: Culture, Creativity & Business' (March 2025).



Sustainability and Environment

Nurture agriculture and work towards a climate focused and sustainable environment with a focus on waste and recycle management.

Why are sustainability and environment important?

By supporting agricultural development and encouraging responsible, sustainable practices, councils can help to protect natural resources that are vital for long-term economic and social wellbeing.

A focus on climate responsibility ensures that the community is prepared for future challenges while minimising its environmental impact in the present. Effective waste and recycling management plays a key role in reducing pollution,

conserving resources, and supporting a cleaner, healthier environment for all residents. In addition, preserving green wedge areas safeguards valuable natural spaces that contribute to environmental health and sustainable economic growth.

By prioritising sustainability, local councils can support economic growth while protecting the environment and enhancing quality of life, while ensuring that the community remains vibrant and resilient for generations to come.

What is Council's role?

Council recognises the importance of working in partnerships with key stakeholders and the community to achieve a sustainable environment and to mitigate climate change impacts for Wyndham. All levels of government, industry, business, and community need to work together to achieve this priority.

Council has proudly achieved <u>Climate Active's</u> carbon neutral accreditation, taking a critical step in addressing the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from its operations. Achieving 'carbon neutral' status means Council has balanced the carbon emissions produced by its operations through a mix of emission reduction initiatives and the purchase of carbon offsets.

Council has a role to play as an advocate and partner to protect the natural environment and invest in renewable energy solutions. It works closely with government agencies and is part of targeted alliances such as the Western Association for Greenhouse Alliance (WAGA). Council also shares knowledge and takes a lead to support community and industry initiatives to reduce Wyndham's carbon footprint, invest in renewable technologies, to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

Council remains committed to real climate action and is on a path to becoming a zero-carbon community by 2040 and, ultimately, carbon positive (sequestering more emissions than we produce).

All Council's high-level strategies and plans have sustainability goals, with the City Forest and Habitat Strategy 2017-2040 focusing Council's work to achieve sustainable natural environments.

Work toward this priority undertaken by Council in 2024/25

- Delivered Year 4 of the Wyn-R (Reductions-Renewables-Resilience) program including progressing the roll out of Council's roof top solar systems; identifying and rolling out energy auditing and efficiency recommendations, This program aims to ensure all new buildings required for the Wyndham community include considered, appropriate and sustainable design elements for best long-term operation.
- Electrifying our transport sector is critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change. Council is installing public electric vehicle (EV) chargers across various facilities to enable Council's fleet transition and support community uptake of EVs through provision of public chargers. There are a number of EV charging stations in Wyndham, with 2 new EV chargers installed at Jamieson Way Community Centre in 2024/25.
- Wyndham's <u>Solar City Project</u> has been designed to reduce the energy demands and greenhouse emissions of the municipality's community buildings through the installation of solar panels and advanced battery technology. In 2024/25 Solar PV Systems were installed at a number of community facilities including <u>Truganina Community Centre</u> (Truganina), <u>Webster Street Pavilions</u> (Point Cook), <u>Lollypop Creek Community Centre</u> (Werribee), <u>Wyndham Cultural Centre</u> (Werribee), and <u>Galvin Park Sexton Sports Pavilion</u> (Werribee) to provide clean and renewable energy sources.

Council Adopted Strategies and Plans that contribute to this priority

- City Forest and Habitat Strategy 2017-2040
- Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2020-2025
- Refuse Disposal Facility Strategic Plan 2019-25
- Resilient Wyndham 2021 2025

Updates on progress towards all Strategies and Plans can be found on Council's <u>website</u>.

- Pop-up drive through Recycling and Donation Day held at Wooten Road Reserve Tarneit in March 2025, providing an opportunity for local residents to recycle items that might otherwise end up in landfill.
- Work has continued with the <u>Department of Energy</u>.
 <u>Environment and Climate Action</u> (DEECA) to develop a <u>Coastal Hazard Assessment</u> for the western side of Port Phillip Bay and the <u>Adapt West Project</u> to manages coastal hazards and build resilience for the Port Phillip Bay western shoreline.
- Council has been successful in attracting a \$1 million grant from the Department of Transport and Planning under the <u>Growing Suburbs Fund</u> for Stage 1 works at Werribee South Beach. <u>Marine and Coastal Consent</u> was also approved by DEECA to construct erosion fencing to protect dune habitat areas at Werribee South Beach, aiming to preserve these spaces into the future.
- Construction works at the <u>Wyndham Landfill and Resource</u>
 Recovery Centre (formerly the Refuse Disposal Facility) have been completed, including the construction and capping of cells, to expand the facility and continue operating as a landfill. It is a key Council asset and is one of four major metropolitan landfills licensed to accept certain waste, such as household kerbside waste.
- The <u>Food Organics and Green Organics</u> (FOGO) service has been adopted by Wyndham which will see every household in Wyndham receive a new green bin in early 2026 with the aim to divert food and garden organics away from landfill.
- Wyndham's <u>Green Living Series</u> happens annually with a wide range of sustainable living workshops and events, aimed at building skills and providing tips to live a little greener. The series includes a mixture of community and council run events with a range of exciting workshops, field days and events hosted by passionate and knowledgeable presenters or community members.
- Working with <u>Melbourne Water</u> to investigate the effects of climate change on our drainage assets to ensure they remain sustainable into the future.



Civic Pride and Beautification

Protect the land, sea and coastlines of Wyndham by keeping the area clean, increasing green space and canopy cover to improve the visual aesthetics and ensure Wyndham is an attractive and appealing city.

Why are civic pride and beautification important?

Civic pride and beautification play a key role in creating a positive and welcoming environment within a local community. Protecting natural assets such as land, sea, and coastlines, and maintaining cleanliness contributes to a more healthy and attractive living space.

Increasing green spaces and canopy cover not only enhances the visual appeal of the area but also provides important

environmental benefits. These include improving air quality, reducing urban heat, and supporting local biodiversity.

Together, these efforts help create a more sustainable and resilient environment.

Such initiatives make Wyndham more inviting for residents, visitors, and investors alike. By prioritising civic pride and beautification, the community can strengthen its identity, encourage public respect for shared spaces, and support sustainable growth and development.

What is Council's role?

Council is the primary owner and manager of open spaces for its residents, workers and visitors and is the key decision maker about how land is used and how open space is planned, provided, developed, and managed. Open and green spaces include parks and reserve areas, playgrounds, coastal areas, and off-road paths for cycling or walking.

Council partner with other key stakeholders, such as <u>Parks Victoria</u> who manage several parks and reserves in the Wyndham, including Point Cook Coastal Park, Cheetham Wetlands and the Werribee River Regional Park; and <u>Melbourne Water</u> who hold responsibility for the rivers, creeks and Western Treatment Plant in the City of Wyndham.

Council is actively delivering tree planting annually to increase tree canopy cover; a major benefit for tackling the effects of climate change and provides education to support behaviour change, helping the community to live more sustainably.

Council acknowledges <u>dumped rubbish</u> is a major problem in Wyndham and is committed to ensuring our streets remain clean, safe and well-presented. Our role is to investigate reports of dumped litter and rubbish on Council land, Council reserves, parks, roads, roadside, vacant land, or thrown from vehicles and action accordingly.

Council also has an important role to play as an advocate for the municipality, working with relevant stakeholders and the State and Federal Governments to ensure the protecting of natural habitats and investment in quality open spaces for the growing City.

Work toward this priority undertaken by Council in 2024/25

- The community envisions Wyndham as a vibrant city featuring shaded areas and green spaces. Wyndham's Biodiversity Policy was endorsed in December 2024, outlining how Wyndham City will manage its open spaces and natural environment in a way that protects and connects native flora and fauna in order to achieve the community's vision.
- 7,100 new trees were planted during the 2025 season, helping Wyndham move closer to our target of 25% canopy cover. These trees now line our streets, green our major roads, and enhance our open spaces. Two successful community tree planting days, National Tree Day and 'Trees for a Cooler Greener West', saw over 6,000 trees planted by 200 passionate local volunteers.
- The 2024 Wyndham Canopy Coverage update revealed encouraging progress, with a 2.2% increase in open space tree canopy and 1.65% increase along streets since 2017.
- The Little River Weed Expo was held in March 2025 to provide weed and land management advice to rural landholders in Wyndham. The <u>CFA</u> (Country Fire Authority), <u>Parks Vic, Melbourne Water, Landcare Australia</u> and the <u>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action</u> (DEECA) were each represented.

Council Adopted Strategies and Plans that contribute to this priority

- City Forest and Habitat Strategy 2017-2040
- Dog Off Lead Plan 2022-2027
- Open Space Strategy 2045
- Play Space Strategy 2030
- Refuse Disposal Facility Strategic Plan 2019-25
- Werribee City Centre Structure Plan

Updates on progress towards all Strategies and Plans can be found on Council's <u>website</u>.

- Approximately 580 hectares of weed control has been delivered as part of the <u>Land Protection Grant Scheme</u> which aims to protect Wyndham's rural areas and the biodiversity supported within them.
- Construction of the <u>K Road Cliffs</u> Master Plan Implementation has continued, including commencement of the viewing platforms, staircase and plantings. An official opening event is planned for July 2025.
- Released of the 'Habitat Gardens in Wyndham' YouTube <u>series</u> as part of the <u>My Smart Garden</u> Cross-Council collaboration. This series aims to help Wyndham residents learn about using locally native (Australian) plants in their gardens and to create a small garden for wildlife as part of Wyndham's <u>Habitat Heroes</u> program.
- Wyndham City's launched the awareness campaign <u>'Return it</u>, <u>Report it!'</u> to stop shopping trolleys from being dumped and to encourage the reporting of dumped trolleys. In an effort to keep Wyndham clean, the campaign was directed towards both retailers and community members and has resulted in 917 trolleys inspected and tagged and over \$100,000 worth of infringements issued this financial year.
- Finalised the 'Adopt a Park' Policy which allows Open Space to be 'adopted' through mutual agreement with a Community Group and Council. This encourages active involvement in the regular maintenance of local open spaces, learning new skills, meeting new people, improving local areas, and undertaking activities that community members may not have the opportunity to do in their own backyards.
- Wyndham is committed providing inclusive and accessible parks and play spaces across the municipality, aiming to achieving multi-generational use of these spaces by ensuring they are attractive to a broad range of ages and abilities. In 2024/25 local playground and park upgrades have been completed at:
- Latham Street Reserve (Werribee)
- Cambridge Crescent Reserve (Werribee)
- Hemsley Promenade (Point Cook)
- Parkwood Terrace Reserve (Point Cook)
- Kiah Reserve (Hoppers Crossing)
- Pierbrook Avenue Park (Manor Lakes)

Appendix 1

Indicators that will assist in evaluating progress towards the Vision

On behalf of community, Council will track and update the below indicators, as they become available, as a measure of progress towards the achieving the Vision.

Health and Wellbeing	Source	Frequency	Measure	
Per cent of people living with a disability	Census	5 Years	2016 3.90%	2021 4.10%
Per cent of Wyndham people who have a long-term health condition	Census	5 Years	2016 %	2021 22.40%
Per cent of people live in social housing	Census	5 Years	2016 1.0%	2021 0.9%
Per cent of who reported experiencing homelessness	Census	5 Yzears	2016	2021 1.00%
Per cent of residents who volunteer	Census	5 Years	2016 13.9%	2021 8.7%

Public Safety and Crime Prevention	Source	Frequency	Measure			
Number of criminal incidents recorded in Wyndham (Per 100,000 population) Criminal incident - A criminal event that may include multiple offences, alleged offenders and/or victims, is recorded on the Victoria Police database on a single date and as occurring at one location.	Crime Statistics Agency	Annual	2021/22 3918	2022/23 4340	2023/24 4592	2024/25
Number of recorded family violence incidents in Wyndham (Per 100,00 residents) Family incident - An incident attended by Victoria Police where report was completed. The report is completed when family violence incidents, interfamilial-related sexual offences, and child abuse are reported to police. For the purposes of these statistics a family incident may involve one or more affected family members and/or one or more other parties.	Crime Statistics Agency	Annual	2021/22 1302	2022/23 1387	2023/24 1304	2024/25

Transport	Source	Frequency	Measure	
Per cent of people travelling to work in a private car	Census	5 Years	2016 68.70%	2021 55.10%
Car ownership per household. Wyndham households had to two or more cars. Wyndham Plan Target: Goal 7. By 2040 no more than 50% of all households in Wyndham will need to have access to two or more vehicles per household.	Census	5 Years	2016 58.60%	2021 57%
Per cent of people travelling to work on public transport Wyndham Plan Targets: Goal 4. By 2040, 25% of Wyndham's resident workers will use public transport to travel to work.	Census	5 Years	2016 15.20%	2021 5.80%
Per cent of people travelling to work, walking or cycling Wyndham Plan Targets: Goal 8. By 2040, 10% of all workers will cycle, walk (including e-scooters, and e-bikes) to work by 2040	Census	5 Years	2016 1.30%	2021 1%

Roads	Source	Frequency	Measure	
Per cent of people travelling to work in a private car	Census	5 Years	2016 68.70%	2021 55.10%
Car ownership per household.	Census	5 Years	2016	2021
Wyndham households that had two or more cars.			58.60%	57%
Wyndham Plan Target: Goal 7. By 2040 no more than 50% of all households in Wyndham will need to have access to two or more vehicles per household.				

Sustainability and Environment	Source	Frequency	Measure			
An increase to Tree Canopy Cover (Trees Planted by Council)	WCC	Annual	2021/22 19,443	2022/23 9,152	2023/24 17,440	2024/25 7,100
 Wyndham Plan Targets: Goal 5. At least 25% potential canopy cover within streets across Wyndham by 2030 35% potential canopy cover in Council's open spaces (excluding grassland corridors, wetlands and coastal dunes) by 2030 A total of 30,000 trees will be planted on public land per annum. 						
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill (The percentage of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill - high per cent favourable - Target above 36.5%)	WCC	Annual	2021/22 38.36%	2022/23 37.94%	2023/24 36.76%	2024/25
Annual (average) kilograms of garbage collected per household Includes garbage from red lid bin. This does not include green and recycling waste.	WCC	Annual	2021/22 145.25	2022/23 134.60	2023/24 131.11	2024/25

Local economy and jobs	Source	Frequency	Measure			
Number of jobs in Wyndham	economy.id	5 Years	2016 70,803	2021 92,852		
Participation in the labour force (People aged 15 years and over) - Number of employees / workers	Census	5 Years	2016 93,365	2021 145,743		
Percentage of residents working within the municipality is increasing.	Census	5 Years	2016 34.50%	2021 36.70%		
Wyndham Plan Target: Goal 3. By 2040 70% of Wyndham's resident workforce will work within the municipality.						
Percentage of Wyndham young people who are disengaged from work or study is decreasing.	Census	5 Years	2016 10.80%	2021 9.30%		
Gross Regional Product (GRP) in Wyndham	economy.id	Annual	2020/21 \$14.61b	2021/22 \$16.1b	2022/23 \$17.40b	2023/24 \$18.19b
Number of businesses in the Municipality	economy.id	Annual	2020/21 23,851	2021/22 32,154	2022/23 31,837	2023/24 34,885
Number of visitors to the municipality	economy.id	Annual	2021/22 Not Available	2022/23 1,302,735	2023/24 1,778,266	



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information or to receive a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact:

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