



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

BENTLEIGH
BENTLEIGH EAST
BRIGHTON EAST
CARNEGIE
CAULFIELD
ELSTERNWICK
GARDENVALE
GLEN HUNTLY
MCKINNON
MURRUMBEENA
ORMOND
ST KILDA EAST

GLEN EIRA POLICY REFORM PRIORITIES FOR THE VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION 2022



FROM THE MAYOR

I am pleased to present Glen Eira City Council's policy reform and program funding agenda for the Victorian state election.

As we continue to rebuild our economy from the COVID-19 pandemic, Glen Eira has identified critical areas where there is an urgent need for policy reform and greater support from government to help us to support our community to rebuild, reconnect and restart the economy through:

- > Supporting local government through genuine engagement on changes to Victoria's planning system to enable a safe climate and resilient built environment.
- > Working with us to inform social policy reform which supports and protects the most vulnerable members of our community and addresses critical social challenges.
- > Urgently increasing the financing support available to support under-funded local government programs for our community.

Through strong partnerships, we can deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits for our local community.

We urge you to contact us for a discussion and a tour so we can demonstrate the importance of these policies and funding programs to the residents of Glen Eira.

Cr Jim Magee
Mayor

jmagee@gleneira.vic.gov.au

PLANNING FOR A SAFE CLIMATE



This election, Council is calling for explicit, mandatory and enforceable minimum climate change commitments to be introduced into the planning system during the next term of government.

Glen Eira is part of the Climate Change and Planning Advocacy Group, which is made up of the seven Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE). This represents a formal partnership of more than 65 councils and authorities across Victoria. The group was formed to advocate for changes to Victoria's planning system to enable a safe climate and resilient built environment and communities in Victoria.

As a member of the Alliance, Council is specifically calling for the State Government to:

- > Immediately amend the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Climate Change Act 2017* to explicitly mandate addressing climate change at all levels of the planning process.
- > Require every planning amendment to include an assessment against relevant climate change considerations.
- > Introduce mandatory climate change related minimum standards into planning schemes.
- > Use appropriate climate science by adopting science-based targets for high level policy, and aligning the Planning Framework to the most up to date climate science.



IMPROVING STANDARDS FOR ROOMING HOUSES



Council is calling on the State Government to reform standards for rooming houses, improve arrangements for the monitoring and control of standards, and reduce the exploitation of vulnerable residents. Specifically Council calls for:

- > The establishment of a single agency with legislative mandate to enforce a single set of standards for rooming houses in Victoria.
- > Minimum safety and security standards in rooming houses, including the provision of secure key locks on all doors and visitor controls.
- > Increased safe access provisions for authorised officers and support workers to ensure that rooming houses are inspected appropriately and that the tenants receive access to required social, legal and health support.
- > A review of the existing emergency funding requirements of rooming houses and the introduction of tighter controls to reduce the exploitation of residents.
- > Regulatory building reform to establish an increase to the current minimum standards for rooming houses to better protect and improve the health and wellbeing of rooming house residents. Including:
 - a minimum of one toilet for every five residents; and
 - a requirement to provide an indoor social space.

Rooming houses offer accommodation for many low income and disadvantaged members of the community, particularly for those who cannot access, afford or sustain a tenancy in the private rental market. The demand for local rooming house accommodation in Glen Eira continues to increase, along with growing concerns from neighbours, tenants, community and authorised officers regarding the safety of local rooming houses.

The profile of rooming house tenants often indicates high levels of vulnerability with a strong reliance on health,

welfare and community services. The vulnerability of many tenants means that they can be easily exploited and intimidated as they generally do not have any alternative housing options.

The current minimum standards for rooming houses are insufficient, vulnerable tenants are subjected to unacceptable accommodation standards including shared bathrooms, insufficient communal areas and a lack of security of their own spaces.

There are increasing safety concerns from neighbours, the community and staff who are required to enter rooming houses. The community is concerned about antisocial behaviour and criminal activities occurring within rooming houses.

A significant complexity is the multitude of agencies that have responsibility for supporting rooming house residents and monitoring and controlling rooming houses:

- Local councils are responsible for registering dwellings as a rooming house.
- Consumer Affairs Victoria is responsible for regulating the relationship between operator and residents, enforcing standards for rooming houses and licensing.
- The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing is responsible for managing the welfare of residents.
- Victoria Police deals with many of the crime and antisocial behaviour issues often associated with rooming houses.

These arrangements make it confusing for rooming house operators, tenants and the broader community to understand rooming house requirements. It is also difficult for tenants and members of the public to understand which agency can deal with their concerns.

CONTINUATION OF SUBURBAN PARKS FUNDING PROGRAM



Council is calling on the State Government to commit to the continuation of the highly successful Suburban Parks Funding Program. Council has shovel-ready projects across all electorates ready to progress if this funding was made available.

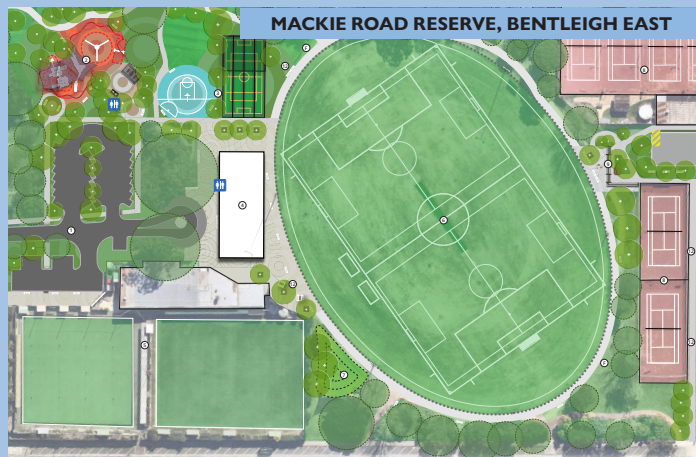
The Glen Eira community has the lowest amount of open space per capita in metropolitan Melbourne with 1.3 hectares for every 1,000 residents or 4.4 per cent of the total municipal area. With over 86 sporting groups using Council-owned open space, we are currently unable to accommodate the growth of existing clubs or the inclusion of any new clubs.

Council has committed to spending \$26.9 million in acquiring new property for open space by 2025. This is a significant commitment to support a critical under-supply of publicly available open spaces. We are calling on the State

Government to contribute towards developing this new land into open spaces for our community.

Continued access to funding via the Suburban Parks Funding Program will enable Council to improve the quantity and quality of public open space for our residents; develop, improve and maintain the amenity of our public places; and provide improved access to a mix of passive and active spaces that are inclusive, fit-for-purpose, and flexible to meet the needs of our diverse community.

Funding under this program would contribute significantly to expanding the tree canopy and green space in our municipality which provides a myriad of environmental and social benefits, reduces the urban heat effect and contributes directly to improving the health and wellbeing of our community



MACKIE ROAD RESERVE, BENTLEIGH EAST



CAULFIELD PARK ENTRANCES, CAULFIELD



MURRUMBEENA PARK UPGRADE, MURRUMBEENA



PACKER PARK PLAYGROUND, CARNEGIE

PLANNING REFORM

Council continues to call for policy and legislative improvements to the State Planning System including:

- > A commitment from the State Government to genuinely engage and collaborate with the Local Government sector on its Planning Reform Agenda.
- > Amendments to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to provide clearer direction on the consideration of climate change, a statutory mechanism to require a percentage of affordable housing in developments over a certain size, and improvements to the planning scheme amendment process for greater certainty, transparency and reduced time frames.
- > Mandatory implementation by VCAT of the local planning policy framework in recognition that it represents both the expectations of the community and Council's adopted policy in relation to future development.



GAMING REFORM

Council is calling on the State Government to implement the Alliance for Gambling Reform pokies agenda, including a suite of complementary harm reduction measures — such as changes to opening hours of venues, introduction of ‘End Gambling Harm After Dark’, a request to have all gaming machines turned off between 2am and 6am and the introduction of a full, universal and binding pre-commitment system by having each person set their own reasonable time and money limits.

Council joins with the Municipal Association of Victoria, other councils and many other organisations as a founding supporter of the Alliance for Gambling Reform, which seeks to campaign for reforms and increased regulation to the gambling industry to reduce harm from electronic gaming machines and to protect disadvantaged communities from increasing numbers of pokies.

Gambling is widely accepted across our community as an activity that supports entertainment, recreation and opportunities to socialise. However, gambling can have adverse impacts, not only for the individual, but also family members, friends, local businesses and communities.

Glen Eira commits to reducing the harms of gambling, especially electronic gaming machines and recognises that the cost to our community is not just financial loss, but also significant impacts on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and businesses.

A clear benefit will be a reduction in the significant impacts of problem gambling faced by families and children including financial insecurity, family stress, poor access to essential household items and the need to sell property and/or other household items to cope with the losses associated with problem gambling.

SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Council calls upon the State Government to increase the supply and funding for social and affordable housing in the Glen Eira community so that housing for vulnerable residents is affordable and of an acceptable standard and quality.

Social and affordable housing developments contribute towards improved social inclusion, mobility and access to jobs, which is a key element of maintaining income equality and sustainable economic growth. Social housing provision in Glen Eira is less than half the metropolitan average, private rental is above the metropolitan average and rates of financial stress in the rental market in Glen Eira are higher than our neighbours.

Council estimates that the unmet need for affordable housing is in the order of 5,883 dwellings and if there is no change, this need will increase to around 7,529 by 2036.

Council also calls for the State Government to support:

- > The implementation of the 'housing for all' initiative — that is affordable, social and short-term housing, including crisis accommodation, shared care accommodation, aged care and accommodation for key workers and students — into redevelopment projects in community hubs and precincts.
- > Direct government investment and subsidies to encourage private investment in social and affordable housing.
- > The introduction of new mandatory criteria for the implementation of affordable housing outcomes in new major developments through relevant planning legislation and regulatory regimes.
- > Incorporation of affordable housing in its projects in Glen Eira, including at 'value capture' developments in the City, generated by opportunities associated with level crossing removal property acquisitions.
- > Working in partnership with Council to provide a greater number of social housing units. Council will contribute to this partnership through provision of existing land currently used for social housing units that are located on three sites in Carnegie, Bentleigh and Caulfield South.

SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISION PROGRAM REFORM

Council calls on the State Government to commit to fully funding the School Crossing Supervision Program as an essential, State led, community safety initiative.

The School Crossing Supervision Program was introduced in 1975 under a joint-funding arrangement between the State Department of Transport (formally VicRoads) and councils.

While the Department of Transport purportedly supports a fifty-fifty funding model for this service (providing Council with funding of \$417,000 for the 2021–2022 financial year), in reality, the service costs Council \$1.33 million in employee costs alone per annum. This is a redirection of ratepayer funds from other Council services.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING

Council calls on the State Government to provide a minimum fifty-fifty funding model to continue the local delivery of high quality and safe maternal and child health services to support the health and wellbeing of families and children.

The Maternal and Child Health Service is a free, universally accessible, state-wide health and wellbeing and development service provided for all families with children from birth to school age. Council delivers its Maternal and Child Health services in partnership with the State Government to ensure every child get the best start in life.

Through our dedicated team of Maternal and Child Health nurses, midwives and parent educators Council delivers:

- > A schedule of 10 key age and stage consultations between a Maternal and Child Health nurse and the child and family from birth to school age consisting of an initial home visit and consultations at two, four and eight weeks, four, eight, 12 and 18 months and at two years and three-and-a-half years of age.
- > Additional consultations, telephone consultations and parent support groups are also delivered including sleep and settling, infant nutrition, breastfeeding and new parents and playgroups.

The State Government sets the policy agenda for the service through state-wide service standards and clinical practice guidelines. In turn the State and Local Government share the responsibility for funding the universal service. Historically, Maternal and Child Health Services were funded fifty-fifty between State and Local Government, however, State funding agreements have not kept pace with the increasing demand for the service and the costs of service delivery. Council is currently contributing 60 per cent of the costs of service delivery.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO PUBLICLY OWNED OPEN SPACE INCLUDING SCHOOLS.

One of our major challenges is providing the quantity of open space necessary to meet the needs of our community. Glen Eira currently has the lowest amount of open space per capita in metropolitan Melbourne with 1.3 hectares for every 1,000 residents or 4.4 per cent of the total municipal area. With over 86 sporting groups using Council-owned open space, we are currently unable to accommodate the growth of existing clubs or the inclusion of any new clubs.

While Council has committed to spending \$26.9 million in acquiring new open space by 2025, there is a significant opportunity to increase community access to existing publicly-owned open space facilities.

In particular, there is an opportunity to improve joint-use agreements between Council and local schools to enable greater access to school sporting and recreation facilities outside of school hours. While there are a number of joint use agreements already in place, these often provide minimal access for community sporting clubs or recreational users.

Council calls on the State Government to reform joint-use agreements to provide greater access to school grounds to meet broader community open space needs. Not only does this benefit Glen Eira residents from an open space access perspective, it also builds a sense of collective purpose between schools and the community and facilitates greater inclusion and connection. More flexible joint-use agreements would also ensure that these valuable public assets are being fully utilised for the benefit of the entire community.





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CITY COUNCIL

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National Relay Service

If you are deaf, hearing-impaired, or speech-impaired, we ask that you call us via the National Relay Service and then ask for (03) 9524 3333.

Online: <https://internet-relay.nrscall.gov.au>

Teletypewriter (TTY): 13 36 77

Speak and Listen: 1300 555 727

Social media

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Glen Eira arts, gallery and events:

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