

The Maroondah Report

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Chief Executive Officer

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State of Maroondah 2021

- › The **State of Maroondah Report** is prepared every two years.
- › It focuses on progress towards achieving *Maroondah 2040 - Our future together*
- › Highlights include
 - **significant infrastructure** projects
 - a range of **strategic work**
 - **COVID-19 pandemic response.**
- › The **report is available** on the Maroondah City Council website



A safe healthy and active community

Council has...



- › Completed the construction of the **\$16.5m Maroondah Nets sporting complex**
- › Commenced redevelopment of a number of sporting pavilions across Maroondah
- › Worked in partnership to establish the **Maroondah Positive Education Network**
- › Launched the Be Kind Maroondah campaign during the **COVID-19 pandemic**
- › Undertaken a strategic review of Maroondah Golf
- › Updated the Maroondah Liquor Accord and delivered an 'Ask for Angela' campaign
- › Developed a new Gambling Policy
- › Introduced a ban on smoking at both Ringwood and Croydon Town Squares
- › Introduced a new Walking Football and Netball Program
- › Hosted a range of mental wellbeing community events
- › Redeveloped sportfields at Quambee Reserve and Mullum Mullum Reserve
- › Installed 'state of the art' LED lighting solutions at various sportsfields



A prosperous and learning community



Council has...

- › Finalised the **Ringwood Activity Centre Masterplan**
- › Worked in partnership to implement the **Bayswater Business Precinct Strategy**
- › Commenced a strategic review of shopping centres
- › Supported small businesses through **BizHub in response to COVID-19 pandemic**
- › Delivered **BizHub online support** offerings during the COVID-19 pandemic
- › Supported community houses, kindergartens and library services during the COVID-19 pandemic
- › Progressed a Special Charge Scheme for Croydon Main Street and Ringwood East Traders Association.
- › Supported development of a Strategic Partnership Plan for community houses in Maroondah
- › Developed youth leadership through the annual Student Wellbeing Action Team
- › Delivered an annual Kindergarten Expo

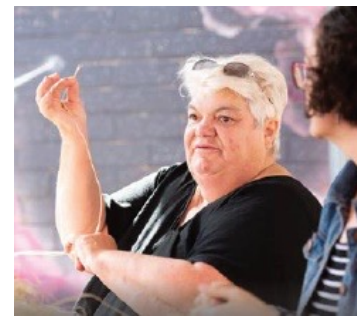




A vibrant and culturally rich community

Council has...

- › Completed an *Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025*
- › Hosted a second season of Spiegeltent
- › Commenced design for the \$15m **redevelopment of Karralyka**
- › Established a **new Arts Advisory Committee**
- › Organised engaging arts events in Ringwood arts precinct
- › Supported arts and cultural activation in Croydon
- › Introduced traditional arts and crafts community workshops and an “Indigenous perspectives on the Anthropocene” exhibition
- › Hosted various **online events through Karralyka** and the FReeZa program during the COVID-19 pandemic.



A clean green and sustainable community



Council has...

- › Implemented the **Eastern Organics Contract** to divert food and garden waste
- › Became **certified as carbon neutral** by Climate Active for our operations
- › Progressed a 10-year renewable energy Local Government Power Purchase Agreement with 47 Councils
- › Delivered energy efficient upgrades to aquatic and leisure facilities, saving up to \$200,000 in energy costs annually and 1500 tonnes of greenhouse gas abatement.
- › Achieved a **5 star Green Star rating for the new office facilities at Realm**
- › Adopted the **Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030**
- › Hosted a free vegetation symposium with expert speakers
- › Completed renewal works on the Dandenong Creek shared trail
- › Completed desilting works at Ringwood Lake and Settlers Orchard Reserve
- › Adopted an Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy
- › Purchased Native Vegetation Reserves at the Range Estate in Croydon
- › Planted 23,000 trees (2019/20) and maintained over 77,000 native trees



An accessible and connected community



Council has...

- › Worked in partnership to implement intersection improvement works at the corner of **Maroondah Highway, Dorset Road, Bellara Drive and Exeter Road**
- › Completed the Lincoln Road upgrade in Croydon
- › Commenced design of **Activity Centre carparks** at Croydon, Ringwood, Heathmont and Heatherdale station
- › Upgraded the Heathmont Village carpark
- › Accelerated Council's **footpath construction program**
- › Developed and implemented the *Maroondah Disability Policy and Action Plan*
- › Completed a wide range of Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) pedestrian improvement works
- › Completed pedestrian safety upgrades in the Croydon Major Activity Centre
- › Completed construction of a new toilet block at Warriën Reserve
- › Implemented the Maroondah Carparking Framework Action Plan





An attractive thriving and well built community Council has...

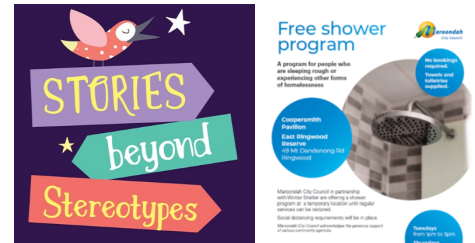
- › Completed construction of the \$2m **Croydon Town Square**
- › Commenced staged redevelopment of the **Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct**
- › Finalised the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre Masterplan
- › Commenced preparation of a new **Croydon Major Activity Centre Structure Plan**
- › Reviewed Council's **neighbourhood character and heritage controls**
- › Worked in partnership to implement the **Greening the Greyfields Project**
- › Worked in partnership to deliver a **20-Minute Neighbourhoods Pilot Project** in Croydon South
- › Worked in partnership to implement the **Tarralla Creek Connects project**
- › Commenced open space enhancement plans for Eastfield Park, Dorset Recreation Reserve and Ainslie Park Reserve
- › Undertaken playground improvement works at the various playspaces
- › Renovated Ringwood North Maternal and Child Health Centre and upgraded Kurboroo Kindergarten
- › Completed drainage upgrade works at Wonga Road in Ringwood, Hull Road in Croydon, and Power Street in Croydon North





An inclusive and diverse community Council has...

- › Developed a **new Children and Families Strategy**
- › Constructed additional **female changing facilities** at local sporting facilities
- › Supported a wide range of community groups through the **COVID-19 Community Grants Funding Program** and the annual community grants funding program
- › **Partnered with local relief agencies, support providers and volunteers** to provide food relief and ensure service met the needs of vulnerable people and culturally and linguistically diverse groups during the COVID-19 pandemic
- › Worked in partnership to develop a funding model to address the shortfall in affordable housing in the eastern metropolitan region
- › Partnered with tenant clubs of the RO Spencer Pavilion in Ringwood to deliver a gender equality awareness project
- › Developed a booklist for primary school aged children in partnership with local agencies to address gender stereotypes
- › Endorsed and implemented Council's **Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2020**
- › Established supported playgroups for vulnerable families and culturally diverse groups



A well governed and empowered community



Council has...

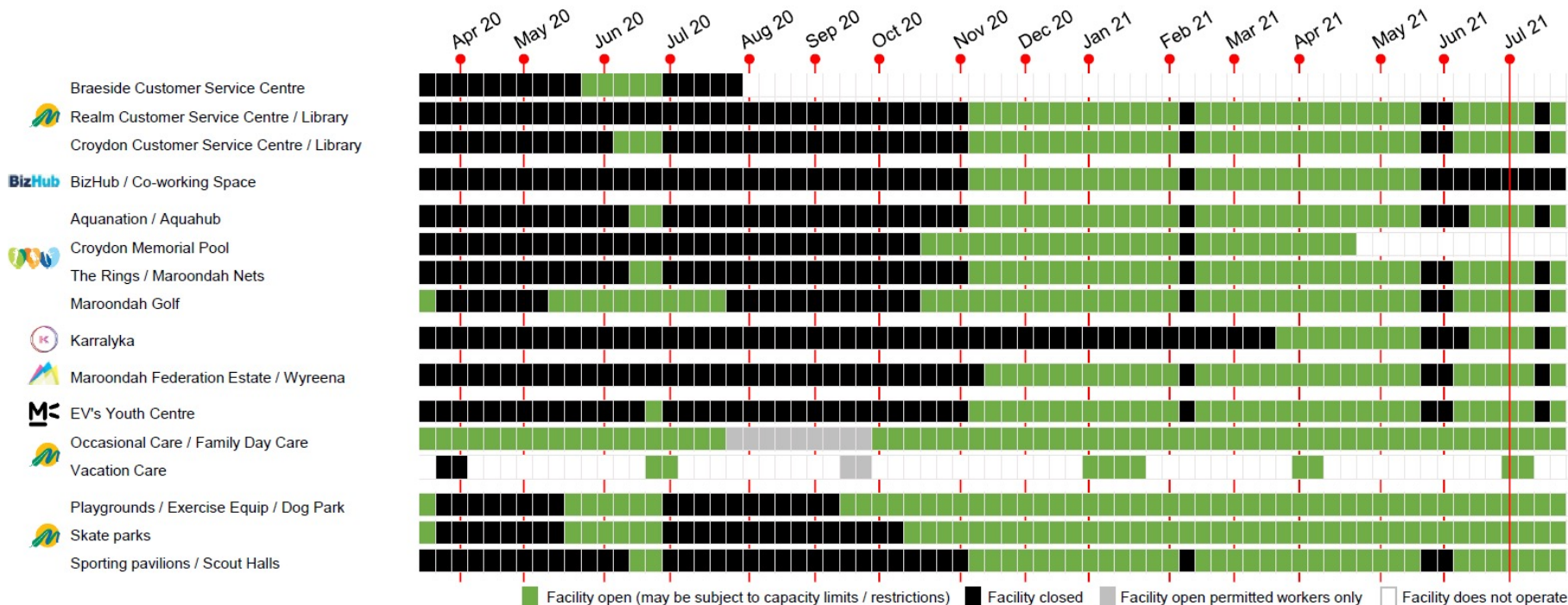
- › Developed a **COVID-19 Recovery Plan**, referral system and response framework, informed by extensive input from the Maroondah community and local agencies
- › Adopted a **refreshed Maroondah 2040 community vision** document following extensive community consultation
- › Received **Australian Government regional funding** following the May 2019 Federal Election for priorities, such as Headspace services, Homes for Homes, bike and walking trails and commuter carparks consistent with the advocacy efforts of the Eastern Region Group of Councils
- › Started implementing the new *Local Government Act 2020*
- › Commenced implementation of a **new Domestic Animal Management Plan**
- › Installed new **customer contact centre technology** to enable live chat, SMS, email and outbound contact campaigns
- › Launched an improved **online community engagement hub**, YourSay Maroondah
- › Launched a fortnightly **Maroondah News eNewsletter**



COVID-19

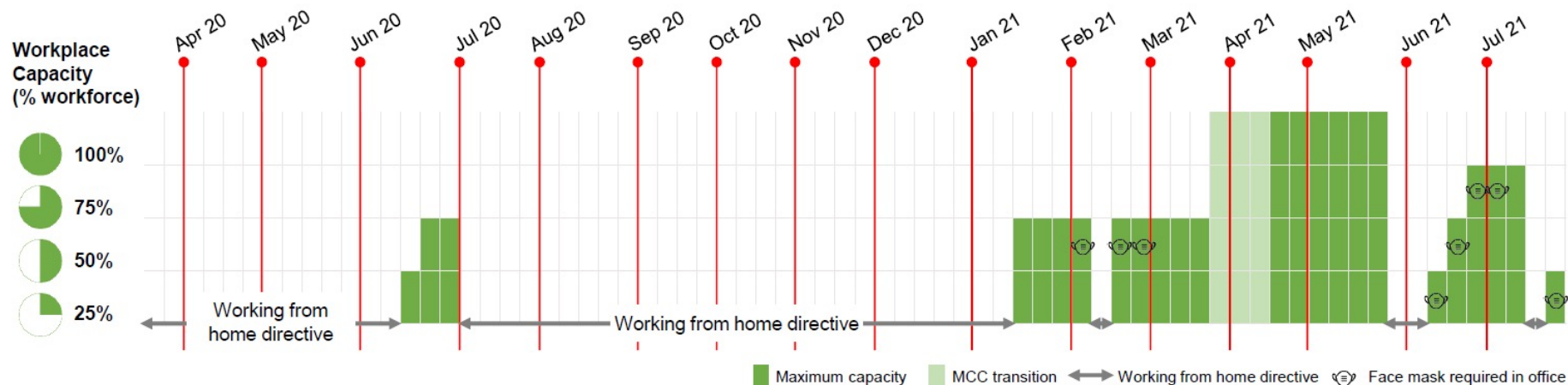
Maroondah facility closures during the COVID-19 pandemic

Council's facilities have been required to close under COVID-19 restrictions on up to five occasions, resulting in over nine months of closures for most of Council's leisure, customer service, library, arts and youth facilities. Opportunities to undertake maintenance activities during the closures were seized. However, the financial impacts to Council as a result of the closures are considerable.



Impact of COVID-19 on working arrangements

Working from Home Directives have required Council's office-based staff to work from home for much of the last 16 months. During Stage 4 restrictions only 'permitted workers' were able to work outside of the home.



Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Council staff have shown incredible resilience and adaptability. However, as the pandemic continues the risk of fatigue and burnout rises – both in work and personal life – and the wellbeing of staff will need to remain top of mind.

- › 2019 - \$180M for five carparks & Dorset and Canterbury Road projects plus more.
- › 2021 – \$36M for extra carpark funding, Cricket Hub, Heathmont Road, Dorset & JW Manson Res
- › 2021 - \$524M for three level crossing removals!
- › 2022 – watch this space