

# State of Maroondah 2023

Maroondah 2040 - Our future together

A group of people, including men and children, are performing a traditional Indigenous dance or ceremony. They are wearing traditional black and white body paint and are in a dynamic, crouching pose on a grassy area.





# Measuring our progress

The State of Maroondah Report 2023 provides a snapshot of how our municipality is progressing towards the Community Vision identified in *Maroondah 2040 - Our future together*.

Welcome to the State of Maroondah Report 2023. This report provides a snapshot of our progress as a municipality over the past two years, since the previous State of Maroondah Report was released in 2021.

The report focuses on the Maroondah 2040 Community Indicators of Progress, along with some of the key Council Plan achievements during the period 2020/21 and 2021/22 and how these are working towards the Vision identified in *Maroondah 2040 - Our future together*.

The past two years has seen the completion of some significant infrastructure projects along with a range of strategic work aimed at creating a vibrant and attractive city.

These projects have included:

- developing and implementing the *Maroondah COVID-19 Recovery Plan* in partnership with other levels of government, local organisations and agencies.
- constructing sporting infrastructure upgrades at Jubilee Park and Proclamation Park in Ringwood, Cheong Park in Croydon South, and Springfield Park, Dorset Recreation Reserve and Eastfield Park in Croydon.
- developing and implementing the *Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031* (including the *Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2021-2031* and *Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025*).
- supporting the rollout of the Victorian Government's funded three-year-old kindergarten program, including completion of the Tarralla Kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health redevelopment.
- completing stage one of the Karralyka redevelopment.
- implementing Council's *Waste, Litter & Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030*.
- developing and implementing Council's *Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031*.
- advocating for the removal of level crossings at Bedford Road, Ringwood; Dublin Road, Ringwood East and Coolstore Road, Croydon, and the construction of new stations at Ringwood East and Croydon.
- constructing the activity centre carpark in Croydon, and continuing to plan for construction of the activity centre carpark in Ringwood.
- continuing the staged redevelopment of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct, including the relocation of organisations into Community Wellbeing Hub B.
- implementing the *Children and Families Strategy* and Action Plan and the *Youth Strategy* and Action Plan.
- implementing the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, including Council's *Gender Equality Action Plan*.
- developing the *Maroondah Disability Action Plan 2022-2026*.
- implementing the new *Local Government Act 2020*.
- advocating on key local issues in the lead up to the Victorian and Australian Government elections in 2022.

This State of Maroondah Report 2023 provides just a snapshot of key projects delivered by Council over this period and highlights some areas of focus for the next two years in working towards the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision.

# Our city

The City of Maroondah covers a land area of 61.4 square kilometres in Melbourne's outer east, 22 kilometres from the Central Business District (CBD). The area is a substantially developed urban residential municipality, with an estimated population of 116,080 residents and 46,870 households with an average of 2.51 people per household.

Before European colonisation, the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung People of the Kulin Nation were the traditional custodians of the land now known as the City of Maroondah for more than 35,000 years. The Wurundjeri People have a deep spiritual connection to the land and a unique ability to care for Country. European settlers arrived in the 1830s and commenced using the land for farming and orchards.

In recent years Maroondah has developed into a thriving regional centre. The municipality's residents have a similar age structure to the state's average. There is a diverse mix of living styles from large acreage to apartment style residential development. Cultural diversity in Maroondah continues to increase.



Location of the City of Maroondah



Maroondah, with the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre in the foreground



Maroondah has the strategic advantage of being located at the north-eastern junction of the Eastern Freeway - EastLink corridor. There are two train lines and a large number of bus routes linking the city with other regions. The City of Maroondah includes the suburbs of Bayswater North, Croydon, Croydon Hills, Croydon North, Croydon South, Heathmont, Kilsyth South, Ringwood, Ringwood East, Ringwood North and Warranwood.

Maroondah is well known for its leafy streets, broad areas of open space, bushland reserves, parks and playgrounds. Sustainable transport links include on-road cycling paths and shared path links to the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail, the EastLink Trail, Taralla Creek Trail and the Dandenong Creek Trail.

Over 9,500 businesses operate within the city providing employment for over 44,000 people.

The largest industry employers are the health care and social assistance, retail, manufacturing and construction sectors. The Bayswater Business Precinct is a regional economic hub where many national and international firms have established their headquarters. Maroondah also has major retail centres in Croydon and Ringwood, and a further 31 neighbourhood, community and local shopping centres throughout the municipality.

The City of Maroondah hosts a regional health precinct including a major public hospital and a large private hospital, educational facilities that cater from early childhood learning to tertiary, two libraries, arts and cultural centres, an art space and a range of community centres. Maroondah is also home to a range of world-class sporting facilities including Aquanation, a regional recreation and leisure facility.



# Our Vision

Maroondah will be a vibrant and diverse city with a healthy and active community, living in green and leafy neighbourhoods which are connected to thriving and accessible activity centres contributing to a prosperous economy within a safe, inclusive and sustainable environment.



## Our future community outcomes

Council worked with the community to develop a vision for the future of Maroondah which was adopted in June 2014. In 2018 and 2019, Council refreshed the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision to capture the latest community aspirations and priorities, along with emerging themes and trends.

*Maroondah 2040 - Our future together* provides the strategic blueprint for Council and the community to continue to work together to shape the future of the Maroondah community looking ahead to the year 2040.



### Safe, healthy and active community

In 2040, Maroondah will be a safe, healthy, and active community where all people have the opportunity to experience enhanced levels of social, emotional, and physical wellbeing.



### Accessible and connected community

In 2040, Maroondah will be a resilient community committed to sustainable living, enhancing our natural environment, and providing leadership in responding to climate change.



### Prosperous and learning community

In 2040, Maroondah will be a thriving regional centre of economic activity and education, where the sustainable growth of local businesses is supported, and diverse lifelong learning opportunities are accessible for all community members.



### Attractive, thriving and well built community

In 2040, Maroondah will be an attractive, sustainable, and well-built community with thriving activity centres and a network of neighbourhoods where everyone has the opportunity to live, work and play locally.



### Vibrant and culturally rich community

In 2040, Maroondah will be a vibrant and creative community recognised for celebration of the arts, cultural expression, and diverse entertainment options.



### Inclusive and diverse community

In 2040, Maroondah will be an inclusive and equitable community where all people are valued, supported, and socially connected, and diversity is embraced and celebrated.



### Clean, green and sustainable community

In 2040, Maroondah will be a resilient community committed to sustainable living, enhancing our natural environment, and providing leadership in responding to climate change.



### Well governed and empowered community

In 2040, Maroondah will be an empowered community actively engaged in local decision making, led by an innovative community inspired Council that collaborates regionally and proactively champions local needs.



## We want Maroondah to be **safe**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a safe community involves:

- a safe built environment
- reduction of harm from gambling, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs
- prevention of violence and other related crimes.

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- supported the community to return to daily life in a COVIDSafe environment
- worked in partnership with local emergency service organisations and agencies to support Maroondah's municipal emergency response, relief and recovery plans
- implemented the new Child Safe Standards
- reviewed general amenity Local Law 11 that addresses public safety
- promoted community awareness concerning elder abuse
- continued to partner with Together for Equality and Respect (TFER) to support women and families experiencing domestic violence
- undertaken women's safety walks in open space areas and activity centres
- worked with local sporting clubs to address alcohol related harm
- continued to participate as a leadership partner in the Alliance for Gambling Reform
- supported young people with autism, their families, carers, and professionals by delivering the 'Porn is not the Norm' project
- implemented changes from the reform to the Environment Protection Act impacting the management of domestic wastewater, litter, noise and contaminated land.





Child Safe Standards

**“Everyone  
deserves  
to feel safe  
at home.”**

16 Days of Activism



Elder abuse awareness



The **offence rate** in Maroondah decreased to 6,246.0 offences per 100,000 residents which is lower than the Victorian rate of 7,121.51<sup>1</sup>



The **criminal incident rate** in Maroondah decreased to 4,320.7 incidents per 100,000 residents which is lower than the Victorian rate of 5,177.91<sup>1</sup>



The **family incident rate** in Maroondah decreased to 1,200.7 incidents per 100,000 residents which is lower than the Victorian rate of 1,373.51<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Crime Statistics Agency – LGA data for the year ending June 2022





## We want Maroondah to be **healthy**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a healthy community involves:

- enhanced physical, social and emotional wellbeing
- a greater focus on promoting and supporting mental wellbeing to build resilience.



94.3% of Maroondah residents have received at least two doses of the **COVID-19 vaccination** which is similar to the Victorian average of 94.6%<sup>1</sup>

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- developed a new *Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031*, along with supporting action plans
- delivered mental health initiatives and events to support the community during the COVID-19 pandemic
- delivered the Be Kind Maroondah campaign including Knit One Warm One project; Sunflower Effect project; Maroondah Moments project; and Let's Get Neighbourly Maroondah
- launched the Maroondah Lift Project in partnership with EACH and Eastern Health
- promoted men's mental and physical health through delivery of the Sons of the West program
- worked in partnership with Communities of Wellbeing to train 39 community leaders in the Certificate of Creating Wellbeing
- supported the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in partnership with EACH and Eastern Health
- provided emergency meals assistance from Karralyka, as well as the Meals on Wheels program and K-meal initiative
- delivered the Good Food for Me program for older residents
- worked in partnership to produce resources to better understand the lived experience of residents impacted by hoarding behaviours.





76.3% of Maroondah residents rated their **satisfaction with life** as high or very high which is similar to the Victorian average of 76.5%<sup>2</sup>



40.1% of Maroondah residents rated their **health** as very good or excellent which is similar to the Victorian average of 40.5%<sup>2</sup>



9.8% of Maroondah residents reported having a **mental health condition** which is higher than the Victorian average of 8.8%<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care COVID-19 Vaccination Rate LGA Report  
<sup>2</sup> Victorian Population Health Survey 2020  
<sup>3</sup> 2021 ABS Census





## We want Maroondah to be **active**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that an active community involves:

- providing opportunities for physical activity for all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- enhancement of local recreation and leisure facilities and spaces.



Maroondah Leisure has the largest **swim school** in Victoria with 4,866 participants<sup>1</sup>

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- supported the community to re-engage with Maroondah Leisure facilities and indoor and outdoor sports
- supported sporting clubs and associations to return to sport in a COVIDSafe manner
- commenced establishment of a regional cricket hub at the Jubilee Park sporting precinct
- continued to redevelop sporting infrastructure across Maroondah at Proclamation Park, Springfield Park, Cheong Park, Ainslie Park, Dorset Recreation Reserve, Silcock Reserve and JW Manson Reserve
- renewed a range of sportsfields including Silcock Reserve, Dorset Soccer Complex and Cheong Park
- upgraded lighting at Silcock Reserve, Cheong Park, Quambee Reserve and Gracedale Tennis Club
- designed and constructed a new dog park at Parkwood in Ringwood North
- expanded the walking sports program to include football, netball, cricket and pickleball programs
- delivered a range of community sporting events including the Maroondah Night Run and Community Golf Day
- implemented the Equally Active Strategy
- established the Walk and Talk peer support walking group for young people in Maroondah.





*Sporting pavilion upgrade at Springfield Park*



*Swimming lessons*



*Yarrunga bike track*



Maroondah ranks 7th (out of 79 municipalities) across Victoria for **sports participation**<sup>2</sup>



The **player registration** rate in Maroondah is 11.79 registrations per 100 residents which is the highest in Outer Eastern Melbourne<sup>2</sup>



Maroondah community members made 4.4 visits (average) to Council's **aquatic and leisure facilities** in the 2021/22 year<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Internal data as at April 2022

<sup>2</sup> VicHealth Research Report - Sport participation in Victoria 2015-2020 and the impact of COVID-19 on participation

<sup>3</sup> Internal data as at June 2022



## We want Maroondah to be **prosperous**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a prosperous community involves:

- supporting local businesses and local employment opportunities
- enhancements to Maroondah's business and activity centres.



The **total number of businesses** registered in Maroondah is 9,571 which is similar to the total number registered in 2019<sup>1</sup>

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- supported small business through BizHub in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- conducted 1,500 onsite discussions to support businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic
- supported local businesses to expand outdoor dining opportunities through the Victorian Government Outdoor Activation Fund
- worked in partnership to implement the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy
- continued a strategic review of shopping centres in Maroondah, and implemented infrastructure and amenity improvements in local shopping centres
- continued to develop and promote the BizHub co-working space following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions
- continued to work in partnership to facilitate appropriate development within the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre and Croydon Activity Centre
- employed 54 people into 33 new roles under the Working for Victoria initiative to support people seeking work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>1</sup> ABS Counts of Australian Businesses





*Paul Street Shopping centre amenity improvements in Croydon*



*BizHub co-working space*



*Bayswater Business Precinct*



The **unemployment rate** in Maroondah decreased to 3.7% which is lower than the rate for Greater Melbourne of 4.9%<sup>2</sup>



Maroondah's **economic output** is \$16.2 billion which is 12% of total output for the Eastern Metropolitan Region<sup>3</sup>



Maroondah's **median weekly household income** is \$1,867 which is higher than the Victorian average of \$1,759<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Remplan Economy regional profile for Maroondah

<sup>3</sup> Remplan Economy regional data for Maroondah Release 1 2021 (released March 2022).

<sup>4</sup> 2021 ABS Census





## We want Maroondah to be **learning**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a learning community involves:

- improving the link between education to employment opportunities
- lifelong learning opportunities
- a greater focus on positive education.



2,879 Maroondah residents (8.8%) attend **preschool education** which is higher than the Victorian average of 7.1%<sup>1</sup>

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- worked in partnership to support the rollout of three-year-old kindergarten in Maroondah
- supported Maroondah's community houses to offer education programs during the COVID-19 pandemic
- supported Eastern Regional Libraries to provide a range of accessible library services and programs during the COVID-19 pandemic
- provided education seminars for the community including financial support and parent support programs
- worked in partnership with the Outer East Youth Service Providers Network to support young people facing barriers to employment
- delivered road safety education programs, and helped young drivers to obtain their licence through the Maroondah TAC L2P Program
- continued to implement volunteer and student placement programs.



Yarrunga Community Centre



Realm library



L2P program



56.7% of Maroondah residents have completed either **a bachelor or higher degree, advanced diploma or diploma**, or vocational education which is higher than the Victorian average of 53.3%<sup>1</sup>



95.4% of school leavers in Maroondah are actively **undertaking education, training or employment** which is higher than the Victorian average of 94.2%<sup>2</sup>



12,697 Maroondah residents are **active library borrowers**<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2021 ABS Census

<sup>2</sup> Victorian Government On Track Survey 2021 Maroondah Local Government Area Report

<sup>3</sup> Eastern Regional Libraries data as at 30 June 2022





## We want Maroondah to be vibrant and culturally rich

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a vibrant and culturally rich community involves:

- a range of events, festivals and entertainment options
- diverse range of arts that express the unique cultures, heritage and characteristics of Maroondah
- enhancement and revitalisation of spaces in Maroondah through the arts.



58,000 people attended **Karralyka** for events and activities<sup>1</sup>



83 local artists/ community members participated in **arts networks** and related events<sup>1</sup>

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- supported arts and cultural groups during the COVID-19 pandemic through subsidised use of cultural facilities, hosting a Creative Recovery Forum, and one-off Maroondah Arts and Cultural Resilience Awards
- offered a range of livestreaming Karralyka performances and creative online classes for children in response to COVID-19 restrictions
- re-opened the doors of Karralyka for events and performances after nearly two years of closures due to COVID-19 restrictions
- delivered place activation projects in Ringwood East and Croydon South, including transformational infrastructure and amenity upgrades, and a program of arts activations
- delivered an extensive program of arts and cultural events including the Ringwood Town Square Neon Lights, Wyreena Cultural Activations, Gluttony Festival in Croydon, and Music in Maroondah
- continued to support and celebrate Indigenous arts and culture, including the installation of Indigenous public art in Ringwood East and at Realm in Ringwood
- supported and delivered Celebrate Maroondah events in Croydon North, Ringwood North and Croydon.





Croydon South pop up park



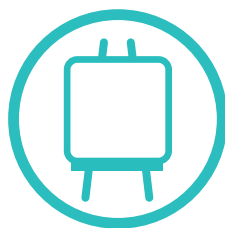
Gluttony festival



Yours exhibition, ArtSpace at Realm



135,792 people visited the Realm **arts spaces**, Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery and Wyreena Community Arts Centre<sup>1</sup>



4,195 people **participated in arts and culture activities** in the Ringwood arts precinct and Wyreena Community Arts Centre<sup>1</sup>



159 individual **Maroondah artists/arts and cultural groups** were supported to produce and present their work<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Internal data for 2021/22 year



## We want Maroondah to be **clean**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a clean community involves:

- minimising resource consumption
- making environmentally sustainable choices and reducing waste.

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- implemented the *Waste, Litter and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030*
- introduced the food organics garden organics (FOGO) service and bin lid changeover
- introduced a new waste fleet with sustainability/recycling messaging
- developed the Domestic Wastewater Management Strategy Action Plan
- joined with 12 other Council's to research a reusable nappy program
- undertaken pond rehabilitation works in Croydon Hills and Warranwood
- undertaken proactive monitoring of various former landfill sites in Maroondah.





Composting



Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bin



Recyclables



55.5% of Maroondah's **garbage, recyclables and green organics** collected from kerbside bins is diverted from landfill which is higher than the Victorian average of 47.8%<sup>1 2</sup>



**Disposable nappies** make up 5.2% of total garbage waste collected in Maroondah (by mass)<sup>1</sup>



74% of the Maroondah community are satisfied with **waste management services** in Maroondah which is higher than the Victorian average of 68%<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Internal data for 2021/22 year

<sup>2</sup> Know Your Council website data for 2021/22 year

<sup>3</sup> Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 2022



## We want Maroondah to be **green**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a green community involves:

- retention of biodiversity, native-habitat and tree canopy
- maintaining and enhancing vegetation in local areas and protection of bushland reserves
- green spaces in activity centres.



Maroondah's **tree canopy cover** is 27.6% which is higher than the Greater Melbourne tree canopy cover of 15.3%<sup>1</sup>

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- worked in partnership to enhance a two kilometre section of Tarralla Creek through the Reimagining Tarralla Creek project
- developed the Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan and Maroondah Minimum Standards for Canopy Tree Provision
- connected community members with science and nature through the City Nature Challenge, Great Southern Bioblitz and Nature Play Week
- planted nearly 3,000 tube stock along Tarralla Creek during the Tarralla Creek Community Planting Day
- continued the annual planting program and garden bed refurbishment program, including the planting of around 25,000 tube stock during the 2021/22 planting season
- continued to work in partnership with volunteer groups to conserve bushland reserves and enhance their biodiversity
- continued the community garden volunteer program at Glen Park in Bayswater North
- continued Tarralla Creek enhancements, including water harvesting for surrounding sportsfields in Croydon.





*Reimagining Tarralla Creek*



*City Nature Challenge*



*Council Bushland Team annual planting*



40,708 **bushland, street and park trees** were planted in Maroondah by Council in 2021/22<sup>2</sup>



566 **plant species** have been recorded in Maroondah<sup>3</sup>



There are approximately 94,370 **street trees** in Maroondah<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Internal data for 2020/21 year

<sup>2</sup> Internal data for 2021/22 year

<sup>3</sup> Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030





## We want Maroondah to be **sustainable**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a sustainable community involves:

- working together to reduce Maroondah's greenhouse gas emissions
- initiatives that adapt and mitigate issues around climate change
- promoting local produce.

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- achieved the certification of Carbon Neutral by Climate Active
- developed the *Maroondah Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031* and supporting Sustainability Action Plan
- reviewed Council's existing Carbon Neutral Strategy in preparation for a new Climate Change Plan
- introduced Council's Environmentally Sustainable Design Local Planning Policy into the Maroondah Planning Scheme

- joined the Victorian Energy Collaboration comprising of 46 Victorian councils to switch to 100% renewable energy to power municipal offices, leisure centres, streetlights, and community buildings
- continued the Solar Savers Project to support Maroondah residents and businesses who would like to install rooftop solar and battery storage and require financial assistance
- worked in partnership with eight other councils in the eastern region as part of the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action to deliver regional programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation
- continued participation in the Eastern Alliance of Sustainable Learning to boost education about sustainability, environment and indigenous culture in education settings
- continued the Tarralla Creek project, including water harvesting for precinct sportsfields.





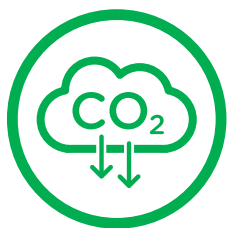
*EV Charging stations in Croydon Activity Centre Carpark*



*Sustainable house in Maroondah*



*Water Sensitive Urban Design image*



Council's **greenhouse gas emissions** reduced to 16,031 tonnes CO2-e in 2021/22<sup>1</sup>



Maroondah City Council has been certified as **carbon neutral** each year by Climate Active for its operations as a public statutory body since December 2020



Council purchases **100% renewable electricity** for Council's buildings with the highest energy use

<sup>1</sup> Internal data for 2021/22 year





## We want Maroondah to be **accessible**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that an accessible community involves:

- community facilities, events and services that are accessible to everyone
- accessible local neighbourhoods and activity centres.

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- developed the *Maroondah Disability Action Plan 2022-2026*
- completed a wide range of improvements as part of the Disability Discrimination Act Access Improvement Program
- completed a major play space transformation at McAlpin Reserve in Ringwood North, including the installation of inclusive play equipment
- undertaken renewal works and accessibility improvements in Laurence Grove, Ringwood East including construction of three indented disabled parking spaces adjacent to Knaith Road Reserve and construction of an accessible ramp to the Senior Citizens Centre
- completed pedestrian safety upgrades at the intersection of Laurence Grove and Railway Avenue, and at Eastfield Road in Ringwood East, and at Bond Street in Ringwood
- constructed over seven kilometres of footpaths in Maroondah's Principal Pedestrian Network in 2020/21 and 2021/22
- undertaken renewal works on the Mullum Mullum Creek shared trail
- completed walkability assessments for the Bedford Road, Burnt Bridge, McAdam Square and Ringwood North shopping centres
- chaired the Eastern Regional Trail Strategy Working Group which is responsible for providing specialist advice, information and recommendations about policy matters and project priorities relating to trails.





*Laurence Grove accessible improvements*



*Footpath construction*



*Walkability assessment*



Maroondah's **Principal Pedestrian Network** is approximately 647 kilometres of footpaths<sup>1</sup>



Maroondah has 83 kilometres of **bicycle lanes and shared paths**<sup>1</sup>



58% of the Maroondah community are satisfied with **local streets and footpaths** in Maroondah which is slightly higher than the Victorian average of 57%<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Internal data for 2021/22 year  
<sup>2</sup> Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 2022





## We want Maroondah to be **connected**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a connected community involves:

- improved access to active and sustainable transport options
- better networks of walking and cycling paths
- enhanced public transport systems and road networks.

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- worked with the Victorian Government to support planning for the removal of level crossings at Bedford Road, Ringwood; Dublin Road, Ringwood East and Coolstore Road, Croydon; and the construction of new stations at Ringwood East and Croydon
- completed the new activity centre carpark in Croydon
- continued to plan for the construction of the activity centre carpark in Ringwood
- worked in partnership with the Victorian Government to implement road improvement works at New Street, Ringwood, and the intersection of Reilly Street and Wantirna Road, Ringwood

- commenced infrastructure enhancement works at Eastfield Road in Ringwood East
- completed carpark improvement works at McAlpin Reserve, Ringwood North
- completed local area traffic management improvements including intersection and pedestrian safety upgrades, and traffic calming installations at various locations throughout Maroondah
- continued to deliver Council's annual road rehabilitation program
- undertaken a study of the Eastfield Road, Railway Avenue and Morinda Street intersection in Ringwood East to identify potential safety improvements
- continued to advocate for improvements to public transport in the Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP).



90.7% of Maroondah households/dwellings are within 200 metres of a **bicycle facility**<sup>1</sup> and/or 400 metres of a **bus stop** and/or 800 metres of a **train station**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A bicycle facility is infrastructure intended to be used by cyclists such as bicycle lanes, shared user paths, trails (where permitted), bicycle parking, repair stations, wayfinding signage





Level crossing removal concept design for Croydon station



Road enhancement at Eastfield Road, Ringwood East



Road improvement at New Street, Ringwood



1,386 **public transport services** (train and bus) operate on a daily basis in Maroondah<sup>2</sup>



58.7% of Maroondah households have access to two or more **motor vehicles** which is higher than the Victorian average of 55.3%<sup>3</sup>



98.7% of Maroondah's **sealed local roads** are maintained to condition standards which is higher than the average for Greater Melbourne councils of 96.4%<sup>4 5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Internal calculation for 2021/22 year

<sup>3</sup> 2021 ABS Census

<sup>4</sup> Internal data for 2021/22 year

<sup>5</sup> Know Your Council website data for 2021/22 year





## We want Maroondah to be **attractive**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that an attractive community involves:

- environmentally sustainable urban design and development
- protecting our heritage and retaining neighbourhood character.

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- continued to implement the Greening the Greyfields project to facilitate a sustainable approach to urban redevelopment in identified residential precincts in Maroondah
- continued to work in partnership to deliver Local Neighbourhood initiatives in Ringwood East and Croydon South
- adopted a new Maroondah Heritage Action Plan to ensure local heritage has greater protections
- completed the Maroondah Neighbourhood Character Review
- delivered open space enhancements at McAlpin and Yarrunga Reserves
- undertaken graffiti blitzes in Ringwood and Croydon town centres
- installed new signage and durable seating at parks and reserves throughout Maroondah.





*Heritage character*



*Seating upgrade at Paul Street, Croydon*



*Greening the Greyfields*



Maroondah has 652.8 hectares of **public open space**<sup>1</sup>



71% of the Maroondah community are satisfied with the **appearance of public areas** in Maroondah which is consistent with the Victorian average<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Internal data for 2021/22 year

<sup>2</sup> Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 2022





## We want Maroondah to be thriving and well built

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a thriving and well-built community involves:

- sensitively managing the density of Maroondah's urban form
- retaining the leafy character of our neighbourhoods
- enabling opportunities for the community to live, work and play locally.

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- implemented the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre Masterplan into the Maroondah Planning Scheme
- progressed the review and development of a new Croydon Structure Plan
- progressed the staged redevelopment of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct
- progressed the Dorset Recreation Reserve redevelopment to create a new multipurpose community and sports hub
- completed redevelopment of the Tarralla Kindergarten and Maternal Child Health Centre
- commenced construction of the Tarralla Creek Stormwater Harvesting Scheme in partnership with the Victorian Government, Yarra Valley Water and Melbourne Water
- delivered drainage improvement and flood mitigation works across Maroondah with a total value of over \$5 million in 2020/21 and 2021/22
- undertaken a flood mapping study of drainage catchments across Maroondah to better understand the risks and reduce the impacts of flooding.





*Flood mitigation works at Scenic Avenue, Ringwood East*



*Dorset Recreation Reserve*



*Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct concept design*



The **population density** for Maroondah is 19.3 persons per hectare<sup>1</sup>



There are over 510 **Council buildings and structures** in Maroondah<sup>2</sup>



76% of the Maroondah community are satisfied with the **recreational facilities** in Maroondah which is higher than the Victorian average of 69%<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Internal calculation for 2021/22 year

<sup>2</sup> Internal data for 2021/22 year

<sup>3</sup> Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 2022





## We want Maroondah to be **inclusive**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that an inclusive community involves:

- inclusive and accessible services, programs and facilities
- ensuring living in Maroondah remains safe and affordable
- vulnerable population groups being supported.

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- supported older people and vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 pandemic through delivered meals; additional welfare calls; working in partnership with support providers, agencies and volunteers to provide food relief; and the adaption of Kerrabee services to meet COVID-19 restrictions
- developed the *Maroondah Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025*
- continued to add female, unisex and accessible changing facilities at local sporting facilities throughout Maroondah

- continued to implement the *Children and Families Strategy* and Action Plan and *Youth Strategy* and Action Plan
- supported intergeneration connections between children and older people through programs such as GenConnect
- partnered with 12 other Councils in adopting a joint Homelessness Charter and advocacy campaign
- supported young people through a broad range of programs, services and events
- supported volunteer-based organisations and facilitated volunteerism within Maroondah
- continued participation as a signatory to the Local Government Women's Charter.



93.4% of Maroondah residents have **close friends or family** whom they talk to regularly which is lower than the Victorian average of 95.2%<sup>1</sup>





Pottery class at Wyreena



Walking sports Come and Try



Let's Get Neighbourly



46.7% of Maroondah residents agree that most **people in their neighbourhood could be trusted** which is higher than the Victorian average of 36.1%<sup>1</sup>



14.8% of Maroondah residents have **actively volunteered** in the last 12 months which is higher than the Victorian average of 13.3%<sup>2</sup>



24.9% of Maroondah residents **live in single or lone person households** which is lower than the Victorian average of 25.9%<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Victorian Population Health Survey 2020

<sup>2</sup> 2021 ABS Census



## We want Maroondah to be **diverse**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a diverse community involves:

- everyone feeling valued and empowered
- celebrating and embracing cultural diversity
- respect for our indigenous heritage and local indigenous communities.



734 people in Maroondah (0.6%) identify as **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander** which is lower than the Victorian average of 1.0%<sup>1</sup>

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- supported members of the community that faced language barriers during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing translated information on restrictions, relief packages, testing and vaccinations in different languages
- continued to implement the *Maroondah Reconciliation Action Plan*
- celebrated National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week
- proactively pursued a range of organisational initiatives to fulfil requirements of the new *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- displayed the Rainbow Flag at Croydon Civic and a virtual Pride Flag at Ringwood Town Square in support for, and commitment to, reducing the barriers faced by the LGBTIQ+ community
- provided supported playgroups and parent education sessions for culturally diverse groups
- collaborated with Narragunnawali and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to foster a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and culture at Maroondah Occasional Care
- held Australia Day events and citizenship ceremonies.





Occasional Care



Citizenship ceremony



473 **migrants and refugees** settled in Maroondah in 2020/21<sup>2</sup>



28.2% of Maroondah's residents were **born outside of Australia** which is lower than the Victorian average of 35.0%<sup>1</sup>



65.8% of Maroondah residents agree that **multiculturalism** makes life in their local area better which is higher than the Victorian average of 63.5%<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2021 ABS Census

<sup>2</sup> Department of Home Affairs Settlement Report 2020/21

<sup>3</sup> Victorian Population Health Survey 2020



## We want Maroondah to be **well governed**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a well governed community involves:

- transparent and accountable leadership
- accessible and responsive services.

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- implemented the *Maroondah COVID-19 Recovery Plan* and Council's relief and recovery response framework
- provided over \$116,000 in grant funding assistance to community organisations as part of the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grants Scheme and the COVID-19 Community Wellbeing Grants Scheme
- implemented the new *Local Government Act 2020*
- implemented Statutory Planning legislative and policy changes including the expansion of e-services for Statutory Planning
- updated Council's *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025*
- developed a new *Customer Service Strategy 2021-2025* that will continue to advance Council's commitment to be highly responsive and customer focused

- worked in partnership with the Victorian Electoral Commission to coordinate the Council election in October 2020 for the 2020-2024 term
- worked with the Maroondah community and elected representatives to prepare a renewed Community Vision and new Council Plan for the 2021-2025 period
- represented and advocated on key local issues on behalf of the Maroondah community, including in the lead up to the Federal Government election in May 2022
- implemented a comprehensive Integrity Framework to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption and to ensure compliance with legislation.



65% of the Maroondah community are satisfied with Council's **overall performance** which is higher than the Victorian average of 59%<sup>1</sup>





Supported small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic



Domestic Animal Management Plan



Local Government Act 2020 changes



72% of the Maroondah community are satisfied with Council's **customer service** which higher than the Victorian average of 68%<sup>1</sup>



Council's **internal financing** is at 113.8% illustrating Council's effectiveness in generating sufficient cash flows<sup>2</sup>



61% of the Maroondah community are satisfied that Council is providing **value for money** which is higher than the Victorian average of 59%<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 2022

<sup>2</sup> Internal data for 2021/22 year



## We want Maroondah to be **empowered**

### Aspirations of the Maroondah community

In reviewing Maroondah 2040, our community said that a empowered community involves:

- collaboration with the community and the establishment of partnerships
- access to timely and relevant information
- increased community involvement in decision making
- council advocating on behalf of the community.



53.5% of Maroondah residents feel **valued by society** which is higher than the Victorian average of 51.6%<sup>1</sup>

### A snapshot of recent achievements

Over the past two years, Council has:

- sought extensive input from the Maroondah community, local agencies and businesses on needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic to inform recovery responses and changes to Council service delivery
- provided up-to-date essential information to the Maroondah community during the COVID-19 pandemic via Council's website (including a live chat function), social media channels, and printed publications
- developed a referral service – *MaroondahConnect* – to helps residents access a range of vital emotional, practical and social programs during the COVID-19 pandemic
- developed and implemented a new *Community Engagement Policy* and updated the community engagement online portal
- sought strategic input and advice from the Maroondah community through seven Council advisory committees
- engaged the community in developing Council's strategies and plans
- established a range of services, programs and events to build leadership skills and empower children and young people.





Maroondah Festival Cafe Consult



Your Say Maroondah



Maroondah City Council publications



59% of the Maroondah community is satisfied with Council's **community consultation** and engagement which is higher than the Victorian average of 54%<sup>1</sup>



56% of the Maroondah community is satisfied with Council's **lobbying on behalf of the community** which is higher than the Victorian average of 53%<sup>2</sup>



62% of the Maroondah community is satisfied with Council keeping the **community informed** which is slightly higher than the Victorian average of 61%<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Victorian Population Health Survey 2020

<sup>2</sup> Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey 2022



## A safe, healthy and active community

Indicator	Most recent result		Goal/Target
	Year	Result	
Percentage of Maroondah residents who agree that they feel safe when walking alone at night	2014/15	47.0%	↑
Offence rate per 100,000 population in Maroondah	2021/22	6,246	↓
Percentage of Maroondah residents reporting their health as very good or excellent	2019/20	40.1%	↑
Subjective Wellbeing Index for Maroondah residents	2014/15	76.6%	↑
Maroondah resident satisfaction with life as a whole	2019/20	76.3%	↑
Percentage of Maroondah residents who are sufficiently physically active	2016/17	58.0%	↑



## A prosperous and learning community

Indicator	Most recent result		Goal/Target
	Year	Result	
Unemployment rate for Maroondah	2021/22	3.7%	↓
Economic output for Maroondah	2020/21	\$16.2B	↑
Number of businesses in Maroondah	2020/21	9,571	↑
Herfindahl Index for Maroondah	2020/21	1,804	↓
Median weekly household income in Maroondah	2021/22	\$1,867	↑
Percentage of preschool aged children in Maroondah attending a government funded kindergarten service	2018/19	88.4%	↑
Maroondah school leavers actively undertaking education, training or employment	2020/21	95.4%	↑
Percentage of Maroondah residents with Bachelor or higher degree	2015/16	24.2%	↑





## A vibrant and culturally rich community

Indicator	Most recent result		Goal/Target
	Year	Result	
Visitors to the Ringwood arts precinct (ArtSpace at Realm, Maroondah Federation Estate) and Wyreena	2021/22	135,792	↑
Participants in arts and culture activities in the Ringwood arts precinct and Wyreena	2021/22	4,195	↑
Individual Maroondah artists/arts and cultural groups supported to produce and present their work	2021/22	159	↑
Local artists/community members participating in arts networks and related events	2021/22	83	↑



## A clean, green and sustainable community

Indicator	Most recent result		Goal/Target
	Year	Result	
Percentage of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill	2021/22	55.5%	↑
Maroondah's tree canopy cover	2020/21	27.6%	Maintain
Total area of natural habitat in Maroondah	2018/19	728.5	Maintain
Council's greenhouse gas emissions	2020/21	16,031	↓
Community perception of Council's performance in relation to environmental sustainability	2021/22	62	↑



## An accessible and connected community

Indicator	Most recent result		Goal/Target
	Year	Result	
Percentage of households / dwellings that are within 200 metres of a bicycle facility and/or 400 metres of a bus and/or 800 metres of a train station	2021/22	90.7%	↑
Daily average commute time of a Maroondah resident	2017/18	22.68 min	↓
Daily number of public transport services operating in Maroondah	2021/22	1,386	↑
Percentage of journeys (for all purposes) by Maroondah residents using sustainable transport (public transport, walking, cycling)	2017/18	19.1%	↑
Kilometres of bicycle lanes and shared paths in Maroondah	2021/22	83km	↑
Average number of cars owned by a Maroondah household	2021/22	1.7	↓
Average Maroondah Pavement Condition Index	2021/22	7.1	↑
Kilometres of constructed footpaths in Maroondah's Principal Pedestrian Network	2021/22	3.1	↑



## An attractive, thriving and well built community

Indicator	Most recent result		Goal/Target
	Year	Result	
Public open space in Maroondah (hectares)	2021/22	652.8	Maintain
Community satisfaction with the appearance of public areas	2021/22	71	↑
Community satisfaction with Council's general town planning policy	2021/22	57	↑
Maroondah population per hectare	2021/22	19.3	N/A
Community satisfaction with planning for population growth	Future measure		
RMIT Liveability Index rating	Future measure		
Percentage of Maroondah residents that work in Maroondah	2015/16	26.3%	↑
Percentage of residential properties in Maroondah at risk of flooding	2019/20	8.9%	↓
Council building projects achieve minimum 5 Star certified (\$5m+) or equivalent (\$3m-5m) Green Star – Design & As Built rating	Future measure		





## An inclusive and diverse community

Indicator	Most recent result		Goal/Target
	Year	Result	
Percentage of Maroondah households in the lowest 40% of incomes who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on housing costs	2015/16	10.2%	↓
Percentage of private rental properties in Maroondah that are affordable to people on statutory incomes	2020/21	2.3%	↑
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of Maroondah	2015/16	9	↑
Percentage of Maroondah residents who agree people are willing to help in their neighbourhood	2014/15	96.8%	↑
Percentage of Maroondah residents who agree they live in a close-knit neighbourhood	2014/15	91.9%	↑
Percentage of Maroondah residents who agree people in their neighbourhood can be trusted	2019/20	92.0%	↑
Percentage of residents who actively volunteer	2021/22	15.4%	↑
Number of migrants and refugees settling in Maroondah	2020/21	473	N/A



## A well governed and empowered community

Indicator	Most recent result		Goal/Target
	Year	Result	
Community satisfaction with council (overall performance)	2021/22	65	↑
Community satisfaction with council decisions	2021/22	59	↑
Net result	2021/22	9.34%	> 0%
Liquidity ratio	2021/22	2.01	> 1.0
Internal financing	2021/22	113.80%	> 100%
Indebtedness	2021/22	40.14%	≤ 40%
Capital replacement ratio	2021/22	1.89	> 1.5
Renewal gap ratio	2021/22	1.35	> 1.0
Employee satisfaction	Future Measure		
Community satisfaction with Council customer service	2021/22	72	↑
Community satisfaction with consultation and engagement	2021/22	59	↑
Community satisfaction with Council informing the community	2021/22	62	↑
Community satisfaction with Council lobbying on behalf of the community	2021/22	56	↑

# What we are currently working on...

The *Council Plan 2021-2025* highlights the range of key priority actions to be delivered over the 2021-2025 period that will help work towards delivering the community vision outlined in *Maroondah 2040 – Our future together*. Some key Council priorities through to 2024/25 include:



## Safe, healthy and active community

- Continue to monitor the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and provide responses aligned to community needs.
- Design and construct sporting infrastructure upgrades at Jubilee (regional cricket hub), Proclamation, Springfield, Cheong and Ainslie Parks, and at Dorset Recreation, Silcock and JW Manson Reserves.
- Review, update and implement Council's Physical Activity Strategy, and develop and implement an Indoor Sports Facilities (basketball, netball and volleyball) Strategy.
- Finalise and implement the *Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031* (including the *Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2021-2023* and *Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025*).
- Work in partnership with a broad range of service providers and agencies, to develop and deliver services and cultural experiences in the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct.



## Prosperous and learning community

- Advance planning and implementation of local neighbourhood initiatives, including completion of a strategic review of shopping centres in Maroondah.
- Work in partnership to implement the *Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy* and investigate and implement opportunities to enhance business capability, skill development, employment and education pathways for the manufacturing sector.
- Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to plan for and support the rollout of funded three-year-old kindergarten in Maroondah.
- Facilitate co-working opportunities and spaces in Maroondah.





Maroondah Edge - Jubilee Park





## Vibrant and culturally rich community

- Design the Karralyka Centre redevelopment, and undertake staged redevelopment works.
- Implement the *Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025* and work with the Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee to maximise arts and cultural opportunities across Maroondah.



## Clean, green and sustainable community

- Work in partnership to implement the Reimagining Tarralla Creek project.
- Review, update and implement Council's Sustainability Strategy, and Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy.
- Review, update and implement Council's Carbon Neutral Strategy, including participation in the power purchasing agreement.
- Develop and implement Council's *Waste, Litter and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030*.
- Prepare and implement a Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Action Plan.
- Implement a streetscape enhancement program, including a significant increase in tree planting.



## Accessible and connected community

- Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to implement road improvement works at New Street Ringwood, Reilly Street and Wantirna Road Ringwood, Eastfield Road Ringwood East, and Plymouth Road and Kirtain Drive Croydon; and undertake carpark improvement works at McAlpin Reserve Ringwood North and Dorset Recreation Reserve Croydon.
- Design and construct activity centre carparks in Croydon and Ringwood.
- Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to support the removal of level crossings at Bedford Road Ringwood, Dublin Road Ringwood East and Coolstore Road Croydon; and the construction of new stations at Ringwood East and Croydon.
- Advocate to the Australian and Victorian Governments for provision of new and upgraded major transportation infrastructure in Maroondah, including public transport enhancements.
- Work in partnership to undertake renewal works on the Mullum Mullum Creek and Colchester Road shared trails; and continue footpath construction in the Principal Pedestrian Network.





## Attractive, thriving and well built community

- Develop a new Croydon Structure Plan and prepare a planning scheme amendment to incorporate the policy into the Maroondah Planning Scheme.
- Work in partnership to implement the Greening the Greyfields project to facilitate a sustainable approach to urban redevelopment in identified residential precincts.
- Undertake the staged redevelopment of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct.
- Undertake flood mitigation works in New Street, Ringwood, Sherbrook Avenue catchment in Ringwood, and Scenic Avenue and Wingate Avenue catchments in Ringwood East; and work in partnership to develop flood mitigation solutions for central Croydon.



## An inclusive and diverse community

- Work in partnership to support volunteer-based organisations and facilitate volunteerism within Maroondah.
- Investigate and implement additional female changing facilities at local sporting venues.
- Implement the *Children and Families Strategy* and Action Plan; and the *Youth Strategy* and Action Plan.
- Implement the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, including Council's Gender Equality Action Plan.
- Continue to monitor and respond to Australian Government Aged Care Reforms to ensure that Council services adapt appropriately to meet current and future community needs.



## Well governed and empowered community

- Implement the new *Local Government Act 2020*.
- Develop and implement a new Customer Service Strategy that will continue to advance Council's commitment to be highly responsive and customer focused.
- Deliver a broad range of Council services to meet current and future community needs along with sustainable management of Maroondah's resources, assets and environment.
- Engage the community in undertaking a review of *Maroondah 2040 - Our future together* and prepare a new *Council Plan 2025-2029* following election of a new Council.
- Work in partnership with the Victorian Electoral Commission to coordinate a Council Election in October 2024 for the 2024-2028 period.
- Implement the Council Caretaker Policy for the Council election in October 2024 and transition to the new Council following the election.







**To contact Council**






- phone 1300 88 22 33 or (03) 9298 4598
- SMS 0480 020 200
- visit our website at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)
- email [maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

**Translating and Interpreter Service**

13 14 50

**National Relay Service (NRS)**

13 36 77

-  MaroondahCityCouncil
-  maroondahcitycouncil
-  Maroondah City Council
-  CityofMaroondah
-  Maroondah City Council

