

Strathmore

Our 20-Minute Neighbourhood

20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program



Creating a city of 20-minute neighbourhoods

Neighbourhoods are the foundation of our city — they are the places where we live, connect and build communities.

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 is a long-term plan to accommodate Melbourne’s future growth in population.

The 20-minute neighbourhood concept is a key principle of the strategy. It is all about ‘living locally’ — giving people the ability to meet most of their everyday needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with access to safe cycling and local public transport options.

Research shows that 20 minutes is the maximum time people are willing to walk to meet their daily needs locally.¹

These needs include local health facilities and services, local schools and local shopping centres. This represents an 800m walk from home to a service or destination, and back again.

This distance is a guide as there are many factors that influence people’s ability or willingness to walk.

To make Strathmore a more liveable place, people should have access to the 20-minute neighbourhood features within 800 metres from home.

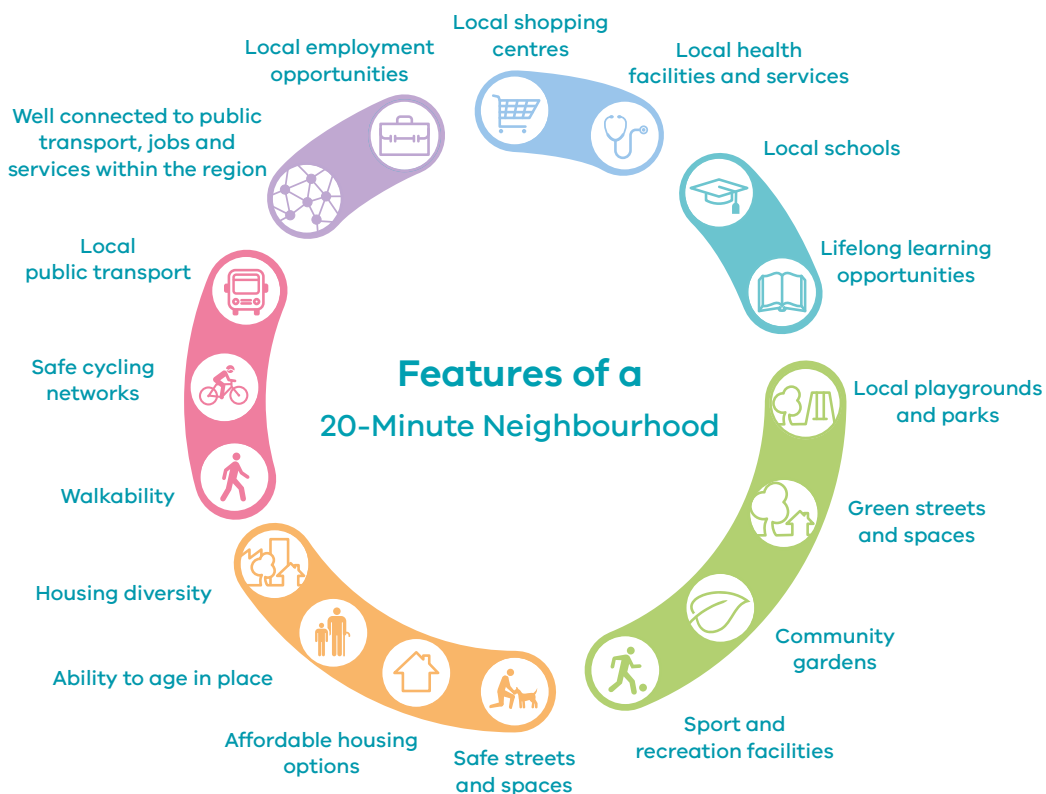


Figure 1 Features of a 20-minute neighbourhood
Source: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program

The Victorian Government is working in partnership with local government to test the implementation of 20-minute neighbourhoods in three Neighbourhood Activity Centres in Melbourne.

This report outlines the approach taken in the Strathmore project, delivered in partnership with Moonee Valley City Council, Victoria Walks and the Heart Foundation (Victoria).

The purpose of the project was to identify opportunities to improve liveability and start the process of creating a 20-minute neighbourhood in Strathmore.

The pilot program and this report are important in developing local solutions to address global and metropolitan sustainable development challenges.

20-minute neighbourhood 'hallmarks'

Plan Melbourne outlines the 'hallmarks' of a 20-minute neighbourhood.

The purpose of the Strathmore project was to identify opportunities to deliver on the hallmarks.

To deliver on the hallmarks Strathmore must:

- be safe, accessible and well connected for pedestrians and cyclists to optimise active transport
- offer high-quality public realm and open space
- provide services and destinations that support local living
- facilitate access to quality public transport that connects people to jobs and higher-order services
- deliver housing/population at densities that make local services and transport viable
- facilitate thriving local economies.

The Strathmore project was delivered in three stages

1.1 Community partnerships

Place-based engagement to understand community concerns and capture their ideas.

1.2 Technical assessments

Technical assessments undertaken on walkability, transport network, land use, housing density and vegetation cover.

1.3 Future opportunities

Initiatives and infrastructure opportunities identified for the neighbourhood.



Let's Make A Park, Community Group
Image courtesy of Moonee Valley
City Council



Let's Make A Park, Strathmore

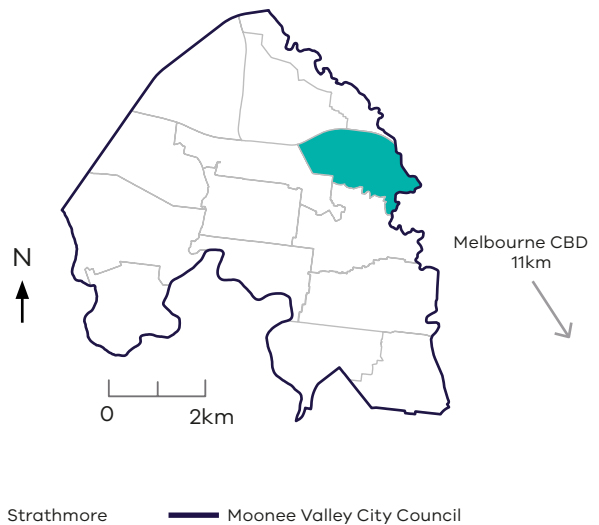
Strathmore

Neighbourhood context

Strathmore is located approximately 9km from Melbourne CBD in Moonee Valley City Council. The neighbourhood is serviced by the Strathmore Railway Station (Craigieburn line), bus route 512 (East Coburg-Strathmore) and the Moonee Ponds Creek shared path (strategic cycling network).

Strathmore has access to public open space including Cross Keys Reserve and Napier Reserve. These reserves are connected by Woodland Street, the main street that runs through the neighbourhood. Woodland Street is a busy street for traffic, which dominates parts of the neighbourhood, including areas around the local shops.

The Woodland Street Shops are a primary destination in the neighbourhood, with a range of shops including a café, a bakery, pharmacy and hairdresser. There is currently a limited mix of retail services.



By 2040, Strathmore will need to accommodate an increased number of young families and people aged over 65+ years. Council plans for Strathmore to have a lively and accessible station precinct with excellent walking and cycling networks.

Moderate population growth is expected to be 0.7% per annum in Strathmore, which is lower when compared to the Moonee Valley average of 1.9%. New housing in Strathmore is therefore needed, this will likely be accommodated by infill development and pockets of medium-density development around Woodland Street Shops.

The 20-minute neighbourhood concept is all about 'living locally'

Strathmore strategic directions

Moonee Valley 2040 (MV2040) is Moonee Valley City Council's long-term plan for improving local health, vibrancy and resilience.

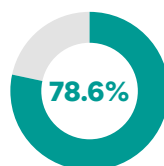
MV2040 identifies and plans for thirteen walkable 20-minute neighbourhoods, including Strathmore. These form the key focus of the strategy. For each neighbourhood, the strategy provides a vision, identifies community anchor/s, discussion about expected change and growth, and outlines a series of implementation initiatives.

The aim is that by 2040 Strathmore will:

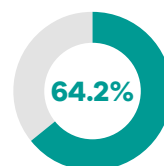
- be an attractive and safe residential neighbourhood
- enjoy an accessible and lively Strathmore Station precinct
- boast a family-friendly Napier Street community anchor with a strong village feel
- connect with a revitalised and naturalised Moonee Ponds Creek corridor
- include an excellent network of cycling and walking paths within the neighbourhood and connect to adjoining areas, supporting an active and healthy community
- have well-planned and integrated community facilities in the Loeman Street precinct.

Community health profile

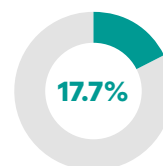
The following physical, mental and social indicators for Moonee Valley City Council residents are considered relevant for Strathmore:



Agree that people in their neighbourhood are willing to help each other

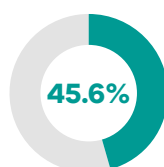


Feel that they live in a close-knit neighbourhood

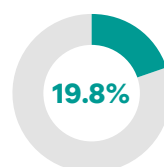


Do not engage in physical activity during the week

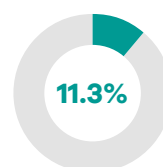
The three most popular non-organised physical activities in Moonee Valley are walking, running and cycling. The popularity of these forms of physical activity indicates the community's desire for the neighbourhood to be safe, accessible and well connected for pedestrians and cyclists to optimise active transport.



Walk



Run



Cycle



**'I have been blown away
by the community support.'**

Meet a local business owner

Eva, local artist and owner of Ceramica Mechanica

My partner and I are living our dream in Strathmore. As artists, we found the perfect warehouse space where we are able to live, create and make a living from our art, as well as connect with the community through running classes, workshops and even children's parties.

I grew up in this area and attended Strathmore Primary and High School. After moving away for 15 years I never imagined I would be back and really enjoying being part of the community again. I love that I still run into people from my past and see many familiar faces in the neighbourhood. In fact, the lovely ladies in the corner cafe used to serve me hot chocolate after school from when I was 12 years old!

I moved back to Strathmore two years ago and the business has been up and running now for six months. During that time, I have been blown away by the amount of community support we have received. We had an official opening event in November where many local people, friends and family turned up to show their support and I sold 38 pieces of my artwork that night.

I feel a lot of support from people who live close by and I love meeting locals who come to my classes and workshops. I have local mums who come down to the warehouse and get creative after feeding the kids and putting them to bed.

There are also lots of community members who come to classes after work, where they can get messy, relax, have fun and clear their minds on the potter's wheel.

People chat to me all the time when they pass by, especially when I am out the front of the warehouse in our garden. It is important to me to know my neighbours and I love all the older people from the Mediterranean. They come and look at my veggie garden and give me seeds and lots of great gardening advice. I also have two local people who sell their home-grown plants through my business by displaying them in my ceramic pots.

I have also enjoyed forming relationships and connections with other businesses around me. I recently had 40 students from Strathmore High visit the warehouse on a school excursion and Rhonda from the corner cafe came up with the great idea to create beautiful ceramic travel cups, which she can sell out of her business.

Our business is a dream come true. I can't believe we get to operate out of such a high-profile space in the centre of Strathmore, close to friends and family and supported by such an amazing community! I don't think I could have had this opportunity anywhere else.



'It has been great seeing the community get involved.'

Meet a local student

Isabelle, local student and Let's Make a Park volunteer

I recently started volunteering with a local group called 'Let's Make a Park'. The group is all about transforming unused urban space into wonderful green parks for the community to use and enjoy.

I found out about the group through the Moonee Valley Youth Council, which I am a member of. The people who set up and run that group, Adam and Michael, came and presented to the Youth Council and were looking for people who might be interested in participating. Their presentation really sparked my interest and made me aware of the lack of green public spaces, especially for young people to use in Strathmore.

The first project for Let's Make a Park has been to transform space outside Strathmore Train Station. We have put in seeding options, garden beds and have created a huge colourful art mural. In March, we hosted a community launch event in the park to celebrate the space and to bring the community together.

We are now working on implementing some creative safety fencing around the space as well as a community watering system, where people can pick up a watering can and quickly water the garden beds as they pass by.

This new green space was also the location of a community event - the Strathmore Street Party delivered in June.

It has been great seeing the community get involved and behind the project. There have been many local people who have volunteered their time to help transform the park. We have also had great feedback from the community. I think the project has really opened up people's minds about what is a park and how these types of spaces can be used.

This project has also opened up my mind as well. I now look at spaces differently and can see the potential from a sustainability and environmental side of things. When I walk to school I pass between the train line and the creek. This area, especially under the freeway is quite run down and there is a lot of concrete. I think it could be turned into an amazing space and the creek could be transformed into more of a natural environment.

Through this project I have learnt so many new skills. It has helped me expand my leadership and communication skills, it has given me more confidence and it has taught me the wonders of engagement with the community and bringing people together.

I'm really proud of our new park and what we have produced and I'm excited looking forward to what we will tackle next and what we can do to make Strathmore a better and more connected place.



Strathmore project

Strathmore Street Party. Image by Chatterbox Projects.

1 Community partnerships

A community partnership approach underpinned the project. This reflects the need to strengthen community participation in planning our for neighbourhoods.

The project empowered a broad range of local people to take a partnering role to support the project and help shape the changes they want to see in their neighbourhoods.

To build a community partnership, council engaged existing key community groups:

- Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and 5 Mile Creek — who work to improve biodiversity
- Neighbourhood Watch — who work to prevent crime by promoting strong community ties
- Rotary Club of Strathmore — who have served the broader community for more than 30 years
- Let's Make a Park project — a student-led initiative seeking to activate underused public space.

Council delivered a series of different activities to test a community partnership approach to neighbourhood planning.

Community Workshop

An initial workshop was held with a wide range of local organisations, including sports clubs, walking groups, men's shed's, traders and others. The ABCD (strengths based community development) model was used for this workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to understand the key issues for the community.

Key themes that came out of this were:

- Residents highly value public open spaces
- Social isolation is a risk for older people
- Lack of opportunity to connect with community.

Stories of Strathmore

Stories of local business owners and residents were celebrated as part of the project. Council value the role of storytelling as a way of engaging communities, because it enhances the sense of community and belonging.

The project provided an opportunity to undertake this approach. Ten stories highlighting the contribution of individuals to the Strathmore community through story boards were produced. The story boards were posted up on the exterior of businesses providing interesting insights of local traders and community members.



Big Ideas Workshop

Following the community workshop, attendees were invited to a workshop to develop ideas for how to practically implement initiatives and link into the Council's grant process.

Youth Engagement Workshop

Workshops were held with young people from Strathmore Secondary College and led by Council's Youth Development team through one-on-one focus groups. The activity involved students mapping places of interest, places they feel safe or unsafe, and priority walking routes.

Community billboard

The billboard generated awareness and promotion of the 'Strathmore 20-Minute Neighbourhood' project. There were four rotating designs over the 12-month period. The billboards promoted the wider 'Strathmore, my neighbourhood' concept and linked to the 'Strathmore Neighbourhood' council website. The first billboard invited residents along to the Strathmore Street Party.



Strathmore 20-minute neighbourhood billboard



Strathmore Street Party

A local youth group, called 'Let's Make A Park,' created a pop-up park outside Strathmore train station. It was launched with a street party in June 2018. Over 400 people — community members, council officers, members of community organisations and local traders — attended the event.

The open nature of the event allowed council to engage on a range of local issues and projects.

A 'listening post' was hosted as part of the Strathmore Street Party to consult the community on major projects across Council.

This included:

- The Moonee Ponds Creek 'Chain of Ponds' Strategy' (City Design Team)
- Woodlands Street Traffic Treatments (Traffic and Transport teams).

Feedback regarding major projects was positive, and will be incorporated into subsequent stages of project delivery. The consultation process was successful in gaining input from a larger range of people covering a range of issues, as opposed to single issue based consultations.

The street party confirmed the following community priorities for Strathmore:

- The value of local parks and open spaces
- The need to provide further opportunities for residents to connect with one another and community groups
- The need to improve walkability and pedestrian amenity.

'I love how we can create a new feel for the neighbourhood with a little bit of paint, hard work and community involvement.'

JESS

CrowdSpot

CrowdSpot is an online engagement platform that enabled the Strathmore community to spatially map neighbourhood ideas, issues and favourite spots in Strathmore. This enabled localised feedback and community insights that will shape future priorities for Strathmore.



413
total responses

'There are underutilised shops for a 20-minute neighbourhood. There is an opportunity to encourage more retail/cafés to use these spaces before they all become residential.'
RESIDENT

Key community recommendations include:

- Investigate crossing improvements at Woodland St (Strathmore Station), Napier St and Upland Rd and Woodland St (St Vincent de Paul Primary)
- Preserve existing public open space valued by the community
- Explore opportunities to create a greater sense of place at underutilised retail and community facilities in the neighbourhood (Columbian Mission Property, Lebanon St shops, etc.).

'Attempting to safely cross Woodland and North Ave to access Strathmore Station is very dangerous. Vehicles speed in both directions and visibility in both directions is very poor. There is no safe way to cross. I refuse to allow my kids to cross here as it just isn't safe.'
LISA

Strathmore Neighbourhood web page

The Strathmore neighbourhood page was developed for this project. It has four sections, which are 'about the neighbourhood,' 'what's on' in the neighbourhood, 'engaging' and 'connecting.'

It included information about what is a 20-minute neighbourhood and general information about the project, a calendar of Council run activities, ways to provide feedback and get involved.

Strathmore Movie Night

After the successful street party a consistent theme emerged that the community wanted more social events. The idea of a movie night was raised by local children and subsequently organised. The movie night maintained the momentum created by the initial event, and a high turnout demonstrated the success of local place-making. This event although not set up as part of the engagement process, gave council officers the chance to informally engage with people that they might not normally hear from.





Coffee with a Cop

Victoria Police were interested in being involved in the project. DELWP and councils explored ways to involve police to address safety in neighbourhoods. Council and Victoria Police developed the 'Coffee with a Cop' initiative, which provided an opportunity for the community to meet with local police officers and chat about local concerns informally over a cup of coffee. The session improved the community's connection with local police officers and helped to strengthen local perceptions of safety.

Key learnings from the community partnership approach

Moonee Valley City Council identified these key learnings from the range of events and activities:

- The Strathmore Stories project was a successful and popular project and seen as a great example of highlighting local leadership and achievements.
- Community mobilisers and networks were fundamental to spreading the word about activities and events.
- The place-making events were community-led but required facilitation by council.
- Community spirit and connections were strengthened.
- Council was able to work with local traders to run events that supported local businesses which often led to additional events and activities for the community.
- Place-making projects work best when they are built on existing community energy and community groups such as 'Let's Make a Park.' It's important to find these groups and value add rather than start from nothing.
- Consultations often work best when they coincide with community events and/or fun activities; for example, those that were undertaken at the street party and movie night.
- Council needs to support a gradual approach to building the community's capacity to lead their own events.
- Local places of interest cannot be undervalued by council, as often this is where the community meets, socialises and celebrates together; for example, the Strathmore baseball club and the 500+ people that came to celebrate the pavilion opening and the movie night.



STRATHMORE	ONGOING	2018-2021	2022-2025	2026-2030	2031-2040+	COST \$
146. Deliver a community hub at Loeman Street precinct					+	\$\$\$
147. Implement Stage 2 of the Strathmore Children's Centre		-				\$
149. Investigate the potential application of the Airport Environs Overlay			+			\$
148. Improve pedestrian and cyclist safety around Strathmore Secondary College		+				\$
76. Revitalise the Moonee Ponds Creek through naturalisation, flood mitigation, stormwater harvesting and reuse			+			\$
149. Install the Cross Keys Reserve stormwater harvesting, treatment and irrigation scheme					+	\$
150. Install the Five Mile Creek bioretention scheme					+	\$
151. Beautify and activate Strathmore Station and surrounding retail areas					+	\$
152. Create a green boulevard on Woodland Street				+		\$
153. Implement the master plans for Five Mile Creek, Salmon Reserve and Cross Keys Reserve				+		\$\$
154. Undertake landscape improvements to Alf Pearce Reserve, Loeman Street precinct and Napier Park (according to the management plan)				+		\$\$
155. Implement the future master plan for Moonee Ponds Creek					+	\$\$

+ FAIR
 + THRIVING
 + CONNECTED
 + GREEN
 + BEAUTIFUL



MOONEE VALLEY CITY COUNCIL MV2040 STRATEGY

Moonee Valley City Council approach to neighbourhood planning

Each council will approach the concept of neighbourhood planning according to its own strategic directions and capacity.

Sometimes the challenge is knowing where to start and how to make the biggest impact. Moonee Valley City Council has grouped neighbourhood planning into themes under 'People, Place and Us'. These themes have been established to create a clear framework for categorising projects, as shown below.

People

Projects and programs used directly by the community

- Community-led projects to activate places
- Responsive events, festivals, programs and projects
- Focus on neighbourhood activities at a neighbourhood level
- Activate a pilot site

Place

Natural and built-form projects and programs

- 20-minute neighbourhood — walkability improvements
- Transport — infrastructure improvements
- Open space, Pavilions
- Hubs, Libraries
- Early Years facilities
- Local shops

Us

Tools, systems and relationships

- Understanding community needs
- Capturing data
- Integrating planning and collaboration
- Engagement tools
- Communications, e.g. Valley View Portal

2 Technical assessments

To support a whole-of-government evidence-based approach to the project, DELWP facilitated the preparation of technical assessments for Strathmore. This included transport, housing, health and vegetation assessments.

Healthy Active by Design

The Heart Foundation was a project partner, they work to improve heart disease prevention and care. A key way to achieve this is through improved physical activity by promoting walking, cycling and other forms of physical activity.

Work undertaken by the Heart Foundation aligns closely with 20-minute neighbourhoods, in particular the Healthy Active by Design guidelines, which were developed as practical guide to create healthy neighbourhoods.

These guidelines were used to inform the delivery of the project and were adapted into a 20-Minute Neighbourhood Scorecard, which was used to identify opportunities in **Stage 3 Future opportunities**. This simplified scorecard will be developed into a useful tool for other councils.

[For more information on the Healthy Active by Design guidelines visit here](#)

Walkability assessment

Victoria Walks is an independent health organisation that advocates for safe, accessible and connected environments that encourage walking.

In June 2018, Victoria Walks conducted a neighbourhood walking assessment of Strathmore to identify pedestrian infrastructure issues.

The assessment provided preliminary recommendations including to:

- Replace the existing school crossing with a raised zebra crossing
- Undertake a holistic urban design exercise to create a sense of destination, improve amenity, and facilitate safe crossing of Pascoe Vale Road
- Reduce the general speed limit to improve safety
- Install wayfinding signage on key routes to the centre.

[To see the full walkability assessment visit here](#)

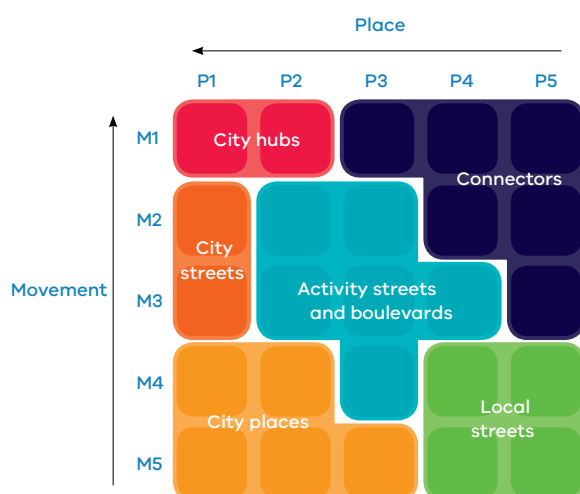
Movement and Place assessment

Movement and Place is a new Department of Transport road-management framework for Victoria. It recognises the role streets play not only in moving people and goods, but also in contributing to the places where people live, work and play. It integrates planning and transport and will be used as a framework to support transport decision-making.

An assessment was undertaken for Strathmore, which was one of the first times the new framework was tested at the local level. Based on this assessment the following design objectives were identified for Strathmore:

- Support the improvement to cycling infrastructure on Woodland Road
- Support streetscape improvements in Strathmore
- Strongly support safe walking and cycling access to the Strathmore Interchange/Train Station
- Strongly support improvements to pedestrian safety and amenity on Woodland Street and Pascoe Vale Road.

This assessment supports the delivery of 20-minute neighbourhoods and much of the planning work previously undertaken by council.



[For information on the methodology, visit here](#)

Housing development assessment

Housing development data provided information on the number and location of existing dwellings, vacant residential land, and recent residential development across all land in Victoria.

Housing stock in Strathmore is characterised by single detached dwellings, 78% of dwelling stock. While there is some moderate density residential housing on Pascoe Vale Road, the area is low density with 17 dwellings per hectare.

There is currently limited housing growth and diversity to support moderate population increases over the next two decades. MV2040 identified Strathmore needs to accommodate between 0.7 to 1% increase in dwellings, an addition of between 394 to 594 households. It must also provide a 15.8% increase in one-person households by 2040. This presents a challenge with existing supply of large single detached dwellings. To give people the ability to age in place and access affordable housing options, there needs to be a review of residential zoning in Strathmore.

Research shows that a minimum housing density of 25 dwellings per hectare is needed to deliver a more walkable neighbourhood.²

Facilitate an increased percentage of new housing in established areas to create a city of 20-minute neighbourhoods close to existing services, jobs and public transport.

POLICY 2.1.2. PLAN MELBOURNE

Vegetation assessment and heat vulnerability assessment

The urban heat-island effect is created by the built environment absorbing, trapping and, in some cases, directly emitting heat. This effect can cause cities to be up to four degrees Celsius hotter than surrounding non-urban areas.³

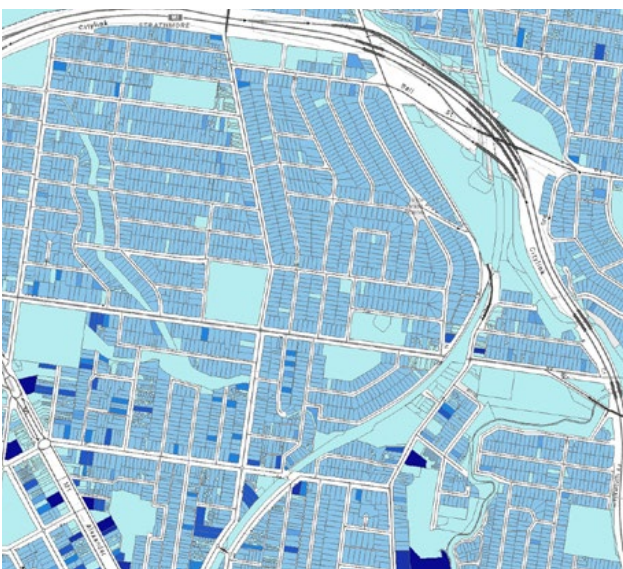
Increasing the vegetation cover and greening the city can provide cooling benefits and improve the community's resilience to extreme heatwaves. Urban greening and street trees remove pollution. An increase in tree cover by 10%, can reduce energy needed for heating and cooling by 5 to 10%.⁴ Greenery can improve shade for walking and generally improve the public realm of neighbourhoods.

Vegetation and heat mapping for Strathmore was provided by DELWP. The mapping demonstrated low vegetation canopy cover (less than 30%) and high heat vulnerability surrounding the Strathmore Train station and surrounding Napier Street.

To reduce heat vulnerability associated with low canopy cover, continued protection of existing vegetation is required. Future investment is also needed to increase support of an urban forest.

Support a cooler Melbourne by greening urban areas, buildings, transport corridors and open spaces to create an urban forest.

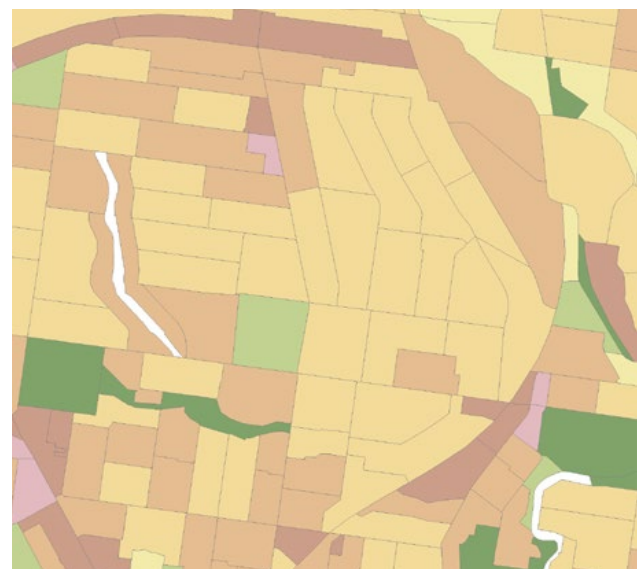
POLICY 6.4.1. PLAN MELBOURNE



Housing Development Data Stock 2016

0 1 2 10+ Dwellings per lot

0 200m N



Percentage Vegetation Cover 2018

10-20 20-30 30-40 40-60 50-60 60+ % 0 200m N

3 Strathmore future opportunities

This section brings all the work from the Strathmore project together, it draws on community feedback and the technical assessments.

The 20-minute neighbourhood features (see figure 1) have been used as the basis for a range of opportunities to improve liveability and support people to live locally in Strathmore.

These opportunities reflect community ideas that will be a starting point in a local approach to delivering a 20-minute neighbourhood in Strathmore. These opportunities reflect community feedback and technical assessments. They are not formal funding commitments.



References

- 1 Badland H, Whitzman C, Lowe M, Davern M, Aye L, Butterworth I, Hes, D and Giles-Corti B 2014, Urban liveability: Emerging lessons from Australia for exploring the potential for indicators to measure the social determinants of health, *Social Science and Medicine*, 111: 64–73.
- 2 Badland H, Whitzman C, Lowe M, Davern M, Aye L, Butterworth I, Hes, D and Giles-Corti B 2014, Urban liveability: Emerging lessons from Australia for exploring the potential for indicators to measure the social determinants of health, *Social Science and Medicine*, 111: 64–73.
- 3 Voogt, JA 2002, 'Urban heat island', in I Douglas (ed.), *Encyclopedia of global environmental change*, John Wiley and Sons, New York.
- 4 Ewing, R et al. 2008, *Growing cooler: The evidence on urban development and climate change*. Washington, DC: Urban Land Institute.



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Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

Inclusive
Vibrant
Healthy