



THE CARLTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

NEWSFLASH

September 2025

CRA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land now known as Carlton, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation and pays respects to their Elders past and present.

CRA acknowledges and honours the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection they have maintained to this unique place for more than 2,000 generations.

CRA accepts the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and is committed to walking together to build a better future.

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A Message from the President—Trish O’Loughlin

Melbourne 2050



As I promised in the last NewsFlash here are the principles which we identified in the last session of the Melbourne 2050 People’s Panel, May 2025.

To refresh your memory - The Melbourne 2050 People’s Panel was made up of 48 people, selected to develop principles to inform the vision for Melbourne in 2050. The panel was randomly selected based on ABS demographics; a composition of residents, workers, students and business owners within the city of Melbourne.

Through a structured engagement process over 5 sessions and 3 weeks, the group put forward a set of guiding principles for the benefit of the council, to aid with planning the goals for setting Melbourne up to succeed by 2050.

We identified 8 principles to guide council strategic planning and priorities.

Principle 1 - Heading Future Focused Resource Stewardship

We invest public resources where they deliver the greatest long-term benefit to Melbourne’s resilience and livability, choosing strategic, evidence based spending over immediacy.

Principle 2 - Deepening connection to Country.

Naarm/Melbourne exemplifying Treaty with all residents sharing a deep connection to Country in the same way First Peoples do.

A proud city that creates intergenerational and intercultural belonging through caring for Country and embracing collective intelligence.

Connection to Country is central to Australian culture—it heals, unites, and guides better decisions.

Principle 3 - Creativity and Innovation

Nurture a culture of bold imagination.

Melbourne will be at the forefront of creativity, innovation and problem solving by empowering diverse communities, supporting risk taking, and making space for new ideas that benefit all.

Principle 4 - Climate action as collective responsibility.

All policies, partnerships, and decisions should prioritise reducing emissions, eliminating waste, and regenerating ecosystems. We embrace shared commitment and accountability between industry, community and government.

Principle 5 - Future Ready Melbourne

Future readiness is imperative.

To achieve this, we prioritise responsiveness and adaptation. We consider the implications, consequences and impact across the board. Planning for the long-term ensures Melbourne systems remain robust and flexible whatever the future holds.

Principle 6 - Always consider Health & Wellbeing.

Always consider public health in all dimensions - social, physical, environmental.

To build towards 2050, education and prevention initiatives are fundamental in contributing to public safety, health and wellbeing.

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Principle 7 - Safe and Accessible by Design.

Everyone should feel equally safe and capable of getting in, through and around at any time 24/7, in any way, mode, or means.

The Council should ensure that the City is accessible and safe to all people, especially the most vulnerable members of the community.

Decisions for the creation, adaptation and reinvigoration of urban and built environments should be made on a holistic basis with respect to design, activities and operations.

Individual mobility and safety should be prioritised as far as possible whilst preserving the City's unique character and heart.

Principle 8 - A people-centered city enabling affordable, equitable living opportunities.

Prioritise equity and inclusion for all residents, workers, students, and visitors by providing attractive green open spaces and community infrastructure.

Putting people at the centre of affordable and sustainable solutions to meet the needs of an evolving community.

Note - These are just the headings and descriptions - Each principle also has an explanation on:

1. Why this principle is important and
2. What would this look like in action?

The Draft Council Plan 2025-2029, can be accessed on the home page of the [CRA Website](#).

What do think of these principles?

Mobility: Parking

Carlton Parking Review Community Consultation

Overview of Improvements scheduled for October 2025:

- **Update 64 Loading Zones** in the 'Lygon Precinct' to dual use to create an additional 64 two-hour (2P) parking spaces in the evenings (after 4pm) and across weekends.
- Update two-hour (2P) parking time limits to three-hours (3P) on Lygon Street between Keppel Street and Palmerston Street to support longer stays for visitors to this area.
- Reduce **council-only permit parking** located on Rathdowne Street and Cardigan Street to improve access and parking reliability at key public facilities eg. Carlton Baths and Carlton Family Services.
- **Add 2 additional 15-minute parking spaces** on Drummond Street between Elgin Street and Faraday Street to support short stops into the shopping precinct.
- Update 200+ two-hour (2P) parking time limits to **three-hours (3P)** on parking south of Pelham Street to Queensberry Street to support longer stays for visitors to this area
- Update two-hour paid (2P Meter) bays around MacArthur Square to **three-hour paid (3P Meter) parking**.

Find more information [here](#): - Scroll down for information on:

What we heard: Key themes identified in the community check-in

Impact: Key recommendations for the next review

Next steps: Return to Carlton in 2026 to assess the changes

Give Carlton Gardens a break!

The Carlton Residents Association has called on the Melbourne City Council to conduct a review of the location of the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in the Carlton Gardens. We have also requested that the council administration undertake a feasibility study into a newly vamped Melbourne International Festival of Flowers and Gardens in locations across the central city.



Whilst the CRA recognises that the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show has held an important place in Melbourne's calendar of major events we believe that there is a need to consider the environmental future of the Carlton Gardens, the interruption it causes to the use of the Gardens by locals, workers and commuters en-route to work and school and for those finding a place of relaxation and peace in a busy city.

We believe that a central city based flower and garden festival would contribute to the revitalisation of the city and also ensure the long term future of the World Heritage listed Carlton Gardens in a climate changing world.

There is an overwhelming need to build the central city's economy in an increasingly competitive national and international market place. We have therefore proposed that a festival of flowers and gardens be adopted as a major central city event and moved to both public and private venues across the central city, whilst maintaining a presence in the Royal Exhibition Building and hard surface surrounds.

We propose that Birrarung Marr is a standout central and pivotal location for the Melbourne International Festival of Flowers and Gardens along with the Royal Exhibition Building, Federation Square, the Melbourne Town Hall, the State Library of Victoria and the Immigration Museum. There are other public and private venues that would benefit from their participation in the festival. It will be a gain for the central city economy and contribute to its continued revitalisation.

The festival would be expanded to a 14 day event and would place the City of Melbourne at the epicentre of the international greening of cities movement. There would be flower and garden displays and demonstrations plus community and farmers markets, forums and workshops involving our universities and a 'Blooming Ball' in the Melbourne Town Hall.

The festival would attract visitors from across metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria, plus national and international visitors and would promote greening for the health of the city and the planet.

We believe that this proposal warrants consideration and we call on the Council to initiate a review of the impact of the current location of the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in the Carlton Gardens and initiate a feasibility study into a central city festival.

Let the City bloom!
Martin Brennan

City of Melbourne - CoM - your closest level of government

Cr Dr Olivia Ball, local resident and City of Melbourne Councillor writes.

Friends and neighbours,

Thank you for your active contribution to our community in so many ways. Thanks to those of you who attended Council's M2050 summit in May, when over 700 people gathered at Melbourne Town Hall for a whole day to create a vision for Melbourne's next 25 years. That process has led to Council's major planning document: a 4-year plan for this term of Council.



Council's draft plan for 2025 -29

The City of Melbourne's draft plans for this term of Council are open for public consultation. Please have a look and let us know what you support, what you don't, and what is missing. Written submissions of any length can be made via the [Participate Melbourne website](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/m2050-vision/phase-two) until **5pm Sunday 21 September**.

- Go to: participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/m2050-vision/phase-two to read the plans (a Council Plan, financial plan & asset management plan)
- There are 2 options to respond: scroll down & click on "Complete the feedback form" to fill in a survey, or click on "Upload a response" to write a submission of any length on any subject, or to upload a document. There are optional questions about you below that. When finished, be sure to scroll down to hit the "Submit" button at bottom-right. **Submissions close: 21 September.**

The draft plans will be adjusted in response to feedback, and a final version will be adopted, and possibly amended further, at a meeting of Council on Tuesday 21 October. **Verbal submissions** may be made in person or by zoom at this meeting at Melbourne Town Hall from **5:30pm on Tuesday 21 October**. Register to speak at: melbourne.vic.gov.au/upcoming-council-and-committee-meetings (registrations open on 16 October. The revised plans will also be available at that link from 16 October.)

Vic Market circular economy & social enterprise precinct

Next time you're at the market, head to String Bean Alley (next to the carpark) where you can browse Victoria's only social enterprise marketplace, made possible by the incredible people at [STREAT](https://streat.vic.gov.au). You'll find everything from socks to fresh flowers, books, homewares and gin!

What is a social enterprise? It's a business that exists for more than profit: it creates social, environmental and/or cultural benefits, eg:

- training & employment for people facing barriers to employment
- reducing waste, water or energy consumption
- supporting First Nations people, migrants and refugees.

Meanwhile, 20 food outlets in E & F Sheds are participating in a trial eliminating takeaway containers. Instead of single-use options, you'll be served on proper dishes that are collected and washed on site by social enterprise [B-Alternative](#).

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Moving Feast Kitchen (pictured here) is also rescuing unspoiled produce that market traders can't sell, creating meals for uni students experiencing food insecurity. 'Eco-chef' Fernando makes pickles and relishes sold on site, and offers classes in pickling and preserving.

Cooking classes, tours, workshops and events at the market's Purpose Precinct:
<https://collections.humanitix.com/purpose-precinct-events>



Separate your plastic bottle caps & lids (marked no. 2 & 3) & take them to the market's circular economy precinct. You can even **volunteer** to help turn them into new products like pens and carabiners. Find out more:
<https://www.melbourne.ic.gov.au/queen-victoria-market-circular-economy-precinct>

East Africa food crisis

As we enjoy life in Carlton, let's remember the massive food crisis in Congo and Sudan. Please give if you can, whether to the UN World Food Programme, UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam etc:
oxfam.org.au/blog/east-africa-food-crisis-explained/

Cr Dr Olivia Ball

Olivia is a human rights advocate and passionate Carlton local, who has been on Melbourne City Council since 2020.

Your Carlton Resident's Association

1. Discover more about this wonderful suburb from **likeminded locals**
2. Experience **engaging speakers** at Carlton Conversations
3. **Feel supported** with local issues from planning to parking
4. **Actively contribute** to improving greening and walkability
5. **Lend your voice** to ensure we are heard by council
6. **Make a difference** to liveability in the area
7. **Connect quickly** and become part of the community sooner
8. Be the **first to find out** what is happening and topical to Carlton

Intrigued?

Let us treat you to a coffee & chat
connect at carltonresidents@gmail.com

Ellen Sandell, State MP for Melbourne writes:

Now is the opportunity for us to improve apartment living standards

In my time as the Member for Melbourne I've heard from many residents who, despite loving living in an apartment building, know that better living is possible.



The last few decades have seen the construction of apartment buildings surge in inner city Melbourne. Many people tell me they love living in an apartment – no commute, close to work and study, and with great access to everything wonderful our city offers. However, apartment living isn't without its challenges.

I've been contacted by so many residents who tell me horror stories about being forced to pay extraordinary amounts of money to replace flammable cladding on their buildings – even though it was government regulation failures that led to the problem. Others have been unable to put solar on their buildings or electrify and get off gas. Others have been locked into long predatory strata or energy contracts, signed by developers but bad for residents.

On top of this, community planning has not kept up with development, with residents crying out for new schools and parkland near where they live, but governments and developers getting away with not providing it.

Consecutive State Governments have allowed this situation to happen because they simply haven't thought carefully about what apartment residents want and need. And frankly, residents are fed up.

It's time for change.

The June announcement of a review of Owner's Corporation laws is a good first step, but we need to make sure this leads to genuine reform. The Government also needs to go further. For example, legislation like the Docklands Act and City of Melbourne Act are outdated, and dodgy laws are still providing tax loopholes for developers, meaning many don't contribute to community facilities and open space like they should.

As your local member I am fighting for better rights for apartment residents.

I will be hosting a community forum at RMIT's Storey Hall at 6pm on 16 September with my Greens colleagues Tim Read and Gabrielle de Vietri. Please come along! More info at ellensandell.com/apartments-forum

Please also fill in my survey about your experiences of apartment living at vicgreensmps.typeform.com/apartments.

Together we can work together to improve our laws to make apartment living better for all residents.

Mary-Lou Howie -

President, Friends of Queen Victoria Market Inc writes:



The recently approved Gurrowa Place at Queen Victoria Market is a land grab, providing housing for the rich.

Gurrowa Place is not “urban renewal.” It is not “placemaking.” It is not “activation of underutilised space.” It is a publicly sanctioned land grab, lubricated by the language of planning bureaucracy and marketed with a fraudulent promise of “new homes” that will never exist in any meaningful sense of the word.

There are no “buyers” for these apartments. There is no influx of young families staking their futures on a piece of the Queen Victoria Market precinct. Instead, every single dwelling is being funneled into a rent-auction system — leased to the highest bidder, with rents extracted and exported to corporate owners and their investors. The human face in the glossy render — the smiling young woman with the coffee, the diverse crowd on the sunny plaza — is a fiction. The real clientele are a transient, hyper-monetised tenant class: corporate lets, serviced apartments, short-term rentals, and luxury build-to-rent units priced for churn, not community.

This is the fraud at the heart of the project: it sells itself to the public as “housing” but operates as a yield-generating asset machine. It cloaks itself in the social good of “adding dwellings” but strips away any binding obligation to provide affordability, stability, or ownership. It is speculation wrapped in the language of shelter, designed to launder the extraction of public value as private profit.

And all of this is underwritten by the public: the Council providing land and political cover, the State government smoothing the approvals, the planning apparatus contorting itself to declare “net benefit.” Meanwhile, the community’s stake — the historic Queen Victoria Market, the open sky, the heritage context, the street life — is liquidated in slow motion.

Gurrowa Place is not a failure of planning. It is planning operating exactly as designed: to legitimise the capture of a public asset by private capital, to disguise the extraction as progress, and to ensure that by the time the public realises the game, the deal is done and the rent cheques are already flowing offshore.

The fat lady hasn’t sung yet!!

Mary-Lou Howie

President

Friends of Queen Victoria Market Inc

<https://www.friendsofqvm.org>

www.facebook.com/friendsofqueenvictoriamarket