

WHITEHORSE news

WHITEHORSE SPRING FESTIVAL

2025

October 2025

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WHITEHORSE
CITY COUNCIL

Mayor's message

Cr Andrew Davenport

Council recently decided to keep 2 key community services open and delivered by Council. Following several years of focused improvement, we are now in a strong position to continue managing services at Aqualink Box Hill and Aqualink Nunawading in-house. **Read more on this below.**

Council has also committed to keeping our Box Hill Customer Service Centre open to ensure services are readily available and easily accessible for the community. This is a great result for Box Hill, which is a thriving hub of multicultural community activity that will only continue to grow.

Councillors are now preparing to submit infrastructure projects for consideration in the 2026/27 financial year. Find your local Councillor's contact details on pages 8 and 9.



In this edition you will find information on the upcoming Whitehorse Spring Festival, our annual family-friendly celebration with more than 90 stalls showcasing our great community.

We are also calling for community input on 3 significant strategies for the future of Whitehorse, including a new Community Safety Plan, updated Disability Action Plan and Integrated Transport Strategy. Have your say and help shape the future of our city.



Aqualink management to remain in-house

Thanks to focused improvements made to our leisure operations and programs, Council will continue managing services at Aqualink Box Hill and Aqualink Nunawading.

We will also continue our focus on strengthening the service model, improving efficiency and ensuring our programs and facilities meet the evolving needs of the community, now and into the future.

For more information, visit: **yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/leisure**



Box Hill Library celebrates 75 years

To celebrate this significant milestone, come along to the 75th anniversary fun day!

Enjoy live entertainment, kids' crafts, storytime, face painting, dress-ups, local food, and a digital memory wall. Free event, all welcome!

When: Saturday 25 October 2025

Where: Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

Not a member? Sign up on the day for your chance to win a prize!

Funding made easy: discover the Whitehorse Grant Finder

We are excited to launch Whitehorse Grant Finder, your one-stop digital hub for grants!

Our new online Grant Finder helps community organisations, businesses and individuals find a range of funding opportunities, from government grants to scholarships and more.

- Search available grants
- Register for alerts on new opportunities
- Turn your ideas into reality

Register online for FREE and start exploring grant opportunities today: **grantguru.com/au/whitehorse**





Box Hill City Oval development update

We are preparing to start work on a range of upgrades at Box Hill City Oval. This development, funded by Council in partnership with the Federal and State governments, will significantly enhance this premier sporting facility, ensuring it is future-fit for generations to come.

The facility will also provide the community with bookable multi-purpose spaces, meeting rooms and studios that can be used on non-game days. Both pavilions will have flexible change rooms to support gender-inclusive participation as well as first aid and warm-up areas.

Construction works for much of the project are due to be completed by May 2026. During the oval works and main building works there will be temporary changes to precinct access.

To find out more about the project and subscribe to project updates, visit whitehorse.vic.gov.au/city-oval



Box Hill City Oval is home to the Box Hill Hawks and Box Hill Cricket Club and is an established state-level facility for VFL/VFLW and Premier Cricket.

Upgrades due to start this month will improve amenities for players, spectators, and the broader community. They include:

- **reconstruction of the oval**
- **renewal of the cricket nets**
- **new walking path around the oval**
- **a synthetic grass running track on the oval**
- **refurbishment of the southern pavilion**
- **LED lighting upgrade and provision of on-demand lighting for community use**
- **accessible external spaces for spectators and broader community use**

Starting next year, the western pavilion will be demolished and rebuilt with extensive new facilities. The new pavilion will include a community space with kitchen and kiosk, indoor training area, rooms for umpires and players, administration offices, coaches' boxes, and a broadcast room. Flexible facilities will serve as timekeeper areas on game days and meeting rooms otherwise. Completion is expected by mid-2027.

Let's keep Whitehorse looking its best

Over the past 10 months, our Street Cleansing Team have scrubbed, pressure-washed, and removed a massive 8600 square metres of graffiti across Whitehorse. That is the same as cleaning more than 30 tennis courts' worth of tags, scribbles and scrawls!

Whether it is a quick pressure wash or a full clean-up, our team is out there every week making our streets, laneways, buildings

and public spaces cleaner and safer for everyone.

Graffiti is illegal, it takes time and resources to remove, taking money away from other community services, and it affects the charm and character of our buildings and community spaces.

If you see graffiti on Council property around Whitehorse, including signs, public toilets,



in parks or on fire hydrants, please report it to us quickly and easily via the Snap Send Solve app.



When: Sunday 19 October,
10am – 4pm

Where: Whitehorse
Civic Centre Precinct,
379-399 Whitehorse Road,
Nunawading

FREE EVENT

Join us at a fun-filled day for all ages. Come and celebrate our vibrant community at the annual Whitehorse Spring Festival.

Our annual family-friendly event will have more than 90 stalls showcasing our wonderful, diverse community. Enjoy live music and dancing with more than 50 local artists and community groups performing across multiple stages.

Connect with passionate locals igniting our community and enjoy delicious food trucks.

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

- Creative Whitehorse Paint-a-Horse Workshop
- Community Performances
- Face Painting
- Petting Zoo **NEW**
- Henna Artistry **NEW**
- Dreaming Space Circus Workshops
- Reptile Encounters Live Shows
- Community Stalls
- Amusement Rides
- Eco Hub
- Active Living Hub
- Roving Performers
- Food Vendors



Principal Sponsor



Major Sponsor



Associate Sponsor



**CREATIVE
WHITEHORSE**

@f creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au



WHITEHORSE

SPRING FESTIVAL

2025



We're excited to have our very own Maker's Market this year!

Pick up a new plant, some small goods and other handmade treasures while wandering the lawns in the Civic Centre Precinct.

GETTING THERE

**LIMITED STREET PARKING –
TAKE ACTIVE TRANSPORT!**

We suggest catching a ride with a friend, getting public transport, or riding your bike and locking it at the on-site bike stations.



Shopfront stories – Runners Paradise

Say 'Hi' to Tash and Danny, a local family that loves living and working in Blackburn.

"We love being part of the Blackburn community. There's a real village feel here, with locals who genuinely support small business and share our passion for running. Being surrounded by beautiful trails and parklands makes it the perfect spot for a running store. We're proud to be part of a community that values health, connection, and shopping local. There's nothing better than helping someone gear up for their first fun run or weekly parkrun, then seeing them out on the track with a smile."



Branching out: Council uses Lidar to monitor canopy cover

Tree canopy cover is essential for all liveable cities. Canopy cover reduces land surface temperatures, improves air quality, and provides shade as well as habitat for wildlife, birds and insects.

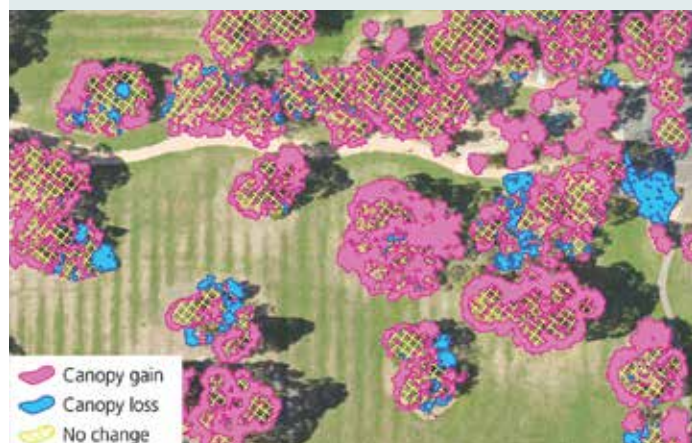
Measuring our tree canopy cover is an important part of monitoring our urban forest, mitigating climate change and improving biodiversity.

Council has a goal to increase vegetation cover across our municipality. Our Urban Forest Strategy sets targets to increase tree canopy coverage to 27% by 2031 and 30% by 2050.

Before 2019, our city's tree canopy was measured by the Cooling and Greening Melbourne Project. However, this initiative is no longer producing this specific data, with the last available dataset measurements provided in 2018.

To support ongoing monitoring of our tree canopy, Council has acquired airborne light detection and ranging (Lidar) data across the municipality.

Lidar is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure distances to the ground for capturing 3D models of surface features. It allows for measurement of vegetation height and density, making it an ideal tool for tracking canopy cover over large areas.



Canopy change (for vegetation above 3 metres) 2018 to 2023

This approach ensures accurate, repeatable, and consistent reporting of our canopy cover targets throughout the life of our Urban Forest Strategy.

Based on the findings of the project, there was an increase in canopy cover across Whitehorse from 21.6% in 2018 to 25.8% in 2023, an increase of 4.2% in canopy cover over the 6-year period (for vegetation taller than 3 metres).

To learn more about the project and to read the findings, visit: whitehorse.vic.gov.au/urban-forest-canopy-cover



Changes to Victoria's planning policy

The Department of Transport and Planning recently announced several changes to Victoria's planning scheme, with a particular focus on housing targets and tree canopy. These changes are now part of the statewide Planning Policy Framework (PPF), which contains policies and provisions that control land use and development. All Victorian councils and planning authorities must consider the PPF when making planning decisions.

The changes that impact Whitehorse include:

- updated strategies to prioritise higher employment generation within Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) precincts, including the transition of existing industrial land to other employment uses.

- specific housing targets for each municipality designed to create 'sufficient realisable development capacity'.
- tree canopy cover target of 30% in urban areas across Victoria to help make our urban areas greener, cooler and more environmentally resilient.
- a new policy to reduce urban heat and minimise its impacts on human health.

Council will soon be refreshing our Housing Strategy to ensure we can reach our housing target. We continue to advocate our position at the current SRL East hearings with a focus on maintaining the Significant Landscape Overlay to help protect and enhance our tree canopy.



WHAT'S ON AT THE ROUND

A premiere performing arts centre.
A place to celebrate, entertain, create, and connect.



GREASE

BABIRRA
Music Theatre

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER –
SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER



CAFFEINE FIEND

A Coffee Cabaret
FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER,
8PM



THE MUSIC OF BROADWAY

with Claire Lyon
WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER,
11AM AND 2PM



KAZ & JUDE'S MENOPAUSAL NIGHT OUT

FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER,
7.30PM

THE
ROUND



THEROUND.COM.AU

Scan the
QR code
for details



Suburban Rail Loop Authority Community Projects Fund

Grants of \$10,000–\$80,000 are available for community groups, not-for-profit organisations, schools and sports clubs along the Suburban Rail Loop East corridor between Box Hill and Cheltenham.

Projects could include:

- Cultural festivals, concerts and local events
- Sports equipment
- Facility upgrades
- Community gardens

Applications close 4pm, Friday 24 October 2025.

For more, including information about the upcoming free grant writing workshops, visit: bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/suburban-rail-loop/community/community-fund



Introducing our new Business Permit Support Service

Whether you are starting a new business, buying a business, or expanding an existing business, we are here to help.

We can now personally guide you through the permit approvals process – saving you both time and money.

We can assist you with:

- Navigating the necessary approvals
- Finding the right advice and support you need
- Understanding the local rules and regulations

Connect with our Business Support Service here: businesswhitehorse.com.au/starting-business



WHITEHORSE SENIORS FESTIVAL 2025

200+ free or low-cost activities this October.

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival



Council meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chamber in the Whitehorse Civic Centre. Meetings are also live streamed at webcast.whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Next meeting

- Monday 13 October 2025
- Monday 27 October 2025

Search '**Council meetings**' on Council's website for agendas, minutes and more information.

Councillor contact details

Wattle Ward

Cr Andrew Davenport
Mayor

0407 652 145

Andrew.Davenport@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Cootamundra Ward

Cr Kieran Simpson

0431 486 849

Kieran.Simpson@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Eley Ward

Cr Daniel Griffiths

0431 486 455

Daniel.Griffiths@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Elgar Ward

Cr Blair Barker

0459 857 280

Blair.Barker@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Kingsley Ward

Cr Kirsten Langford

0423 445 390

Kirsten.Langford@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Simpson Ward Cr Prue Cutts Deputy Mayor



One of the greatest highlights in my nine years on Council was in representing the Mayor, Cr Andrew Davenport, who was unwell recently. During this time, I proudly MC'd our Annual Dinner with 250 community leaders at The Round and chaired a live-streamed Council meeting. I also led a Citizenship Ceremony for 163 new Australians from 34 countries at Box Hill Town Hall. Wearing the mayoral robes was a true honour and unforgettable experience. I also welcomed a Vietnamese delegation at The Round and turned the first sod at Vermont Recreation Reserve, marking the start of long-awaited changeroom upgrades to support female-friendly sporting facilities.

0409 867 540

Prue.Cutts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Lake Ward Cr Hayley Weller



There is so much to love about Lake Ward but, of course, improvements can be made in our area.

As Council prepares for its 2026/27 budget cycle, I encourage you to contact me about improvements you would like to see in Lake Ward – which must be matters within Council's control. I will then work with you to gather the information I need to submit a budget request. Any requests will be considered as part of our extensive budget process and ultimately decided by all Councillors.

Please contact me with your improvements via the details below by 15 November 2025.

0431 486 836

Hayley.Weller@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Mahoneys Ward Cr Jason Martin



Back to basics has been the key theme as we approach the first year with the new Councillor group. We must not understate the importance of community engagement. Remember any community member can speak at Council meetings or pose questions for Council to respond to.

To date, key themes for the new Council have included community safety, a focus on planning, graffiti management and road asset management. Various forums have been facilitated, and these issues have had a concerted focus by council.

Lastly for Mahoney's Ward, watch out for the Mahoney's Reserve Masterplan out for public comment later this year.

0431 486 973

Jason.Martin@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Sparks Ward Cr Peter Allan



Spring is here and we can all enjoy the finer weather.

I encourage people to attend Spring Festival on Sunday 19 October at the Civic Centre Precinct in Nunawading, and the various Whitehorse Seniors Festival activities this month.

I'm happy to advise Council voted to keep the Box Hill Town Hall Service Centre open Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 1pm.

We will also keep management of Aqualink Box Hill and Nunawading in Council hands – no outsourcing!

If your club or community organisation has ideas for capital works or other funding for the 2026/2027 Council Budget please let me know.

0423 504 325

Peter.Allan@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Terrara Ward Cr Jarrod Gunn



One of the joys of being a Councillor is being invited to celebrate locals making an impact in our community.

I always value and make every endeavour to attend such invitations because rewarding positive impact has a cumulative effect. In a time where it's easy to identify frustration, fragmentation or disconnection I urge residents to look for those making our community a better place.

Whether they be in schools, sports clubs, local traders, service groups or simply bring positivity to your local street, these people are the backbone of our community. Please point them out so their efforts can be acknowledged.

0431 487 348

Jarrod.Gunn@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Walker Ward Cr Ben Stennett



The annual Family Day at Schwerkolt Cottage was a Heritage Week highlight. Thank you to everyone involved, especially the Whitehorse Historical Society, for making this event such a success.

I recently moved a motion for Council to adopt a new Graffiti Management Plan to address the growing challenge of graffiti – an eyesore in our community affecting perceptions of safety, local businesses and the economy.

I encourage everyone to continue supporting our local traders, particularly those impacted by the closure of Coles at Mitcham Shopping Centre. Choosing smaller "main street" shops over major centres makes a real difference.

0448 375 937

Ben.Stennett@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

To read updates from our Councillors online, scan the QR code.

The views expressed are those of individual Councillors and do not necessarily reflect Council policy or the views of Council as a whole. Our Councillors have been elected to serve until October 2028.



Italian | Italiano

Esprimi la tua opinione

Vogliamo che esprima la tua opinione per contribuire a definire i prossimi progetti:

- Piano di sicurezza per la comunità
- Piano d'azione per la disabilità
- Piano di gestione del traffico



Esprimi la tua opinione in italiano scansionando il codice QR o visitando il sito **yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au** e selezionando la tua lingua dal banner blu.

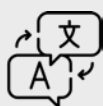
Prepariamoci all'estate

Questo è il momento di prepararsi alle ondate di calore, alle interruzioni di elettricità e ai temporali estivi.

Prepara un piano semplice adesso, così tu e la tua famiglia sarete sicuri e tranquilli in caso di emergenza.

- Tieni presente i rischi di incendio, alluvione o ondate di calore
- Informati scaricando la app Vic Emergency
- Pensa anche agli altri e controlla come stanno i vicini, i familiari e gli amici

Trova altri consigli sul nostro sito: **whitehorse.vic.gov.au/emergencies**



Servizio di interpretariato gratuito

Chiama il numero 131 450 menziona la lingua che parli e chiedi che ti mettano in contatto con il Consiglio comunale di Whitehorse.

Greek | Ελληνικά

Πείτε τη γνώμη σας

Θέλουμε τη συμβολή σας για να βοηθήσετε στον σχεδιασμό των επερχόμενων έργων:

- Σχέδιο Ασφάλειας της Κοινότητας
- Σχέδιο Δράσης για την Αναπηρία
- Σχέδιο Διαχείρισης Κυκλοφορίας



Πείτε τη γνώμη σας στη γλώσσα σας με τη σάρωση του κωδικού QR ή επισκεπτόμενοι τον ιστότοπο **yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au** και επιλέγοντας τη γλώσσα σας από την μπλε μπάρα.

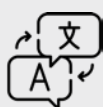
Προετοιμασία για το καλοκαίρι

Τώρα είναι η ώρα να προετοιμαστείτε για τα καλοκαιρινά κύματα καύσωνα, τις διακοπές ρεύματος και τις καταιγίδες.

Κάντε ένα απλό σχέδιο τώρα, ώστε εσείς και η οικογένειά σας να παραμείνετε ασφαλείς και σίγουροι σε περίπτωση έκτακτης ανάγκης

- Γνωρίστε τους κινδύνους από φωτιά, πλημμύρα ή καύσωνα
- Ενημερωθείτε κατεβάζοντας την εφαρμογή Vic Emergency
- Φροντίστε τους άλλους και επικοινωνήστε με γείτονες, συγγενείς και φίλους

Βρείτε περισσότερες συμβουλές στην ιστοσελίδα μας: **whitehorse.vic.gov.au/emergencies**



Δωρεάν υπηρεσία διερμηνείας

Καλέστε το 131 450, αναφέρετε τη γλώσσα που μιλάτε και ζητήστε να συνδεθείτε με το Δήμο Whitehorse.

Simplified Chinese | 简体中文

发表您的意见

我们希望您能提供意见，帮助我们规划即将开展的项目：

- 社区安全计划
- 残障人士支持行动计划
- 交通管理计划



请使用您的母语发表意见，扫描二维码或访问网址：**yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au**，随后在蓝色横幅中选择对应的语言选项。

为夏天做准备

现在是为夏季热浪、停电和风暴做准备的时候了。

建议您提前制定一个简明的应对计划，以确保在突发事件中您及家人能够保持安全与从容。

- 请了解您所在区域可能面临的火灾、洪水或热浪等风险
- 通过下载“维多利亚州紧急情况 (Vic Emergency app)”应用程序获取实时信息
- 请关注邻里安全，保持与邻居、亲友的沟通与联系

更多应急准备建议，请访问我们的官方网站：**whitehorse.vic.gov.au/emergencies**



免费口译服务

请拨打 131 450，说明您使用的语言，并要求接通 Whitehorse 市议会。

Vietnamese | Tiếng Việt

Hãy đóng góp ý kiến của quý vị

Chúng tôi muốn quý vị đóng góp ý kiến để giúp định hình các dự án sắp tới:

- Kế hoạch An toàn cho Cộng đồng
- Kế hoạch Hành động cho người Khuyết tật
- Kế hoạch Quản lý Giao thông



Đóng góp ý kiến bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị bằng cách quét mã QR hoặc truy cập **yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au** và chọn ngôn ngữ của quý vị từ biểu ngữ màu xanh

Chuẩn bị cho mùa hè

Bây giờ là lúc phải chuẩn bị cho đợt nắng nóng mùa hè, tình trạng mất điện và bão.

Hãy lập một kế hoạch đơn giản ngay bây giờ để quý vị và gia đình có thể an toàn và tự tin khi có trường hợp khẩn cấp xảy ra.

- Biết rủi ro cháy, lụt hoặc đợt nắng nóng
- Hãy cập nhật thông tin bằng cách tải ứng dụng Vic Emergency
- Hãy chú ý đến người khác và hỏi thăm hàng xóm, gia đình và bạn bè

Tìm thêm các gợi ý trên trang mạng của chúng tôi, **whitehorse.vic.gov.au/emergencies**



Dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí

Gọi số 131 450, cho biết ngôn ngữ quý vị nói và yêu cầu được kết nối với Hội đồng thành phố Whitehorse.

This summer, a little preparation goes a long way



As the days get warmer, it's the perfect time to prepare for summer's unpredictable weather. Emergencies such as heatwaves, storms, power outages and bushfires can strike without warning, so being ready is crucial. We are encouraging everyone to make a simple plan now, so you and your family can stay safe and confident if an emergency strikes. Summer in Whitehorse is beautiful, but it pays to be prepared.

Your summer prep checklist

- **Know your risks:** Check if your home is in a bushfire or flood zone.
- **Pack an emergency kit:** Include water, food, medication, phone chargers, important documents, and supplies for pets.
- **Have a plan:** Decide on safe meeting points, evacuation routes and what to do if your household is separated. Practise it, so it's second nature.
- **Stay informed:** Download the VicEmergency app (Whitehorse is included in Central District), store key phone numbers and make sure your house number is easy to spot.
- **Look out for others:** Check in with your neighbours, especially those who are older or more vulnerable.

Find practical tips, checklists and a full emergency booklet here:
whitehorse.vic.gov.au/emergencies



Contact Whitehorse City Council

Mail: Whitehorse City Council
Locked Bag 2, Nunawading, VIC 3131

Email: customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Website: whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Phone: 9262 6333

NRS: 133 677 then quote 9262 6333

Scan the QR code to sign up to What's Happening in Whitehorse, our fortnightly eNewsletter.



This newsletter can be placed in your recycling bin (yellow lid).

Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Cover photo: Spring Festival.

Connect with us on social media

Search '**Whitehorse City Council**' or **@whitehorsecitycouncil**



On WeChat, search '**Councillors Whitehorse**'

Customer service centres

Whitehorse Civic Centre,
379–399 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Box Hill Town Hall,
1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill
Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 1pm

Council has confirmed its commitment to continue operating its Customer Service Centre at Box Hill Town Hall. This will ensure Council services are readily available and easily accessible to the community.



What does community safety mean to you?

Community safety is more than just crime prevention, it's about feeling secure, connected and supported in the places we live, work and play. A strong sense of safety is essential to our health, wellbeing and enjoyment of life.

That is why we want your help to shape a new Community Safety Plan. Your feedback could influence

future programs, policies and partnerships that build a safer, vibrant and welcoming community.

Tell us about any key concerns, how safe you feel in daily life and complete our community safety and crime prevention survey. Show us where you feel safe and where you do not across Whitehorse via an interactive map.

Throughout October we will be popping up across Whitehorse to collect your feedback in person.

Every response will help us prioritise initiatives that strengthen social connection and reduce risks.



Have your say by
Friday 31 October 2025

yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/safety



Help shape our next Integrated Transport Strategy

Our population is growing – and more people means more trips, whether that is by car, foot, bike or public transport. The Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy will focus on 3 key areas: making the road network safer for all road users, supporting walking and cycling, and balancing the transport needs in our growing activity hubs.

Tell us what is working well and where we can improve, and your ideas for how we can make it easier to travel in Whitehorse.



Help shape our new Disability Action Plan

Share your thoughts and help shape our next Disability Action Plan. We continue to work towards an inclusive and accessible community where all people with disability and lived experience of mental illness can fulfil their potential as equal members of the community.

The plan will guide how we build an inclusive and accessible city for all.

Complete the survey online, attend a workshop or contact us directly.



Have your say by
Tuesday 4 November

yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/transport



Have your say by
Sunday 26 October 2025

yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/disability-action-plan