

**Report to the Future Melbourne Committee****Agenda item 6.1****Neighbourhood key issues and City of Melbourne Projects for Carlton****15 February 2022****Presenter:** Justin Hanney, Chief Executive Officer**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Carlton neighbourhood community and upcoming key initiatives. (Refer Attachment 2).
2. On 14 December 2021, Council endorsed Future Melbourne Committee meetings to occur in neighbourhood locations to encourage and support more local residents, businesses, workers and students to participate, experience and engage in Future Melbourne Committee meetings through attending, observing, making a submission and/or asking a public question in a neighbourhood setting.
3. This initiative is part of a neighbourhood approach commenced last year to strengthen how the Council understands and works with different communities across the municipality as we continue to navigate the impacts of COVID-19.
4. The municipality is made up of a broad set of neighbourhoods, each with its own unique characteristics and needs – from densely populated urban environments, such as the central business district, to more residential areas, such as Kensington, Carlton and South Yarra. Using community development practice and a place-based approach, Council seeks to better understand the strengths, needs and priorities of communities to guide its work. Ensuring opportunity of access and participation of diverse voices and views will be a key priority as this approach is embedded this year through neighbourhood plans and projects, developed in partnership with communities.

**Key issues**

5. Carlton – where Melbourne meets Italy – is home to more than 20,000 people, making it the second largest populated suburb in the City of Melbourne, with nearly a quarter of residents born overseas and 57 per cent speaking a language other than English at home (Mandarin being the most commonly spoken language). The youngest median age in the greater Melbourne area belongs to Carlton, where the average age is 24 years.
6. Carlton has a well-deserved reputation as a centerpiece of Italian culture. Places such as Lygon Street are bursting with authentic cafés and restaurants, quintessential to the Melbourne hospitality scene. The area nurtures many lush, leafy parks and break-out garden spaces, offering residents and visitors a natural contrast to the vibrant and bustling streetscape.
7. Home to many high quality tertiary institutions, Carlton welcomes hundreds of students each year, offering a warm and inviting atmosphere for newcomers to call home. Nearby major hospitals and key tourist attractions such as the Melbourne Museum, make Carlton an attractive hub of employment, recreation and opportunity.
8. Though historic, the area is continuously evolving. Major infrastructure works like the new Metro Tunnel train station in Parkville, coupled with new bike lanes, elevate the suburb's connectivity and accessibility, further positioning Carlton as a great place to live.
9. The City of Melbourne proudly fosters many positive collaborations with the local community, which help to identify the issues that matter most to local families and inform place-based projects and community building programs
10. Management is currently developing Neighbourhood Plans for each area of the municipality. Community consultation on the Carlton Neighbourhood Plan will occur throughout March and April. The communities of Carlton are encouraged to participate and more information will be available via the Participate Melbourne website in March 2022.

**Recommendation from management**

11. That the Future Melbourne Committee notes the overview of the Carlton neighbourhood community and upcoming key initiatives.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 10)
2. Carlton: Neighbourhood Highlights and Initiatives (Page 4 of 10)

## **Supporting Attachment**

### **Legal**

1. Council adopted the schedule of Future Melbourne Committee and Council meetings on 14 December 2021, in accordance with its Governance Rules. This included the locations for the community Future Melbourne Committee meetings, which commence from February until November 2022.

### **Finance**

2. The financial impact associated with the key initiatives outlined in the overview of the Carlton Neighbourhood community and upcoming key initiatives in Attachment 2 are in 2021-22 budget.

### **Conflict of interest**

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

### **Health and Safety**

4. No Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

### **Stakeholder consultation**

5. The holding of meetings in community locations, will increase the community's capacity to experience and participate in the democratic process, in addition to engaging with Councillors informally on a range of matters.

### **Relation to Council policy**

6. This report aligns with the community aspirations identified in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Governance Rules.

### **Environmental sustainability**

7. This report has no significant impact on environmental sustainability.

# CARLTON:

## NEIGHBOURHOOD HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



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### KEY CARLTON STATISTICS

Residential population:	<b>22,000</b>	High rise resident population:	<b>11,080</b>	Houses and townhouse dwellings:	<b>1,520</b>
Residential apartments:	<b>7,800</b>	Student apartments:	<b>3,482</b>	Public housing dwellings:	<b>854</b>
Number of businesses:	<b>1,025</b>	Number of cafe and restaurant seats:	<b>16,100</b>		
Main occupation: Professionals:	<b>46%</b>	Residents born overseas:	<b>63%</b>		
Median weekly income:	<b>\$336</b>	Median weekly rental price, house:	<b>\$675</b>	Median weekly rental price, unit:	<b>\$291</b>

### CARLTON RESIDENTS

Age (median years):	<b>24</b>	Youth (12-25 years):	<b>51%</b>	Older (60+ years):	<b>7%</b>
Main overseas country of birth: China:	<b>23%</b>	Speaks a language other than English (LOTE) at home:	<b>57%</b>	Main non-English language spoken: Mandarin 26%	<b>26%</b>
Attending a tertiary education institute:	<b>45%</b>	Main work travel method: Walked only:	<b>28%</b>		



CITY OF MELBOURNE

## **Carlton Neighbourhood**

### ***Environs***

Carlton is a diverse suburb, well-known for the Italian cafes and restaurants of Lygon Street, its Victorian heritage streets and buildings, and its leafy parks and gardens. Carlton Gardens contain the contemporary Melbourne Museum and the domed 19th century Royal Exhibition Building that has World Heritage status. A Moreton Bay Fig Tree within the Carlton Gardens has served as an important meeting place for Aboriginal Victorians since the early twentieth century. Lincoln Square playground offers a unique experience for visitors from across the city. The playground was recently enjoyed by a group of newly arrived Afghan refugees, who had been provided with temporary housing and support in Carlton upon arrival in Australia. Similarly, Argyle Square houses the Piazza Italia used for community events and programming, and the park is also home to various sensors and technology to keep the municipality informed on Smart City data. Overall City of Melbourne manages and maintains 16 parks and open spaces across Carlton with Princes Park particularly popular for numerous sports and recreation activities.

Carlton takes on distinct character to the west of Swanston Street in the 'City North' precinct, where warehouses mix with larger university and office buildings. Known as the Melbourne Innovation District, the City North Urban Realm will be a key initiative Council will lead for the future planning of this area. A new train station is being built in Parkville, directly below Grattan Street, as well as new bike lanes integrating Carlton with surrounding neighbourhoods and the central city. Due to the presence of major hospitals and universities, Carlton is a major employment hub and the new Melbourne Connect building hosts the Science Museum.

### ***Community***

Carlton is home to the second largest population of our municipality, with a significant proportion of residents born overseas. This is primarily because of the large population of international students in the neighbourhood. Many of Carlton's residents are local and international students who attend the nearby University of Melbourne and RMIT University. As well as educational, business, retail and residential facilities, Carlton has entertainment and cultural venues such as Melbourne Connect, and La Mama Theatre. Carlton's entertainment venues and restaurants have also experienced significant difficulties over the past two years.

Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the absence of office workers, international students and tourists affected the hospitality, retail and international education and Carlton experienced the second highest percentage job losses after West Melbourne with -12% or 2,100 jobs. The overall population has also decreased over the course of the pandemic as a large proportion of Carlton's population are typically international students.

#### **COVID-19 impact on local businesses**

- Lygon St shop vacancy rates are currently at approximately 21% (Jan 2022).
- These are ground floor street-facing premises in the shopping strip of Lygon Street.
- The vacancy rate in Carlton increased from 15% in Nov-Dec 2020 to the current 21% Jan 22.

- 38% of these vacancies relate to cafes, restaurants, takeaway food establishments

Programs to support local businesses are addressed in the 'key initiatives' section.

### **Collaboration in Carlton**

Carlton has a rich history of strong collaborative partnerships and community strengthening projects where resources are shared and opportunities are leveraged for community engagement activities. The City of Melbourne participates in a range of collaborative activities and networks in Carlton through various touchpoints including resident groups, local businesses, student communities and committees such as the Police Community Consultative Committee.

Following two partnership forums in 2021 and signing of the Melbourne Partnerships Charter, the City of Melbourne and University of Melbourne together with other stakeholders and partners are working on key projects to contribute to the City's objectives in relation to Aboriginal Melbourne, Melbourne's unique identity and place, the economy of the future and the climate and biodiversity emergency.

The Carlton Community Network (CCN) is supported by City of Melbourne and is made up of around 50 member local organisations and service providers who work collaboratively to improve social capital, support, and access to services for the diverse range of local residents in Carlton.

#### **Carlton Community Partnership (CCP)**

The Carlton Collaboration Partnership, between the Carlton Community Network, the University of Melbourne, and the City of Melbourne (CoM) brings together connected and aligned stakeholders to promote and advance Carlton initiatives and address local issues, and uses the principles of inclusion, representative engagement and social justice to support Carlton residents and community members to participate in local dialogue and debate on neighbourhood issues. Over the next three years, this partnership will focus on the following priorities, identified through ongoing partnership work and neighbourhood engagement:

1. Digital inclusion and digital literacy
2. Wellbeing of students and international students
3. Employment, volunteering and mentoring
4. Education pathways.

City of Melbourne staff also work with local schools to engage with families and children on local projects and partner with universities to undertake research into local issues such as digital inclusion, internet connectivity, employment and mentoring programs.

The positive collaborations the City of Melbourne fosters with the local community support consistent information sharing between the diverse communities of Carlton. These active working relationships help to identify community issues and capture local insights to inform placed-based projects and locally responsive community capacity building programs.



## **Council services**

### ***Childcare and Family Services***

The City of Melbourne delivers Family Services at Carlton Baths, and Carlton Learning Precinct. At the Carlton Learning Precinct, Gowrie Victoria operates a 98-place education and care centre with integrated and sessional kindergarten.

### ***Libraries and Community Spaces***

At Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre books and other material are loaned to approximately 2500 members. Online access is provided to books, films and music. A makers space offers equipment such as 3D printers, sewing machines, tools, and creative programming. There are 10 bookable community spaces, a recording studio with equipment and computer access with Wi-Fi available 24 hours.

The Melbourne Community Toy Library operates from The Chapel on Cardigan Street, which is owned by the City of Melbourne. The Drum Youth Services in Carlton is delivered by Drummond Street Services on behalf of the City of Melbourne.

### ***Parks and Open Spaces***

City of Melbourne manages and maintains many public spaces across Carlton including Argyle Square, Burton Reserve, Canning & Palmerston Streets Reserve, Canning Street Reserve, Cardigan Street Park, Carlton Gardens North, Carlton Gardens South, Hardy Reserve, Keppel Street Park, Lincoln Square, MacArthur Square, Murchison Square, Station Street Open Space, Palmerston Reserve, Reese Street Park and University Square.

### ***Sporting and Recreation Venues***

Carlton Baths features a gym, group fitness rooms sessions, seasonal pool, swimming lessons, stadium sports, meeting rooms, exercise physiology and children's sports programs. The YMCA operates this facility on behalf of the City of Melbourne. At Princes Park supports participation in a broad range of active and passive recreation and is the home for a number of community sports organisations. The Princes Park tennis facility is leased to the Princes Hill Tennis Club, a four-court facility that caters for members, public court hire, competitions, coaching and programs. Council managed the renovation of all four courts over the past year. Council also managed renovations in the kitchen of the Princes Park Bowls Club last year. The Carlton Recreation Ground is leased to Carlton Football Club and is their administration base, training centre and venue for some competition.

## **Key Initiatives**

### ***Current Council work underway will:***

- Provide investment support to public art, reduce speed limits (see below), and improve cycle infrastructure (see below), and key renewal and maintenance works for infrastructure and facilities in Carlton, including:
  - The commissioning of a permanent artwork in University Square.
  - Carlton Gardens Fig Tree meeting place public art project with Wurundjeri representatives to develop designs for the proposed rock seating.



- Carlton Gardens toilets upgrade (subject to Master Plan endorsement), Princes Park fencing and various furniture and signage renewal.
- Landscape upgrades to the northern part of University Square in coming years as Metro Tunnel Project works conclude.
- Continue to fund a range of organisations providing services, programs and events for the Carlton community through our grants program including the local neighbourhood house, youth, family and community services, and sports and recreation groups, including:
  - Trialling a mobile library offering free WIFI, library resources and information for public housing in Carlton North.
- Deliver the Carlton Neighbourhood Plan as part of our neighbourhood model of working with communities to respond to existing and projected needs, insights and trends. Consultation will occur in March and April.
- Deliver and manage the Business Precinct Program 2021-25 including:
  - The Vacant Shopfront Program where landlords will be supported to provide short to medium term spaces for creatives, start-ups and independent retailers and bring activity and consumers back into Lygon Street.
  - The City Activation Grants Program that recently funded a big screen live site in the Piazza Italia for the Australian Open with roving performers.
  - A new 'book lovers' pop-up library on Lygon Street will open in the coming months.
- Provide a one-off \$100,000 grant to Carlton Inc. (the local precinct association) to undertake initiatives and activations including the development of a 5 Year Strategic Plan to support local businesses as we recover from COVID impacts.
- Continue to support local businesses via the Business Concierge Service.
- Support local events and activations via the City of Melbourne's Premier Events and Event Partnership Program, including:
  - *Live Fast Festival* in Argyle Square in March for the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix, a free event with music, food and entertainment highlighting the connections between motor sport and the precinct's Italian heritage.
  - *Carlton Harmony Festival* on 26 March at Carlton Primary School celebrating Carlton communities including culturally diverse residents, public housing residents international and local students, young people and the business community with free family-friendly activities.
  - *Melbourne Italian Festa - Autumn Edition* on 3 April at the Piazza Italia celebrating Italian excellences, especially within the engineering, automotive and advanced manufacturing sectors, design and fashion.
  - Christmas decorations on Lygon Street and Argyle Square throughout December plus a free Christmas cinema program.

- Progress the Carlton Heritage Review and associated Amendments to protect and celebrate heritage sites and neighbourhood character. Public consultation on the Amendment runs from February 24 – 31 March.
- Provide accessible creative opportunities to everyone through expanded arts and library programming.
- Facilitate Integrated Water Management Solutions to support increased greening, reduced flooding and reduced pollution to the bay.
- Plan for the Melbourne Innovation District (MID) City North Urban Realm.
- Review and approve the Carlton Gardens Master Plan and submit to Heritage Victoria as part of the World Heritage Master Plan review.

***New infrastructure investments in Carlton this year include:***

- \$500,000 - Melbourne Innovation District (MID) Urban Realm
- \$755,000 - Public Arts Melbourne – Growth Areas
- \$30,000 - Reduce Speed Limits (trial along Swanston Street between Victoria Street and College Crescent)
- \$850,000 - Cycle Infrastructure (Grattan Street, Canning and Princes Street Swanston/Queensberry Street, Swanston/Grattan Street and Princes Park Drive).

City of Melbourne will invest \$3,949,801 on renewal works in Carlton including for roadways, footpaths, drains, parks, library collection and property. \$197,892 will be dedicated to maintenance works including at community facilities.

***City of Melbourne will progress delivery and strategic work for:***

- City North Structure Plan
- Melbourne Innovation Districts Opportunities Plan
- Carlton Gardens Master Plan
- Lincoln Square Concept Plan
- Princes Park Master Plan
- University Square Master Plan
- Carlton Urban Forest Precinct Plan
- Carlton Collaboration Partnership
- Carlton Community Network
- Support Carlton Inc as the representative precinct association to deliver 5 Year Strategic Plan