

# WHITEHORSE 2040 COMMUNITY VISION

## Draft Community Panel Report

Saturday 27 March, 2021



## A letter from the Community Panel

Dear Community,

We, the 2040 Community Panel, wish to share our vision with you.

We welcome all, and acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Elders, past, present and emerging. Throughout the process of creating the Vision, this has been our constant consideration.

This Vision was created in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has highlighted to all of us the importance of our local environment and community.

As a small group we were selected to represent the diversity of Whitehorse. We have learnt the importance of a united community and recognise that through collaboration and teamwork, together we have the power to shape our future.

We invite everyone to embrace the Vision and its themes and priorities.

We thank the community and all its participants for entrusting us with this responsibility.

*The 2040 Whitehorse Community Panel*

## **Our draft Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision**

Whitehorse is a resilient community where everyone belongs.

We are active citizens who value our natural environment, history and diversity.

We embrace sustainability and innovation.

We are dynamic. We learn, grow and thrive.

### **Context**

This Vision was developed with value placed on embracing our history, and learning from our past, in order to create a prosperous community.

Our ideas and initiatives are shaped by the principles of social justice, inclusivity and sustainability.

We ensure there is a place for everyone and their voices are heard.

We are innovative leaders, take risks and are bold in our decision making.

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## Draft Vision themes and key priorities

The following themes and key priority areas outlines what needs to be the focus to achieve the Whitehorse 2040 Community Vision.

### Theme 1: Diverse and Inclusive Community

We will make decisions that encompass the rich cultural, linguistic, and diverse abilities of all people represented within the City of Whitehorse.

**Key priority 1.1:** Create opportunities for every person in the community to be listened to and included in community decision-making processes.

**Key priority 1.2:** Remove barriers to accessing community services and increase community participation.

**Key priority 1.3:** Advocate for people of all abilities to be involved in the community in a meaningful way.

**Key priority 1.4:** Focus on understanding and celebrating First Nations Peoples, including acknowledgement of history and culture.

## **Theme 2: Movement and Public Spaces**

Our community works best when its people can move freely and connect with each other in a healthy and safe environment.

**Key priority 2.1:** Create low-traffic neighbourhoods where people can move safely. We should aim to create 20-minute neighbourhoods.

**Key priority 2.2:** Improve access for people of all ages and abilities to a range of different active transport and movement options.

**Key priority 2.3:** Provide active public spaces which are accessible by all, where people feel safe and connected with others in the community.

**Key priority 2.4:** Facilitate opportunities for the community to interact and immerse with natural and built environments.

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## Theme 3: Innovation and Creativity

Our City is prepared for the future. We embrace creative thinking and innovation in civil (people) and civic (governance) infrastructure, society and community.

**Key priority 3.1:** Provide community and business with access to cohesive and vibrant spaces to encourage innovation and creativity, including art, craft and innovative practices. Seek ideas from local residents to address community issues.

**Key priority 3.2:** Whitehorse is a smart city meeting and exceeding global standards. Our policies are connected to innovative forms of technology-based public engagement. Community, businesses, students, social sectors and entrepreneurs are connected through digital platforms.

**Key priority 3.3:** We have easy access and ways of engaging with information about civic (governance), civil (people), community and environment.

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## **Theme 4: Employment, Education and Skill Development**

We will address the critical need for continuous improvement in upskilling our intercultural community and its diverse human resources to meet future work requirements.

**Key priority 4.1:** Job creation and providing facilities to support local business and attract new business investment and innovation.

**Key priority 4.2:** Facilitate equal opportunity for worker skill development including for employees and the self-employed.

**Key priority 4.3:** Foster knowledge and resource-sharing between students, business and the rest of the community.

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## **Theme 5: Sustainable Climate and Environmental Care**

We will grow and improve the unique biodiversity and landscape of Whitehorse.

**Key priority 5.1:** Take a leadership role in tackling climate change.

**Key priority 5.2:** Focus on the environment whilst also balancing the social and economic needs of Whitehorse.

**Key priority 5.3:** Consider our natural environment when making decisions including creeks, wetlands, lakes, bushlands, flora and fauna.

**Key priority 5.4:** Enable the community to reduce, reuse, recycle using circular waste principles.

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## **Theme 6: Whitehorse is an Empowered Collaborative Community**

Active citizenship and Council engagement with all sectors of the community from the outset is vital for success in meeting all other priorities in this Vision.

**Key priority 6.1:** Engage with the community collaboratively to hear their views on what needs to be done.

**Key priority 6.2:** Encourage everyone to feel engaged with, and involved in, the Whitehorse community.

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## **Theme 7: Health and Wellbeing**

Health is the state of complete physical, mental and social well being, and not merely the absence of disease or disability (World Health Organisation).

**Key priority 7.1:** Address the inequalities in health outcomes by creating affordable options to create accessibility, platforms for advocacy and individualised support, and access to information on local services within our neighbourhoods.

**Key priority 7.2:** Facilitate social connection within the community by creating social support groups for those in need.

**Key priority 7.3:** Educate the community to maximise their access to healthy lifestyles, encompassing mind, body and spirit.

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