

Your guide to the Draft Burwood Structure Plan and Draft Planning Scheme Amendment





2 Your guide to the Draft Burwood Structure Plan and Draft Planning Scheme Amendment

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Using your guide

Your guide to the Draft Burwood Structure Plan and Draft Planning Scheme Amendment (Your guide) will help you understand the structure planning process for the areas around the new SRL East station at Burwood.

It has been developed to help you navigate the documents currently available for public review and feedback so you can understand what the proposed changes mean for you, whether you wish to make a submission and, if so, how to do so.

There are document references and QR codes throughout Your guide, which you can use to learn more about the information summarised and view the original documents.



Look for this icon to find the associated page number in the Draft Structure Plan



Draft Structure Plan and Draft Planning Scheme Amendment

Developing and exhibiting the plans

Victoria is growing and by the 2050s, Melbourne is expected to be home to around nine million people – a city the size of London today.

We're carefully planning now to ensure the areas around the new SRL East stations will be ready to meet the needs of our growing population.

Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) has been talking to people who live and work near the SRL East stations about what they want to see happen in their neighbourhoods and incorporating their feedback since 2019.

Structure planning commenced with the release of the SRL Precincts: Discussion Paper in August 2023. Figure 1 outlines the structure planning process together with the phases of engagement.

Since then, SRLA has been working to prepare structure plans and planning scheme amendments for each of the six SRL East Precincts, informed by technical studies, detailed analysis and ongoing consultation. The draft structure plans focus on areas near the SRL East station as the appropriate locations for more significant future change, called the Structure Plan Areas, noting these areas are smaller than the full SRL East Precincts.



The draft structure plans, draft planning scheme amendments and supporting documents are available for review and feedback until **11.59pm on Tuesday 22 April 2025.**



PHASE ONE	Mid to Late 2023	<text><text><text><text><section-header><section-header><section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></text></text></text></text>	SRL Precincts: Discussion Paper
PHASE TWO	Early to Mid 2024	Shaping the plans Sought community feedback on key directions for each neighbourhood, refined understanding of opportunities and challenges, and explored place-shaping initiatives that could help realise the Vision.	Key directions
PHASE THREE	We are here Late 2024/ Early 2025	Exhibiting the plans Released Final Precinct Visions (late 2024). Released draft structure plans and draft planning scheme amendments for public consultation; seeking stakeholder feedback (early 2025).	Final Precinct Vision
PHASE FOUR	2025	Public hearing An advisory committee will consider the structure planning documents and draft planning scheme amendments.	Public hearing
PHASE FIVE	2026	Sharing the outcomes Finalise and adopt structure plans, approval and gazettal of planning scheme amendments. New planning settings in place for each of the SRL East Precincts.	Approved Structure Plan Gazetted PSA
8	Released for engagement 🛞 Draft planning process 🖓 Released for information 🛞 Final planning outcome		

Figure 1: Structure Planning engagement phases

Understanding the documents on exhibition

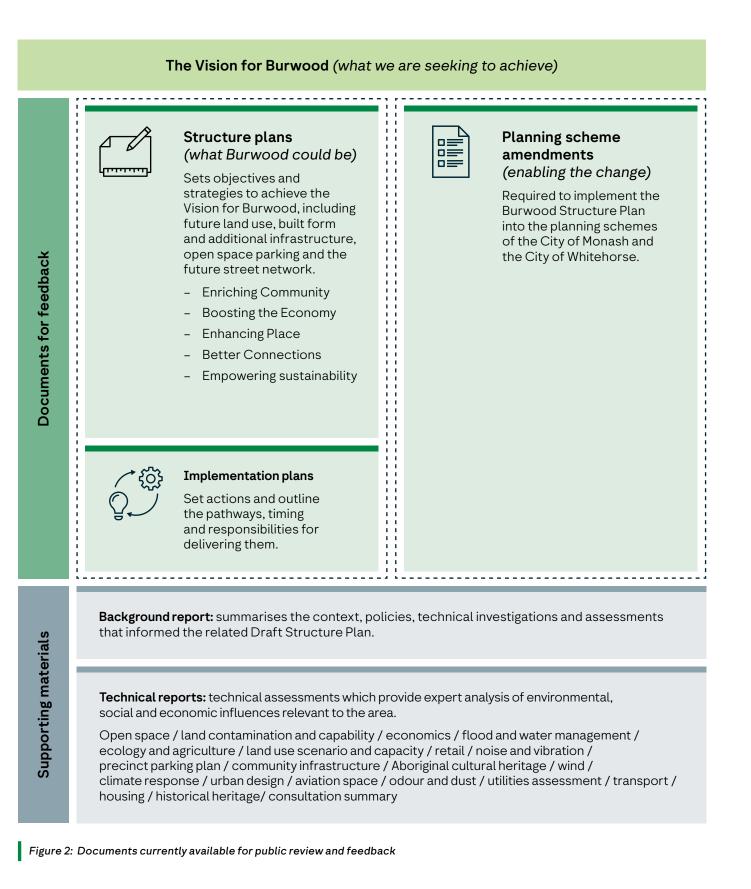
The Draft Burwood Structure Plan, including the Draft Implementation Plan, adopts the vision for Burwood and provides a framework for how the areas around the new SRL East station will grow and change over time, while protecting and preserving the neighbourhood characteristics people love about the area today.

While the structure plan sets the vision, the Draft Planning Scheme Amendment is needed to regulate the use and development of land to achieve the objectives and policies consistent with the structure plan.

By looking at the Draft Structure Plan, Draft Planning Scheme Amendment and supporting documents, you can see how the proposed changes will affect your neighbourhood. If you choose, you can provide informed feedback via a submission on what you support, what you're opposed to or what you would like to see changed. Figure 2 provides a summary of the documents currently available for public review and feedback.







What you will find in the Draft Structure Plan

The structure plan is a blueprint to guide how the area around the new SRL East station will develop and change over the next 15 years. It outlines how future growth will be managed to achieve social, economic and environmental objectives.

Structure plans contain both statutory and non-statutory actions which implement objectives within the Structure Plan Area. These actions include amendments to the relevant planning schemes (statutory actions), partnership agreements and delivery of a series of projects to support development of the area in the manner proposed by the structure plan.

Navigate to the below page numbers of the Draft Burwood Structure Plan to find:



Overview

This section introduces the Draft Burwood Structure Plan and notes highlights of the structure plan.



Section 1 Preparing the structure plan

This section outlines the purpose of the structure plan and explains how it was prepared. It includes a summary of the community engagement conducted to inform the structure plan, including a structure plan development timeline.

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Section 2 Introducing Burwood and Section 3 Planning for a growing and changing Burwood

These sections describe the historical and current context of Burwood. They provide a snapshot of Burwood's current community, and introduce future population, employment and housing forecasts for Burwood.

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Section 4 The Vision for Burwood

This section presents the final Vision for Burwood, which is a statement about the future that sets the longer-term aspiration for Burwood. It includes a Conceptual Precinct Plan that visually represents areas of change in Burwood, including the structure plan.

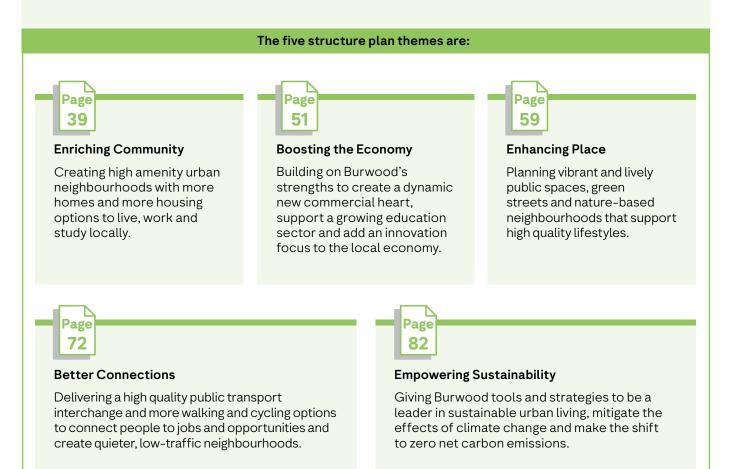


Section 5 Strategic response

This section sets objectives, strategies and actions under five key themes to achieve the Vision for Burwood.

The objectives outline what the structure plan is aiming to achieve. The strategies identify the structure plan's approach to achieving the objective. The actions list how the strategies will be implemented.

It also includes the Land Use Plan, which shows the priority land uses proposed for the Burwood Structure Plan Area.



Section 6 Neighbourhoods

Page **88**

The Burwood Structure Plan Area is divided into seven neighbourhoods, each with a distinct purpose in supporting the delivery of the Vision for Burwood.

For each neighbourhood, this section includes:

- **Future role and objectives:** sets out the future role for the neighbourhood, outlining how it will evolve from a built form, land use, movement, public realm and open space perspective.
- Neighbourhood guidelines: a suite of guidelines accompanied by detailed height, setback, and movement frameworks at a neighbourhood scale.

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Section 7 Next steps

This section outlines the steps required to finalise and deliver the structure plans.



Scan me



View the Draft Burwood Structure Plan



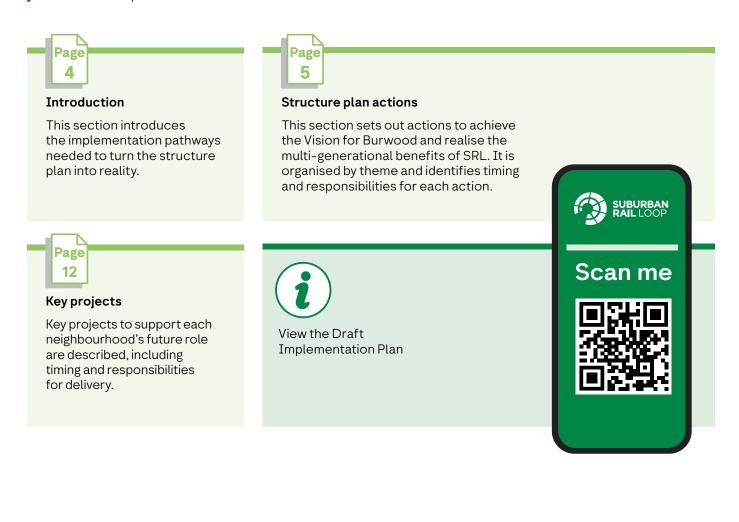
The Draft Structure Plan is accompanied by a Draft Implementation Plan which sets out the pathways and timing for delivering each action.

What you will find in the Draft Implementation Plan

The Draft Implementation Plan sets out all the actions within the Draft Burwood Structure Plan and outlines the pathway, timing and responsibilities for delivering each action.

The Draft Implementation Plan also identifies key projects planned for the Structure Plan Area and outlines how the projects will be delivered.

Navigate to the below page numbers of the Draft Implementation Plan to find:



How feedback has shaped the plan

Since 2019, SRLA has been speaking with the Burwood community and businesses, local councils and others about how to best take advantage of the opportunities delivered by SRL East.

More than 1,400 pieces of feedback have been collected from online, face-to-face and other activities. This feedback has been essential to preparing the Draft Burwood Structure Plan and will continue to inform the finalisation and implementation of the Draft Structure Plan.

The following section summarises how community and stakeholder feedback has shaped the Draft Burwood Structure Plan.







Enriching Community

Creating high amenity urban neighbourhoods with more homes and more housing options to live, work and study locally.



of the Draft Structure Plan

What you told us

Feedback highlighted the need to protect Burwood's quiet, family-friendly character, including its local schools, parks, and tree-lined streets, while planning appropriately for population growth to ensure that services meet demand. People called for the development of diverse housing types, including accessible and affordable options for the large student population, as well as additional recreational and open space facilities, such as outdoor gyms and walking tracks. Feedback also emphasised the importance of creating an inclusive and attractive precinct for families and professionals, ensuring safety for all residents, particularly the young and elderly.

- The structure plan encourages social and affordable housing, retirement and aged care, student accommodation and other innovative housing models. New development will provide a diversity of housing choices including a variety of dwelling sizes and bedroom numbers.
- The structure plan encourages a provision of affordable housing on strategic sites and in areas identified for high and significant housing growth.
- Opportunity areas for new open spaces and locations for new links have been identified to improve walkable access to open space. Enhancements to existing open spaces have also been identified.
- Co-location of community infrastructure and multipurpose spaces will be encouraged to improve service provision and encourage life-long use of facilities.
- Shared user agreements will be pursued with local institutions including large schools and Deakin University to provide greater public access to open space, sporting and other facilities.

- New and upgraded community facilities, at both local and district scales, have been identified to meet the needs of growing numbers of residents and workers.
- The structure plan identifies new and enhanced sports, multipurpose facilities and spaces to support community belonging and participation in events, sport, recreation and cultural and social activities.
- Safety will be a key focus in built form and public spaces, including:
 - Windows and balconies which overlook public open spaces, and activated spaces with good pedestrian traffic, offering passive surveillance
 - Buildings which face the street with ground floor land uses such as gyms and restaurants
 - Environmental design such as the height and placement of fences.



Boosting the Economy

Building on Burwood's strengths to create a dynamic new commercial heart, support a growing education sector and add an innovation focus to the local economy.



of the Draft Structure Plan

What you told us

Community advocated for the development of multi-use buildings that support small businesses and community spaces. Some people raised concerns about potential zoning changes along Burwood Highway from commercial to mixed-use, while others noted support for increased building heights to facilitate residential and mixed-use development. Feedback emphasised the need for planning in conjunction with other activity centres along Burwood Highway, such as Burwood Heights and Tally Ho Activity Centre, and raised questions about how commercial development around the station will affect existing businesses. Additionally, people suggested revitalising the industrial precinct to enhance productivity.

- A vibrant, mixed-use centre will be established within the Burwood Central Neighbourhood for residential, commercial, retail and community spaces.
- A greater mix of uses will be encouraged to complement residential developments along Burwood Highway and Highbury Road.
- Commercial and employment activity will be intensified at Greenwood Business Park, the Warrigal Road shopping area and Barry Road shopping area.
- The structure plan encourages new entertainment, retail, hospitality and a new supermarket to provide amenity for workers, students and residents, supporting a day-to-nighttime economy in the Burwood Central Neighbourhood around the SRL East station.
- Burwood's industrial precincts will be retained for employment purposes. New building types, improved connections and public realm enhancements will improve the amenity of these areas to attract new businesses.

Enhancing Place

Planning vibrant and lively public spaces, green streets and nature-based neighbourhoods that support high quality lifestyles.

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of the Draft Structure Plan

What you told us

Feedback included requests to reduce proposed building heights in Burwood, especially near Gardiners Creek, to manage impacts on ecological, amenity, and cultural heritage values. Some feedback suggested enhancing local amenity by planting more trees to support the natural character. Feedback emphasised the need to avoid increasing density in quiet neighbourhood streets, such as those south of Highbury Road and on Uganda Street. Additionally, there were concerns about how planning controls in SRL precincts may affect adjacent areas outside the precinct boundaries. Feedback also highlighted the importance of protecting wildlife and the natural environment near Gardiners Creek, ensuring sensitive design for new paths and lighting in reserves, and amplifying the cultural significance of Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) to First Nations people.

- The greatest level of housing growth and development scale will be centred around the SRL East station and key movement corridors, while existing residential areas will accommodate mid-rise infill apartment developments over time.
- Building heights have been reduced across most of the structure plan area, including:
 - From 20 storeys to between 11 and seven storeys in a large proportion of the Burwood Central Neighbourhood, outside of the area immediately surrounding the SRL East station.
 - From six to four storeys in residential areas south of Highbury Road and on Uganda Street and surrounds
 - From 10 storeys to between six and eight storeys along Burwood Highway.
- Buildings and public places will be connected by a network of landscaping, canopy tree coverage, leafy streets and open spaces.
- Activated spaces will be created to increase safety and vibrancy in the area.

- New development will need to provide appropriate setbacks and minimise adverse overshadowing impacts on streets, open spaces and private areas.
- The structure plan recognises Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) as a valuable local asset and is a celebrated feature of the structure plan area. The proposed naturalisation of the creek has been extended from Burwood Highway to the southern edge of the structure plan area to provide an adjoining linear biodiverse corridor.
- More native and indigenous plants will be planted along the Gardiners Creek corridor, including as part of development adjacent to the creek.
- Light pollution to the Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) corridor will be minimised through guidance for new development.
- Public realm enhancements will be encouraged along the creek corridor that recognise, celebrate and interpret Aboriginal cultural heritage and storytelling.



Better Connections

Delivering a high quality public transport interchange and more walking and cycling options to connect people to jobs and opportunities and create quieter, low-traffic neighbourhoods.



of the Draft Structure Plan

What you told us

Feedback emphasised the need to reduce vehicle speeds on residential streets, particularly Scott Grove and near the Presbyterian Ladies' College. People advocated for the creation of high-quality, safe pedestrian and cyclist pathways that are separate from roads, with a focus on connecting to schools and retirement living communities. Concerns were raised about the risks posed by shared pathways for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and children who may struggle to react to approaching cyclists. Feedback also highlighted the importance of reducing car reliance and road congestion in light of potential population growth in Burwood, ensuring that new housing developments are conveniently located near public transport and allowing for easy movement for emergency services throughout the precinct.

- Strategic traffic, freight and local public transport routes will be reinforced within the structure plan area to reduce traffic in local neighbourhoods.
- The structure plan allows for the potential expansion of a high-capacity capable public transport corridor along Elgar Road, between Riversdale Road and Burwood Highway.
- A new transport interchange will be provided at the new SRL East station that will champion active transport and be supported by seamless turn-up-and-go services to cater for future populations.
- The network of walking and cycling corridors in Burwood will be expanded and made safer. This will include new pedestrian and cycle crossings, including over Burwood Highway to Bennetswood Reserve, over Gardiners Creek between the SRL East station and McIntyre Street, and a crossing south of Highbury Road to connect to the cycling corridor along Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot).

- The greatest level of housing growth and development scale will be centred around the SRL East station and key movement corridors, ensuring people have easy access to public and active transport options.
- The structure plan supports a reduced reliance on cars by encouraging more people to take public transport, walk or cycle.



Giving Burwood tools and strategies to be a leader in sustainable urban living, mitigate the effects of climate change and make the shift to zero net carbon emissions.



of the Draft Structure Plan

Empowering Sustainability

What you told us

Feedback highlighted the need to support all businesses in the precinct in their transition to net zero carbon emissions. People supported implementing holistic water-efficient design and management across buildings, infrastructure, and landscaped areas. Some feedback called for the establishment of a precinct-wide sustainable governance framework to manage integrated energy systems and encourage the preservation of biodiversity through sustainable water management and green space integration. Feedback also suggested exploring partnerships with local community groups for viable community battery solutions, managing pollution and waste effectively, and utilising sustainable materials and technologies, such as solar energy, in building practices.

In response to community and stakeholder feedback:

- The structure plan will embed sustainable design principles into new development.
- The structure plan supports solutions to increase energy resilience and reduce emissions through local renewable electricity generation, storage and use, including initiatives such as the neighbourhood battery program, smart grid technology and micro grids.
- New developments will incorporate third pipe plumbing to service all toilets and washing machines and landscaped areas.
- New buildings will be constructed under circular economy principles such as reusing existing assets or materials, designing for material efficiency, selecting products with recycled content, and selecting new materials with low-impact, low embodied carbon.
- Developments that share an interface with the Gardiners Creek Reserve will be landscaped with native and indigenous vegetation.

More information on the engagement undertaken throughout the structure planning process, including how feedback has helped shaped the plans is available in the SRL East Structure Planning Engagement Report.



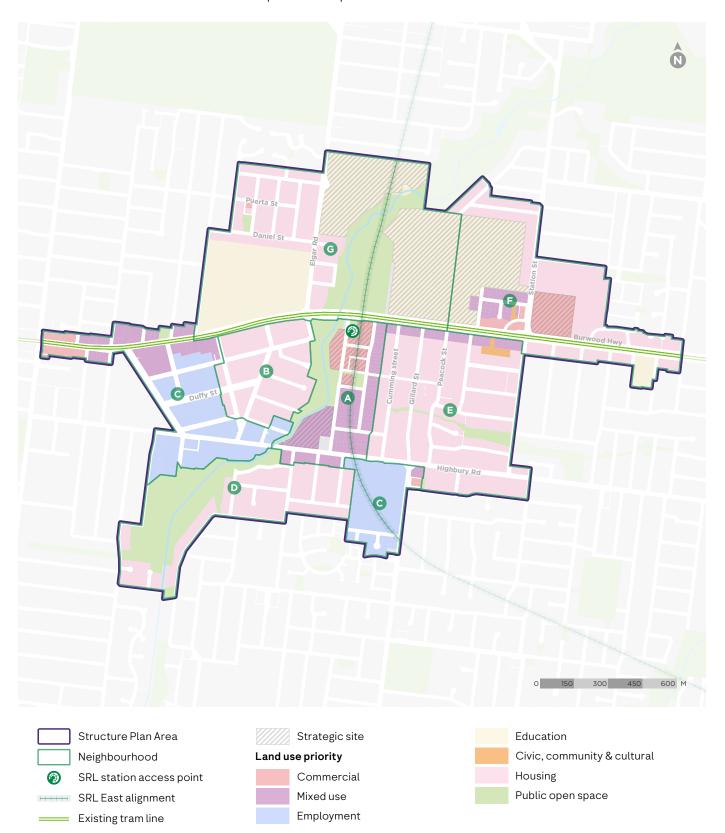
View the SRL East Structure Planning Engagement Report



Proposed changes in Burwood

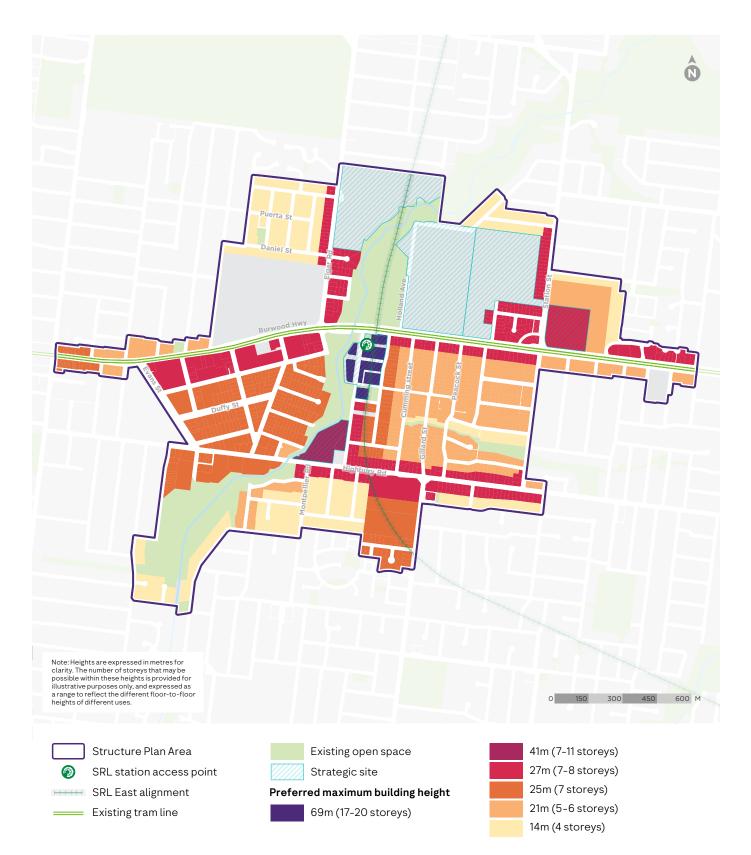
Land Use Plan

Encouraging the right land uses around the SRL station and across the Structure Plan Area will support growth and development that benefits from the investment in improved transport infrastructure. The Land Use Plan identifies priority land uses like housing, open space, community facilities and employment and where they are located across the Structure Plan Area. The roles of each land use are explained in more detail in the Draft Structure Plan.



Delivering growth and amenity

Significant population and employment growth is forecast across the Structure Plan Area, and the scale of built form will increase to accommodate this growth and leverage the benefits of the SRL station. Increased residential density will give more people good access to public transport, jobs and services. A substantial increase in workplaces, health services and/or education facilities close to the SRL station will also improve access to jobs and services for people living elsewhere on Melbourne's rail network.



Distinct neighbourhoods, tailored approaches

The Burwood Structure Plan Area is divided into seven distinct neighbourhoods defined by their unique characteristics and attributes. The Draft Structure Plan sets out tailored planning approaches to guide the development and character of these neighbourhoods which are described below.

A Burwood Central

New high amenity, high density heart of Burwood, with more homes and jobs, new open spaces and a lively night-time economy featuring shops, cafes, restaurants and entertainment options.

E Lundgren

Medium density residential area that takes advantage of its proximity to Burwood Central to provide new homes, as well as new shops and offices, in areas adjacent to Burwood Highway and Highbury Road.

B McIntyre

Mid-rise residential neighbourhood, with good access to the SRL station, local jobs and Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot).

F Station Street

Mixed-use neighbourhood with an improved streetscape and public realm, and more local jobs at Greenwood Business Park.

C Employment neighbourhood

Revitalised and intensified major employment hubs accommodating new businesses and jobs.

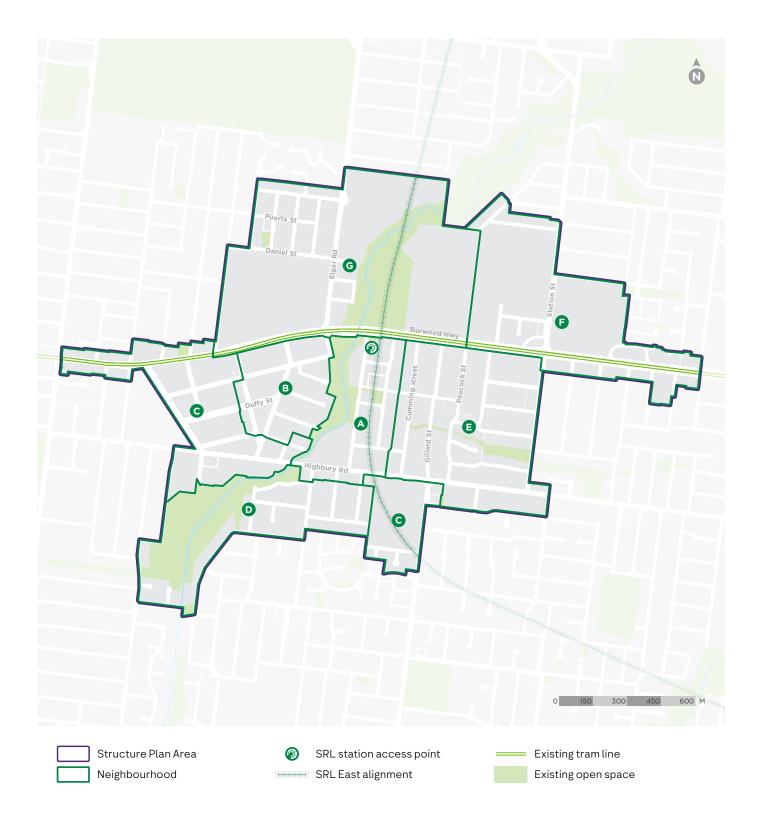
G Education neighbourhood

Education precinct focused on Deakin University, with a mix of housing, education and innovation uses, new walking and cycling links and an extended high capacity public transport corridor along Burwood Highway.

D Ashwood

High amenity residential areas with a landscaped character and access to Gardiners Creek Reserve





What you will find in the Draft Planning Scheme Amendment

SRLA has prepared draft amendment GC248 to the Monash and Whitehorse planning schemes to guide how Burwood will develop over the next 15 years.

The draft amendment translates the Draft Structure Plan and implements relevant actions of the Draft Implementation Plan into planning controls for Burwood's seven distinct neighbourhoods, to ensure future development contributes to the vision for the precinct.

Transforming vision into reality: How planning scheme amendments shape SRL East structure plan areas

The changes proposed will simplify the zoning and overlays, making it easier for people to understand.



Policy

New planning policy is proposed to be inserted into the Monash and Whitehorse planning schemes to identify the role of the SRL project and SRL East Burwood Structure Plan. Existing planning policy will be amended where required to reflect the structure plan. Planning policy will support state planning policy and Victoria's Housing Statement by guiding the development of new housing, jobs, open spaces, and community facilities within the Structure Plan Area.



Precinct Zone

The Victorian Government has introduced the new Precinct Zone to apply to important precincts across Melbourne earmarked for change.

The Precinct Zone simplifies the existing zoning approach by putting all of the relevant land use direction for a precinct into a single zone schedule, making it easier for people to access and understand what controls apply to their land. It also enables a more consistent approach to the planning of major precincts that have been prioritised for growth across Victoria. SRLA proposes to use this zone, rezoning land from Residential, Commercial, or Industrial Zones and specifying permitted land uses and planning permit requirements.

The Precinct Zone schedule will require land use and development in the area to be in accordance with the use and development framework plan which is included in the schedule, and to meet specified environmental sustainability standards, bicycle parking requirements and provision of pedestrian connections where identified.

In Burwood, there is one strategic site – Burwood Station Development Area – where the draft amendment proposes to apply a site specific zone schedule, to capture the site's specific purpose and role, and to require a Master Plan to be prepared to show how the overall site responds to the aims of the structure plan.

The site is supported for transformational growth and change, and will play an important role in bringing new investment and improvements to public spaces in the Structure Plan Area. The new Precinct Zone provides the opportunity for the Suburban Rail Loop East Voluntary Public Benefit Uplift Framework to be introduced in certain parts of the Structure Plan Area, to help deliver public benefits that include:

- Improvements to public realm, including open space
- Affordable housing
- Strategic land uses.

The framework operates by allowing the mandatory Floor Area Ratio that applies to the land to be exceeded, where one or more of the nominated public benefits is provided. This helps encourage development while delivering the sort of public benefits desirable for the area in addition to those already required.

The framework is intended to operate on an 'opt in' basis, so it doesn't mean that the uplift opportunity will necessarily be taken up in all areas.



Overlay

Built Form Overlay

The built form overlays go hand in hand with the new Precinct Zone, providing detailed guidance for the design, height and form of new buildings in the Structure Plan Area to realise the planned future character and amenity. Like the Precinct Zone, the Built Form Overlay provides for a simplified approach that consolidates all of the relevant direction for new buildings and development in the Structure Plan Area into one place.

In each Structure Plan Area, there are multiple 'Place Types' that have been identified based on the distinctive characteristics and aims for each local area. A specific Built Form Overlay schedule has been tailored to each place type.

The identified Place Types are:

- Main Streets
- Key Movement Corridors and Urban Neighbourhoods
- Residential Neighbourhoods
- Employment Growth and Enterprise Neighbourhoods.

The built form overlays will typically replace existing overlay controls specifically aimed at guiding built form outcomes. Other overlays, such as those related to heritage protection, flooding, contamination, and other technical constraints are proposed to be retained.

Deemed to comply built form standards are proposed in the Residential and Employment Neighbourhoods within Built Form Overlay schedules. If an application meets the deemed to comply requirement, then a planning application cannot be refused on the basis of that requirement.

These 'deemed to comply provisions' facilitate timely permit applications, providing greater certainty about the likely expected scale and intensity of future development, while still allowing for innovative design responses on a case-by-case basis. The benefits and uplift framework will not be available in areas where deemed to comply measures are proposed.

Environmental Audit Overlay

Where necessary to manage potential contaminated land risks, an Environmental Audit Overlay is proposed to be applied to ensure any 'potential contamination' is evaluated before the land can be developed for any sensitive use, such as housing or schools.

Public Acquisition Overlay

A Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) is a planning tool used to reserve land for public purposes, like new roads or road widenings, intersection improvements or new open space.

Within the Burwood Structure Plan Area, a specific location have been identified for the application of a PAO, to enable land to be acquired to deliver these key community benefits.

Parking Overlay

New parking overlays are proposed to be introduced to promote a shift to sustainable travel modes. The introduction of maximum parking rates in the central area of the structure plan and near the SRL Station is important to discourage the over-provision of car parking, recognising that this area will benefit from a high level of public transport accessibility into the future.

In all other areas, a combination of minimum and maximum parking rates will be introduced for dwellings and other key land uses.



Notification and Review

Under the existing planning controls that apply in the Structure Plan Area, permit applications are usually 'advertised' to surrounding landowners for comment. Objections can be lodged and the decision of the responsible authority can be appealed to VCAT by any objector or the applicant. The Precinct Zone and the Built Form Overlay 'turn off' the notification and review provisions as a default status in the control templates. This enables permit applications to be facilitated in a timely manner and follows similar approaches taken in areas where significant development outcomes have been sought, such as in the Melbourne CBD, Fishermans Bend, Arden and Central Geelong precincts.



View the draft amendment, documents that support the draft amendment, and the explanatory report about the draft amendment.

Technical reports underpinning the Draft Structure Plan and Draft Planning Scheme Amendment

A comprehensive range of technical assessments have been undertaken to inform the Draft Burwood Structure Plan, and Draft Planning Scheme Amendment.

Technical evidence and technical reports have been collated into a Background Report that summarises the key considerations, assessment and recommendations that guided the development of the Draft Structure Plan.

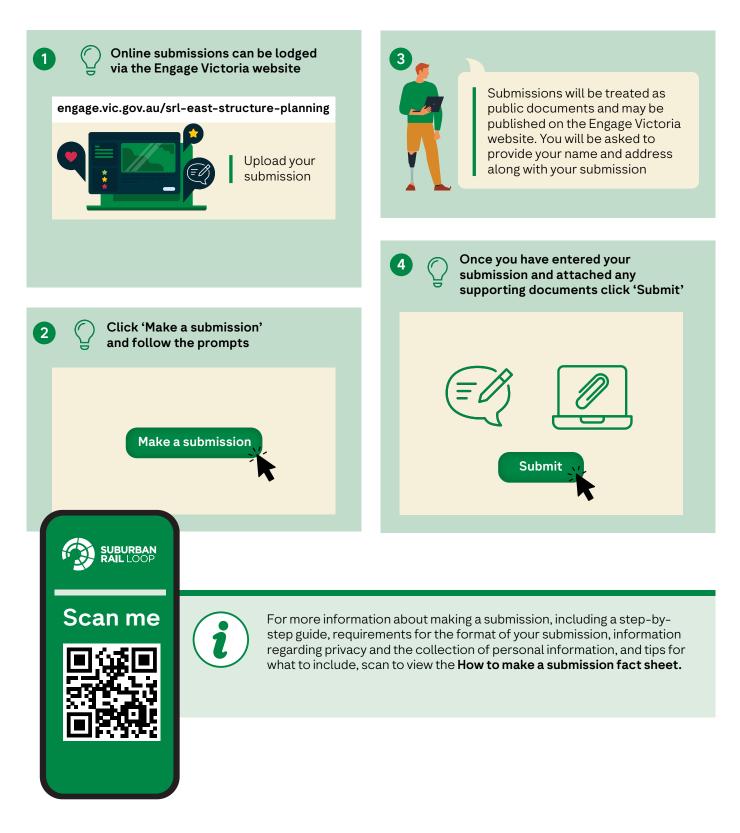
Technical reports have been prepared on a range of topics including:



For a number of technical reports, independent peer reviews were conducted to ensure the methodology and approach undertaken as part of the technical assessment was appropriate and fit for purpose.

How to make a submission

Submissions relating to the Draft Burwood Structure Plan and Draft Planning Scheme Amendment must be made to Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) and received by **11.59pm on Tuesday 22 April 2025.**



contact@srla.vic.gov.au | 1800 105 105 (call anytime) suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au



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