



URBANXCHANGE

Affordable Housing Report

Northcote Village

25 Separation Street

Northcote

September 2026 – Updated Report

ADVERTISED PLAN

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Affordable Housing Report is part of a wider review of the strategic planning controls of the property at Northcote Village, Northcote Plaza, 25 Separation Street Northcote.

This report addresses how the developer will address the matter of affordable housing as a part of the development of the land.

Time and Place is a is a new generation Australian developer focused on creating solutions to contemporary, multi-layered lives. They are a well-regarded developer who has pursued significant developments in Greater Melbourne and Sydney.

Time and Place's intention is to develop a mixed-use precinct comprising 3 residential buildings up to 24 storeys with podium structures of between 3 and 5 levels, including a full line supermarket and other speciality retail. The area is rich in amenity and supports residential development.

The proposal is to deliver 670 dwellings into the Northcote market.

The report has based its strategy for affordable housing on the Victorian Governments *Homes for Victorians* definition.

> *Affordable Housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households, and priced (whether mortgage repayments or rent) so these households are able to meet their other essential basic living costs.*

The definition as supplied in Homes for Victorians is also defined in Section 3AA of the Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987.

It is on this basis that the provision of affordable housing is being considered for the site. Equally the development of affordable housing policy and funding is a changing space with new opportunities emerging constantly. To enable the fulfilment of the affordable housing outcome, it is proposed to develop a framework in which the affordable housing can be delivered. The preferred delivery method will be advised to the Responsible Authority at an agreed milestone in the project's development.

Whatever affordable housing solution/s are offered should be supported by demographic data to ensure that the proposal offered is robust and supportable by an independent review. The key highlights for the City of Darebin are:

- Home ownership rates among 25-34 year olds has fallen from more than 60 per cent (1991) to 45 per cent (2016). For 35-44 year olds, home ownership has fallen fast – from 74 per cent in 1991 to around 62 per cent today – and home-ownership is also declining for 45-54 year olds[1].
- City of Darebin is forecasting that the fastest growing groups of the population represented in 20 – 39year olds
- Housing tenure shows that Darebin has a higher proportion of properties for rent and a lower percentage of properties outright ownership and mortgage compared to Greater Melbourne.
- Housing opportunities for very low and low income singles, couples and families and moderate income singles and couples are either non-existent or very limited. Only families on moderate incomes have opportunities to live in Darebin without entering housing stress.

Equally identifying the needs of the community may be considered in how housing is considered. The housing of key workers in easy access to their places of

[1] Burke et al. (2014). Burke, T., Stone, W. and Ralston, L. *Generational change in home purchase opportunity in Australia.* 232. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

employment maybe an advantage for the Northcote community. The looming shortage of key workers should be considered as a part of any affordable housing outcomes and how providing housing for key workers will add to the local community.

The Federal Government is progressing the Housing Affordability Future Fund (HAFF) with rounds 1 and 2 being implemented and round 3 in the market. The Federal Government has successfully transitioned shared equity and build to rent through the Federal Parliament. It is now implementing build to rent and shared equity, to increase the volume of affordable housing. It could lead to substantial opportunities for affordable housing in multiple tenure types to meet the needs of the low to moderate income earners.

Based on the affordable housing definition including the relevant Ministerial considerations, several affordable housing outcomes should be accepted as contributing to the target:

Affordable Rental via Build to rent – developers including housing associations and their financiers build dwellings and, instead of selling them, retain them to let to tenant households. Rents at an appropriate discount to market rents.

Social housing – this is housing owned by a state government or by a registered housing agency.

Cash Contribution – in lieu of physical dwellings the opportunity to provide the equivalent contribution in cash that can then be put towards the delivery of social housing elsewhere in Darebin.

The variety of housing models should be considered against the income groups as follows:

Table 1 - Application of housing models to income groups

Type	Very Low Income	Low Income	Moderate Income
Build to Rent		✓	✓
Social Housing	✓	✓	

Key aspects to consider in facilitating affordable housing outcomes are:

- The contribution is clearly equalised across the variety of housing tenures meaning there must be a clear mechanism to develop a calculable value of worth for the affordable housing contribution
- Different tenure types will have different requirements for contribution. It will be incumbent upon the Responsible Authority to ensure that the full amount of calculable value is contributed.
- Tenure types can only be pursued if there is a commercial basis and model to do so; this is particularly relevant to the shared equity.

The recent advice from Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) VC258, requires the inclusion of clause 53.23-4 as follows:

Before the use or development of the land begins, excluding demolition, excavation, piling, site preparation works, and works to remediate contaminated land, the owner of the land must enter into an agreement with the responsible authority under section 173 of the Act, in a form to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, that provides for a contribution towards affordable housing (affordable housing contribution) by way of either of the following options:

- *At least 10 per cent of the total number of dwellings in the development must be provided as affordable housing for sale or lease to a registered housing agency or to Homes Victoria. The details of when and how the affordable housing will be delivered and the total value of the affordable housing contribution must be set out in the agreement. The affordable housing dwellings provided should be representative of the approved dwelling mix to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.*
- *An alternative contribution towards the provision of affordable housing must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The details of when and how the alternative contribution is to be made and the total value of the affordable housing contribution must be set out in the agreement to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.*

The land owner must pay the responsible authority's reasonable costs of the preparation, execution, registration and ending of the section 173 agreement (where applicable)."

The developers current preferred delivery mechanism of the affordable housing contribution is via a cash contribution of 3% of the construction costs for the current proposed development application for the residential dwellings. The affordable housing contribution is currently estimated for all stages at $11.4m. However, it also recognises that until the development approval process is complete and the actual approved development can be realised the nominated contribution remains an estimate.

The significant nature of the proposed development means that Time and Place while nominating a preferred position requests flexibility to consider all options once the development approval is granted.

2 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

2.1 What is affordable housing

The Victorian Government policy *Homes for Victorians* provides a clear definition of affordable housing:

> *Affordable Housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households, and priced (whether mortgage repayments or rent) so these households are able to meet their other essential basic living costs.*

The *Homes for Victorians* policy also provides the following definitions of public, community and social housing:

> Public Housing
>
> *Housing owned and managed by the Director of Housing. The Government provides public housing to eligible disadvantaged Victorians including those unemployed, on low incomes, with a disability, with a mental illness or at risk of homelessness.*
>
> Community Housing
>
> *Housing owned or managed by community housing agencies for low income people, including those eligible for public housing. Community housing agencies are regulated by the Government.*
>
> Social Housing
>
> *Social housing is an umbrella term that includes both public housing and community housing. Its provision usually involves some degree of subsidy.*

Section 3AA of the *Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987* essentially adopts the Homes for Victorians' definition of affordable housing, as follows:

> *(1) For the purposes of this Act, affordable housing is housing, including social housing, that is appropriate for the housing needs of any of the following—*
>
> *(a) very low income households;*
>
> *(b) low income households;*
>
> *(c) moderate income households.*
>
> *(2) For the purposes of determining what is appropriate for the housing needs of very low income households, low income households and moderate income households, regard must be had to the matters specified by the Minister by notice published in the Government Gazette.*

The current Victorian Legislative framework does not define key workers; it only defines affordable housing. This report defines a key worker as:

> ***An employee who provides a vital service, especially in the essential services, health, or education sectors.***

In the study area, this includes:

- Providers of services to residents – e.g. teachers, nurses, healthcare workers, pharmacists, council staff
- Providers of services to visitors – e.g. hospitality, retail
- Workers in key local industries.

In 2018, the Planning and Environment Act (the Act) was amended to include a new Objective to "facilitate the provision of affordable housing in Victoria" and to include a definition of affordable housing (as described in above).

These amendments to the Act also included changes to clarify that responsible authorities can enter into voluntary Section 173 agreements with developers for the provision of affordable housing.

The affordable housing framework established under these reforms also introduces two new instruments and a range of support, guidance and educational material.

The first instrument is the specification of the income levels associated with very low, low and moderate income households for affordable housing that is not social housing. A Governor in Council Order setting out these income levels has been published and will be updated annually in the Government Gazette (refer to Table 2 for the current rates)[2].

The second instrument is the Ministerial Notice relating to the specified matters referred to in Clause 3AA(2), which lists the following as "matters to which regard must be had for the purposes of determining what is appropriate for the housing needs of very low, low and moderate income households:

- *Allocation*
- *Affordability (in terms of the capacity for very low income, low income and moderate income households that it is intended for)*
- *Longevity (in terms of the public benefit of the provision)*
- *Tenure*
- *Type of housing, in terms of form and quality*
- *Location, in terms of site location and proximity to amenities, employment and transport*
- *Integration, in terms of the physical build and local community*
- *The following official estimates of housing need:*
  - *Australian Bureau of Statistics Community Profiles*
  - *Census profiles for Victoria*
  - *Department of Health and Human Services Rental Report*
  - *Metropolitan regional housing plans to guide housing growth*
  - *Public housing waiting list (Victorian Housing Register list)*
  - *Victoria in Future data tables.*

2.2 What are the types of affordable housing

Housing models that can improve affordability in Darebin are:

Affordable rental via build to rent. Developers (including housing associations) and their financiers build multi-unit buildings and, instead of selling the units, retain them to let to tenant households. Rents may be set at market rent or, for affordable and social housing, at an appropriate discount to market rents. The NRAS was a build to rent model.

Social housing. This is owned by a state government or by a community housing organisation. Community housing organisations are not-for-profit corporations that own and/or manage community housing and are registered by Federal and/or State housing regulators. Housing Associations and Providers are independent companies that are overseen by a skills-based board.

Tier 1 Housing Associations are seen by government as organisations that:

- Own, manage and develop affordable rental housing
- Provide housing support and assistance to clients
- Are viable businesses, partnering with government and the community
- Have met registration criteria and meet ongoing regulatory compliance against performance standards.

Cash Contribution. Any contribution should be phrased in such a way as to define what the contribution is addressing, that is affordable housing. The whole contribution should be either provided directly to a Registered Housing Agency or placed in a trust and redirected to a social housing project within the municipality.

[2] Note that this is different to the income limits set for social housing set by the Director of Housing, which are published at www.housing.vic.gov.au.

2.3 Who requires the affordable housing

There is a variety of affordable housing delivery models available to meet the housing needs of different income groups, as conceptually illustrated in Figure 1 below. The level of government subsidy associated with each model is proportional to the income band and, therefore, the capacity of the household to pay market rent or a mortgage.

The models identified in Figure 2 provide a simple conceptual framework for considering the relationship between income groups, tenure types and the relative level of subsidy (government or via an affordable housing contribution from developers or philanthropists) that might be needed for each model to be applied.

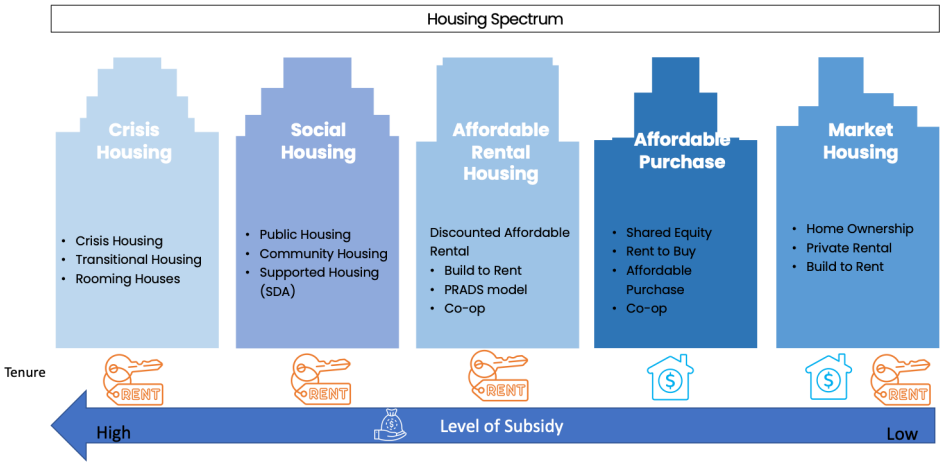


Figure 1 Housing continuum and depth of subsidy

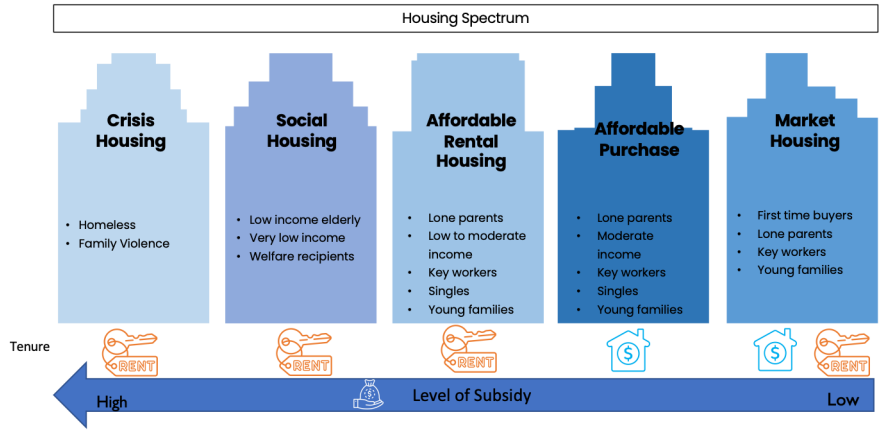


Figure 2 - Occupier of types of affordable housing

The Victorian Government has defined following income ranges for the purposes of informing affordable housing policy across Greater Melbourne[3] in 2026 – 2027. The income ranges cover three household types as follows:

Table 2 – GIC orders for income ranges associated with affordable housing (July 2026) Greater Melbourne

	Very low income range (annual)	Low income range (annual)	Moderate income range (annual)
Single adult	Up to $32,250	$32,251 to $51,590	$51591 to $77,390
Couple, no dependents	Up to $48,360	$48,361 to $77,390	$77,391 to $116,080
Family (with one or two parents) and dependent children	Up to $67,710	$67,711 to $108,350	$108,351 to $162,510

2.4 Why is affordable housing required

Cities and towns provide a multitude of services and opportunities to their residents, and the most fundamental of these are access to adequate housing and employment. A diverse range of dwelling types, tenures and price points distributed across the towns is essential to ensure that all parts of the community can access housing that is appropriate to their needs and affordable within their household income.

Shortages of affordable housing (including affordable rental housing) act as a constraint on economic growth and can prevent lower income households from fully participating in economic and social opportunities. This can occur when people are priced out of living in the local community and are forced to choose between commuting long distances to jobs, or potentially foregoing work altogether if they cannot obtain a local job. AHURI 4research has identified:

- All key worker jobs require physical presence—few key workers can 'work from home'. Proximity to work is particularly important in healthcare, emergency services and some community and welfare support roles in order for workers to cover shifts, quickly respond to increases in service demand and attend emergency situations.
- This study finds that Sydney and Melbourne's teachers, nurses, community support workers, ambulance and emergency officers, delivery personnel and cleaners are struggling to find appropriate and affordable housing. Twenty per cent of key workers across Sydney and 17 per cent across Melbourne experience housing stress, with much higher rates in inner subregions and regional areas.
- Difficulties accessing housing that is both appropriate and affordable are extending beyond the lower income (Q1 and Q2) households traditionally considered in need of welfare support to also include workers earning incomes in the Q3 range.
- In England and the US, challenges attracting and retaining key workers in expensive metropolitan regions is being addressed by governments through assisted home ownership programs and planning and funding support for 'intermediate' housing products situated on the continuum between social rental and market rate housing.
- In Australia, policies and projects to support key workers (variously defined) to access housing are limited and sporadic and statutory planning policies and funding programs to support the provision of affordable

[3] These income ranges have been gazette set under section 3AB of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The income ranges are intended to inform policy relating to income groups access to *affordable* housing – the income thresholds for eligibility for *social* housing are separately set by the Director of Housing.

[4] Housing key workers: scoping challenges, aspirations and policy responses for Australian cities – May 2021, Gilbert, Nasreen & Gurran

housing generally, and affordable housing for moderate- income earners more specifically, are limited.

The main barriers to key workers accessing suitable, affordable housing across the wider region include:

- Availability and cost of housing
- Quality of housing
- Shortage of permanent rental housing stock

Darebin is a high-income community with pockets of very low and low income, this has created:

- A current gap in housing for higher quality dwellings suited to workers on higher wages from the health care and professional service sectors
- Appropriate housing for moderate income workers

The key workers are in the following industries:

- Construction
- Healthcare and social services
- Education
- Hospitality
- Retail
- Manufacturing/labour.

2.5 Location

If the affordable housing is to be provided on site the affordable housing should be tenure blind, that is indistinguishable from all the other housing.

Urbanxchange does not believe that salt and pepper is necessary in such development. There is no substantive research that suggests that salt and pepper or cluster is advantageous for the occupants in a development such as is proposed. Developments such as The Merchant at Victoria Harbour and The Nicholson, both have affordable housing for key workers that is provided in clusters, not salt and pepper.

2.6 How do you monitor the affordable housing

The question for many models then becomes how you monitor that the affordable housing is being directed to those in need. The following are offered as solutions:

1. How does the Responsible Authority assure itself that the affordable housing contribution has been made?

   To achieve this Urbanxchange believes that an appropriate position would be:

   - A contribution be made to an active housing association/provider in Darebin delivering dwellings.
   - The developer/landowner will advise council what affordable housing is being provided, prior to the completion of construction.
   - The housing association will advise the Responsible Authority that the contribution has been contributed and the relevant proof provided to the Responsible Authority.
   - The registered Housing Association write to Responsible Authority and confirm that the stage contribution has been used as an equity contribution to the dwellings.

2. If Build to Rent is agreed how does Responsible Authority satisfy itself that the residents are eligible.?

   To achieve this Urbanxchange believes that an appropriate position would be:

   - The tenant of the affordable housing must meet the Victorian Governments eligibility criteria as published in the GIC Orders at the time occupancy for build to rent or purchase for shared equity. This will be proven by evidence of income and a statutory declaration by the occupant noting income compliance at or below the threshold incomes with the GIC Orders at the time of occupancy. The property manager will have copies as evidence of both the income and statutory declaration. It is noted that it is a criminal offence to lie on a statutory declaration. Occupants of the dwellings should pay no more than 30% of income on affordable housing costs. The affordability is for occupants who meet the income eligibility criteria as set out in the GIC Orders at the time that occupancy commences. In this instance the affordable housing is targeted at moderate income earners.

- If the property is rented can be no more than 75% of market rent. Market rent can be defined by the market rents provided by the Real Estate Institute of Victoria for Northcote or as assessed by a valuer in a valuation.
- The question then is how the Responsible Authority get comfort that the 75% is fair and reasonable. It is proposed that the position taken by NRAS subsidies be adopted, that is every 3years the property manager commissions a valuation that notes what the full rent for the apartments would be. A copy can be provided to the Responsible Authority.
- The items that should be critical to the affordable housing tenant experience are:
    - that all the property and apartments are maintained to a high standard
    - the leases all comply with the Residential Tenancy Act
    - The occupants of the dwellings, at the commencement of the lease, meet the requirements of the GIC Orders at the time of occupancy
    - The rent charged are affordable being no more than 75% or market rent or 30% of income.

  The question then is how the Responsible Authority get comfort that the above listed activities are occurring. It is proposed that the property manager complete an annual attestation to the effect that all the above criteria are being met. The attestation can be submitted to Responsible Authority annually.
- Every three years the Owner of the Build to Rent procure an independent audit of the affordable housing dwellings to confirm the following which is to be provided to the Responsible Authority within 60 days of the end of the calendar year:
    - That the tenants met the Victorian Governments eligibility criteria as published in the Governor in Council Orders (GIC) at the time occupancy
    - The property manager has both evidence of the income and a statutory declaration by the occupant noting income compliance with the GIC
    - The tenants have entered a lease in accordance with the Residential Tenancy Act, 1997. Noting that it may be month to month after the initial term of the lease
    - The rents being paid by the tenants are no more than 75% of Market Rent. Noting that tenants will only be eligible to participate in the affordable housing offer if their combined gross income exceeds the income limit for their household by 25 per cent or more in two consecutive eligibility years.
    - If there is non-compliance on any matter the property manager will report on the remedy to the reasonable satisfaction of Responsible Authority and such matters will be recorded in the Annual Attestation and Triannual Audit.

3 BACKGROUND

Urbanxchange Pty Ltd has been engaged by T&P Northcote Development Pty Ltd (Time and Place) to undertake an analysis and make recommendations as to how affordable housing could be facilitated within the proposed development at Northcote Village, Northcote Plaza, 25 Separation Street Northcote. The site is within the City of Darebin.

The proposal is to continue the high design quality, but to develop 670 apartments and commercial space at the ground and podium level. The development includes a communal open space area. There are three towers of residential living of varying heights up to 24 storeys.

Time and Place recognises that a contribution to affordable housing is required to achieve the desired built form, through the planning scheme via clause 53.23-3 application. Time and Place proposes that the affordable housing contribution be 10% of dwellings at a 30% discount to market or the equivalent thereof via alternate options, including 3% of constructions cost of the residential portion of the development. However, the continuing and changing environment means that Time and Place wish to have flexibility in how the affordable housing is delivered.

The proposed built form will establish a high standard of architectural outcome for the Northcote precinct and set a benchmark for future development in the precinct.

The development schedule is:

Type	Stage 1 (452)	Stage 2 (218)
Studio	38	26
1 bed 1 bath	152	94
2 bed 1 bath	42	14
2 bed 2 bath	186	76
3 bed 2 bath	34	8

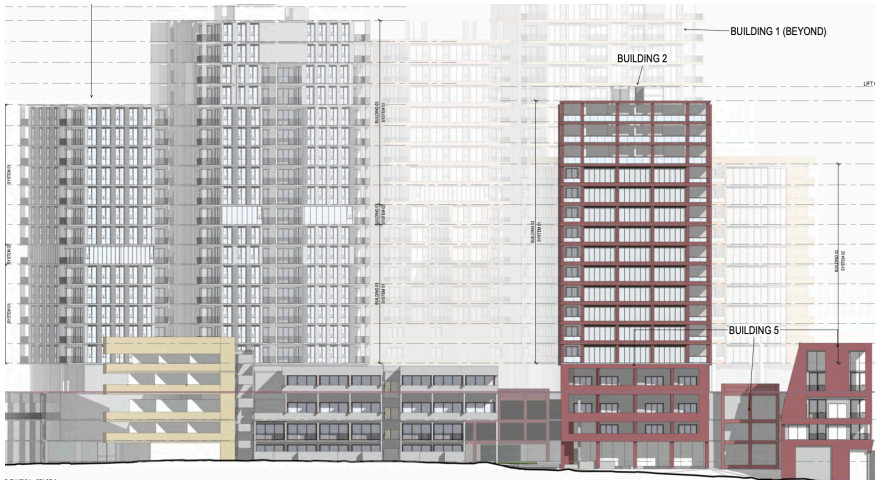


Figure 3 – Proposed development

4 AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY

4.1 Victorian Government

Plan Melbourne recognises the policy drive for the provision of social and affordable housing, section 2.3 notes:

> *For Melbourne to remain liveable for all its citizens, the supply of social and affordable housing needs to be increased. A range of housing types need to be developed within suburbs across Melbourne—not just in outer areas—to improve local affordability for homeowners and renters.*

The Victorian Government policy *Homes for Victorians* provides:

> *Affordable Housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households, and priced (whether mortgage repayments or rent) so these households are able to meet their other essential basic living costs.*

Homes for Victorians also defines community housing as:

> *Housing owned or managed by community housing agencies for low income people, including those eligible for public housing. Community housing agencies are regulated by the Government.*

The *Housing Act 1983* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* provide the legislative framework to implement the policy position. The Housing Act governs and establishes the regulatory position for "registered housing agencies", that is housing association and providers.

The Planning and Environment Act seeks to facilitate the provision of affordable housing as part of the planning approvals process. This objective is supported by strategies within the State Planning Policy to increase housing choice in terms of type, tenure and cost and encourage a significant proportion of new development to be affordable for households on very low to moderate incomes.

The State Planning Policy makes several references to Social and Affordable Housing, including:

- Clause 16: Planning for housing should include the provision of land for affordable housing;
- Clause 16.01-4S - Improve housing affordability by: – Encouraging a significant proportion of new development to be affordable for households on very low to moderate incomes.
- Clause 16.01-4S - Increase the supply of well-located affordable housing by: – Facilitating a mix of private, affordable and social housing in suburbs, activity centres and urban renewal precincts.

4.2 City of Darebin

The City of Darebin *Housing Strategy 2024* that includes for affordable housing. The document notes that the Council will develop a separate section of its strategy "Part 3" on affordable housing.

The strategy goes on to identify four areas of action for Council:

- Advocacy
- Partnerships
- direct intervention and support; and
- through its planning functions through the Darebin Planning Scheme

Beyond this, sections of the Darebin Planning Scheme outline:

Cl.16.01-1S Housing supply

> *Support opportunities for a range of income groups to choose housing in well-serviced locations.*
>
> *Plan for growth areas to provide for a mix of housing types through a variety of lot sizes, including higher housing densities in and around activity centres.*

Clause 16.01-1L Housing supply in Darebin

Encourage a combination of greenfield and infill opportunities.

Facilitate a range of residential development options to enhance the diversity of housing choices and affordability.

Cl. 16.01-2S Housing Affordability

Objective To deliver more affordable housing closer to jobs, transport and services.

Strategies

Improve housing affordability by:

- *Ensuring land supply continues to be sufficient to meet demand.*
- *Increasing choice in housing type, tenure and cost to meet the needs of households as they move through life cycle changes and to support diverse communities.*
- *Promoting good housing and urban design to minimise negative environmental impacts and keep costs down for residents and the wider community.*
- *Encouraging a significant proportion of new development to be affordable for households on very low to moderate incomes.*

Increase the supply of well-located affordable housing by:

- *Facilitating a mix of private, affordable and social housing in suburbs, activity centres and urban renewal precincts.*
- *Ensuring the redevelopment and renewal of public housing stock better meets community needs.*

Facilitate the delivery of social housing by identifying surplus government land suitable for housing.

By meeting the requirements of Clause 53.23-3, the requirements of the Darebin Planning Scheme will be achieved.

5 LEGISLATIVE RULES AND GUIDES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPLEMENTATION

The Planning and Environment Act 1987 enables implementation of affordable housing within the following legislative 'rules':

Table 3 - Legislative context for affordable housing in Victorian planning

<table>
<tr><th>Question</th><th>Rule</th><th>Source</th></tr>
<tr><td>What is the planning authority, obliged to do?</td><td>A planning authority must implement the objectives of planning in Victoria.</td><td>Planning and Environment Act 1987, Section 12(1)(a)</td></tr>
<tr><td>What is the legislative objective for affordable housing?</td><td>To facilitate the provision of affordable housing in Victoria.</td><td>Planning and Environment Act 1987, Section 4(1)(fa)</td></tr>
<tr><td>What is affordable housing?</td><td>For the purpose the Act, affordable housing is housing, including social housing, that is appropriate for the housing needs of any of the following—

(a) very low income households;
(b) low income households;
(c) moderate income households.</td><td>Planning and Environment Act 1987, Section 3AA(1)</td></tr>
<tr><td>How do you determine whether housing is affordable?</td><td>Note the annual income range definitions in the Governor in Council declaration that apply to affordable housing (except social housing):

<table><tr><th></th><th>Very low income range (annual)</th><th>Low income range (annual)</th><th>Moderate income range (annual)</th></tr><tr><td>Single adult</td><td>Up to $32,250</td><td>$32,251 to $51,590</td><td>$51591 to $77,390</td></tr><tr><td>Couple, no dependents</td><td>Up to $48,360</td><td>$48,361 to $77,390</td><td>$77,391 to $116,080</td></tr><tr><td>Family (with one or two parents) and dependent children</td><td>Up to $67,710</td><td>$67,711 to $108,350</td><td>$108,351 to $162,510</td></tr></table>Have regard to the Minister's specified matters when determining what is appropriate housing for household in those income ranges, See Section 5.1 below.</td><td>Planning and Environment Act 1987, Section 3AA(2) and (3)

Income ranges specified by Governor in Council, 11 June 2025 under Planning and Environment Act 1987, Section 3AB.

Ministerial Notice, 17 May 2018 under Planning and Environment Act 1987, Section 3AA(2).</td></tr>
</table>

5.1 Ministerial Considerations

The purpose of the Victorian Government affordable housing reforms is to encourage an increase in affordable housing through local councils seeking a voluntary affordable housing contribution, as part of planning approval processes[5]. The legislated definition of affordable housing and the associated GIC Orders set out the income bands for individuals and households that the State Government considers to be in need of affordable housing as described in Section 2 of this report.

The current State government policy does not specify any maximum percentage of an individual, couple or family's income should be assumed as being spent on housing costs. However, there is broad support for the concept that individuals and households should spend no more than 30 per cent of income on housing costs. The position of 30% was established by AHURI (Yates and Gabriel, 2006)

The Planning and Environment Act 1987, Section 3AA(2) includes reference to the Ministerial Notice relating to the specified matters and lists "matters to which regard must be had for the purposes of determining what is appropriate for the housing needs of very low, low and moderate income households." The table below provides a response to the matters in the Ministerial Notice as these maybe applied to on the proposed development at Northcote Village, Northcote Plaza, 25 Separation Street Northcote.

Table 4 - Application of the Ministerial Guidelines

Matter	Urbanxchange s recommendation
Allocation	The definition of affordability as set out in the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Section 3AA (i.e. very low, low and moderate income earners) should be applied in relation to any affordable housing provisions at the site. The application of all income categories is justified based on the demographics and housing need in the Darebin LGA. It will be incumbent upon the operator of any affordable housing to ensure that the occupants meet the income eligibility criteria as set out in the GIC Orders at the time that occupancy commences. For dwellings that are provided as affordable purchase or discounted rents this can be achieved by evidence of income accompanied by an executed Statutory Declaration from the occupier noting that they are within the specified GIC Income criteria, as outlined in Section 2.6 of this report. For dwellings that are developed as social housing it will be incumbent upon the operator to manage allocations.

[5] https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/delivering-social-housing-affordable-housing-contribution

Matter	Urbanxchange s recommendation
Affordability (in terms of the capacity for very low income, low income and moderate income households that it is intended for)	Occupants of any dwellings should pay no more than 30% of income on affordable housing costs. The affordability is for occupants who meet the income eligibility criteria as set out in the GIC Orders at the time that occupancy commences, unless shared equity is engaged and then the compliance with GIC will be at the time of contract. In this instance the affordable housing is targeted at moderate income earners. If any affordable housing is provided as a rental model, the rent should be no more than 75% of market rent.
Longevity (in terms of the public benefit of the provision)	Any affordable housing should be provisioned for no more than 25 years, via agreed mechanisms that have a time limit of 25 years from initial occupancy. If titles are incumbered via a Section 173 then the Section 173 must have a timeframe in which it will elapse. The longevity of ownership to the actual site cannot be in perpetuity as financial institutions will not finance projects with this condition. Nor in some instances of tenure type will they consider beyond 25 years, because again financial institutions will not consider finance.
Tenure	Urbanxchange suggests that the following range of potential tenure solutions: • Build to rent • Social housing • Cash Contribution Cash contribution can be considered and placed with a registered housing agency for use on new dwellings preferably within the City of Darebin. In addition, the possible extended time frame (5 plus years) for implementation of affordable housing within the project means that there will be wider solutions for supply of housing as time progresses and there is a need to leave the ability for these solutions to be applied. The Federal Government is proposing significant change in affordable housing position and funds. For example, the first two of HAFF are now being delivered as housing and HAFF 3 funding is in the market. Build to Rent and Shared Equity are both being implemented at a federal level.
Type of housing, in terms of form and quality	The affordable housing should be tenure blind and meet the Better Apartment Design Standards. The size of the dwellings needs to meet the identified demographic need of smaller housing for 25 – 39 year olds.

Matter	Urbanxchange s recommendation
	Based on the projected demographic need for single person and smaller households (as outlined in section 6.2, Urbanxchange suggests the following as maximum splits of housing types: • Up to 70% x 1 bedroom • Up to 40% x 2 bedroom
Location, in terms of site location and proximity to amenities, employment and transport	The site has access key amenities that would be considered essential for social and affordable housing being: • Supermarket • Schools • Medical and health centres • Community facilities and services. The site has a walkable score of 92 out of 100, meaning it has very high levels of amenity.
Integration, in terms of the physical build and local community	The affordable housing dwellings should be tenure blind.
The following official estimates of housing need: • Australian Bureau of Statistics Community Profiles • Census profiles for Victoria • Department of Health and Human Services Rental Report • Metropolitan regional housing plans to guide housing growth • Public housing waiting list (Victorian Housing Register list) • Victoria in Future data tables. •	The data indicates that the need within Darebin is: ○ For housing for those aged 20 – 39 years ○ Housing for low-moderate income households ○ Need for an increase in stock providing opportunities for younger people to who are on low to moderate incomes. ○ Quality rental stock ○ Affordable purchase

5.2 DTP Guidance

In September 2025, DTP released its guidance on the requirements for the affordable housing contribution as follows:

Government will seek that the 10% requirement for affordable housing under Clause 53.23 is delivered by one of the three options set out below.

Option 1 – Discounted sale or gifting of homes to a registered housing agency (RHA) or Homes Victoria delivery criteria

- Affordable housing can be contributed as:
- 10% of all dwellings sold at a 30% discount to a Registered Housing Agency (RHA) or Homes Victoria for operation as social and/or affordable housing, or
- 3% of dwellings gifted to a RHA or Homes Victoria.
- an alternative percentage of dwellings or alternative discount rates may be considered where the total value is equivalent to the 3% contribution in option 2.
- the applicant should provide evidence of an agreement that confirms support of the RHA.

Option 2 – Contribution to the social housing growth fund delivery criteria

- A cash contribution equal to 3% of the development cost to the Social Housing Growth Fund (SHGF).
- Payment to be made to the Department of Treasury (DTF) and Finance accounts receivable.
- The current contribution amount will be subject to review periodically.

Option 3 – Discounted rental in Build to Rent developments

- 10% of dwellings rented to eligible households in build to rent (BTR) projects over a defined period, until the affordable housing contribution has been fully acquitted.
- The total value of the contribution, to be acquitted over the defined period, must be equivalent to the 3% contribution in option 2.
- Reduced rent provided on the market rent of the dwelling must result in an affordable rental price for the eligible household (no more than 30 per cent of their household income).
- The proponent must report annually to the Minister for Planning on the rental discount provided and accrued contribution until the obligation has been met.

The Federal Labor Government is seeking to expand the tenure types and mechanisms to deliver housing outcomes. The Shared Equity Legislation passed in the previous parliament is now being implemented. Build to Rent is being supported with changes to taxation settings to improve commerciality and support the roll out of commercial build to rent.

6 DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

An overview of the demographics of the Australian housing market is provided in below. The specifics of the broader market and how they are reflected in the City of Darebin are noted below.

6.1 Australian Context

Since the mid-1990s. Over the long term, prices have risen rapidly in all cities and most regions, although there are variations from year to year[6]. Average prices have increased from about two to three times average disposable incomes in the 1980s and early 1990s to about five times more recently[7]. Median prices have increased from around four times median incomes in the early 1990s to more than six times today (and more than eight times in Sydney)[8].

Population growth is a basic, if often overlooked, factor in differences between housing systems. High population growth means that a housing system needs to continually add new stock, which may have implications for the replacement of old stock; the investment of resources in new supply needs also to be financed and implemented. Volatility in rates of growth may pose challenges for the planning, financing and marketing of housing. All these factors may have implications for the distribution of housing between sectors and between people.

Home ownership rose rapidly in Australia in the early 1950s, from about 50 per cent to 70 per cent. Overall home ownership remained around 70 per cent for the next 50 years; a slight decline during the past decade saw it fall to 66 per cent in 2021.

But the ageing of the Australian population has concealed a greater fall in home-ownership rates during the past 20 years for all but the oldest households. Younger Australians have always had lower incomes and less accumulated savings, hence lower home-ownership rates. But between 1981 and 2016, home ownership rates among 25-34 year olds fell from more than 60 per cent to 45 per cent (see figure 4). The Figure shows a continuing fall in home ownership in all age groups but it is most pronounced in the under 40 years category. This in turn has led to rapid increases in rent as the demand for housing increases.

[6] Stapledon (2012).
[7] C. Kent (2013); Ellis (2017a); and Fox and Finlay (2012).
[8] The median dwelling price compared with median household disposable income is the best price-to-income measure, but median measures are often not as readily available as average measures: CoreLogic (2021). Other price-to-income measures are even higher due to differences in measuring incomes and prices (for example, Demographia (2022) calculates Sydney has a price-to-income ratio of 8.8 and Melbourne at 6.9).

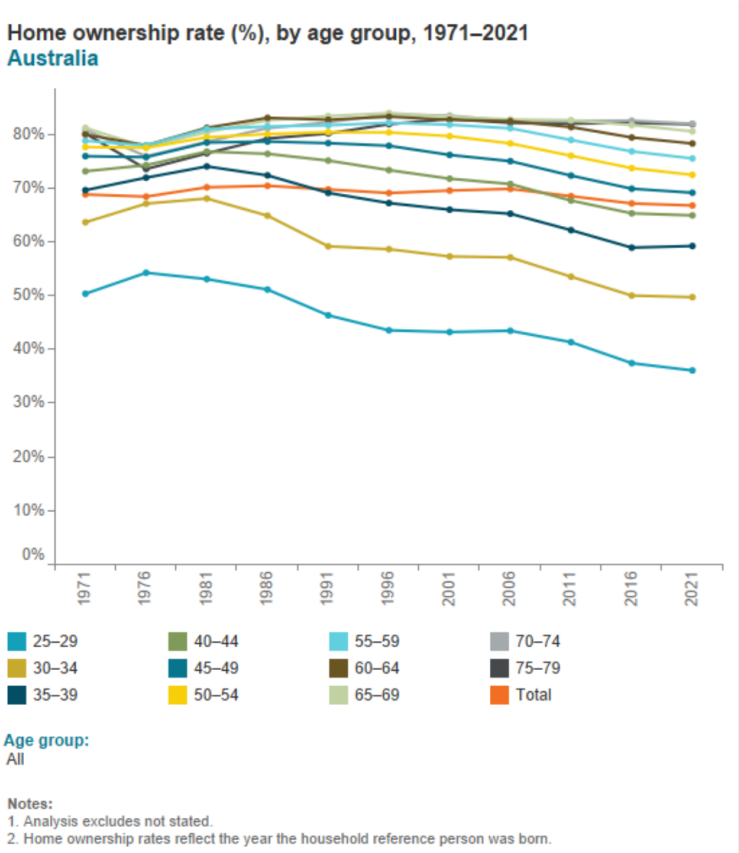


Figure 4 - Home ownership rates via age groups (%)

Consequently, without intervention, home ownership rates are unlikely to bounce back over time. For 35-44 year olds, home ownership has fallen fast – from 74 per cent in 1991 to around 62 per cent today – and home-ownership is also declining for 45-54 year olds. These trends are expected to translate into a 10 percentage point fall in home-ownership rates for over-65s by 2046.

Home ownership has been the Australian way of wealth creation for many generations. Many aspects of Australian policy, including areas relating to retirement incomes, access to finance and rental tenure, have been built on the assumption that most Australians will own their home.

Today's trends suggest that a greater proportion of people reaching retirement age will be renting and that more of them will depend on the private rental market rather than social and public housing. They also indicate that, without adequate incomes, the rate of homelessness will increase.

Of particular note is the increase of lone person households in Australia's capital cities, particularly Melbourne. The biggest increase in lone person households will be seen by those in the 20 – 35 age in the moderate income range.

Between 2016 and 2021, the ABS census data shows that the rate of increase in the number of households rose faster than the rate of increase in the number of private dwellings in every state or territory in Australia. As new households have to live somewhere, (and there being no increase in the number of social housing dwellings over this time period) this suggests that, across the nation, the supply of new dwellings is not being delivered fast enough to properly provide enough homes for everyone.

Moving forward the National Housing Supply and Affordability Council[9] (NHSAC) notes

- The supply of new housing is near its lowest level in a decade. 177,000 dwellings were completed in 2024, falling significantly short of underlying demand for housing, which was estimated at around 223,000 for the same period. This shortfall added to already significant unmet demand in the system.
- 938,000 dwellings are forecast to be completed during the Housing Accord period, which falls short of the 1.2 million target. Scenario analysis indicates that even under optimistic economic scenarios, the target will not be achieved. No state or territory is forecast to meet the share of the target implied by its population. When factoring in demolitions, the net new supply is expected to total 825,000 over the Housing Accord period, which is 79,000 dwellings fewer than expected new underlying demand.

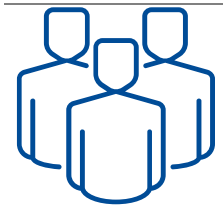
The NHSAC also noted that the demand for non-market housing and housing support payments remained elevated. Waitlists for public housing remained close to record-high levels at 169,000 households nationally. The number of greatest-needs households on the waitlists rose to a new record high. The number of clients accessing specialist homelessness services rose to 280,000 and the number of people experiencing persistent homelessness rose to almost 38,000. It noted that the greatest demand is for small one-bedroom dwellings.

[9] National Housing Supply and Affordability Council – State of the Housing System 2025

6.2 Overview of Population and Housing Issues in Darebin Council

The 2021 ABS Census provides an overview of the existing community within Darebin.

Analysis of the five-year age groups of Darebin in 2021 compared with Greater Melbourne shows that there was a higher proportion of people aged between 25 and 54 years, and lower in the younger and over 65 years age groups.

		Darebin	Greater Melbourne
	Age Groups	Av Age is 37 yo	Av age is 31yo
	Av. household income pw	$1,829	$1,900
	Household income over $3,000 pw	27.1%	25.2%
	Home owned	28.5%	28.7%
	Mortgage	28.6%	35.6%
	Renting	37.0%	29.2%
	1-bedroom	9.7%	6.0%
	2-bedroom	32.0%	19.7%
	3-bedroom	38.0%	38.0%
	4-bedroom	13.1%	26.0%
	Couples with children	26.1%	33.1%
	Couples without children	23.0%	23.5%
	One parent families	9.1%	10.2%
	Lone person households	29.4%	23.7%

Observations

The overall community is a younger population representative of a community that has gentrified. This is further supported by the professional/manager category being 48.4% compared to 34% for Greater Melbourne.

The community is of a moderate to higher income in nature, in the city side suburbs and moderate income in the outer suburbs of the municipality.

When comparisons are drawn:

- 52.4% of households are noted as lone person or couples without children but only 41.7% of dwellings are one or two bedrooms

This, together with the projected growth in lone person households, suggests that an increase in 1- and 2-bedroom dwellings is important to meet the current and projected growth in lone and couple households. The data indicates that older members of the community are remaining in large family homes because alternate housing is not available or moving costs are prohibitive.

The community is distinguished as being “middle class”.

The inclusion of smaller dwellings as affordable housing can be supported through the demographics. Equally there is sufficient scope for all the categories of affordable housing, very low/low/moderate to be included in discussions.

6.3 Population and housing projections for Darebin

The National Housing Supply Council, via Housing Australia, provides forecast on predictions on the growth of household formation relative to income. The National Housing Supply Council indicates that not only is there a negative amount of affordable housing for all people in the first three deciles (that is 75% of the population) of income, but that what housing is available to them is likely to be occupied by people with higher incomes.

Victoria in the future projections for the City of Darebin are as follows:

The Victoria in the Futures projections for Darebin outlines the following:

Table 5- Victoria in the future projections for Darebin

Topic	2021	2026	2031	2036
Population	150,296	163,415	176,485	189,175
Dwellings	68,366	72,923	79,043	85,493
Households	63,755	69,839	76,218	82,426
Av household size	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Dwelling Occupancy rate	93%	96%	96%	96%

The Victoria in the future data also reviews household composition

Table 6 Household compositions in Darebin VitF

Households by type	2021	2026	2031	2036
Couples with children	17,098	18,585	20,242	21,871
Couples without children	15,401	17,160	18,965	20,835
One parent families	6,015	6,517	7,124	7,777
Lone person	19,622	21,362	22,995	24,528

The data clearly indicates a need for additional housing and for that housing to be focused on the two largest growth groups couples without children and lone person households. This also allows for the older cohort of the community who require appropriate housing.

7 AFFORDABLE HOUSING TENURES

7.1 Affordable housing tenures

This section of the report outlines the various affordable housing models that can be considered to increase affordable housing within a municipality. They can be summarized as:

Build to rent. Developers and their financiers build multi-unit buildings and instead of selling the units, retain them to let to tenant households. Rents may be set at market rent or, for affordable and social housing, at an appropriate discount to market rents. The NRAS was a build to rent model.

Social housing. This is owned by a state government or by a community housing organisation. Community housing organisations are not-for-profit corporations that own and/or manage community housing and are registered by Federal and/or state housing regulators. Housing Associations and Providers are independent companies that are overseen by a skills-based board.

Tier 1 Housing Associations are seen by government as organisations that:

- Own, manage and develop affordable rental housing
- Provide housing support and assistance to clients
- Are viable businesses, partnering with government and the community
- Have met registration criteria and meet ongoing regulatory compliance against performance standards.

Cash Contribution – in lieu of physical dwellings, the opportunity to provide the equivalent contribution in cash that can then be put towards the delivery of affordable housing elsewhere in Darebin.

7.2 Affordable housing contribution

The provision of affordable housing needs to be balanced with the commerciality of providing the affordable housing and the cost of development. The principle is to have a clear calculable dollar value of the affordable housing contribution. In calculating the dollar value of the contribution there are three interconnected levers that can be applied, these being:

- length of tenure for the dwellings to remain affordable housing
- the percentage of dwellings to which the affordable housing contribution is to be applied; and
- the discount to market percentage for the affordable housing.

In applying the above levers, if the Responsible Authority wants to extend the length of tenure, then the percentage of dwellings and the discount to market will fall. Equally, if a greater percentage of dwellings is required as affordable housing the length of tenure for the affordable housing and the discount to market will be less. The levers are all interlinked.

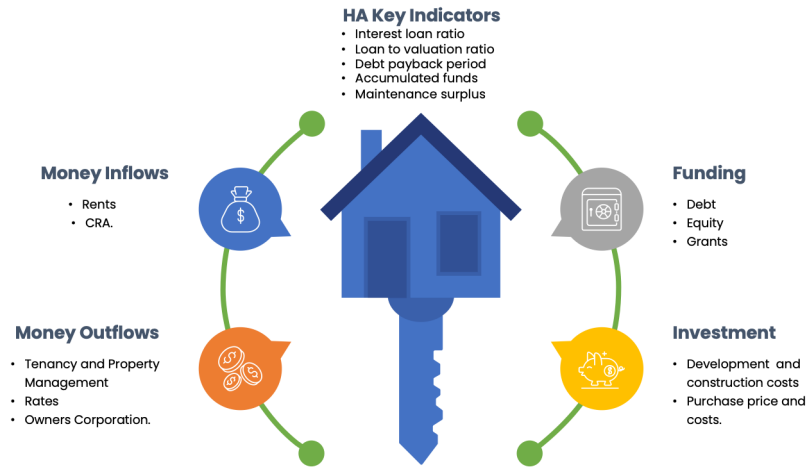
The purpose of developing a clear calculable dollar value of the affordable housing contribution is that the affordable housing policy and process for delivery of affordable housing will be in the future. All levels of government are seeking ways to increase affordable housing across the housing tenure spectrum (figure 1). The Federal and State Government affordable housing initiatives could provide opportunity for the implementing of affordable housing outcomes via the planning clause and the clear dollar calculable value, that maybe further leveraged to achieve more affordable housing outcomes.

7.3 Appropriate contribution

The consideration of what is an equivalent to the value of the affordable housing to be contributed as a part of the provision.

Registered housing agencies are required, by way of the Victorian Housing, 1983, to house those who qualify for housing under the GIC Orders. Registered housing agencies can raise debt to purchase dwellings, but the amount of debt that can be raised is based upon the projected revenue of rental income less the running costs as shown in the figure below.

Figure 5-Investment requirements for a Housing Agency



Based on the financial management of the housing agency and the requirements of the financial institutions in lending money for the purchase of dwellings housing agencies always deliver more with additional funds.

Registered agencies have a number of projects that can be delivered with the injection of equity and for this reason the proposal to offer a cash contribution is supported.

8 CITY OF DAREBIN

The City of Darebin *Housing Strategy 2024* that includes for affordable housing. The document notes that the Council will develop a separate section of its strategy "Part 3" on affordable housing.

The strategy goes on to identify four areas of action for Council:

- Advocacy
- Partnerships
- direct intervention and support; and
- through its planning functions through the Darebin Planning Scheme

The strategies to achieve the vision are:

- *Partnerships with Service Providers, community housing providers and other levels of government to facilitate outcomes*
- *Consider opportunities for affordable housing on appropriate Council-owned land and in Council developments*
- *Advocate for State and Federal Government investment in affordable housing in Darebin*
- *New policy mechanisms to guide negotiated agreements with developers that seek affordable and social housing contributions through private development*
- *Providing support to people in housing crisis by directing them to local services*

The table below reviews the strategic position and the satisfaction of the strategies by the application for development at Northcote Plaza 25 Separation Street Northcote.

Table 7 - City of Darebin Housing Strategy Review

Council Position	Urbanxchange Recommendation
Partnerships with Service Providers, community housing providers and other levels of government to facilitate outcomes	The provision of affordable housing at 10% of the dwellings will satisfy this strategic objective.
Consider opportunities for affordable housing on appropriate Council-owned land and in Council developments	This is a Council action and not applicable to the application.
Advocate for State and Federal Government investment in affordable housing in Darebin	This is a Council action and not applicable to the application.

Council Position	Urbanxchange Recommendation
New policy mechanisms to guide negotiated agreements with developers that seek affordable and social housing contributions through private development	By seeking for the site to be approved via clause 52.23, 10% of housing is provided, what must be clear is the clear calculable value of the 10%. The provision of 10% affordable housing at a 30% discount or equivalent, clearly meets the requirement of this clause.
Providing support to people in housing crisis by directing them to local services	This is a Council requirement.

By meeting the requirements of Clause 53.23-3, the requirements of the Darebin Housing Strategy and Planning Scheme will be achieved

9 PLANNING PROVISION

The recent advice from Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) VC258, requires the inclusion of clause 53.23-4 as follows:

Before the use or development of the land begins, excluding demolition, excavation, piling, site preparation works, and works to remediate contaminated land, the owner of the land must enter into an agreement with the responsible authority under section 173 of the Act, in a form to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, that provides for a contribution towards affordable housing (affordable housing contribution) by way of either of the following options:

- *At least 10 per cent of the total number of dwellings in the development must be provided as affordable housing for sale or lease to a registered housing agency or to Homes Victoria. The details of when and how the affordable housing will be delivered and the total value of the affordable housing contribution must be set out in the agreement. The affordable housing dwellings provided should be representative of the approved dwelling mix to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.*
- *An alternative contribution towards the provision of affordable housing must be provided to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. The details of when and how the alternative contribution is to be made and the total value of the affordable housing contribution must be set out in the agreement to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.*

The land owner must pay the responsible authority's reasonable costs of the preparation, execution, registration and ending of the section 173 agreement (where applicable)."

The developers current preferred delivery mechanism of the affordable housing contribution is via a cash contribution of 3% of the construction costs for the current proposed development application for the residential dwellings. The affordable housing contribution is currently estimated for all stages at $11.4m. However, it also recognises that until the development approval process is complete and the actual approved development can be realised the nominated contribution remains an estimate.

The significant nature of the proposed development means that Time and Place while nominating a preferred position requests flexibility to consider all options once the development approval is granted.

10 ATTACHMENT 1 - CITY OF DAREBIN DEMOGRAPHICS

Analysis of the five year age groups of the City of Darebin in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a lower proportion of people in the younger age groups (under 15) and a similar proportion of people in the older age groups (65+).

The major differences between the age structure of City of Darebin and Greater Melbourne were a larger percentage between 25 and 44 (35.4% for Darebin compared to 30.9 for Greater Melbourne). Equally there is a smaller percentage of those under 15 years of age.:

The increasing size of the population between 25 and 34 together with the higher percentage of people in Darebin who have a tertiary education a Bachelor or Higher degrees (32.7% compared to 27.5%) supports the position put to Council about the need for affordable housing that is available for moderate income earners and key workers.

Analysis of the five year age groups of the City of Darebin in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne is shown in the table below.

Five year age groups (years)	Darebin		Greater Melbourne
	Number	%	%
0 to 4	7,896	5.3	5.9
5 to 9	7,378	5	6.3
10 to 14	7,091	4.8	6
15 to 19	6,729	4.5	5.6
20 to 24	9,424	6.3	6.7
25 to 29	13,631	9.2	7.8
30 to 34	14,955	10.1	8.2
35 to 39	13,060	8.8	8
40 to 44	10,830	7.3	6.9
45 to 49	10,280	6.9	6.5
50 to 54	10,116	6.8	6.3
55 to 59	8,258	5.6	5.7
60 to 64	7,064	4.8	5.1
65 to 69	5,701	3.8	4.4
70 to 74	4,867	3.3	3.9
75 to 79	3,920	2.6	2.8
80 to 84	3,439	2.3	2
85 and over	3,949	2.7	2

Table 8 Population of Melbourne/Darebin via age categories (2021)

What is evident from the age data is that the City of Darebin has a larger population representation in the 20 – 44-year age groups. These are the people for whom affordable housing is important.

Individual income levels in City of Darebin in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a higher proportion of people earning a high income (those earning $2,000 per week or more) and a lower proportion of low income people (those earning less than $500 per week).

Household income levels in City of Darebin in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a similar proportion of high income households (those earning $3,000 per week or more) 25.5 compared to 25.3% and a higher proportion of low income households (those earning less than $800 per week), 21.6% compared to 19.0%.

The household sizes in the Darebin are shown below as percentages of the total households:

Table 9 Household sizes in Darebin against Greater Melbourne (2021)

Number of persons usually resident	Darebin %	Greater Melbourne %
1 person	30.6	24.8
2 persons	32.4	31.3
3 persons	16.2	16.9
4 persons	14.6	17.2
5 persons	4.4	6.6
6 or more persons	1.8	3.2

The household/family types in the City of Darebin in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a larger proportion of 1 and 2 person households and smaller percentages of 4 or more person households:

In reviewing the house sizes in Darebin in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a lower proportion of one and two bedroom dwellings compared to the number of persons resident. **That is 63% are single or two person households but only 41% of dwellings are one or two bedroom.**

Table 10 Household compositions in Darebin against Greater Melbourne (2021)

Number of bedrooms	%	Greater Melbourne %
1 bedroom	9.7	6.0
2 bedroom	32.0	19.7
3 bedroom	38.0	38.0
4 bedroom	13.1	26.0
5 bedroom plus	2.9	5.6

Reviewing the individual and household income data shows that the group aged between 25 and 39 years who are a large part of the Darebin population are also moderate income earners. Equally the non-family households were those on lower incomes.

Household/family types in the City of Darebin in 2021 compared to Greater Melbourne shows that there was a lower proportion of couple families with child(ren) as well as a lower proportion of one-parent families. Overall, 26.1% of total families were couple families with child(ren), and 9.1% were one-parent families, compared with 33.1% and 10.2% respectively for Greater Melbourne.

There were a higher proportion of lone person households and a lower proportion of couples without children. Overall, the proportion of lone person households was 29.4% compared to 23.7.0% in Greater Melbourne while the proportion of couples without children was 23.2% compared to 23.5% in Greater Melbourne.

Household Tenure

It is noted that, in the 2021 census, the housing tenure across the municipalities included:

Table 11. Housing tenure in Darebin compared to Greater Melbourne

Tenure	Darebin	Greater Melbourne
Owned	28.5	28.7
Mortgage	28.6	35.6
Rent	37.0	29.2

It is also noted that Darebin's social housing dwellings are 4.1% of social dwellings compared to 2.3% for Greater Melbourne.

11 GLOSSARY

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Affordable housing	Affordable Housing is housing, including social housing, that is appropriate for the housing needs of very low, low and moderate-income households. Appropriateness of housing includes reference to affordability, dwelling type, size (bedroom numbers), location, accessibility, integration and length of affordability. Affordable Housing should be priced (whether mortgage repayments or rent) so that households are able to meet their other essential basic living costs and allocated to households that meet program income and asset eligibility requirements.
Affordable housing outcomes	Affordable housing outcomes are the types of housing tenure or contribution that are achieved through the requirements of a social and affordable housing plan.
Bond Aggregator	To raise money at lower rates from the wholesale bond market for not-for-profit community housing providers. It also allows Registered Housing Associations to borrow at lower rates.
Community housing	Housing managed by not-for-profit organisations that are registered as either Housing Associations or as Housing Providers by the Australian or Victorian Registrar of Housing,
CRA	Commonwealth Rent Assistance is a non-taxable, income supplement payment added to the pension, allowance, or benefit of eligible income support customers who rent in the private rental market. RHAs are considered to be part of the private rental market, but state-owned public housing is not.
Deductible gift recipient	Deductible gift recipient status means that donations to recipients are tax-deductible by the donor.
ESD	Environmentally Sustainable Design.
Housing Affordability	'Housing affordability' refers to the relationship between expenditure on housing (cost of mortgage payments or rent) and household income. Housing affordability is particularly a concern for households earning in the bottom 40 per cent of incomes who have limited financial capacity to meet their housing costs.
HAFF	Housing Affordability Finance Future (HAFF) Fund, a Commonwealth Government annuity fund via a dedicated investment vehicle to provide additional funding to support and increase social and affordable housing
Key worker	An employee who provides a vital service, especially in essential services such as health and education.
NHFIC	National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation. Established by the Federal Government to manage the Bond Aggregator and other federal grants related to affordable housing.
NFP	Not for profit.
NHSC	National Housing Supply Council.

PSP	Precinct structure plan
Public housing	Public or social housing that is owned or leased by the State Governments of Australia
Registered Housing Association (RHA)	Registered housing agencies are not-for-profit organisations that provide affordable rental housing for low-income households, registered as Housing Associations and maybe nominated as Tier 1, 2 or 3 by the Federal Registration process.
S 173 agreement	A planning agreement made under section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The responsible authority and landowner must be a party to the agreement. When executed, the agreement must be registered on the land title with any agreed obligation to be discharge by the owner or succeeding owners.
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Index for Areas, produced by the ABS.
Shared equity schemes	Financing arrangements where the equity required for home ownership is shared between the occupant (often a former tenant) and government or a NFP community housing provider.
Social housing	Social housing is an umbrella term that covers both public and community housing. Its provision usually involves some degree of subsidy.
VPP	Victorian Planning Provisions