



Benefits of accessing and using different types of environmental infrastructure



- 910,000 visitors per annum,
- create 597 jobs and
- inject \$103 million in economic spend

Increasing Open Space provision in land locked or topography challenged areas



Impacts of COVID



Summary

- The lack of infrastructure to support active transport is significant and the distances required for residents to access suitable open space is severely limiting physical activity.
- Research shows residents with larger neighbourhood parks close to home (<1,600m) engage in 150 minutes more recreational walking per week than those with smaller parks.
- Research as part of our Recreation & Open Space Strategy 2020-2040 Review has indicated that with population growth, changing trends and to meet the health & well-being needs of our community, by 2040, Yarra Ranges are likely to require an additional 200 hectares of appropriate open space. With rate capping and a likely challenging post-COVID-19 financial environment, there is a limitation on Council's ability to finance the associated land acquisition and infrastructure development.
- The ability to increase open space provision is more difficult where population growth is largely accommodated through infill and redevelopment of existing infrastructure.
- The critical need to protect the Healesville Freeway Reserve for future open space provision along with the identification of the land in the outer East for a significant regional park catering for both structured and unstructured recreation, possibly in partnership with Yarra Valley Water.
- The importance of strong, collaborative partnerships between organisations such as Melbourne Water, DELWP, Parks Victoria, Indigenous Groups, the Department of Education and local Council's will be essential to protect, develop, enhance and maintain all assets into the future.