Smart Cities Information Pack & FAQs

What is a Smart City?

A smart city is one that applies digital technology, data and innovative practices to improve liveability, sustainability, governance and economic opportunities.

They drive enhanced community outcomes through the integration smart technologies, data-driven decision-making and innovative thinking to deliver solutions to real community problems.

Smart cities put people at their centre, meaning that digital technology will not be deployed for its own sake, but for community-focused benefit.

Smart city opportunities are extensive, and a successful smart city requires direction and leadership from both Council and the community. Through a collaborative process with the community and key stakeholders, the City of Maribyrnong will deliver a Smart City Strategic Framework to guide smart city priorities in Maribyrnong.

Some examples of smart city opportunities are displayed below:
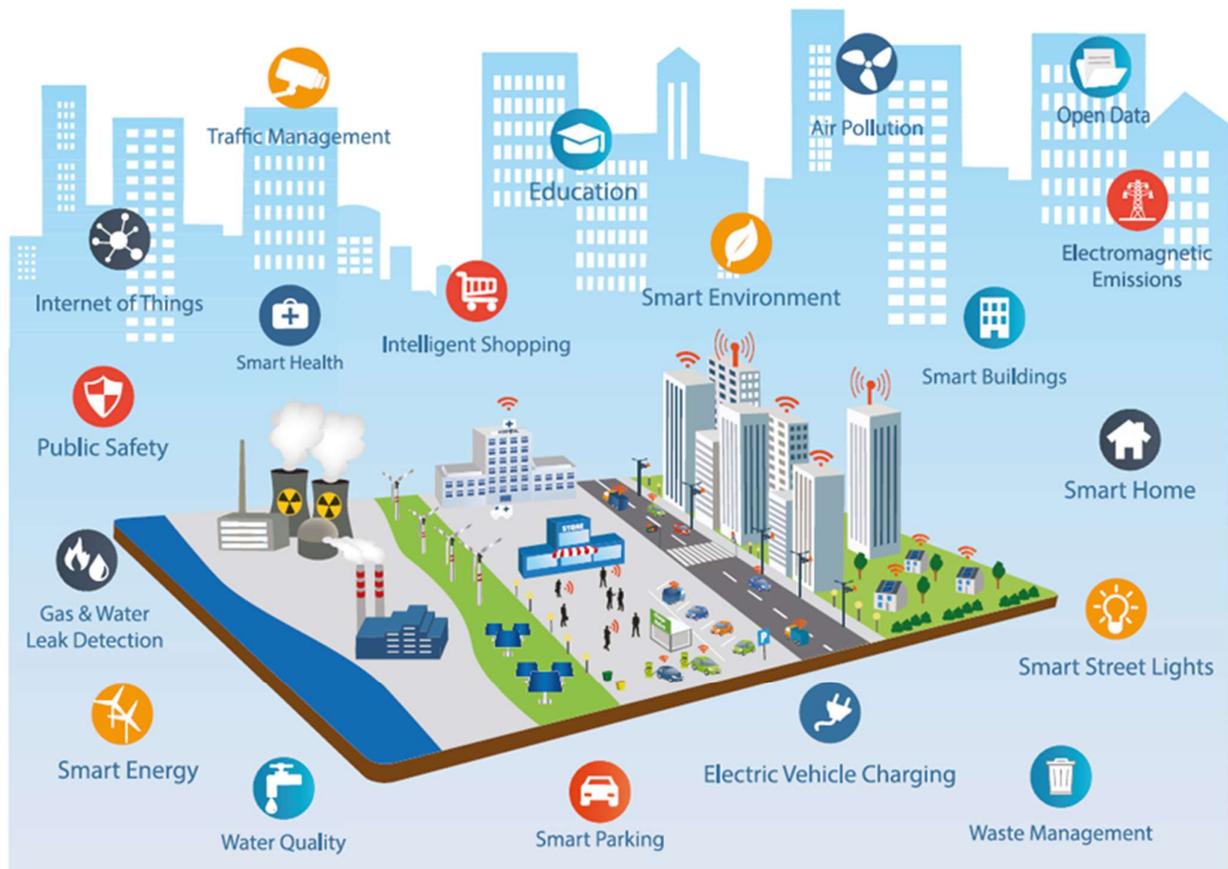
Source : Adobe Stock

Why Smart Cities?

Global Smart City Drivers

Global trends indicate that there is a change in the way communities are interacting with their local environment. These changes are seeing a move towards smart and innovative technologies to address new and existing challenges and expectations. Some of the global trends driving a focus towards smart cities include:

Rapid Urbanisation

Technology, Big Data, AI and IoT

Global Emergencies and Disasters

Changing Nature of Work

Changing nature of Mobility

Trust in institutions
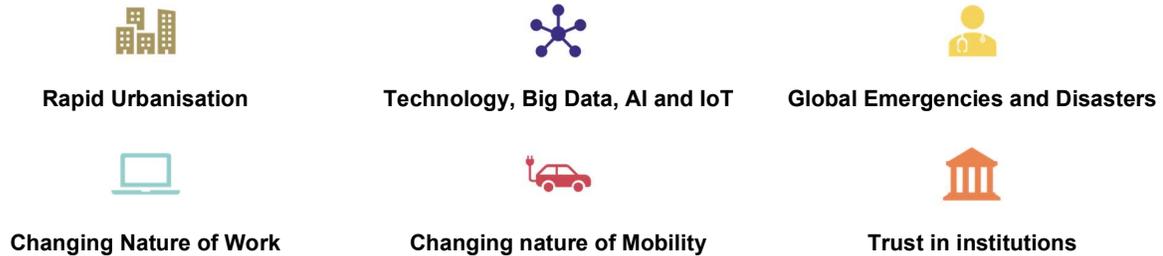
Key Smart City Elements & Critical Benefits

A smart city ultimately aims to deliver improved outcomes for its community. A few examples of smart technologies and their benefits for the community include:

	Elements	Benefit
	Better digital/mobile/internet connectivity	Enhanced economic competitiveness and community connection
	More data, real time data, enhanced analytics	Better decision making and more innovation
	Open data, accessible data	Increased transparency and trust
	24/7 services, mobile interface, single customer ID	Better/personalised customer/citizen experience
	Cyber-physical infrastructure and public places	Enhanced public amenity, functionality, and safety
	Remote control, real-time management, machine learning, AI	Improved service effectiveness and efficiency
	Innovation capacity and networks	Economic growth, diversification and resilience
	Digital community engagement/consultation (i.e. digital democracy)	Community empowerment, improved governance and decision-making
	Digital models (e.g. 3D city models)	Better planning and faster processes
	Smart city policies, standards, guidelines	Improved cyber-security, privacy, system interoperability, etc.

What do Smart Cities Look Like in the Real World?

Smart cities are a world-wide phenomenon. Below are just three examples of smart technologies being implemented be cities in Australia and around the world.

## City of Maribyrnong – Smart Cities for Social Cohesion (SC2)

The City of Maribyrnong has already begun it's smart city journey through the Smart Cities for Social Cohesion Project developed in collaboration with Victoria University.

Maribyrnong's SC2 project aims to provide a solution to significant changes in Footscray - population growth, redevelopment, gentrification, a transitioning economy and an influx of new residents, visitors, students, and businesses.

To combat these new challenges to mobility and service provision Council and VU designed the SC2 Project.

The project consists of the following features:

- ▶ Physical infrastructure including public Wi-Fi, environmental sensors, mobility sensors, virtual reality planning modules, smart lighting and interactive community touch screens
- ▶ An online dashboard developed by Victoria University which allows the data collected from the physical infrastructure to be analysed.
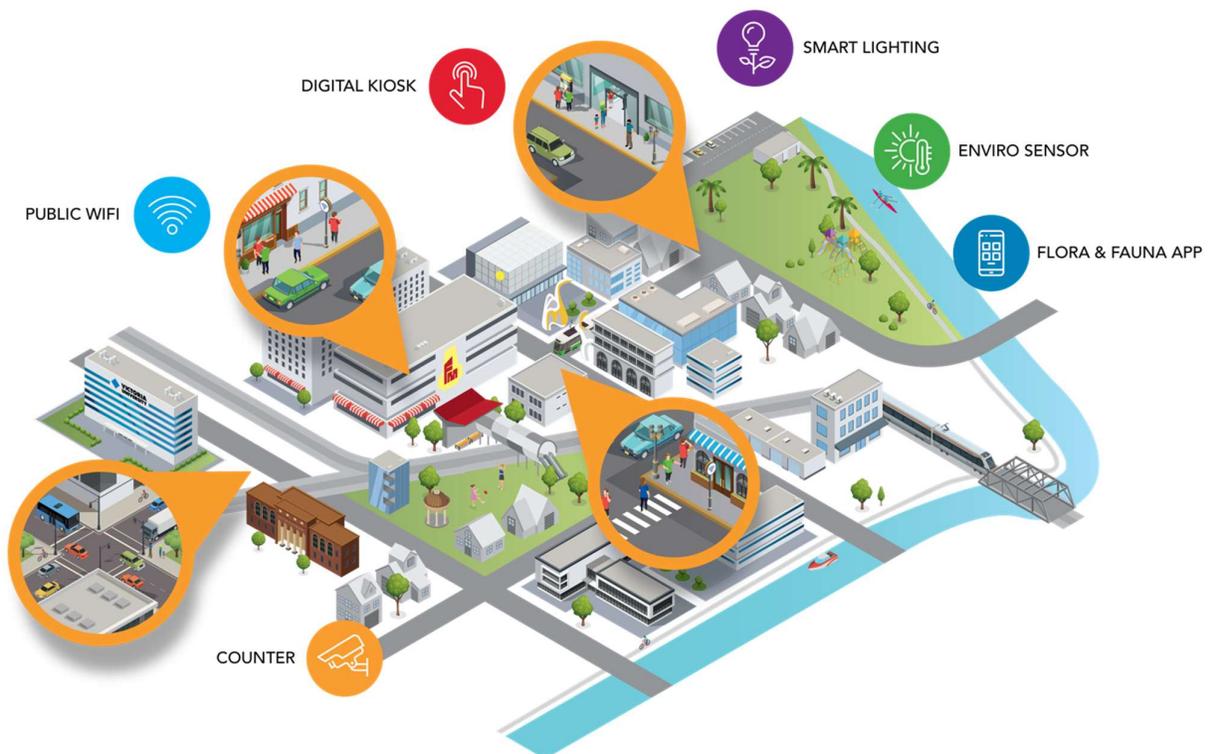
City of Casey – Smart Connected Bench at the Aboriginal Gathering Place

The City of Casey identified internet connectivity as a challenge within its community.

In order to provide a solution to this challenge, the City installed a Smart Connected Street Bench (the first initiative of its kind in the municipality).

The bench aimed to provide effective access to public Wi-Fi and device charging in the public park at the Aboriginal Gather Place.

An unintended positive from this initiative has been the significant increase of outdoor activity in the area.

Barcelona, Spain – Barcelona Smart City 3.0

Barcelona is one of the World's leading smart cities. It integrates smart sensors and big data analytics to a range of local services to improve processes and outcomes for residents.

Now Barcelona is embarking on a 'citizen-first' approach to smart cities, linking citizen participation with government aims and new technology.

Outcomes of this approach include:

▶ City OS and Sentilo – allowing citizens to access, visualise and analyse city data

▶ Barcelona Digital City – a platform that encourages citizens to create solutions, explore digital technology and develop digital skills

▶ Superblocks – street-level solution to mobility issues, involving limiting car traffic in certain areas to encourage alternative transport modes and reduce noise and air pollution

▶ Public-Private Partnerships and Collaboration – increasing digital business opportunities and business attraction

Smart City Benefits & Risks?

Smart cities bring a range of benefits to both the community and Council as an organisation. However, as with any technology, smart cities can involve a range of risks. Maribyrnong City Council will work to identify and mitigate risks through the development of the Smart City Strategic Framework. Council will work with experts to put in place policies, actions and projects that appropriately and proactively address these risks.

Council will take a proactive approach to mitigating the following risks, in addition to others of high concern to the community

- ▶ Increased cyber-security risk profile
- ▶ Impacts on privacy
- ▶ Smart tech without a clear ethical framework
- ▶ Digital exclusion
- ▶ Low digital literacy
- ▶ Digital misinformation
- ▶ Tech for the sake of tech
- ▶ Disconnected digital systems