

ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE INQUIRY FOR A GROWING POPULATION

Presented by Andrew Kelly, the Yarra Riverkeeper



Yarra Riverkeeper
Association

A scenic view of a river at sunset, framed by trees, with the text "The imaginative lifeblood of Melbourne" overlaid. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the water and the surrounding forest. The trees are silhouetted against the bright sky, and their reflections are visible in the calm water. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

The imaginative lifeblood of Melbourne



Supports biodiversity

Increases the value of properties

Helps to carry away waste

Cools the city

Flood Control

Water Supply

Enhance mental health and wellbeing

Cleans the air

**Yarra Act, Yarra River Action
Plan, Yarra Strategic Plan**

**The Yarra
'One living and
integrated natural
entity'**

Photo Credit: John Gollings



YARRA RIVER ACTION PLAN

Wilip-gin Birrarung murron

Action 24 Timing: Short term
MELBOURNE'S NATURAL
INFRASTRUCTURE TASKFORCE

Action 25 Timing: Short term
URBAN NATURAL
INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

The Yarra Riverkeepers propose
the creation of a **permanent
authority called Green
Infrastructure Victoria**

Draft

YARRA STRATEGIC PLAN

A 10 year plan for the Yarra River corridor -
draft for public consultation

Support for endorsement by
councils and agencies.

Needs funding from government
A model to be used elsewhere

(Draft) Yarra Strategic Plan

**'What's good for the
Yarra is good for all!'**

Yarra River Community Vision

Photo Credit: Camille Perry



Foster Traditional Owner
management in any environmental
infrastructure related taskforce
and/or management body




Great Birrarung Parklands

- an opportunity identified
in the Yarra Act**
- balancing protection for conservation
and access for recreation**

Biodiversity

**We cannot simultaneously
maximise the quality of
wildlife habitat and
recreational opportunity**

A vibrant lorikeet with a blue head, green body, and orange and red wing patches is perched on a dark, textured tree branch. The background is a soft-focus green forest with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating a bokeh effect.



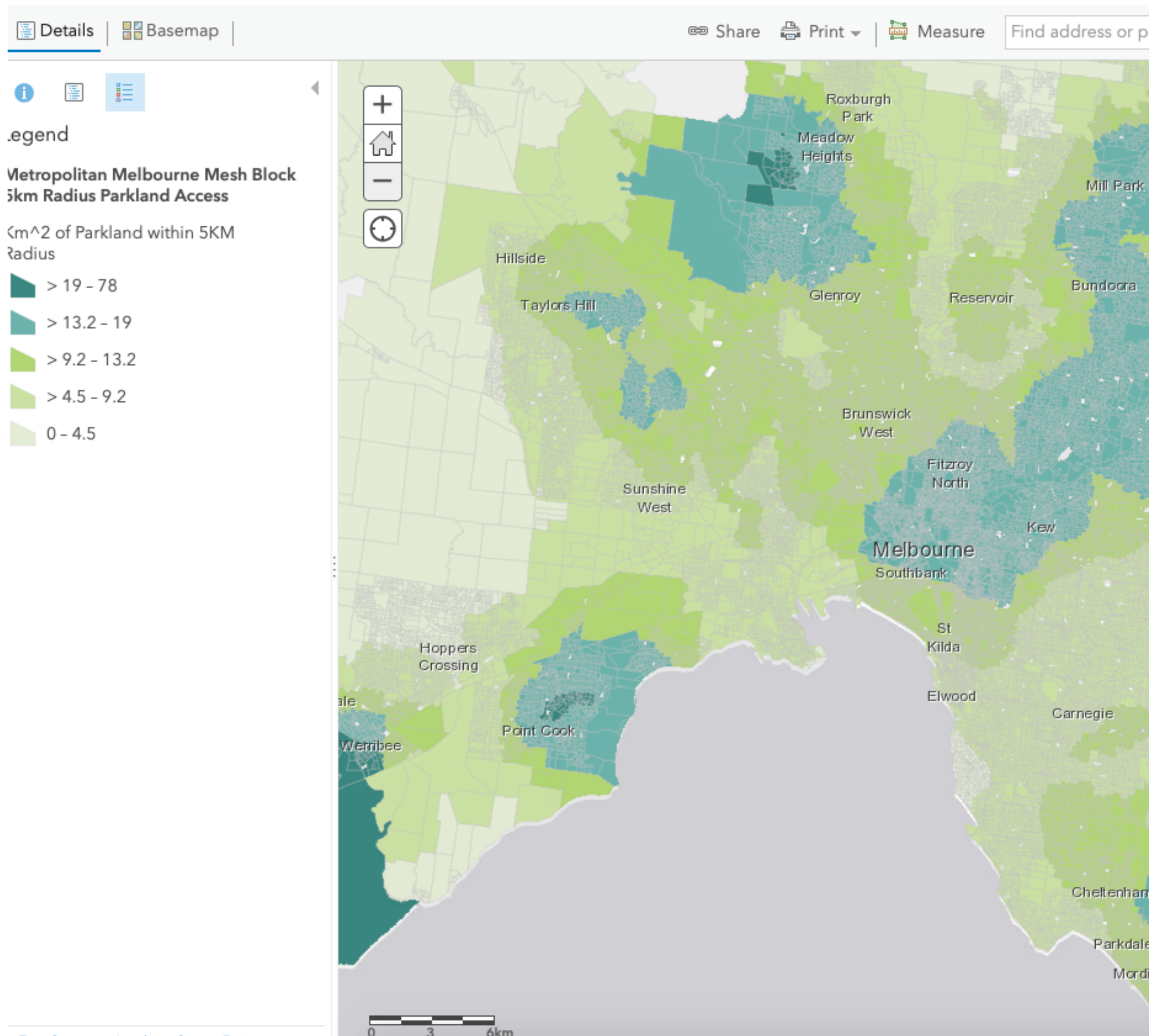
Mountain bikes (illegal) are destroying our green places





Accounting standards be adjusted to allow government to include investments in infrastructure

The accounting methods of distinguishing capital and operating expenditure to better represent the value and function of green infrastructure over time



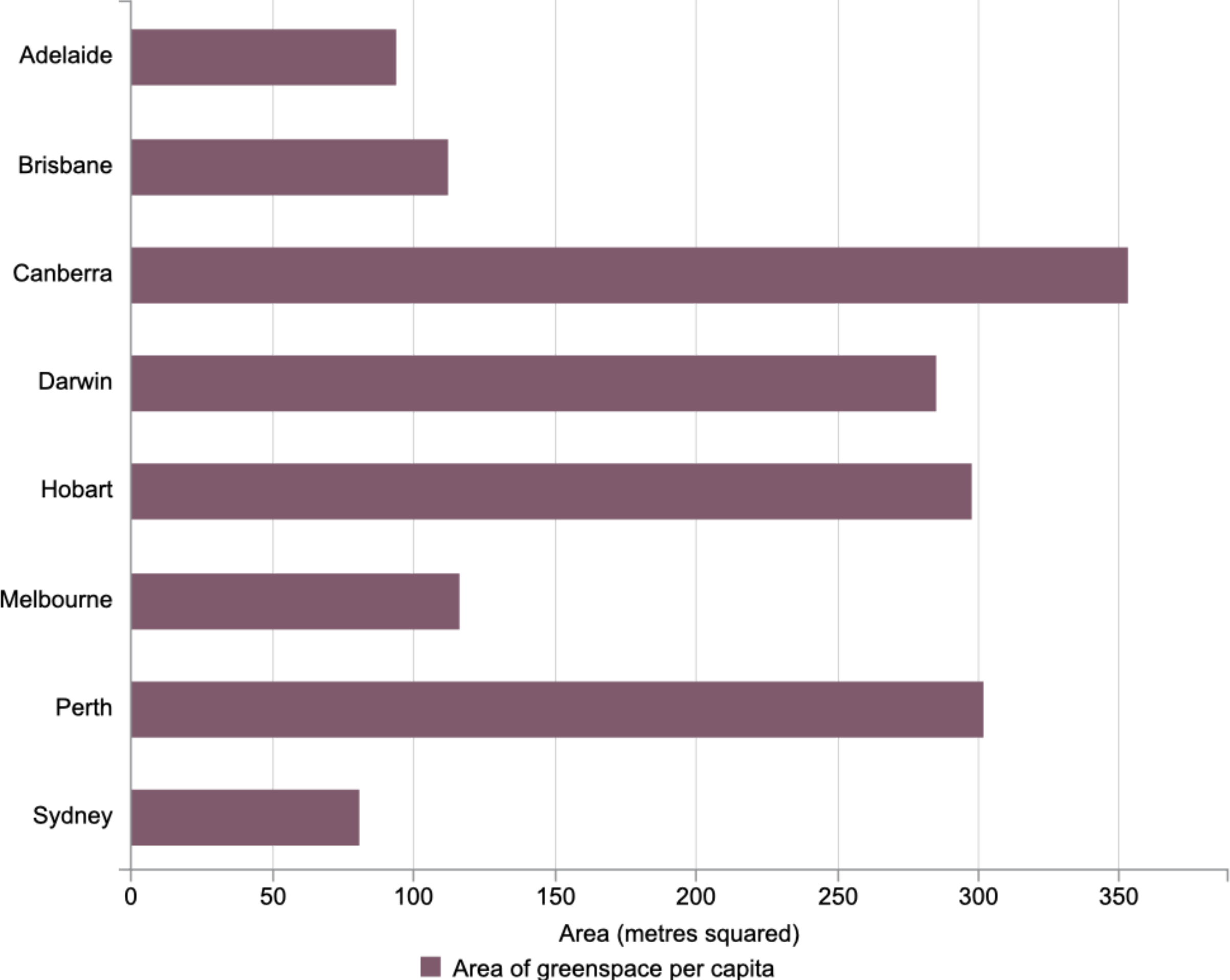
Barriers to reaping the benefits of environmental infrastructure:

1. Unequal distribution of green spaces and parklands
2. Repurpose excess government land to create more green spaces and parklands by reviewing the Land Transaction Policy and Guidelines

Mental Health and Wellbeing

**340,000 Melbournians
have little or no
parkland within 5km of
their homes**

Area of green space per capita





1. Establish Green Infrastructure Victoria
2. Adjust accounting standards to better recognize investment in and maintenance of green infrastructure
3. Support and fund an ambitious Yarra Strategic Plan
4. Invest in the Great Birrarung Parkland - value connectivity in open space.
5. Balance access with conservation
6. Develop a state-wide Mountain Trail Bike management plan.
7. Review: Land Transaction Policy and Guidelines