



# The Lost Dogs' Home

Cat overpopulation - Partnering with Councils

# Current State



- Mobile pet care unit (MADI) mobile desexing of cats around metro Melbourne and regional Victoria
- Heat/cluster mapping for cat hot spots, using the Home's data
- Community cat management discussions and potential pilot project





# Trying to make a difference

1. Proactive, practical , tangible
2. Targeting areas most in need
3. Educating pet owners
4. Cost and convenience to the Owner



'Thanks again. Your service has been a gift for my mum who otherwise couldn't have afforded to have Tina desexed. Tina is a wonderful companion for my mum, and its great to see how they have bonded.'  
(Cat owner, Hume Council)



- Alleviating major barriers to desexing
- Supported by Donors and Council Partners
- Specialist team
- Long term undertaking
- Aims for our Council Partners





# How it all happened....

- Stage 1: Research and Planning
- Stage 2: Operations, Price Structure, Promotion, Council Liaison
- Stage 3: Pilot Test Events
- Stage 4: Launch and Beyond

"Thanks so much, it's a really wonderful thing you're doing for pet owners. Especially someone like me, who couldn't afford the typical vet fees of \$250+ for desexing and microchipping."

– **cat owner from Wyndham City**



## Highlights to date



- Over **2 years** in operation
- Significant milestone of 2845 cats desexed
- **55** events, **13** Councils and **2** Rescue Groups
- **90%** cats receiving identification microchip
- Events BOOKED OUT in advance
- Positive feedback



"It was a positive experience overall. You could hardly tell she had an operation. I would like to congratulate the Home on this amazing service for our local community and thank the wonderful team that looked after us and our little girl on the day."

– **cat owner from Hobsons Bay**

"Just wanted to let you know what a great job your team have done, working through the issues and getting on board, we love it when we can get things done together"

- **Samantha, Maneki Neko Cat Rescue**

"Thank you so much for the wonderful job done of desexing our boys. I am very pleased to report that they are all doing amazing, no issues at all. Thank you so much for the wonderful service you provided for us and continue to provide to many other furbabies around Melbourne. Wonderful Job"

– **cat owner from Wyndham City**



# Challenges to date

1. Operations
  - Refurbishment
  - Heavy vehicle license
  - Last minute client no-shows
2. Demand
  - Booked out in advance
  - Waiting lists
3. Financial viability
  - Co-funding
  - Extended hours of operation
  - Additional MADI unit in the future





I also just wanted to thank you and the Lost Dogs Home for running such a great event - it really is a life saver for us on a tight budget who still want to do the right thing for their companions, so thanks again!

**- cat owner from Casey Council**



"My vet wouldn't desex my cat until 6 months old and was going to charge me \$550. This is why I used your service."

**- cat owner from City of Darebin**

"Firstly I just want to thank-you so much for the opportunity to enable me to spay our cat and able to enjoy her as the beautiful domestic cat that she is, such a wonderful enjoyable pet in our lives. She has had her stitches out and she has recovered marvellously without any issues. Thanking you so much again for the opportunity "

**- cat owner, Ballarat Council**



## What's next for MADI?

### Our thoughts....

1. 24/7 for cats ?
2. Extended hours
  - Weekdays
  - Evening shifts
  - Weekends
  - Another MADI
3. New shifts of staff
4. MADI for dogs



1. Desexing at The Lost Dogs' Home
2. Cat adoption campaigns
3. Programs:
  - Foster to Rescue programs
  - Foster Carers
  - Rescue Groups
  - Volunteers
4. Working with Councils
  - Cluster/Heat mapping
  - Community cat management

What else  
can we do to  
help ?



## Working with Councils: Cluster/heat mapping

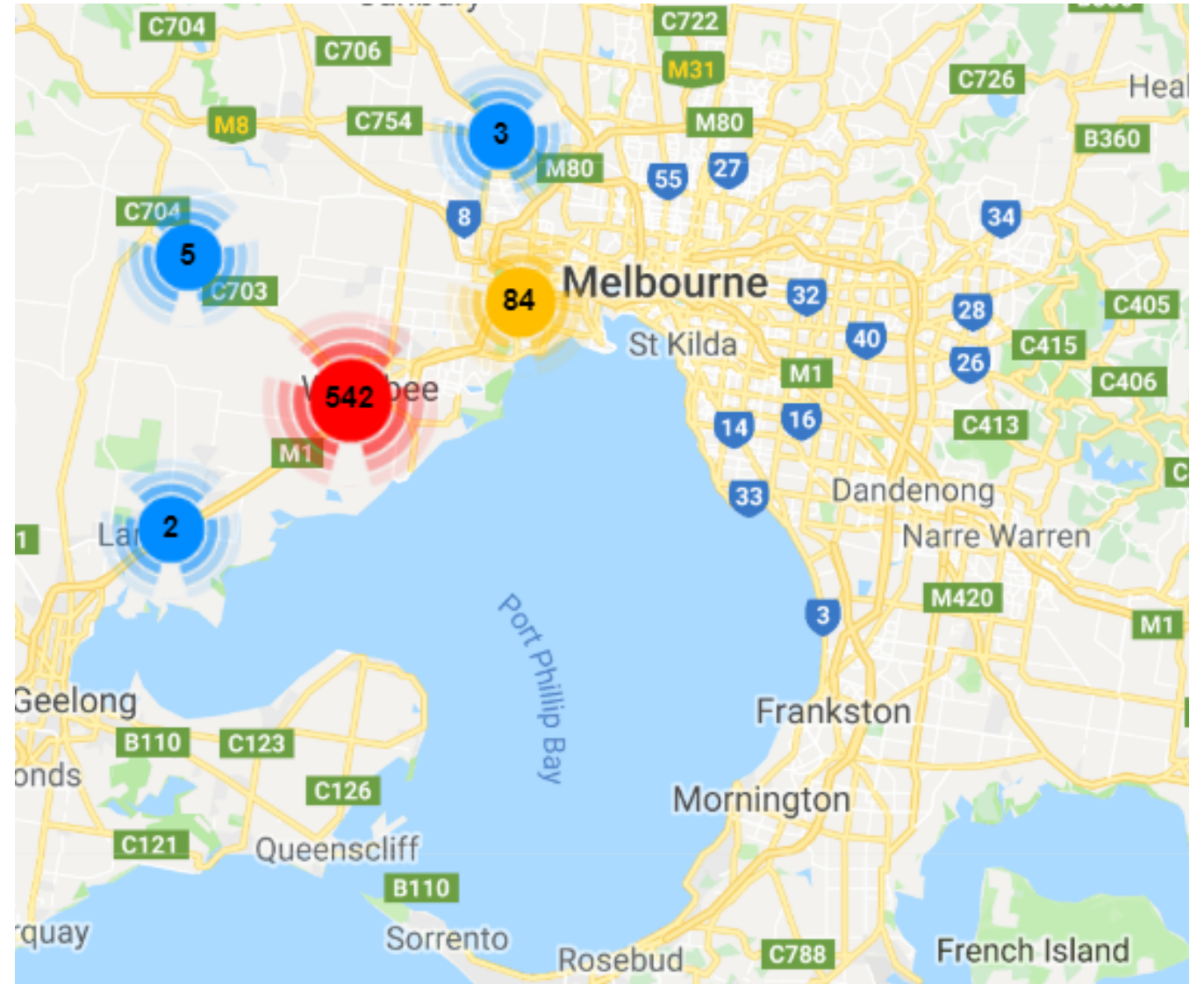


1. Stray collection data
2. Create heat map of municipality
3. Outcome, aimed for win-win:
  - Evidence based
  - Impactful
  - Targeted populations more effective
4. Community cat management programs
5. Inform allocation of resources (like MADI) or
6. Huge potential

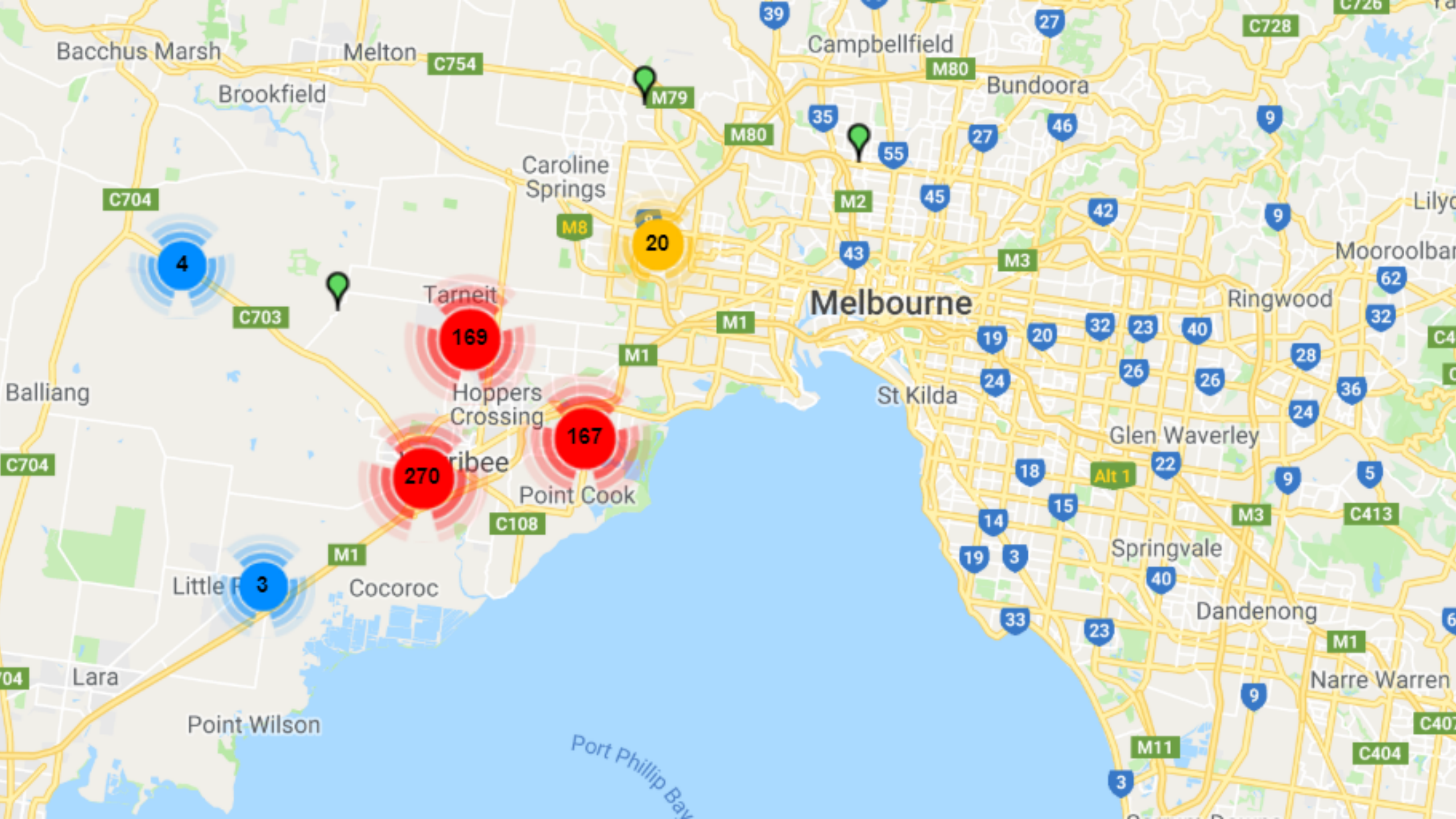


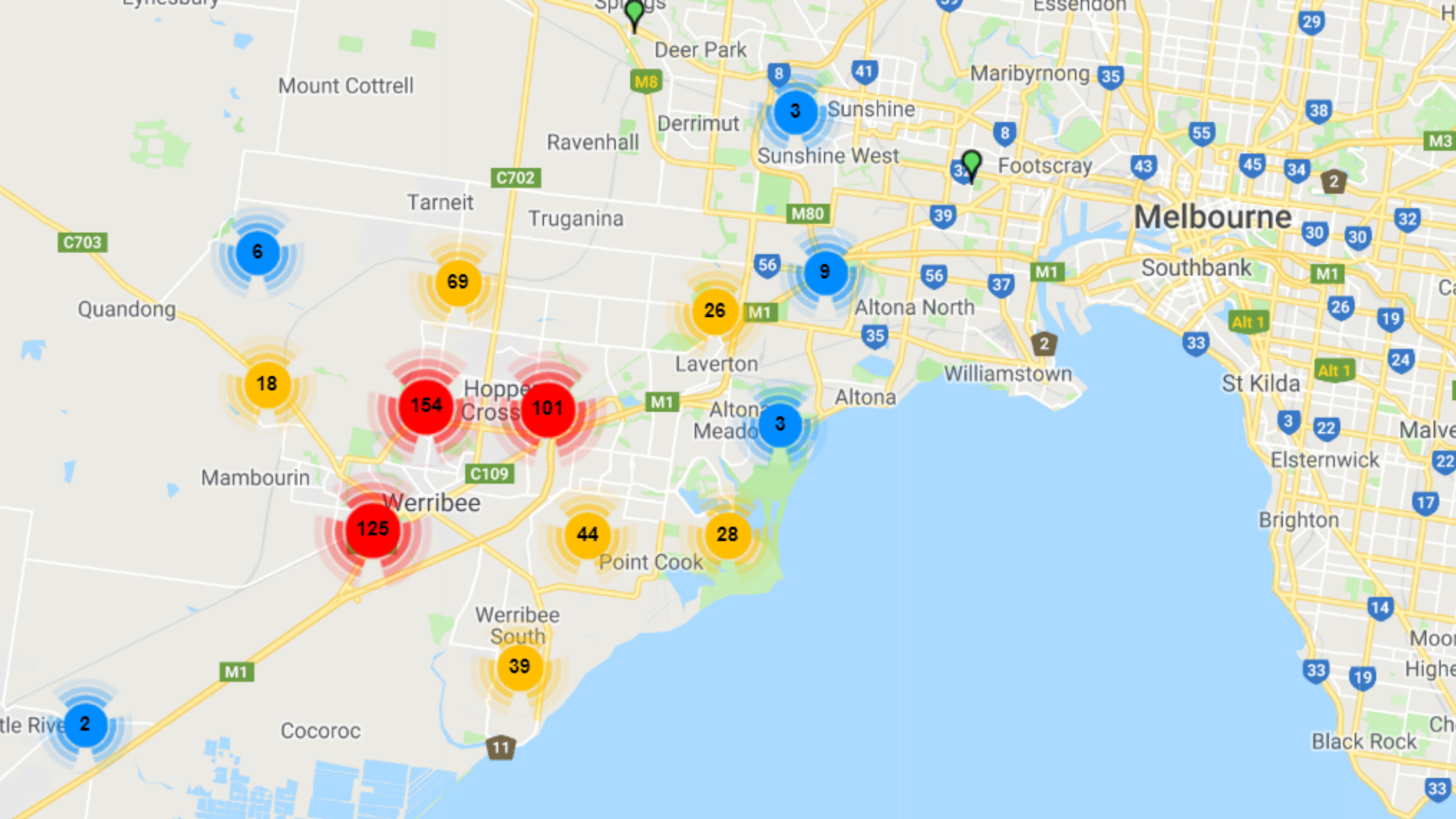
# Wyndham City Council

July 2017 to June 2018

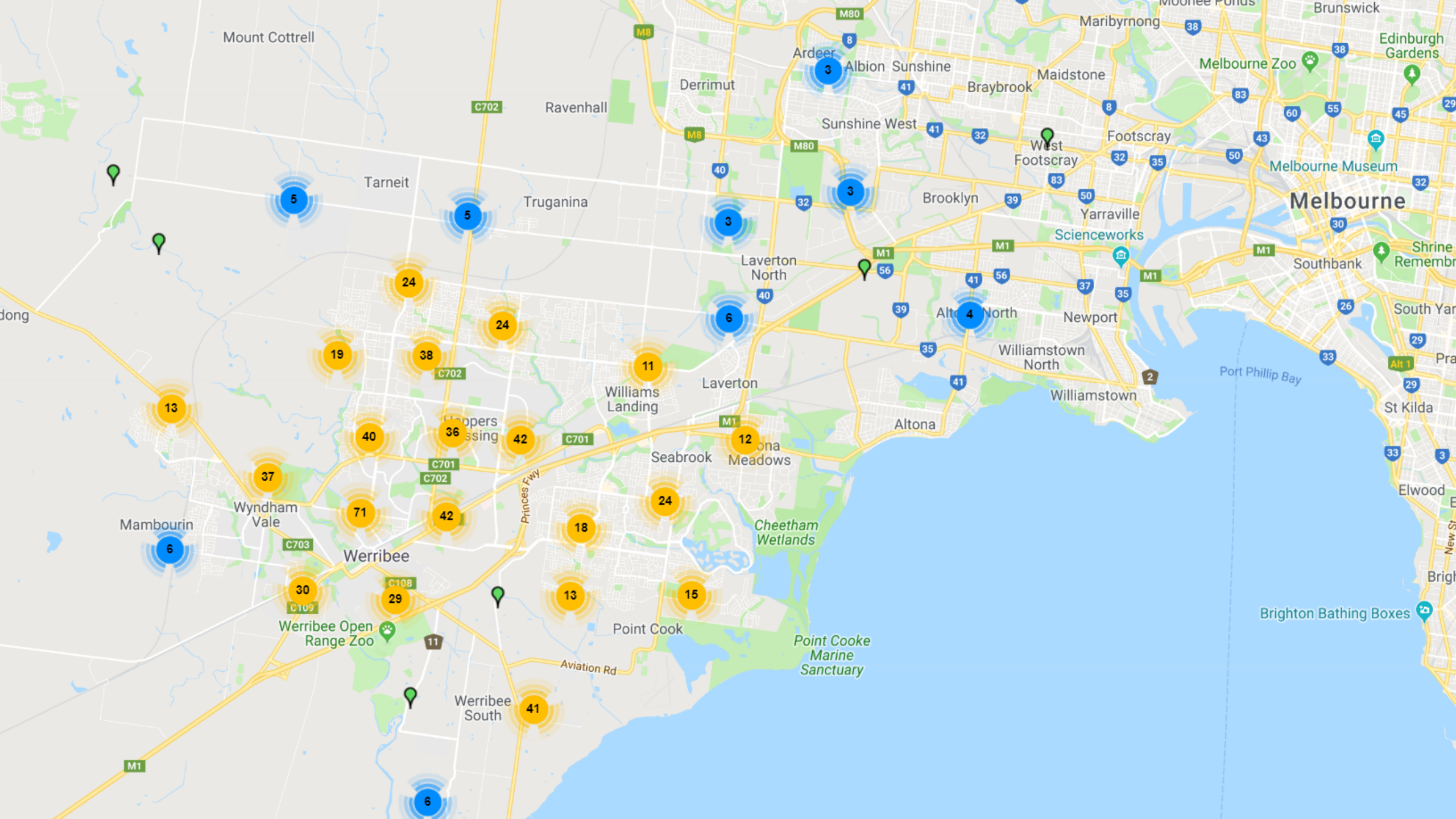




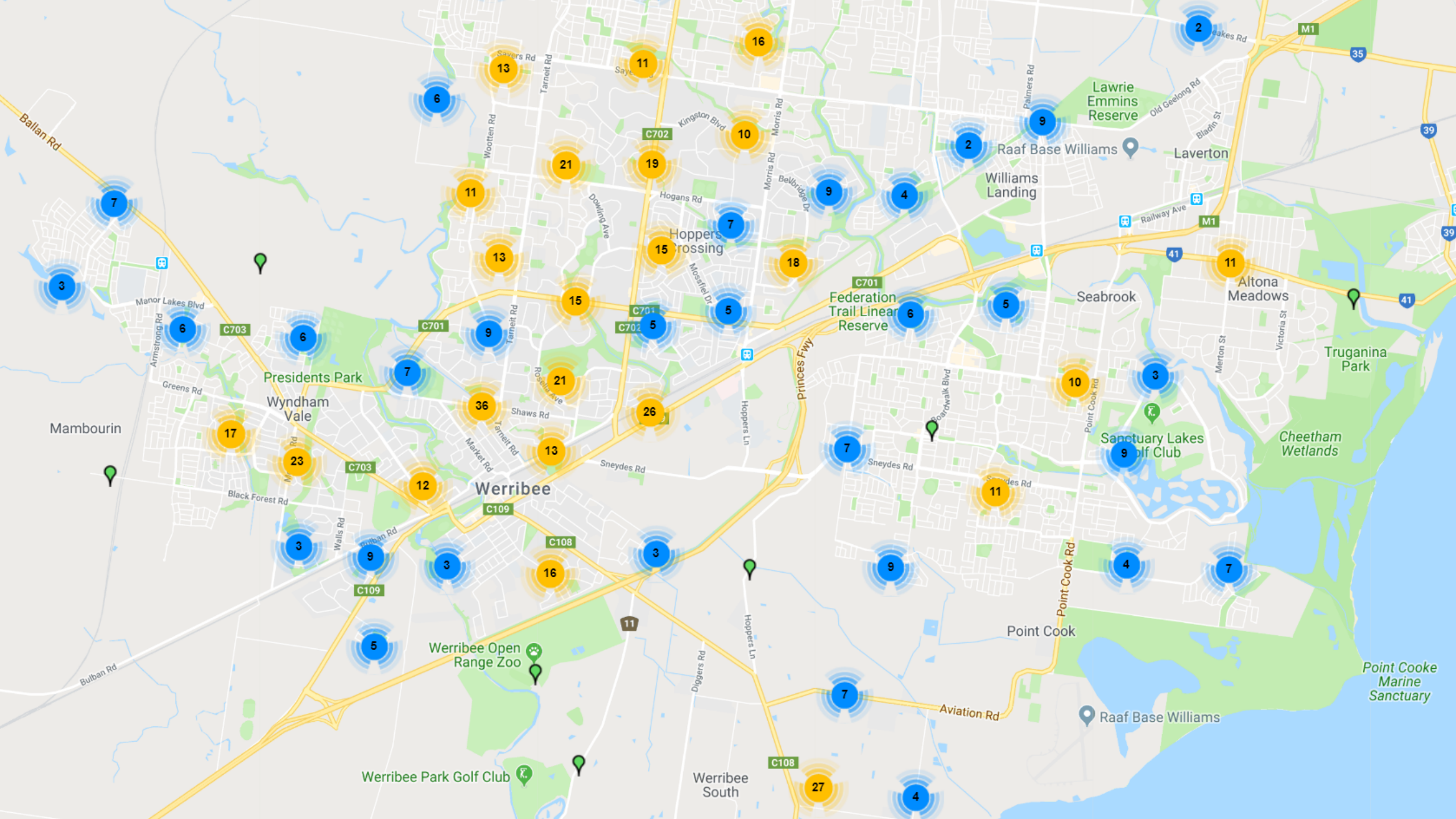




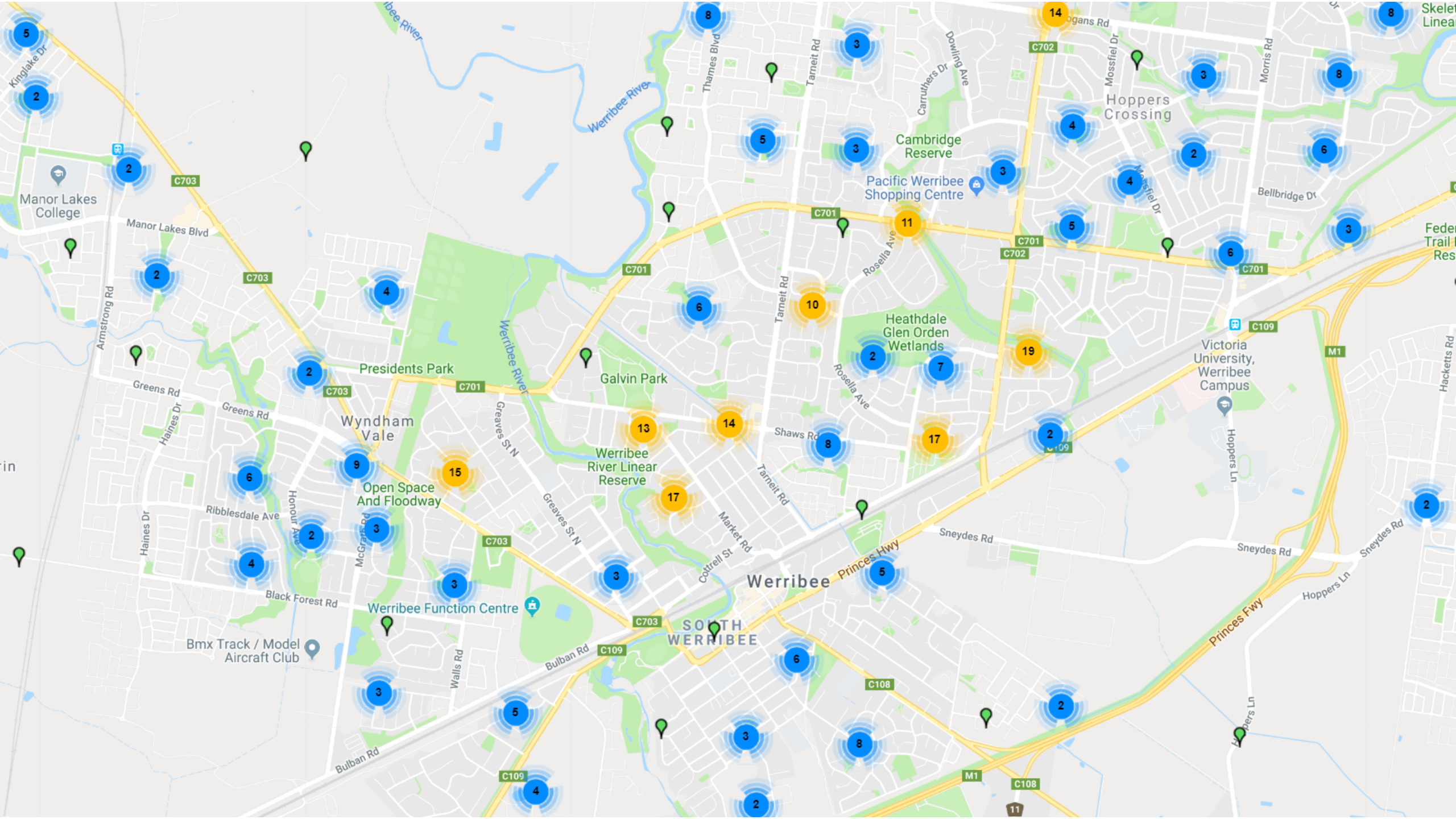


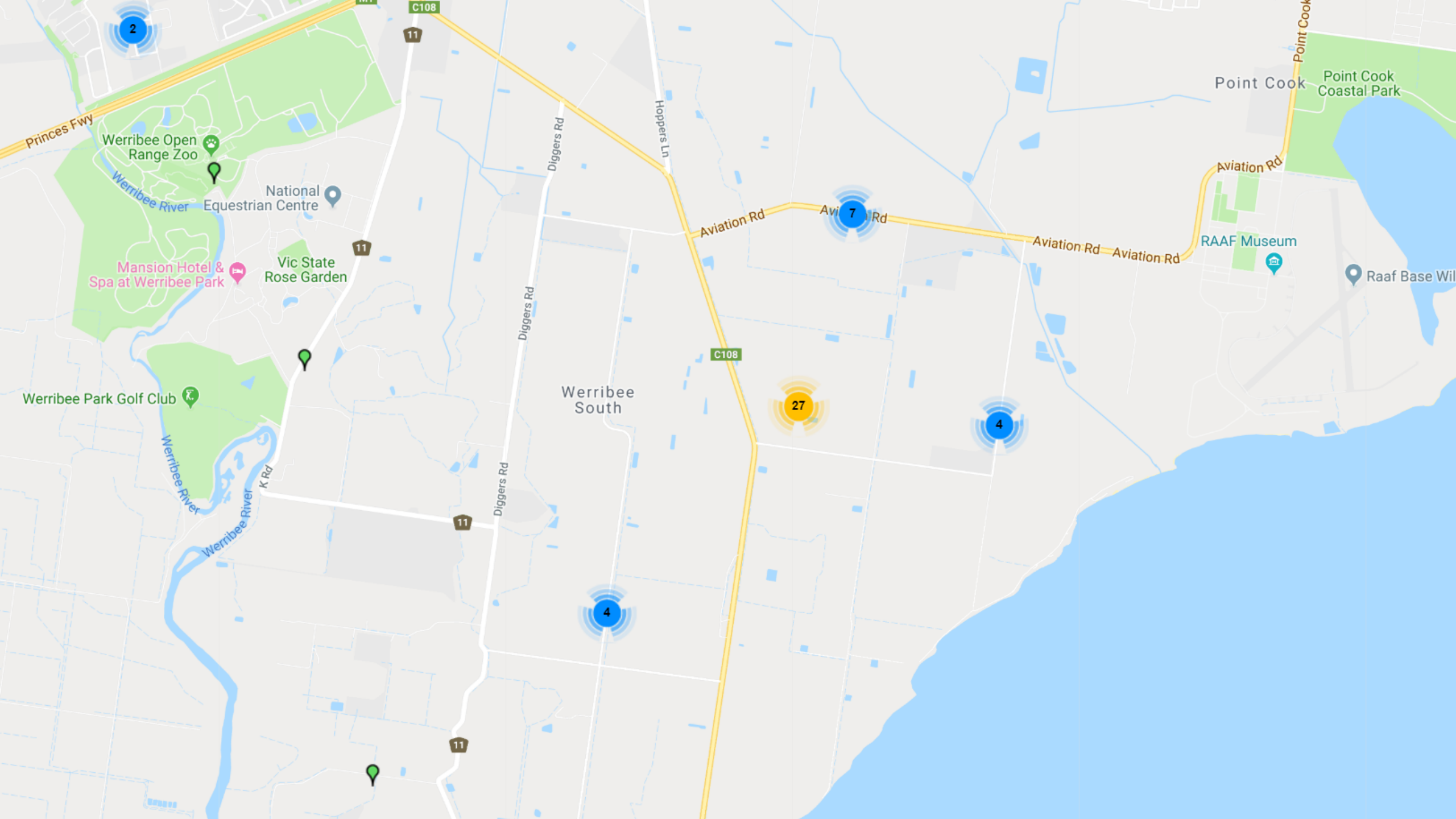














# Community Cat Management

1. We are excited !
2. We need Council Partners.....
3. along with Community Partners,  
Volunteers and of course funding



# Community Cat Management



1. 17 shelters in the USA:
  - Community Based Cat Management Programs (CBCMP) significantly reduced cat intake numbers
2. Critical
  - Community engagement
  - Volunteer network, Colony carers
  - 'Neighbourhood cats partner' (M/C)
  - High volume, streamlined desexing
  - Support from Council, animal welfare organisations, community and Government

# Community Cat Management



1. Discussions:
  - Design 1 or 2 CBCMP models
  - Private property - multiple cat permits
  - Apply for exemption
2. In-house research
3. Funding considerations
4. Council partners
5. Pilot a program
6. Evaluate the successes
7. Report back to Government



Thank  
you and  
Questions

