

# City of Melton Federal Budget Submission 2021-2022



# Mayor's Message

Cr Kathy Majdlik



The City of Melton is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia, set to triple from a population of 173,072 (2021) to 500,000 in the next thirty years.

Creating jobs in Melton is critical for long term prosperity, productivity and liveability. Our residents have limited access to local employment, with 70 percent of employees travelling outside of the municipality for work daily. The ratio of local jobs in the City of Melton per member of the labour force is 0.38, less than the average of 0.6 in Melbourne's growth areas and significantly below that of Metropolitan Melbourne. COVID-19 had a devastating impact on local employment, with 11,493 residents receiving JobSeeker and Youth Allowance in November 2020, more than double the rate of March 2020.

But the future outlook is one where our region drives regional and State economic activity: our potential is ready to be unlocked. Melbourne's largest State Significant Industrial Precinct, the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre, and a number of Precinct Structure Plans and activity centres will create more than 70,000 jobs. Now is the time to invest in major projects that ensure the City of Melton has a diverse and resilient economy that provides a mix of employment opportunities for a booming workforce. Such investment will have reach far beyond the municipality, accelerating job creation and investment attraction for the outer west and into the regional centres such as Ballarat.

Our budget submission centres on strategic investment in transformational projects of State and National significance, creating long-term jobs that last beyond the construction phase.

We have identified projects that provide economic security for our youth as they emerge into the workplace, and also target vulnerable groups of women and migrants. With a significant rise in family violence, we need to empower women with financial independence and equality through access to local employment. A commitment to funding the projects outlined in this submission will attract investment to drive job creation for the outer west.

Council highly values the investment in key services and infrastructure provided by the Victorian Government in recent years, including Cobblebank railway station, Melton Hospital, the Growing Suburbs Fund, roads, schools and more. With the City of Melton set to become Melbourne's fastest growing municipality over the next 20 years, there is a clear need for continued investment and partnerships.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I commend this budget submission, which outlines a strategic and positive plan for employment, liveability and prosperity for our residents, as we embrace the challenges to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Majdlik".

Cr Kathy Majdlik  
Mayor

Community Profile

Cultural diversity

40,000

Residents born overseas



diversity

Top six countries by birthplace: India, Philippines, UK, New Zealand, Malta and Vietnam

Residents

173,072  
Current population (2021)

288,781  
Projected population (2031)

500,000  
Projected population (2051)

33  
Median Age  
Melton

57%  
Families with  
children Melton

20%  
Couples without  
children Melton

37  
Median Age  
Victoria

41%  
Families with  
children Victoria

24%  
Couples without  
children Victoria

Growth

5.4%  
Annual growth rate



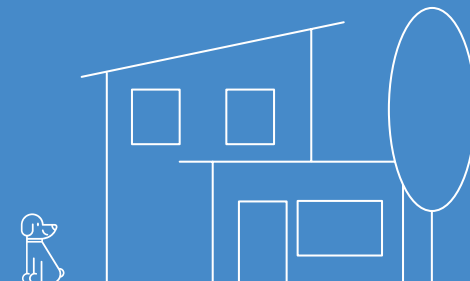
49  
Babies born per week

50  
Families moving in per week

Housing

\$1,538  
Median household weekly income

Median house price  
\$515,735 (municipality)  
\$400,000 (Melton South)  
\$661,000 (Taylors Hill)



20%  
Households renting

54,609  
Number of households (2019)

160,000+  
Number of households (2051)

Economic

9,472  
Number of local businesses

76,541  
NEIR 2019  
Number of employed residents

8.1%  
June 2020  
Unemployment rate (Melton)

5.4%  
June 2020  
Unemployment rate (Victoria)

Impacts of COVID-19

38.47%  
Businesses in  
Melton on Jobkeeper

39.8%  
increase in family  
violence incidents





6,398  
(125%)  
increase in Jobseeker  
recipients from  
previous year  
(November 2020)

Women greatly impacted by  
being overly represented in  
industries affected by COVID-19



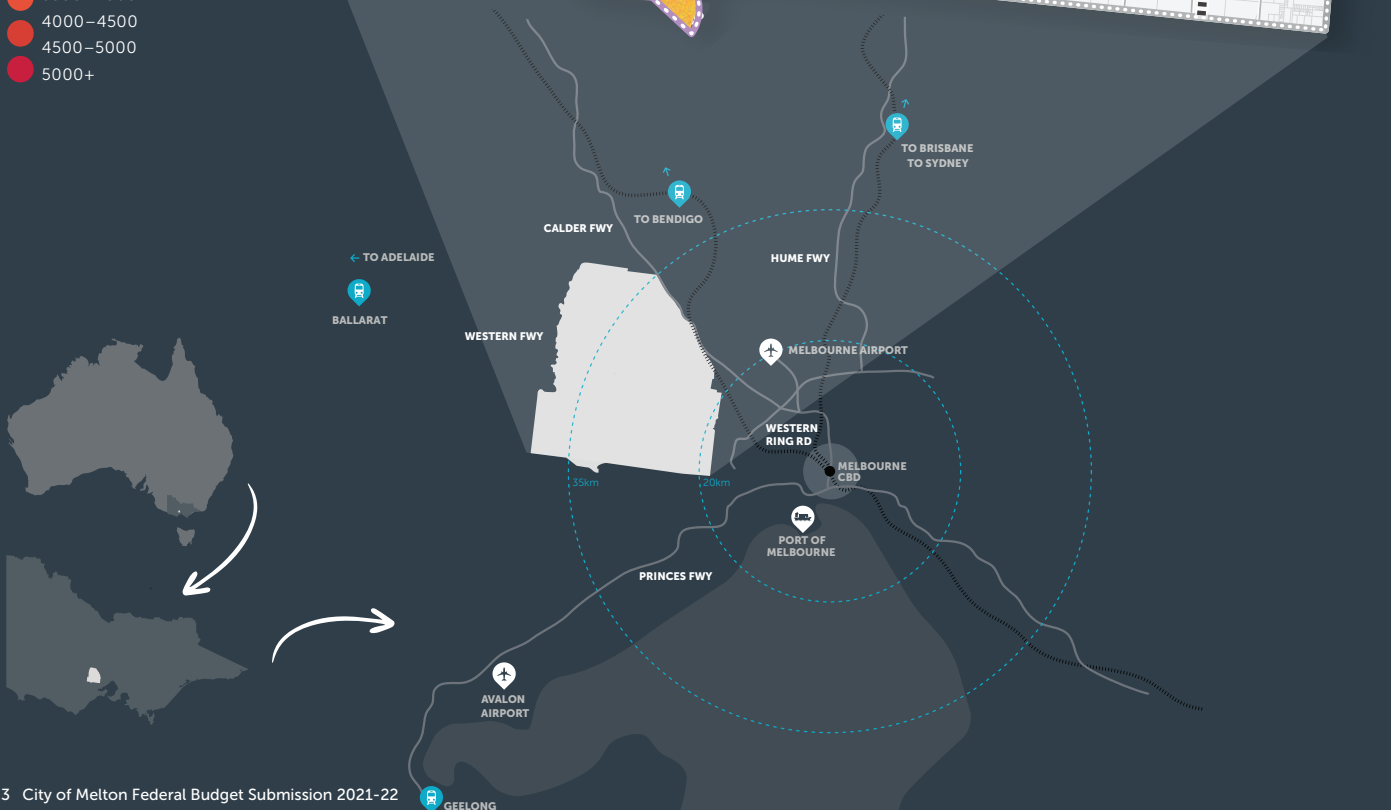
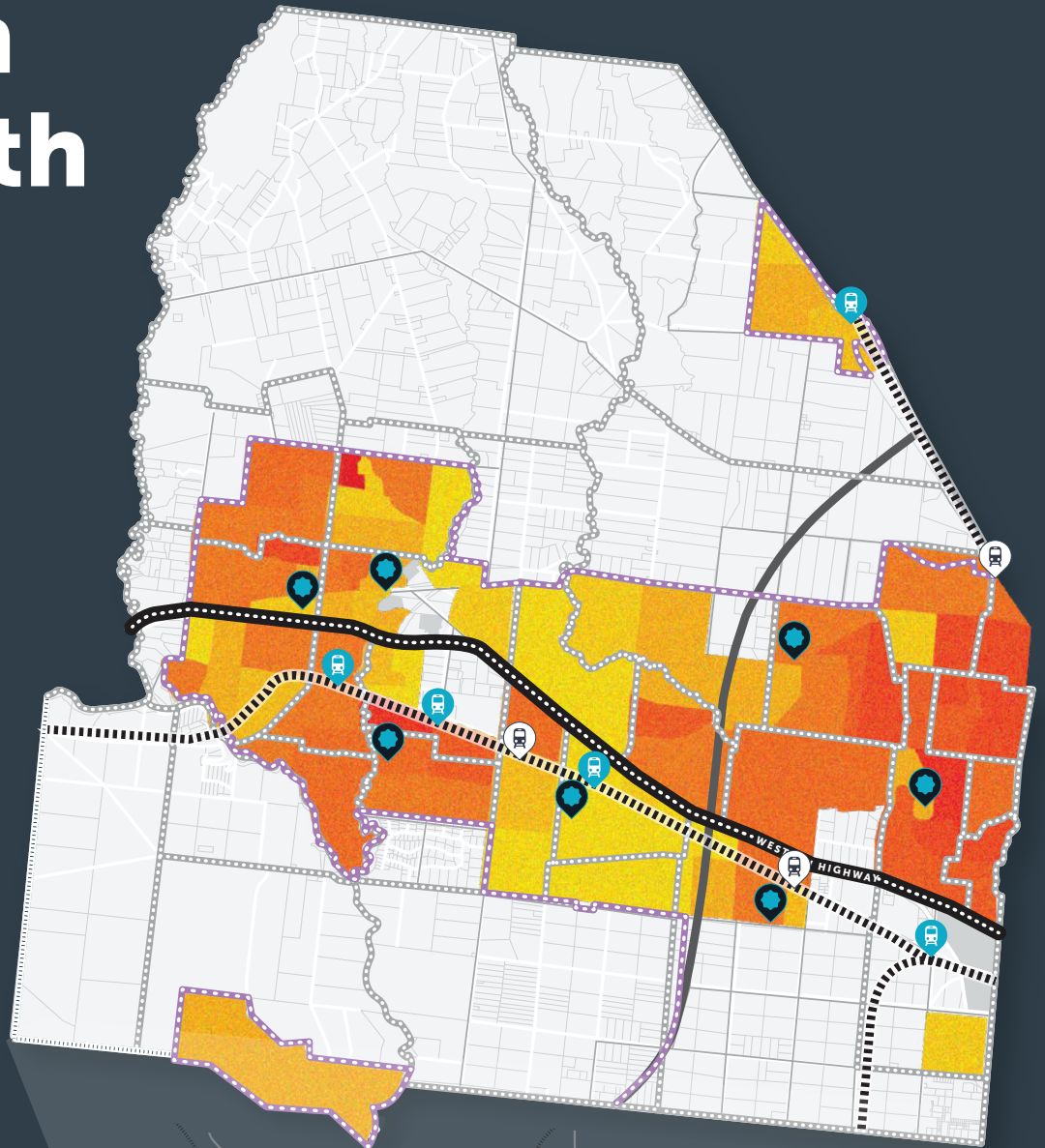
# Urban Growth Map

This map represents the urban growth boundaries and projected residential growth areas for the City of Melton.

-  Urban Growth Boundary
-  Activity Centre
-  Train Station
-  Potential Station

**2031 Population / km<sup>2</sup>**

-  0-250
-  250-500
-  500-1000
-  1000-1500
-  1500-2000
-  2000-2500
-  2500-3000
-  3000-3500
-  3500-4000
-  4000-4500
-  4500-5000
-  5000+



# Jobs and Investment Attraction

Creating a diversity of long-term jobs will be critical in achieving a sustainable economic recovery from COVID-19.

Now is the time to invest in major projects that go beyond the construction phase, to provide a mix of employment opportunities for Melton's booming workforce.

Our major projects have reach far beyond our municipality, with significant regional impact in job creation and investment attraction for the outer west and into the regional centres to Ballarat.



# North West Melbourne City Deal

## FUNDING PROPOSAL

A North West Melbourne City Deal (NWMCD) needs to provide long-term employment opportunities and so must include Melton projects, the WIFP, OMR, Melton Hospital, the Western Highway and Western Rail. These transformational projects are vital in providing significant long-term jobs, increasing productivity and attracting commercial investment to the north west of Melbourne.

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The north west of Melbourne is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, with the population increasing at a rate far exceeding jobs growth. The NWMCD is critical in connecting the major employment precincts across the region, building connectivity within and beyond the region, and improving economic growth, liveability, health and wellbeing.

The NWMCD is a strategic approach between 13 councils, key regional economic development organisations and universities to work with the Federal and State Governments to deliver long-term economic prosperity.

With Melton's population set to triple to 500,000 over the next 30 years, Melton City Council endorses the NWMCD as a major blueprint for generating investment to drive an economy of regional, state and national significance.

Post COVID-19 economic stimulation is critical and the delivery of the projects proposed through the NWMCD will create jobs and attract investment that will ensure generational benefit.

Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre is identified as one of the key priority precincts in the NWMCD, and Melton projects included are:

- Western Intermodal Freight Precinct (WIFP)
- Melton Hospital
- Outer Metropolitan Ring Road (OMR)
- Western Rail Plan
- Western Highway Upgrade.

These are game-changing projects delivering long-term employment opportunities and driving long-term economic prosperity to the region.

## OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- The Melton projects included in the North West City Deal are a game changer for the outer north and west which will have a major impact on long-term job creation and investment in the region.
- These projects are located in State Significant Employment Precincts. They have the potential to create over 50,000 direct jobs in the Melton municipality, long term. This is in addition to construction jobs, indirect jobs, and additional job creation throughout the region. Any negotiated North and West Melbourne City Deal must include these transformational projects.

## KEY STATISTICS

- 980,000+ new residents expected by 2036 in north and west Melbourne.
- 50% population growth in the north and west over that time.
- Melton Council population to increase to 500,000 by 2051. 70% of all employees leave the municipality for work.
- The ABS 2019 Estimated Residential Population (ERPs) states that the City of Melton has grown (changed) by 8,177 people (or 5.2%). The components of population change were:
  - Natural increase of 1,985 (around 24%).
  - Internal migration of 4,849 (around 58%).
  - Overseas migration 1,343 (around 18%).
- .id forecast indicates that strong migration gain to the City of Melton is expected to continue throughout the 2016-2051 period.

# Western Intermodal Freight Precinct (WIFP)

## FUNDING PROPOSAL

Melton City Council calls on the Victorian Government to invest in the Western Intermodal Freight Precinct (WIFP), a transformational project that will deliver significant jobs, investment and supporting infrastructure to Melbourne's fast-growing outer west. The WIFP will act as a catalyst for the development of the Western State Significant Industrial Precinct.

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The delivery of the Western Intermodal Freight Precinct (WIFP) will significantly improve freight access in Melbourne's west while acting as a catalyst for commercial investment into the Western State Significant Industrial Precinct, creating long-term jobs.

The proposed location of the WIFP will provide access to 1,700 hectares of existing zoned industrial land and 1,200 hectares of future zoned industrial land in the Western State Significant Industrial Precinct. The WIFP will create 28,000 ongoing jobs in the City of Melton alone, with flow-on job creation in the surrounding municipalities of Brimbank, Wyndham and Hobsons Bay.

The construction of the WIFP is integral to the freight industry given its close proximity to 50% of freight rail customers, Port of Melbourne, Melbourne, Avalon and Essendon Airports and major national and regional road networks.

Building the WIFP will reduce congestion, increase productivity and efficiencies for freight transport, and create a supply chain and logistics precinct of national significance.

There are significant competitive advantages to investing in the WIFP as a priority, including existing industry demand, freight demand, and the opportunity to harness a large and diverse workforce, with the local population set to increase to 1,000,000 people across Wyndham and Melton by 2051. Additionally, and importantly, the WIFP will be in close proximity to the largest State Significant Industrial Precinct, providing access to major land supply beyond 2040, across four local government areas.

Through investment in the WIFP and surrounding road transport infrastructure, opportunities for

commercial investment into supply chain and logistics will be unlocked to drive significant jobs growth.

## OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- The WIFP can provide freight rail capacity for double-stacked 1800 metre freight trains not available elsewhere in Victoria, increasing productivity and efficiency, while providing the Victorian connection to complete the Commonwealth Inland Rail Project.
- Significantly improved freight access in Melbourne's west.
- Reduced congestion, and increased productivity and efficiencies for freight transport.
- Once the WIFP and OMR are delivered, a significant acceleration in employment growth and absorption of industrial land is expected, as the productivity of freight networks improves.
- The WIFP will be a catalyst for commercial investment into the surrounding State Significant Industrial Precinct, creating 28,000 ongoing jobs.

## KEY STATISTICS

- Access to up to 1,700 hectares of existing zoned industrial land and 1,200 hectares of future zoned industrial land.
- Melton and Wyndham population set to increase to 1,000,000 people by 2050.
- Proximity to 50% of the freight rail customers.
- The west is the origin and destination for around a quarter of all container transport, and Truganina is in close proximity to around 50% of the existing interstate rail freight customers, ideally placing the WIFP as the key node for Port-related activity.

# Outer Metropolitan Ring (OMR)

## FUNDING PROPOSAL

Melton City Council asks the Australian and Victorian Governments to progress the land acquisition required for the OMR corridor and fund the construction of the OMR.

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Outer Metropolitan Ring (together with the E6 Transport Corridor) is a 100 kilometre long high-speed transport link that will provide for a road and rail corridor connection from Inland Rail to residential growth areas, including those in Melton. Construction of the OMR will also provide access to significant employment precincts across the north and west of Melbourne and create a major connection from the Hume Freeway to Avalon Airport, enabling game-changing commercial investment.

Additionally, the OMR is critical to connecting the Western Intermodal Freight Precinct (WIFP) with key freight transport hubs such as Melbourne Airport, Avalon Airport, the Port of Geelong and regional centres, as well as completing the Melbourne component of Commonwealth Inland Rail.

The OMR will accelerate a number of Precinct Structure Plans, in particular those which accommodate activity centres or deliver existing or future industrial precincts, and State Significant Industrial Precincts. These include:

- Derrimut Fields
- Chartwell East
- Mt Atkinson and Tarneit Plains
- Robinsons Road Employment Area South

- Plumpton
- Warrensbrook
- Warrawee

Bringing forward the OMR will create a range of high-value employment opportunities in sectors such as manufacturing, supply chain and logistics, and professional / technical services, in the outer west.

## OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Significant new employment opportunities in the north and west of Melbourne, as new commercial precincts attract investment.
- Connection between the growth residential areas in the north and west of Melbourne, with the rail component reducing road traffic. This connection will provide access to jobs without the need to travel into the CBD.

## KEY STATISTICS

- A 100 kilometre long high-speed transport link from the Commonwealth Inland Rail through to major employment precincts in Hume, Melton, Wyndham, Avalon and Geelong.





# Melton Hospital & Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre

## FUNDING PROPOSAL

Melton City Council seeks a commitment from the Australian Government to contribute to funding the construction of Melton Hospital, or to allocate funding for the provision of specialist services. These services may include an emergency department to relieve pressure from Sunshine and Footscray emergency services, a specialist mental health facility, or any other service provision and specialist research centre that is identified as a gap through the business planning process.

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Melton Hospital will trigger significant jobs growth, not just locally, but across the broader region. The hospital will be a catalyst for a health precinct of State significance, which will include a private hospital and other health services, caring for thousands of Victorians.

Research undertaken by the West of Melbourne Economic Development Alliance (WoMEDA) projects that Melton Hospital will create 375 jobs during construction and 3825 ongoing jobs; adding \$300 million to the local economy.

Planning for the new Melton Hospital within the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre is now underway. Cobblebank is already served by a train station and the Western BACE (Business Accelerator Centre for Excellence) with a retail centre and sporting precinct currently under construction. It is expected that the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre will include a justice precinct, university campus, TAFE, civic buildings, and commercial office space. The Centre will ultimately support 22,000 new ongoing jobs.

Melton Hospital will provide residents with access to new employment opportunities in the health and allied services sectors. In the longer term, our young people will have new and varied opportunities to learn and work close to home.

Building a public hospital in Melton will improve health outcomes and quality of life for one of Australia's fastest-growing municipalities and reduce pressure on hospitals in Sunshine, Footscray, Werribee and Bacchus Marsh.

The Hospital will be a trigger for local jobs and investment and a catalyst for a major health precinct which offers both public and private hospital services. The addition of private health services will create a major employment hub for the outer west and into the Ballarat region.

## OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Work will be closer to home for residents, creating positive health and wellbeing impacts.
- Building a 24-hour cutting-edge public hospital managed by Western Health will improve health outcomes and quality of life for one of Australia's fastest-growing municipalities and Melbourne's west. The Melton Hospital will be a catalyst for a major health precinct offering both public and private hospital services.

## KEY STATISTICS

- Melton Hospital will create 375 jobs during construction and 3825 ongoing jobs, adding \$300 million to the local economy. The resulting investment in Cobblebank will create a further 22,000 jobs.
- Demand for services at Sunshine and Footscray Hospitals continues to grow and will be at capacity by 2028.
- The 'Build Melton Hospital' campaign secured over 21,000 signatures. Research undertaken by Evaluate in 2018 identified:
  - An increase in population to 500,000 by 2051 with a notional surgical demand for Melton in 2031 being 9,675 patients.
  - Travel times from the municipality to access public hospital services in Sunshine, Footscray and Ballarat exceed the long-accepted 30-minute general standard for 'access to hospital' for an average person.

# Skills and Training

## FUNDING PROPOSAL

Melton City Council calls on the State and Federal Governments to deliver TAFE and tertiary education within the City of Melton, including:

- Funding of capital works for a tertiary learning centre for both TAFE and tertiary education.
- Funding TAFE to deliver programs for the future employment needs, as well as early childhood, aged care and education support to fill existing skills gaps.

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

People living within the City of Melton have no local access to tertiary education and vocational learning.

Both the Federal and State Governments have identified vocational education and training as key drivers for boosting the economy and employment. Yet these programs are not available within the City of Melton, and young people experience significant barriers to accessing opportunities in other areas.

There is a strong correlation between career success and education and training. The majority of the jobs growth projected for our municipality will require post-secondary qualifications including VET, university or TAFE.

In the next eight years, the number of 15-19 year olds living within the City of Melton will increase from 10,685 to 19,152. That's an increase of 79%. By 2051, this will increase further to 34,881. Since the closure of the Victoria University's (VU) Melton campus in 2010, there has not been any tertiary presence within the city, creating significant barriers to skills acquisition and training.

Tertiary education has experienced a level of shift to online learning and micro-credentialing, and a model for a new university may encompass a mix of online and classroom, self-directed and experiential learning.

In addition, there needs to be campus life experience and recognition of prior learning offered as part of an equitable path to gaining qualifications. In particular the process for equalisation of international qualifications for our skilled migrants would be beneficial.

## OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- In removing the biggest barrier to further education, which is lack of access, localised delivery of TAFE and tertiary education will positively impact students that are otherwise prone to disengagement.
- Youth engagement is critical for the outer metro areas and a skills and training pathway will support future aspirations of employment and participation.

## KEY STATISTICS

- The March 2019 ABS Census of Population and Housing revealed the unemployment rate for all Melton residents to be 6.7%. In comparison, the unemployment rate for young people in Melton aged 15 to 24 years was 17.1%.
- Since COVID-19, JobSeeker figures in Melton have risen to 11,493 in November 2020. That's a 102.5% increase from March 2020.
- 28% of Melton youth left school before year 10, compared to 23% in the whole of Victoria.
- In the next eight years the number of 15-19 year olds living within the City of Melton will increase from 10,685 to 19,152. That's an increase of 79%. By 2051, this will increase further to 34,881.



# Education

State-of-the-art education for children to reach their full potential.

# Early Childhood Education

## FUNDING PROPOSAL

Long term commitment to additional five hours of kindergarten to fully fund fifteen hours by the Federal Government beyond 2021.

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

*“Early years education plays an important role in a young child’s development, helping them to thrive emotionally, physically and mentally.*

*Programs help children become effective learners, promote communication, learning and thinking, prepare them for school, and build positive relationships with peers and educators.*

*Children in low-income families are more likely to have poor developmental outcomes, make a difficult transition to school, and have reduced aspirations and to pass this risk on to their children in a cycle of intergenerational disadvantage.”*

### Investing in the Early Years—A National Early Childhood Development Strategy Council of Australian Governments (COAG)

Without ongoing universal access funding, Melton children are at risk of poorer learning outcomes or parents may incur unsustainable fee increases.

Currently the State Government funds 10 hours, the Federal Government funds five hours with Federal funding expiring in December 2021.

The State Government argues that one in five children do not go to kinder due to the cost, resulting in vulnerabilities which will impact later life. Additionally, the Victorian State Government has made a commitment to fully fund three-year-old kinder up to 15 hours. This means that should Federal Government funding cease for the five hours of four-year-old kinder, a child will have kinder for 15 hours as a three year old and then only 10 as a four-year-old in Victoria, reducing primary school preparedness.

Such a significant national education reform must have continued funding beyond 2021 to ensure that Melton children have the best possible start in life.

## OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- An accessible early years education program that provides a bright start for every child.

## KEY STATISTICS

**2019:** 3,011 3 year old kinder students  
2,946 4 year old kinder students

**2024:** 3,526 3 year old kinder students  
3,615 4 year old kinder students

**2029:** 4,451 3 year old kinder students  
4,522 4 year old kinder students

- 20% of children do not attend kinder because of cost.



# Infrastructure and Transport Services

An upgraded, safer road network and public transport system to increase productivity and reduce congestion.



# Public Transport

## FUNDING PROPOSAL

- To implement the Western Rail Plan including electrification of Melton Line, duplication and separation of the Ballarat Line by 2025.
- Acquisition of the land for the new railway stations at Hopkins Road and Paynes Road
- Sunbury Line upgrade Stage II to include a new railway station at Calder Park.

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Western Rail Plan is a significant State Government initiative that will provide a sleek and efficient public transport network to service Melbourne's fast growing west.

Melton City Council is calling for the implementation of the Western Rail Plan through the electrification of the Melton Line and increased frequency of services.

Lack of quality public transport access, poor linkages to local employment areas and the need to travel outside the municipality for work, education and health services, results in a high car dependency and congested roads.

Currently around three-quarters of workers travel outside the municipality for work, with over 16 % working in the CBD.

The Western Rail Plan will also unlock commercial investment attraction into the new employment precincts at the Western State Significant Industrial Precinct and Cobblebank precinct. Public transport accessibility is critical to securing investment into jobs and we request two additional stations to deliver people from the region to significant employment precincts within Melton. This will attract commercial investment into the Western State Significant Industrial Precinct creating jobs.

The call for an additional station at Calder Park is to meet the existing needs on the eastern corridor and the new growth suburbs including Plumpton and Fraser Rise. Watergardens Station is already at capacity with concerns for parking and accessibility. A new station at Calder Park (supported by Brimbank Council) will reduce congestion at Watergardens and increase efficiencies for residents in the eastern corridor of the City of Melton.

## OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Investment will provide a frequent and efficient public transport system that connects Melton residents to employment, health services, recreation and education.

## KEY STATISTICS

### Melton Rail Corridor

- New residential estates are being constructed in six new suburbs that are directly aligned to the rail line, which will see the construction of 65,900 new dwellings, and be home to an estimated 183,500 residents within the catchment of the railway line to Melton.
- By 2051 suburbs within the catchment of the Melton railway line are projected to house over 370,000 people, placing additional stress on already congested highways and existing rail services.
- The electrification of the railway line to Melton, before the projected influx of residents, will reduce congestion on the road and public transport systems.

### Sunbury Rail Corridor

- By 2051, suburbs within the catchment of the Sunbury railway line are projected to house over 95,000 residents, placing additional stress on already congested highways and existing rail services. For this reason, the construction of an additional station at Calder Park on the Sunbury line is needed now, before the projected influx of residents, to reduce pressure at Watergardens Station and reduce road congestion.

# Western Highway

## FUNDING PROPOSAL

- Council seeks a commitment from the State and Federal Governments to fund an upgrade to the Western Highway.
- Upgrade the intersection of Bulmans Road to a full-diamond interchange.
- Upgrade to urban freeway standard by removing direct property accesses (including Caravan Park), bus stops and central median breaks.
- Plan capacity improvements within the corridor to reduce congestion.

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Western Highway is a critical arterial road link that functions as an important economic driver at a metropolitan, state and national level.

The Western Highway corridor within the City of Melton is also characterised by aged and rural-standard freeway infrastructure, including direct property access, and at-grade interchanges.

The section of the Western Highway located within the City of Melton suffers from significant levels of congestion during the peak periods, and is labouring under ageing infrastructure.

Planning approval for six additional suburbs directly adjacent to the Western Highway will see the construction of 65,900 new dwellings, and an estimated 183,500 residents, all of whom will require access to the highway.

Additional lanes and upgraded interchanges are needed to support the booming growth in population and maintain efficient freight movements in and out of Melbourne.

Without essential upgrades, traffic modelling indicates that sections of the Western Highway will be gridlocked by 2021.

As part of our Upgrade Western Highway Awareness Campaign, Melton City Council has

secured letters of support from: Councils between Moorabool and West Wimmera as part of the Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC), major developers in the City of Melton, and LeadWest.

## OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- An upgrade to this critical national transport link will improve congestion, increase freight efficiencies and improve access for over 65,900 new homes.
- Delivering the Bulmans Road full-diamond interchange will provide residents of Brookfield and Melton West with direct access to the highway and will alleviate congestion at the Coburns Road interchange, as well as High Street and Brooklyn Road.

## KEY STATISTICS

- **2019:** 60,000 vehicles per day.
- **2031:** 113,000 vehicles per day.
- 181 people injured in accidents 2013-2018.
- 10% of traffic is freight transport a critical employment industry needing efficiencies through lowering congestion.





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