



wyndhamcity

**ANNUAL  
ADVOCACY  
REPORT 2019/20**



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# INTRODUCTION

Wyndham City has a diverse and friendly community, a relaxing lifestyle and endless business opportunities. It is the link between Melbourne and Geelong, Victoria's two largest cities, making it an area of great economic significance that extends beyond its own region, impacting the rest of the state.

Wyndham City is one of Australia's fastest growing municipalities, with our population expected to surpass 500,000 by 2040. A rapid population growth has created new opportunities for the 270,000 people who already call Wyndham home.

As a community, we have always supported one another in times of need. During this coronavirus pandemic, there has been locally-led initiatives aimed at supporting vulnerable members of our community, including the supply of food parcels and vouchers, and our Check in and Chat services. Council has also been responding rapidly to the social and economic shock brought on by this pandemic through the implementation of economic support initiatives and emergency relief services.

During these unprecedented times, guided by the *Securing Wyndham's Future* advocacy strategy, Council has continued advocating strongly for our community. Throughout 2019/20, Council built on its long history of developing strong relationships with community members, State and Federal Government representatives, community groups, others local governments, and peak bodies. Together, we advocated on a range of issues including improvements to public transport infrastructure and services, new primary and secondary schools, funding for economic and social inclusion programs, the dumping of contaminated soil in Wyndham, pokies reform, and additional support for refugees and asylum seekers.

During this term of Council, Wyndham City has yielded significantly positive results for the community. Some of the key achievements include:

- Significant levels of investment from the State and Federal Government towards infrastructure projects including level crossing removals, new and updated train station car parks, and major road upgrades.
- Working with the private sector in the planning and construction of major infrastructure projects, including the Western United Football Club's Wyndham City Stadium.
- State Government funding for new and upgraded primary and secondary schools.
- Implementation of social and employment programs that assist members of the community who have experienced difficulty in finding employment or opportunities to upskill.

Wyndham City's strategic approach to advocacy has resulted in an increase in community satisfaction in Council's representation, lobbying and advocacy performance. Council will continue to advocate strongly for the community, ensuring all levels of government continue to provide support and funding aimed at improving our community's services, programs and infrastructure.

We thank the State and Federal Government for their contribution to our region. Council would also like to acknowledge the positive and collaborative approach undertaken by our local Members of Parliament when advocating for better outcomes for Melbourne's west.

This report is the second time Council has captured the scope of its advocacy work in a public document and provides an insight into how issues raised by residents are being addressed.



# WYNDHAM CITY LED ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

## Schools4Wyndham Campaign



MAYOR CR JOSH GILLIGAN WITH VIVAAN AT  
TARNEIT CENTRAL SHOPPING CENTRE

The *schools4wyndham* campaign was developed as a key advocacy priority in this term of Council to meet the growing demand for schools as Wyndham's suburbs continue to grow even faster than expected.

The campaign has called on the Victorian Government to provide Wyndham's growth areas with a fair share of the 100 new schools it has committed to build.

### Campaign activities for the *schools4wyndham* campaign during the 2019/2020 year included:

- Continuing to grow community support for the campaign online by maintaining a regular presence on Facebook, with campaign videos highlighting the needs of Wyndham's growing suburbs.
- Ongoing discussions with the Victorian School Building Authority on the State Government's plans and presentations of Wyndham's analysis of the schools needs of our community.
- Briefings to local MPs on Wyndham's most urgently needed schools.
- Correspondence with the Victorian Education Minister, James Merlino.
- A submission to Infrastructure Australia's audit of national priorities, asking the national agency to recognise schools and kindergarten buildings in growth areas as a national infrastructure priority.



SCHOOLS4WYNDHAM  
BUS ADVERTISEMENT

- A submission to the Victorian parliament's review of school infrastructure management seeking an update to the statistical models for projecting the numbers of new schools required in growth areas.
- Cinema advertisements in Pacific Werribee cinemas and at Council's Moonlight Cinema community movie nights.
- Community outreach stalls and human billboard promotions at the Point Cook Lunar New Year Festival, the Holi Festival in Wyndham Vale, and in the Tarneit Central Shopping Centre.
- Bus advertisements providing campaign exposure in suburban backstreets as well as on main roads.
- Facebook promotions advocating the completion of facilities at Dohertys Creek P-9 in Truganina and Saltwater P-9 in Point Cook as construction projects that were urgently required.
- Media coverage of Council's statements in the Herald Sun and The Age newspapers, and on ABC Radio.

Council has welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement in May 2020 of funding for construction of additional classrooms for Years 7 to 9 at Dohertys Creek P-9 in Truganina and Saltwater P-9 in Point Cook as part of its *Building Works* COVID-19 economic response package. This will allow both schools to start taking students for Year 7 in 2022, after construction is completed next year.

We look forward to further announcement of new school construction projects as part of the Victorian Budget in October 2020 and will continue to work with the Victorian Government into the future to ensure our community's school needs are met.



# I Love Kinder Campaign



THERE WAS LOTS OF LOVE ON FACEBOOK FOR KAYLA FROM TARNEIT KINDERGARTEN, HELPING TO GROW SUPPORT FOR THE I LOVE KINDER CAMPAIGN FOR ONGOING NATIONAL KINDER FUNDING

Since launching the national *I Love Kinder* campaign in late 2017, Wyndham City has played a key role in national calls for secure Federal Government funding for kindergarten, rather than ad hoc annual renewals.

Following ongoing advocacy over several years, the Federal Government committed to continuing national funding for early childhood education in the 2019/20 Federal Budget while the Education Council conducted a review of the national kindergarten funding agreement.

**Campaign activities for the *I Love Kinder* campaign during the 2019/2020 year included:**

- Continuing to grow community support for the campaign by maintaining a regular social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.
- A written submission to the COAG Education Council Universal Access National Partnership review on kindergarten funding, and encouraged campaign supporters to engage with the national stakeholder consultation.
- A submission to Infrastructure Australia's audit of national priorities, asking the national agency to recognise schools and kindergarten buildings in growth areas as a national infrastructure priority.
- Engagement with the Federal Education Minister, Dan Tehan.
- Cinema advertisements in Pacific Werribee cinemas.
- Community outreach stalls at the annual Children's Week Picnic at Werribee Mansion and the Holi Festival in Wyndham Vale.



MAYOR CR JOSH GILLIGAN AND CHILDREN FROM A LOCAL KINDERGARTEN SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE I LOVE KINDER CAMPAIGN

- Heart parties, where children make hearts (the *I Love Kinder* campaign logo) to grow community support from children and parents at Wyndham kindergartens.

The Federal Government's COVID-19 response in April 2020 included a 12-month extension of Federal Government funding for kindergartens, with a commitment to provide \$453.2 million for preschools in 2021.

In June 2020, the COAG Education Council welcomed the final report of the review into the Universal Access National Partnership, which recommended that the Federal Government commits to ongoing national funding for kindergarten. Wyndham will continue to advocate for the Federal Government to implement these review recommendations to ensure certainty for kindergarten providers and young families.





# ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

## Libraries Change Lives



LOCAL MEMBER FOR ALTONA, JILL HENNESSY, RUNNING A STORY TIME SESSION AT POINT COOK LIBRARY

*Libraries Change Lives* is a sector-wide, state advocacy campaign designed by the State Library of Victoria and Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) that aims to start a conversation about the value and impact of public libraries and the role they play in supporting healthy communities.

**This three-year campaign was launched in September 2018, with the following key goals:**

- To attain stronger support from State Government stakeholders, particularly to meet rising community demand for library spaces and services.
- To demonstrate the key contribution libraries make to Victoria, to ensure decision makers consider libraries as a key contender in planning.
- To deliver State Government commitment to fund initiatives that focus on early years literacy, Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and building infrastructure.

**Wyndham City's activities for the *Libraries Change Lives* campaign over the 2019/2020 year included:**

- Advocacy pieces submitted to various newsletters.
- Engaging with high profile authors to promote the campaign, such as John Marsden.



Amarachi,  
Wyndham Libraries

Every librarian I have encountered has inspired me to be able to connect with the members of my community and give back.

POSTCARD FROM A WYNDHAM LIBRARY PATRON, AMARACHI, OUTLINING WHY LIBRARIES ARE IMPORTANT

Libraries  
Change Lives

STATE LIBRARY  
VICTORIA

Public Libraries  
Victoria

wyndhamcity

- Engaging with Victorian Members of Parliament.
- Program statistics shared with the State Library of Victoria and the campaign staff for use in various submissions to the Victorian Government.
- Running a range of social media stories on community members to advocate to the local community and beyond.
- Staff presenting and participating in advocacy planning courses.
- Using State Library of Victoria and Public Libraries Victoria supplied campaign materials in branches and online, which includes banners, digital images and posters.

- Undertaking a postcard campaign in which Wyndham patrons were asked to fill out our postcard templates outlining why libraries were important to them. They have been featured on social media and been put on display at State Parliament.

Throughout this campaign, we received feedback from hundreds of community members outlining how important libraries were to the community in terms of equity, learning, well-being and social connection.





# Prevention of Gambling-Related Harm



TAKING STEPS TO GET SEEK HELP TO OVERCOME GAMBLING PROBLEMS CAN REDUCE THE IMPACTS ON YOUR MENTAL HEALTH, FAMILY, AND RELATIONSHIPS

Throughout this Council term, Wyndham has become a leader in Melbourne's west in advocating for stronger restrictions and regulations on the gambling industry. Mayor Cr Josh Gilligan, Chair of the Wyndham Gambling Harm Minimisation Reference Group, has outlined Council's commitment to continue engaging with the local community in taking positive ownership of this issue, decreasing stigma, encouraging participation in gambling-free community spaces and activities, and ensuring the right support is available when required.

During the 2018/19 financial year, \$106.1 million was lost at Wyndham's 13 gambling venues. That's more than \$290,000 every day. At the same time, online sports betting continues to be the fastest-growing sector of the gambling industry.

Gambling harm is not just about losing money. Personal relationships, employment, mental and physical health, as well as families, friends, local business and the broader community may be adversely affected.



Wyndham City is increasingly concerned about gambling-related harm and has adopted the *Wyndham Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy and Action Plan*. Supported by a range of practical actions, the policy outlines a set of goals and objectives focused on preventing and reducing harm from gambling across the Wyndham community.

Wyndham City is a member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform, a national advocacy organisation that works to prevent and minimise the harm from gambling. The Alliance's aim is to remove the shame that surrounds gambling addiction, have the problem treated as a public health issue, and achieve the legislative changes needed to protect our communities.

**Key achievements and campaign activities for Wyndham City that focused on gambling harm prevention over the 2019/20 year included:**

- Partnering with several community organisations during Gambling Harm Awareness Week, raising awareness of how gambling affects our community.
- A joint letter, signed by Mayor Cr Josh Gilligan and the Mayors of other councils to the Victorian Premier, outlining concerns about gambling harm in our communities and the need for targeted reforms.

- Correspondence with the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Victorian, Melissa Horne and former Minister Marlene Kairouz.
- Undertaking advocacy and campaign activities via the Alliance for Gambling Reform, including those focused on gambling codes of conduct and Federal Government gambling advertising regulations.
- Supporting community engagement in the gambling license application process by updating online resources on the Council's 'Tacking Gambling Harm' webpage.
- Continuing the review of the *Wyndham Planning Scheme* and provisions for assessing gambling-related impacts.
- Submission to Australian Banking Association's inquiry into credit card use in gambling.

## Back Your Neighbour



Multiculturalism is one of Australia's great national success stories and one of the reasons why Wyndham is such a dynamic, energetic and resilient community. Cultural diversity increases every year in Wyndham, with new residents bringing with them different languages, faith traditions, food and customs. Between 2011 and 2016, more than 1,600 people on humanitarian visas settled in Wyndham.

During this term of Council, Wyndham took part in initiatives to support and advocate for new migrants, including recent refugee and asylum seekers. This includes being an active member of the *Back Your Neighbour* campaign.

The *Back Your Neighbour* campaign is run by the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum, a group consisting of more than 30 Australian Councils speaking out against Federal Government cuts to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) program.

The SRSS program provides help with the basics of life including housing, food, clothing, medical services and the costs of putting children through kinder and school. It also provides access to counselling and mental health support. Cuts to this program could lead to thousands of asylum seeker families living in Australia becoming destitute and homeless.



### The objectives of the *Back Your Neighbour* campaign is to:

- Change (reverse or mitigate) the Federal Government's current policy on SRSS support for people seeking asylum in the community.
- Increase humanitarian support from the Victorian Government.
- Support the Federal Opposition to maintain its new position supporting people seeking asylum in the community during the election period and if elected, into government.

### Some of the key achievements and activities for this campaign during the 2019/20 year included:

- Developing strategic alliances with key national organisations including the Refugee Council of Australia.
- Joint correspondence to the Australia Government, calling on the Federal Government to extend income support, Medicare and appropriate visa to asylum seekers, whose circumstances have been made even more difficult due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- A media release by Mayor Cr Josh Gilligan explaining how the cuts are negatively impacting the asylum seeker community.

- Publishing videos calling on the Australian Government to change its current policy on SRSS support.
- Undertaking a campaign encouraging members of the Wyndham community to sign a petition, asking for the Federal Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, David Coleman MP, to stop cuts to support for people seeking asylum.
- Participating in National Refugee Week, celebrating the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society.

This work complements the Council's other initiatives, including being a Refugee Welcome Zone and a member of Welcoming Cities. Through these initiatives, Wyndham has a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into the community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in the community.

Council will continue to work closely with the local community and key stakeholders in advocating for better support and services for refugees and asylum seekers. These stakeholders include the Wyndham Humanitarian Network, Western Metro Settlement Network and Wyndham Interfaith Network.



# ENGAGEMENT



CR AARON AN AND MAYOR CR JOSH GILLIGAN WRITING TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION JAMES MERLINO REGARDING THE PROVISION OF SCHOOLS IN WYNDHAM

In 2019/20, Wyndham City undertook strong engagement with community groups, community members, the State and Federal Government, Members of Parliament, government department officers, and key stakeholders.

The types of engagement undertaken included meetings with community members, meetings with political stakeholders, correspondence with State and Federal Ministers, State and Federal pre-budget submissions, and advocacy campaigns.

In 2019/20, Wyndham City's councillors represented the community by meeting with political stakeholders from all sides of the political aisle and held positions in almost 20 different external committees, briefing them on local issues and discussing options on how to create better outcomes for Wyndham residents, businesses and visitors. The issues addressed in these meetings included:

- Further investment towards local infrastructure projects to address the significant increase in population.
- Addressing the shortage of schools in our community.
- Programs to support our arts, culture and creative industries.



MAYOR CR JOSH GILLIGAN MEETING WITH THE SHADOW MINISTER FOR CITIES, URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS, ANDREW GILES, AND LOCAL MEMBER FOR LALOR, JOANNE RYAN

- Further funding towards early childhood education and care facilities.
- Initiatives and partnerships that will create local employment opportunities.

The work undertaken by the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive and the Executive Leadership Team at these meetings has been instrumental in furthering Wyndham City's advocacy objectives. It has enabled Council to gather detailed information on a range of issues that affect the future of our community, while also seeking cross-organisational support for mutually beneficial projects.

The following tables outlines some of the external committees and forums attended by Wyndham City Councillors, the Chief Executive and/or the Executive Leadership Team.

CR MIA SHAW, MAYOR CR JOSH GILLIGAN AND CR PETER MAYNARD WITH LOCAL MEMBER FOR WERRIBEE, TIM PALLAS, AT THE GLEN DEVON PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE



CR MIA SHAW MEETING WITH THE SHADOW MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, CATHERINE KING, AND LOCAL MEMBER FOR LALOR, JOANNE RYAN



MAYOR CR JOSH GILLIGAN JOINED PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SONYA KILKENNY MP AT THE RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE SITE



## EXTERNAL COMMITTEES AND FORUMS

COMMITTEE/FORUM	COUNCILLOR
MAV Environment Committee	Cr Heather Marcus
MAV Professional Development Reference Group	Cr Henry Barlow
MAV State Council Representative	Cr Josh Gilligan
MAV Technology	Cr Aaron An
MAV Transport and Infrastructure Committee	Cr Henry Barlow
Association of Bayside Municipalities	Cr Heather Marcus
Alliance of Gambling Reform	Cr Josh Gilligan
Interface Councils Group Forum	Cr Josh Gilligan
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr Intaj Khan
Metropolitan Waste Resource and Recovery Group	Cr Peter Maynard
National Growth Areas Alliance	Cr Peter Maynard
Roadsafe Westgate Community Road Safety Council	Cr Peter Maynard
Cherry Creek Youth Justice Centre - Community Advisory Group	Cr Peter Maynard Cr Walter Villagonzalo Former Member: Cr Kim McAliney
Western Transport Alliance	Cr Peter Maynard
Western Treatment Plant Biodiversity Conservation Advisory Committee	Cr Heather Marcus
LeadWest Committee	Cr Peter Maynard Cr John Gibbons



WYNDHAM CITY COUNCILLORS AND THE LOCAL MEMBER FOR TARNEIT, SARAH CONNOLLY, AT THE OPENING OF THE MAINVIEW BOULEVARD FAMILY LEARNING CENTRE



CR MIA SHAW WITH THE VICTORIA LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION MICHAEL O'BRIEN

## MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT

MINISTERS AND MPS	MINISTRY, POSITIONS AND COMMITTEES
Mr Tim Pallas MP	Member for Werribee Treasurer Minister for Economic Development Minister for Industrial Relations Minister for the Coordination of Treasury and Finance: COVID-19
Ms Sarah Connolly MP	Member for Tarneit Economy and Infrastructure Committee Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee
The Hon Jill Hennessy MP	Member for Altona Attorney-General Minister for Workplace Safety Minister for the Coordination of Justice and Community Safety: COVID-19
The Hon Alan Tudge MP	Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure
Ms Joanne Ryan MP	Federal Member for Lalor Federal Opposition Whip
The Hon Catherine King MP	Federal Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Mr Steve McGhie MP	Member for Melton
Ms Sonya Kilkenny MP	Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education
Mr Andrew Giles MP	Shadow Minister for Cities and Urban Infrastructure Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs Shadow Minister Assisting for Immigration and Citizenship
Ms Danielle Green MP	Parliamentary Secretary for Sport Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria
The Hon David Davis MLC	Shadow Minister for Equality Shadow Minister for Public Transport (Metropolitan) Shadow Minister for Transport Infrastructure Shadow Minister for Federal-State Relations Shadow Minister for Priority Precincts Shadow Minister for the Arts
Mr Frank McGuire MP	Parliamentary Secretary for Medical Research Parliamentary Secretary for Crime Prevention
The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP	Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Minister for Women Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Ms Harriet Shing MLC	Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries Parliamentary Secretary for Equality



## MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT

MINISTERS AND MPS	MINISTRY, POSITIONS AND COMMITTEES
Ms Ingrid Stitt MLC	Member for Western Metropolitan Region Government Whip in the Legislative Council
The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC	Member for Western Victoria Region Minister for Employment Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Minister for Small Business
The Hon. Michael O'Brien MP	Leader of the Opposition Leader of the Liberal Party Shadow Minister for Small Business
The Hon Jacinta Allan MP	Minister for Transport Infrastructure Minister for the Coordination of Transport: COVID-19 Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop
The Hon Jane Garrett MLC	Parliamentary Secretary for Jobs
Mr Josh Bull MP	Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs Parliamentary Secretary for Youth
The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Minister for Solar Homes
The Hon Martin Pakula MP	Minister for Racing Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Minister for the Coordination of Jobs, Precincts and Regions: COVID-19 Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Minister for Trade Minister for Business Precincts
The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP	Minister for Crime Prevention Minister for Corrections Minister for Youth Justice Minister for Victim Support
Ms Sonja Terpstra MLC	Environment and Planning Committee Member
The Hon Adem Somyurek MLC	(Former) Minister for Local Government (Former) Minister for Small Business
The Hon Gavin Jennings MLC	(Former) Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region (Former) Special Minister of State and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

## MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH COUNCILS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Bayside Municipalities
Australian Local Government Association
Australian Local Government Women's Association
Interface Councils
LeadWest
Meetings with various Western Council Mayors, including the Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong
Metropolitan Transport Forum
Municipal Association of Victoria
National Growth Areas Alliance
Victorian Local Government Association

CR PETER MAYNARD AND CR MIA SHAW AND WITH LOCAL MEMBER FOR ALTONA, JILL HENNESSY, ANNOUNCING UPGRADES TO FRIAR PLACE PARK IN POINT COOK.



WYNDHAM CITY COUNCILLORS WITH THE LOCAL MEMBER FOR TARNEIT, SARAH CONNOLLY, MANAGER OF THE GRANGE COMMUNITY CENTRE, MARIA HANSON, AND THE CAPTAIN OF THE HOPPERS CROSSING WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM, AT THE GRANGE COMMUNITY CENTRE



CR MIA SHAW AND MAYOR CR JOSH GILLIGAN WROTE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEKING ONGOING NATIONAL FUNDING FOR KINDERGARTEN



WYNDHAM CITY COUNCILLORS AND WYNDHAM CITY CEO WITH THE LOCAL MEMBER FOR WERRIBEE, TIM PALLAS, AT THE OPENING OF THE WUNGGURRWIL DHURRUNG CENTRE



# COLLABORATION



MAYOR CR JOSH GILLIGAN SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S OBJECTION TO THE CONTAMINATED SOIL DUMPING PROPOSAL BY THE WEST GATE TUNNEL AUTHORITY



WYNDHAM CITY DEPUTY MAYOR CR JOHN GIBBONS AND MAYOR CR JOSH GILLIGAN WITH GREATER GEELONG MAYOR CR STEPHANIE ASHER AND DEPUTY MAYOR CR KYLIE GRZYBEK, ADVOCATING FOR BETTER RAIL SERVICES

During this term of Council, Wyndham City has been directly engaging with our community to inform our strategic priorities and to help us understand what Wyndham needs. Council has also been forming strategic partnerships with organisations whose interests align with those of our community. By collaborating with our partners, we promote policies and solutions that State and Federal Government can adopt to improve life in Wyndham.

Below are examples of some of the formal ways Council collaborates with other stakeholders to advocate for our community.

## Responding to Emerging Issues

Since commencing in the role as Mayor of Wyndham City in November 2019, Cr Josh Gilligan (on behalf of Council) has been strongly advocating on issues that will ensure Wyndham City remains a place for people to live, thrive and proudly call home. The mayor of the day works closely with the public, councillors, local stakeholders, other local governments, and the State and Federal Government on issues that matter to the community. This includes:

- Implementing a range of initiatives to assist local businesses and support vulnerable members of our community during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Fighting against the proposal from the West Gate Tunnel Authority for contaminated soil to be stored in Wyndham Vale.
- Campaigning for better rail infrastructure and increased services on the Geelong line.

Council will continue to actively advocate for measures and projects that will support the community in its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, reduce traffic congestion, support local employment, sustain our quality of life, and assist local businesses.

## Engaging with State and Federal Government in Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Wyndham City responded rapidly to the economic and social shock caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, recognising that Wyndham has a reliance on some of the hardest hit sectors for employment and a prominence of vulnerable communities.

As well as quickly passing the \$5million WynLocal Economic Support Package, Council engaged with other levels of government to secure the support our local businesses and residents needed at this unprecedented time.

In the early stages of the pandemic response the Federal and State Government produced a range of policy announcements about various programs and support that was available. Council assessed how these announcements affected Wyndham residents, and provided residents and businesses with clear and simple information on the support available to them.

Council also identified gaps in the support from other levels of government and reached out to the most vulnerable groups in our community for feedback on the social support services that were required.

In response to the economic impacts of the pandemic, Council sought funding for projects in our City that could create local jobs and stimulate economic activity in the west, and advocated for workers who were excluded from State and Federal Government support.

As the response to the pandemic continues to develop, Wyndham City will look for opportunities to work in collaboration with other levels of government and other councils in our region to support our local economy. We are already working with other western



WYNDHAM CITY AND GREATER GEELONG COUNCILLORS AT THE CELEBRATION OF ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS AT AVALON AIRPORT.

and northern councils on the opportunities presented by a North and West Melbourne City Deal with the Federal and State Government.

## Fight Against Contaminated Soil Dumping

In early 2020, it was revealed that the West Gate Tunnel Authority proposed to use a Wyndham Vale rail stabling facility as a temporary back-up site for some of the West Gate Tunnel Project's soil. It is understood that this soil is contaminated with asbestos and Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The facility is located only 70 metres away from housing and borders four planned schools, prompting Wyndham residents and community groups to protest the proposal.

Council has joined in the community's fight against this proposal. Wyndham City has undertaken a number of avenues to voice Council's and the community's objection to this proposal, including participating in local rallies, writing to the Chief Executive of the West Gate Tunnel Authority, engaging with local Members of Parliament, meeting with Fairfax Media and Star Weekly, and speaking about the issue on television news services.

## Joint Advocacy with the City of Greater Geelong

As the State and Federal Government develop plans to improve Victoria's rail infrastructure with major projects like the Melbourne Airport Rail Link and the Geelong Fast Rail, Wyndham City has worked together with the City of Greater Geelong to advocate for better rail services to the western suburbs and western regional cities.

Both Wyndham and Geelong councils passed resolutions calling on the State and Federal Government to address issues of overcrowded trains on the Regional Rail Link and a lack of rail network capacity for trains heading west of the city.

Wyndham and Geelong mayors also spoke to the media and wrote to the State and Federal Governments asking for a coordinated approach for delivery of the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, the Western Rail Plan, and the Suburban Rail Loop, to achieve the best possible outcomes for all three projects. Details of the infrastructure plans for these projects are yet to be announced.





CR MIA SHAW WITH THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT; INNOVATION, MEDICAL RESEARCH AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY; AND SMALL BUSINESS, JAALA PULFORD, AND INTERFACE COUNCILS MEMBERS.

## Engagement through Local Government Associations

Through our engagement and collaboration with other local government areas and local government peak bodies and associations, Wyndham has been advocating for more support and investment in our growing communities.

### National Growth Areas Alliance

The National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) – which Wyndham City is an active member of – is the peak body for local governments in Australia’s outer urban growth areas and advocates to State and Federal Government on growth area challenges and opportunities. Wyndham City’s Chief Executive, Kelly Grigsby, is a member of the NGAA Executive Committee, providing advice on NGAA’s policy platform, advocacy priorities and strategic plans.

**In 2019/20, the NGAA advocated on issues including:**

- **Greater infrastructure funding to growth areas to create local jobs.** In May 2020, the NGAA called on the Federal Government and National Cabinet to urgently prioritise infrastructure projects and other stimulus measures in growth areas due to the coronavirus pandemic. The coronavirus economic shock has had a disproportionate effect on growth areas because of our reliance on the hardest hit employment sectors and the prominence of already-vulnerable communities

- **Advocating to extend the JobKeeper and JobSeeker payments** to help vulnerable Australians maintain their mortgage payments and keep a roof over their heads.
- **Prioritise transport solutions** - Improve overall transport performance to service Australia’s outer urban growth areas through integrated networks. This connects people and jobs and supports active, shared and public transport connectivity to reduce dependence on private vehicles.
- **Innovative place-based and neighbourhood planning and design** that will bring together the elements required to support productive, liveable and resilient places for people to live and work and for businesses to invest.

### Interface Councils

Interface Councils is a group of 10 municipalities – including Wyndham City – representing the communities in Melbourne’s urban fringe. The organisation advocates for better services and infrastructure for people living in these areas.

**In 2019/20, some of the issues Interface Councils advocated for included:**

- **Immediate increase in Orange Door Hubs** to support women and children in the face of a predicated increase in domestic violence during this pandemic.
- **Lifting the standard of service** provided to people living in Melbourne’s outer suburbs. The Interface Councils regions has some of the highest instances of domestic violence,

mental health issues, at risk youth, fragile families and social isolation in Victoria.

- **More funding towards infrastructure projects and programs** for the outer suburbs of Melbourne, especially areas with inadequate access to infrastructure and services.

### Municipal Association of Victoria

Wyndham City is an active member of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), with Councillors sitting on many of MAV’s Committees. The MAV represents and advocates for Victorian local government interests, provides and initiates specialist policy advice and information, and assists in building the capacity of Victorian Councils. Working with the MAV allows Wyndham to take advantage of their resources and influence to add to our own.

**In 2019/20, Wyndham City supported the MAV’s engagement with the State and Federal Government on many issues including:**

- **More support and funding for libraries** to keep pace with the growth and expansion of services, ensuring there continues to be equal access to services and programs that contribute to lifelong literacy and learning.
- **Calling for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to lock in long-term funding for kindergartens.** The continual short-term funding arrangements are compounded by the lack of access to the full Federal Government childcare relief package have made it difficult for governments, councils, and kindergartens to plan and provide service.
- **Welcoming the release of the Victorian Government’s circulator economy policy, *Recycle Victoria*,** which aims to minimise waste and improve recovery of valuable resources.
- **Expressing councils’ frustration and disappointment around the exclusion of local government from Federal and Victorian Government support programs,** potentially affecting some essential council employees who deliver critical community services.

### Australian Local Government Association

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the national voice of local government, representing 537 councils across the country.

**In 2019/20, ALGA advocated on issues that are aligned to the ALGA Strategic Plan 2020-2023. The issues and objectives outlined in this document, many of which resonate with the Wyndham community, include:**

- **Increased roads and infrastructure funding,** which improves telecommunication services, enhances road safety and accessibility, modernises water and sewerage systems, and provides communities access to a wider range of community infrastructure and services.
- **Addressing the risks of climate change** by providing support for councils to help their communities reduce emissions and understand and transition to the future.
- **Restoring the Financial Assistance Grants to a level equal to 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue** to meet increasing demands on local infrastructure and services.
- **Developing a strong waste and recycling system** that strengthens produce stewardship to increase recycling and reduce the volume of waste, invests in resource recovery infrastructure, and introduces consistent education and standards.

### Victorian Local Governance Association

Wyndham City is currently a member of the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA). The VLGA is an independent organisation that supports and strengthens partnerships and collaboration between councils, their elected representatives and local communities.

In 2019/20, the VLGA engaged on issues that included response to the coronavirus pandemic, prevention of gambling-related harm, recycling and waste management, and support for children and young people.



# ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS



In 2019/2020, Council delivered effective advocacy plans and worked closely with key stakeholders in the delivery of projects aimed at:

- Supporting Victoria in its recovery from this pandemic.
- Reducing traffic congestion.
- Supporting local employment.
- Improving our education system.
- Sustaining our quality of life.
- Assisting local businesses.

This has resulted in significant positive outcomes for the Wyndham community, some of which have been listed below. Council will continue to work with partners and the community to achieve change on key issues.

## Construction and Tourism

Council has been working closely with the tourism and construction industry, exploring options on how to improve the experience for tourists visiting the Wyndham region and creating local jobs.

The Hunter Werribee project – a 12 storey 150-bed Holiday Inn hotel currently being constructed in the Werribee City Centre – is an example of the Council’s ability to work with the private sector to deliver new local jobs, attracting a major hotel chain that will play an important role in supporting local tourism and businesses.



## Schools and Kindergarten

Wyndham’s schools are under increasing pressure to accommodate a growing number of students. Council’s *schools4wyndham* campaign has been advocating for schools to be built in the areas they are needed most since 2017. This campaign has helped bring wider attention to the issue of a shortage of schools, with the State Government’s recent funding announcement for the construction of additional classrooms for Years 7-9 at Dohertys Creek P-9 in Truganina and Saltwater P-9 in Point Cook

With much more work needed in this area, Council will continue to actively campaign for greater investment in Wyndham’s schools via *schools4wyndham*. Additionally, through the *I Love Kinder* campaign – which was launched in late 2017 – Council will continue to call for the Federal Government to secure funding for kindergarten, rather than ad hoc annual renewals.

## Road Upgrades

Council continues to advocate for upgrades to our road network to improve traffic flow and reduce the risk of death or serious injuries. The 2019/2020 financial year has seen a long list of road upgrades to some of our busiest roads, including upgrades undertaken as part of the Victorian Government’s Western Roads Upgrades Project.

Council continues to liaise with Victorian departments and Ministers, seeking support and funding for the duplication and upgrades to many roads and intersections in Wyndham including the Derrimut/Boundary Road intersection and the Point Cook Rd / Sneydes Road intersection.

## Social and Economic Inclusion

Council has been advocating for further funding towards social and employment initiatives in Melbourne’s west. In 2019/2020, Council participated in employment and training roundtable discussions, engaged with local community groups, and has had correspondence with Ministers.

Recent government budgets have included funding towards industry engagement and employment and training programs in Wyndham. This has benefited members in our community who have experienced difficulty finding employment or opportunities to upskill.





## ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS cont.

### Train Station Car Parks

Commuter parking at Wyndham's railway stations is currently at capacity, limiting the number of people who can use public transport to travel to and from work, and adding to congestion on local roads. Council has been calling government funding towards improvements to parking at local train stations.

The State Government has since declared it will build up to 1,600 new and upgraded car parks at train stations, including Wyndham Vale, Werribee, and Tarneit, as part of its \$150 million Carparks for Commuters Fund.

Surveyance and geotechnical investigations have taken place at Tarneit Station to inform the design and placement of the 500 additional commuter car parks, as well as improved lighting and CCTV.

### Entertainment and Hospitality

Council has been engaging with industries, outlining opportunities to invest in the local entertainment and hospitality sector.

During this Council term, Council ran a public process to attract a leading food and beverage operator to the Werribee City Centre to bring a slice of inner-Melbourne to Werribee.

Council was successful in attracting and entering into a lease agreement with MOL Pub Group, operator of high-quality inner-Melbourne venues the Mount Erica Hotel (Prahran), Union House (Richmond) and Marquis of Lorne (Fitzroy). In partnership with Council, MOL has invested substantially in transforming the 90-year-old Bridge Hotel into what will be a high quality, iconic local venue. This redevelopment is well advanced and scheduled to be completed in late 2020.

### Western Rail Plan

Council strongly supports and advocates for the Victorian Government's planning and funding towards major infrastructure projects in Melbourne's west, especially projects that will unclog our roads and improve liveability for our residents.

The Victorian Government's Western Rail Plan is welcome news for the Wyndham community. This plan, which includes the electrification of the Wyndham Vale line and a possible metro rail link from Wyndham Vale to Werribee, will assist in delivering a fast, high capacity rail network to Melbourne's west.

Council will be advocating for funding towards the planning and construction of stages of this project, and for the early delivery of the metro rail link because it will provide a significant benefit for both the Western Rail Plan and Suburban Rail Loop.



### Wyndham Stadium Development

The successful bid for the Western United Football Club to become a member of Football Federation Australia national A League has led to a unique Public-Private-Partnership of Council and the Western Melbourne Group working together to build the Wyndham City Stadium. This 15,000-seat purpose-built stadium will be home to the Western United Football Club and will become the first major sports stadium built in Australia by utilising a value-capture financial model.

Over the past 12-months, a vast array of background reports, cultural heritage management plans, planning submissions, and legal and commercial agreements have been completed. With key pre-construction background and planning reports now complete, we are finalising detailed design and preparing to get construction underway in the latter part of 2020.

### Arts and Culture

In 2019/2020, Council continued to advocate for arts and culture through participation in sector networks including Municipal Association Victoria Arts and Culture, Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres Association and participated in consultation sessions with Creative Victoria.

The VISABILITY exhibition, which opened in November 2019 at the Wyndham Art Gallery, was part of the Council's participation in International Day of People with a Disability. This exhibition presented the works of nine incredible artists of various ages, genders and cultural backgrounds who identify as having a disability. The exhibiting artists created work across sculpture, design, illustration, painting, installation, photography, origami and video to provide visibility to often invisible and marginalised experiences of living with a disability.







### Level Crossing Removals

Council has been working closely with government agencies, assisting with coordinating the delivery of Wyndham's level crossing removals. Additionally, Council has been providing design feedback to improve pedestrian bridge design, public realm, pedestrian and bicycle paths and amenities.

The State Government has committed to the delivery of three grade separations in Wyndham (Cherry Street, Werribee Street and Old Geelong Road level crossings), which are scheduled to be completed by 2022 – three years earlier than originally declared. This is a positive step forward for Wyndham because these projects play a critical role in helping to cut congestion on local roads and improve safety.

### Pokies Reform

Every year in Wyndham more than \$100 million is lost Wyndham's 13 gaming venues. Council has become a leading member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform (the Alliance) and is an active contributor to The Pokies Play You campaign. In collaboration with other Councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria, Council has advocated for pokies and other gambling reform.

In 2019/20, Council undertook advocacy and campaign activities via the Alliance including those focused on gambling codes of conduct and Federal gambling advertising regulations. Council also partnered with several community organisations during Gambling Harm Awareness Week to raise awareness of how gambling affects our community.



### Suburban Rail Loop

Council has publicly supported the State Government's proposed Suburban Rail Loop, which could include a metro rail link between Werribee and Wyndham Vale as part of its western section. This project would improve the connection between Werribee and Geelong and create more employment, economic and lifestyle opportunities for businesses and residents in Wyndham.

The Suburban Rail Loop Authority is currently undertaking geotechnical investigations as part of the early planning and design work that will help determine the rail alignment and station locations.

### Growing Suburbs Fund

Council continues to advocate to the State Government for ongoing funding towards infrastructure projects in the growing regions of Melbourne. The State Government's Growing Suburbs Fund provides the funding needed to deliver vital community infrastructure in Victoria's fastest-growing municipalities.

Since the Fund was established in 2015, it has funded an array of vital infrastructure projects in Wyndham. Projects like the Riverdale Multi-Purpose Community Centre have been supported through this fund.

### Waste Management and Resource Recovery

Council is an active member of the Victoria Landfill Working Group, which was established by the Waste Management Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR). The Victoria Landfill Working Group and WMRR have been advocating on issues including increased investment towards resource recovery and remanufacturing capacity, reforms to state regulatory frameworks, and improvements to national waste and resource recovery data.

In 2019/20, there was significant State and Federal Government investment in the waste and recycling industry, including funding towards improving the productivity of the recycling sector and creating more reliable household recycling services. The State Government has also announced its commitment to establishing a new data system that provides reliable and comprehensive information on the flow of materials within the economy.



# SUBMISSIONS



In 2019/20, Wyndham City submitted and participated in inquiries and consultations on a range of issues including planning policies, homelessness and transport policies. Submissions provide committees, Departments and Ministers with more information and understanding on an issue and inform them about the issues faced by our community. Submissions can also influence their recommendations and outcomes.

The following list outlines some of Wyndham City's submissions in 2019/20.

## 2020/21 State and Federal Pre-Budget Submissions

Wyndham City submitted pre-budget submissions to the State and Federal Governments. These submissions focused on infrastructure investment, new primary and secondary school facilities, upgrades to roads and public transport infrastructure, services aimed at improving health and social outcomes, and environment and sustainability initiatives.

## Better Apartments in Neighbourhoods

A submission was made to the *Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)* *Better Apartments in Neighbourhoods discussion paper* outlining potential changes to the standards and guidelines for apartment design and planning. Council's submission supported the need for stronger requirements on green space in common areas of apartment building, high quality building facades, and attractive, engaging streets that enhance a neighbourhood.

## Strengthening the protection of Melbourne's Green wedges and agricultural land to ensure areas are protected for future generations

Plan Melbourne Actions 17, 72 and 73 are part of a State Government commitment to strengthen the protection of Melbourne's green wedges and strategic agricultural land within a 100 km radius of central Melbourne. Wyndham City has campaigned for a long time for State and Federal Government to address current policy and infrastructure challenges facing Werribee South farmers and to support the sustainability of farming in the Werribee South Irrigation District.

Outcomes advocated and supported by Council's submission to DELWP under this current review include: locking down a permanent Urban Growth Boundary that protects Melbourne's remaining green wedges, biodiversity values and agricultural land from urban encroachment; supporting farming in peri-urban areas by providing security of water supply, quality of supply and appropriate water pricing; and developing an integrated water delivery network.

The submission response was prepared in consultation with the Werribee South Green Wedge Steering Committee and embraced the submission of the Werribee South Ratepayers Association.

## Protection of Extractive Resources /Strategic Extractive Resource Areas Pilot Project

The Victorian Government has been working with Wyndham City Council and the Shire of South Gippsland on the Strategic Extractive Resource Areas (SERA) Pilot Project to give stronger effect to Victorian planning policy on the protection of strategic extractive resources in-line with Plan Melbourne and the findings of the Extractive Resources in Victoria, Demand and Supply Study, 2015–2050. The project itself does not propose any new quarries or expansion of existing quarries. Any new quarries proposed in the SERA boundaries will still be required to be assessed through the normal requirements under existing legislation.

Wyndham City has provided a submission to the Victorian Government which outlines: ensuring quarry operations remain viable by restricting the encroachment of sensitive land uses/ development to secure the supply of resources for local and state projects; ensuring the cost of material transport is as low as practicably possible; addressing future conflict issues between rural-urban interfaces; protecting community amenity and environmental assets; and managing traffic and transport movements.

Council has made a series of recommendations to improve the SERAs. These include minor revisions to some SERA boundaries; additional policy considerations that further analyse and address potential impacts relating to other competing priorities for areas such as the environment, heritage and transport; clarity on quarry rehabilitation and subsequent land uses that may form post quarrying operations; and specific submissions seeking improvements to road infrastructure to better manage truck movements.





### Integrating Environment Protection Reform into Land Use Planning

Wyndham City provided a submission to DELWP's consultation on proposed updates to Victoria's land use planning system to bring it in line with the new environment protection framework. This includes amendments that will integrate updated requirements for the management of potentially contaminated land. This is important to ensure the EPA and Council regulations are aligned and implemented appropriately.

### Red Tape Review – Building and Planning Approvals Process

Wyndham City provided a submission to the Red Tape Commissioner at Better Regulations Victoria, who prepared a discussion paper focussed on procedural elements of the planning and building process and identified opportunities for streamlining those processes. Council's submission supported some streamlining measures, however noted that Council's role is to make balanced decisions considering broader strategic objectives and the community's views is key, which should not be overlooked. The submission also noted that some critical points in the approval processes are within the State Government's control, not Council's.

### Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety

A submission was made to the Royal Commission into *Aged Care Quality and Safety – Consultation Paper 1: Aged Care Program Redesign*. The submission outlined: the need for information, assessment and system navigation to be embedded within the aged care system at the local place-based level; the need for greater flexibility within the aged care funding model; and investment to address societal issues of ageism.



### New Planning Provision – Buffer Area Overlay

A submission was made to DELWP on a proposed new planning provision – the Buffer Area Overlay. The Overlay was supported by Council, as it would provide transparency and certainty for residents and industry on sensitive uses and how the surrounding land can be developed.

### Melbourne Industrial and Commercial Land Use Plan

A submission was made to DELWP's *Draft Melbourne Industrial and Commercial Land Use Plan*, which provides an overview of current and future needs to land and puts in place a planning framework to effectively plan for future employment and industry needs and better inform future strategic directions.

### Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Wyndham City supported and endorsed The Wyndham H3 Alliance's submission to the Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria. This submission outlined the key trends and challenges of housing and homelessness in Wyndham. It also provided a list of recommendations including increasing the supply of affordable housing, improving interventions and services for young people, and introducing landlord accreditation schemes.

### National Heavy Vehicle Regulator – Draft Heavy Vehicle Productivity Plan 2020-25

Wyndham City provided a submission to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator for the Draft Heavy Vehicle Productivity Plan 2020-25.

Issues outlined in the submission include the volume and type of truck movements in Wyndham and their impacts on road infrastructure and amenity and the need for greater clarity around resourcing and how resources will be allocated before opening new roads to heavy vehicles.

### Barriers to the Safe Use of Personal Mobility Devices

The City Transport Department provided a response to the National Transport Commission (NTC) Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs) Regulation Impact Statement Consultation. This includes City Transport's responses on the appropriate and safe speed that PMDs should be permitted to travel across various infrastructure, and the most appropriate road infrastructure for PMDs to access.





### Barriers to the Safe Use of Motorised Mobility Devices

The City Transport Department provided a response to the National Transport Commission Motorised Mobility Devices (MMD) Discussion Paper. This includes City Transport's position on whether or not all MMD operators should be required to follow the pedestrian road rules.

### Infrastructure Australia – 2020 Infrastructure Priority List

Wyndham City provided a submission to *Infrastructure Australia - 2020 Infrastructure Priority List*. The submission outlined potential infrastructure solutions to address nationally significant infrastructure problems and opportunities. These projects included the Outer Metropolitan Ring, Western Interstate Freight Terminal, Melbourne to Geelong fast-rail connection via Wyndham, and preschool and school infrastructure in growth areas.

### Improving the Timeliness of Electricity Connections

A submission was made to the Essential Services Commission on improving the timeliness of electricity connections. Wyndham City called on the Victoria's electricity regulator to implement measures to ensure electricity distributors deliver faster and more transparent electricity connections, including being held to account on performance and timeframes.



### Recycling and Waste Management

A submission was made to Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management. In the submission, some of the issues Wyndham City advocated for included the need for stronger national and state waste policy to drive investment in the recycling and resource recovery industry; that waste policy needed to include clear targets for resource recovery; and waste management should be regarded as an essential service (in the context of policy). The submission also outlined Wyndham City's support for an alternative kerbside collection system for glass to separate it from commingled recycling.

### Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

A submission was made to the Royal Commission into Victoria Mental Health System. The submission is part of Council's ongoing advocacy work in the health and wellbeing space. Council's submission outlined ideas on how to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness; insights on how to better prevent mental illness and encourage people to seek earlier treatment and support; ways in which community partnerships and collaborations can help prevent suicide; barriers to people experiencing and accessing good mental health support; services that could be better linked in to support people; and recommendations relating to protective factors for mental health and mental wellbeing (education, employment, services etc).



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