

Wyndham City

Federal Government – Pre-Budget
Submission 2018-19



1 Introduction

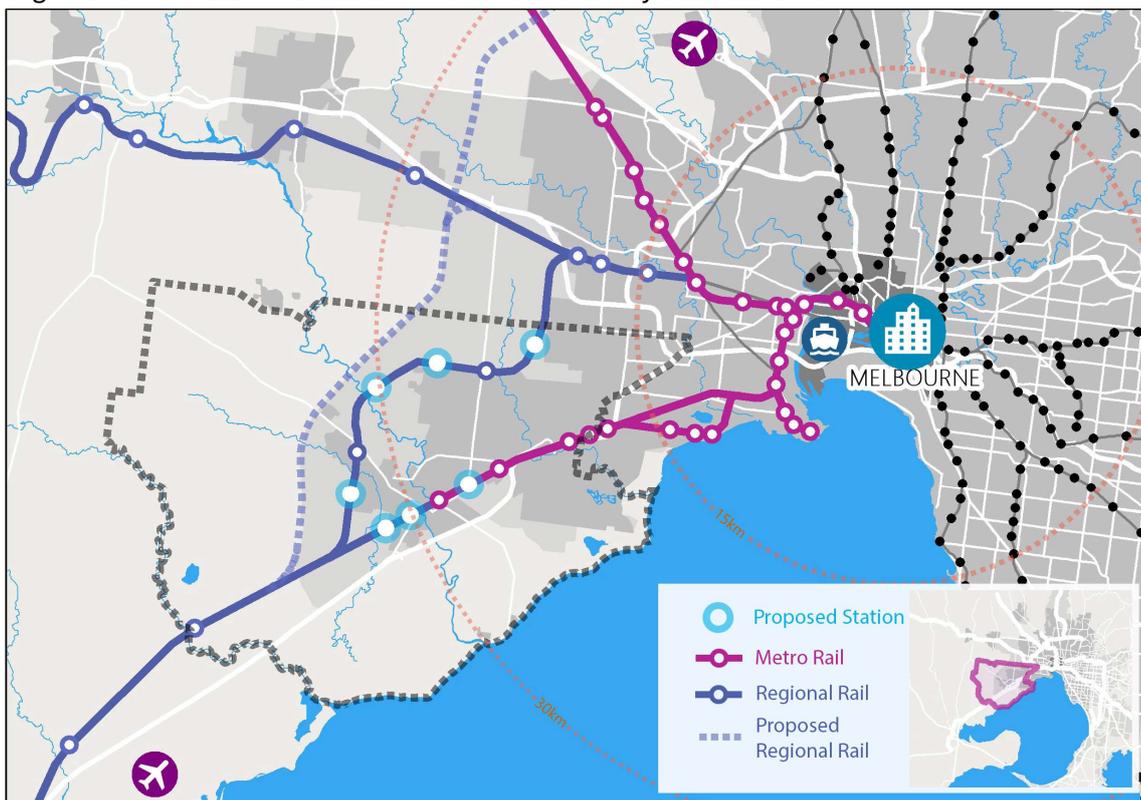
Wyndham City is transforming rapidly as a city of opportunity and residential growth on the western fringes of Melbourne. Our City's proposals for transport, roads, and logistics projects and partnerships will create jobs in the outer west and improve the quality of life for residents, further advancing the region's and nation's economic prospects.

Ideally situated between the two largest cities in Victoria (Geelong and Greater Melbourne) and two major airports, Wyndham is at the epicentre of western Melbourne residential growth and features high value waterways, wetlands, coastal areas and native grasslands. The area also has significant meaning to the people of the Kulin nations.

Geographic appeal, new housing, high birth rates, and major infrastructure investments are driving Wyndham City's transformation from a population of 228,088 in 2016 to nearly double that number (435,832) by 2036. ABS data indicates that between 2015 and 2016 Wyndham was the largest growing municipality Victoria-wide. The number of school age children in Wyndham exceeds that of other Melbourne growth councils such as Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, and Whittlesea.

Wyndham is well placed to become a Smart City and connected employment and constellation hub for greater western Melbourne and western regional Victoria. Close enough to the Melbourne Central Business District to be part of the greater metropolitan area, but far enough away to emerge as a major regional city in its own right, Wyndham has a high capacity to support sustained economic growth, including new and emerging industries.

Australia has an opportunity to effectively plan for, invest in, and support sustainable growth in Wyndham City and to Melbourne's west. Infrastructure investments are needed to lessen the requirement for travel, especially car travel, in Melbourne's thriving western suburbs. This follows the position of the National Growth Area Alliance (NGAA), that reducing reliance on car travel improves quality of life in a variety of ways. Section 2 provides summaries of Wyndham's priorities for federal investment in the 2018-19 budget and our strong alignment with recommendations in the *Australian Infrastructure Plan*.



2 Budget submission summary

Wyndham City is a small, rapidly-growing city and supports the *Australian Infrastructure Plan's* **priorities for capitalising on the many advantages of small cities**. The following policy directions in the *Plan* are specifically aligned with Wyndham's desired outcomes for 2018-19 and beyond:

- *At the local level, governments should align the delivery of higher density developments with related upgrades to **community infrastructure and amenities**.*
- *Australia's key freight routes need attention. First and last mile issues, bottlenecks and pinch points, increase the time it takes for freight to travel from sender to receiver. These issues will be further exacerbated by population growth. Australia needs a '**National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy**.' Infrastructure Australia, in partnership with governments and the private sector, should lead the development of the Strategy.*
- *Governments should routinely consider **value capture opportunities** in all future public infrastructure investments. Opportunities for value capture should be identified and implemented early in planning processes.*
- *Governments should increase funding to address **gaps in access to passenger transport** on the outskirts of Australian cities.*
- *Australia's energy and **water supplies** should be resilient to market and environmental changes and risks.*

2.1 The following projects requiring investment for the western region reflect the *Plan's* priorities above:

Regional Project	Recommendation
Western Interstate Freight Terminal	Funding for a business case, a land and infrastructure planning study, master plan development, and land acquisition
Regional Rail Link stations	Planning for RRL stations at priority sites i.e. Black Forest Rd and Davis Rd
Avalon Airport	Support Avalon's plans to grow as an international airport and high-functioning alternative to Tullamarine Airport
Werribee Irrigation District	Pipeline modernisation: \$11M

2.2 Wyndham City's position to Melbourne's west contributes to its high growth; there are unique requirements for rapidly growing municipalities that could be provided for in an **outer growth area fund similar to the Stronger Regions Fund**. For example, Wyndham's proposals for community infrastructure and amenities to align with higher density development, as discussed in the Australian Infrastructure Plan, include an art gallery and a community learning hub. These proposals require planning and investment over a number of years but could be supported by an outer growth area fund.

2.3 In addition, **Wyndham supports access for all children to attend a quality early childhood education program for 15 hours a week**. The Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE) study demonstrated this benefit, recognising that quality early childhood education programs improve children's learning, health and behaviour with positive impacts extending into adult life. Continued

funding by the federal government for 15 hours per week of kindergarten is strongly supported by Wyndham City.

3 Projects background

- 3.1 The proposed **Western Interstate Freight Terminal (WIFT)** is a regionally significant project, recognised previously through a joint Victorian and Australian government funded pre-feasibility study in 2013. The importance of WIFT was originally identified in a 2009 submission to Infrastructure Australia. Infrastructure Australia's June 2010 report to the Council of Australian Governments listed the Western Interstate Freight Terminal as having 'Real Potential' (*Initiatives in this category clearly address a nationally significant issue or problem*). Wyndham City seeks both the Australian government and the Victorian government to jointly fund and complete the business case for WIFT, to continue progress on this project through: a) a land and infrastructure planning study; b) master plan development, and; c) land acquisition. **Wyndham also supports the inclusion of this project as a priority in a 'National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy.'**
- 3.2 Wyndham City is leveraging the \$4 billion investment already made by the state government in the **Regional Rail Link (RRL) project** by preparing investment frameworks for train stations along its two rail corridors. In addition to land-use planning around existing stations, there is a need to deliver new stations along these corridors to ensure that our infrastructure has sufficient capacity. For 2018-19 two of these sites (i.e. Black Forest Road and Davis Road) have been identified as catalysts to ensure adequate provision of housing, employment and economic development. **Importantly, there are opportunities for value capture at these sites.**
- 3.3 **Avalon Airport's** Master Plan (2015) outlines its long-term plans for the development of the airport as an international aviation centre of excellence, with four pillars of activities such as freight operations. Wyndham City supports the Master Planning process and the progression of major projects that will meet its strategic objectives in 2018-19 and into the future.
- 3.4 The **Werribee Irrigation District** is recognised as an agricultural precinct of state significance. Werribee South is the closest area of intensive food production to Melbourne. Its position, adjacent to the Western Treatment Plant, means that Werribee South farmers have access to recycled water, allowing them to continue growing vegetables during drought. The Melbourne Foodprint Project recently completed by Melbourne University showed that the capacity of Melbourne's city fringe food bowl to feed greater Melbourne could fall from around 41% currently to around 18% by 2050. Werribee South is therefore indispensable as an agricultural precinct of state significance. **\$11M is required to complete the irrigation pipeline modernisation for the Werribee Irrigation District**, to maintain and improve Werribee South's access to critical water supplies.

Wyndham requires long-term planning and partnerships for major infrastructure and services, such as transport and public safety. Our City is eager for partnerships and innovative solutions supported by all tiers of government; some of our proposals for the next financial year have strong potential to address these issues for Wyndham and other growth areas. Wyndham seeks to achieve the same level of support and recognition as the other vibrant, small cities listed in the *Australian Infrastructure Plan*; Council's aims are consistent with the *Plan's* recommendations for these cities to access new and upgraded infrastructure to support their growth while strengthening links with larger cities.