

Wyndham City

Victorian Government – Pre-Budget Submission 2018-19



1 Introduction

Wyndham City is a municipality of great economic significance for the state of Victoria, its region, and Australia. It is transforming rapidly as a city of opportunity and residential growth on the western fringes of Melbourne, and is a link between the two largest cities in Victoria (Geelong and Greater Melbourne). Further, this area features high value waterways, wetlands, coastal areas and native grasslands, and has significant meaning to the people of the Kulin nations.

Wyndham is at the epicentre of western Melbourne residential growth. 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 (424,476) by 2036. According to the latest ABS data between 2015 and 2016, Wyndham was the largest growing municipality Victoria-wide, increasing its population by 13,216 persons, or 6.2%.

Significant to this budget proposal, growth in the number of school age children in Wyndham exceeds that of other Melbourne growth councils such as Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, and Whittlesea. We want to work closely with state government to adequately plan for the current and future needs of Wyndham’s children and families.

Victoria’s capacity to plan for, invest in, and support sustainable growth will be showcased in Wyndham City and the western region. Effective infrastructure investments can lessen the requirement for travel, especially car travel, in Melbourne’s thriving western suburbs. Our strategic planning partnerships with western regional councils and state government will ensure that a connected Wyndham and western region responds to growth pressures and realises its full potential.

Our City’s proposals for transport, roads and logistics projects will create jobs and vital links in the outer west, further advancing the region and nation’s economic prospects. Wyndham is well placed to become a smart and connected employment and constellation hub for greater western Melbourne and western regional Victoria.

In conjunction with infrastructure investments, rapidly-growing areas like Wyndham need to protect and enhance their cultural and environmental assets while ensuring the wellbeing, education, and safety of their communities. Investing in Wyndham’s community, cultural assets, and environment will secure a vibrant Wyndham City where people want to live and work.

This document provides summaries of Wyndham’s priorities for Victorian government investment in the 2018-19 budget. It also links these priorities to objectives of the *Victorian Infrastructure Plan* which align with Wyndham’s City Plan 2017-21. In addition, the Interface Councils have put forward a number of recommendations that support growth area investment needs. Wyndham City fully supports these budget priorities such as the continuation of the Growing Suburbs Fund.

2 Budget submission summary

Priorities below are aligned with Victorian government priorities as detailed in the Victorian Infrastructure Plan and are consistent with the strategic directions of Wyndham’s City Plan 2017-2021.

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| **Transport Infrastructure (section 3)** | | |
| **Victorian Government Objective(s)**   * Deliver a package of road upgrades and maintenance to cater for high population growth in Melbourne’s west. * Undertake strategic planning to identify and prioritise future freight investment, including consideration of a second container port, and potential development of Western and Beveridge Interstate Freight Terminals. * Implement the Regional Network Development Plan's medium and long-term priorities to modernise with more track, trains and services, and better facilities. * Remove Victoria’s most dangerous and congested level crossings. * Consult communities to identify future bus service needs, including planning for new routes and addressing links with other public transport modes. * Protect options for future air and sea ports and intermodal terminals through appropriate planning frameworks, including Avalon Airport. | | |
| **Project** |  | **Recommendation** |
| 3.1 Ison Road Overpass Bridge |  | Delivery of a duplicated four lane overpass as the last section in a major project; estimated cost at $50M |
| 3.2 Western Interstate Freight Terminal |  | Funding for a business case, a land and infrastructure planning study, master plan development, and land acquisition |
| 3.3 Regional Rail Link stations |  | Planning for RRL stations at priority sites i.e. Black Forest Rd and Davis Rd |
| 3.4 Priority level crossings |  | Pre-planning and budget prioritisation for Werribee City Centre and Hoppers Crossing sites |
| 3.5 Bus service extensions |  | Provide bus services to accommodate the needs of residents in new residential subdivisions |
| 3.6 Avalon Airport |  | Support Avalon’s plans to grow as an international airport and high-functioning alternative to Tullamarine Airport |
| 3.7 Outer Metropolitan Ring Road |  | Progress towards an Environmental Report and land acquisition by the Victorian government |

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| **Schools (section 4)** | | | |
| **State Government Objective(s)**   * Continue to use population growth projections to plan for new education institutions, where the student population is predicted to rise. * Continue to identify opportunities for co-location of education facilities for early childhood, school, training and TAFE to help support lifelong learning. * Strengthen school networks by encouraging the sharing of facilities across schools in local areas to promote equity and integration within the community. * More actively plan, improve and expand on high quality early childhood services, recognising the high return on investment over the long-term in improved student and life outcomes. | | | |
| **Project** | |  | |
| 4.1 Early planning and land acquisition for seven primary schools and a specialist school | | | |
| 4.2 Early planning and land acquisition for two secondary schools | | | |
| 4.3 Construction of a senior secondary college | |  | |
| 4.4 Construction of two primary P-6 schools, one with an early years’ centre | | | |
| 4.5 Design/construct five\* early years and/or family learning centres, one as part of 4.4 | | | |
| \*Additional funding for staffing of the Wyndham Aboriginal Community Centre and Integrated Family Centre site is described in 5.2 | | | |
| **Community and Economy (section 5)** | | | |
| **State Government Objective(s)**   * Co-locate facilities in strategically positioned precincts and hubs across the state to maximise their value, impact and effectiveness. * Expand the integrated community based health and wellbeing hubs in partnership with a mix of health providers and other complementary human services, **prioritising Melbourne’s high growth areas** in the north, **west** and south-east. * Continue to identify opportunities for co-location of education facilities for early childhood, school, training and TAFE to help support lifelong learning. * Invest in new and upgrade existing police stations across the state to keep pace with population growth and maintain a strong focus on the needs of local communities. * Facilities and infrastructure investment considers the best way to achieve the directions of the Victorian Government's 10-year plan to end family violence. * Plan for the long-term growth of Victorian cities and communities, and continue to ensure that all Victorians are able to access sport and cultural facilities. * $448.1M to establish 17 family violence safety and support hubs. | | | |
| **Project** |  | **Recommendation** | |
| 5.1 Wyndham Justice Precinct – integrated service hub | | Finance the crucial Support Services Hub to accommodate a range of mainly not-for profit community/justice related services | |
| 5.2 Wyndham Aboriginal Community Centre and Integrated Family Centre | | Staffing requirements are $2M over five years | |
| 5.3 Werribee Integrated Community Learning Hub | | $1M in 2018-19 for designs | |
| 5.4 Wyndham Regional Art Gallery | | $1.25M | |
| 5.5 Health and Wellbeing Hub for paediatric services | | Commitment to locating | |
| 5.6 Parenting Centre of Excellence | | Commitment to establishing | |
| 5.7 Family violence support and safety hub within Wyndham | | Commitment to land acquisition and planning | |
| 5.8 Neighbourhood House Gap Funding | | $800K plus $100K per new centre | |
| 5.9 Allocating additional funding for the Victorian Government Grow Your Business Program | | Additional $10K per annum | |
| **Environment (section 6)** | | | |
| **State Government Objective(s)**   * Support continuous improvement of all our irrigation systems, as well as the development and adoption of new technologies and innovations across the whole water sector. * Optimise public investment in water infrastructure with more integrated and better planning and management across the water cycle. This includes recycling and stormwater harvesting to minimise environmental impacts and enable use of water in the landscape to promote liveability. * Collaborate with community organisations and the private sector to improve how parklands are managed and used to ensure they can be enjoyed by all Victorians in a fair and sustainable way. * Utilise the Market Development Strategy for Recovered Resources to support conditions for the resource recovery and manufacturing sectors to grow and to increase investment in products made from recovered materials. | | | |
| **Project** | | | **Recommendation** |
| 6.1 Funding for increased weed management in the future Western Grassland Reserve | | | $250K per year |
| 6.2 Funding for stormwater harvesting infrastructure | | | $2M contribution towards three projects |
| 6.3 Greening the Pipeline | | | $8M for Stage One: Skeleton Creek Truganina to Lawrie Emmins reserve |
| 6.4 Waste to Energy | | | $350K for a feasibility study |

**Interface Councils Recommendations**

Wyndham City supports the Interface Councils’ budget priorities that are complementary to our own for 2018-19. These include:

* An increased and long-term funding commitment to the Growing Suburbs Fund
* An initial investment of $250M to bridge critical health and human service gaps, and a commitment to a long-term funding agreement that will ensure average service levels in Interface areas are achieved and maintained
* An investment of $225M per annum in the 2018/19 Budget and in forward estimates to bring bus services in Interface areas up to an acceptable standard
* Immediate and long-term funding commitments for schools to meet current and future demand
* A commitment of $20M per annum in the 2018/19 Budget and in forward estimates to implement local initiatives that will boost economic development and leverage employment creation in Interface areas
* Funding to establish an inter-departmental taskforce to develop a whole-of-government response to the liveability challenges facing Interface areas

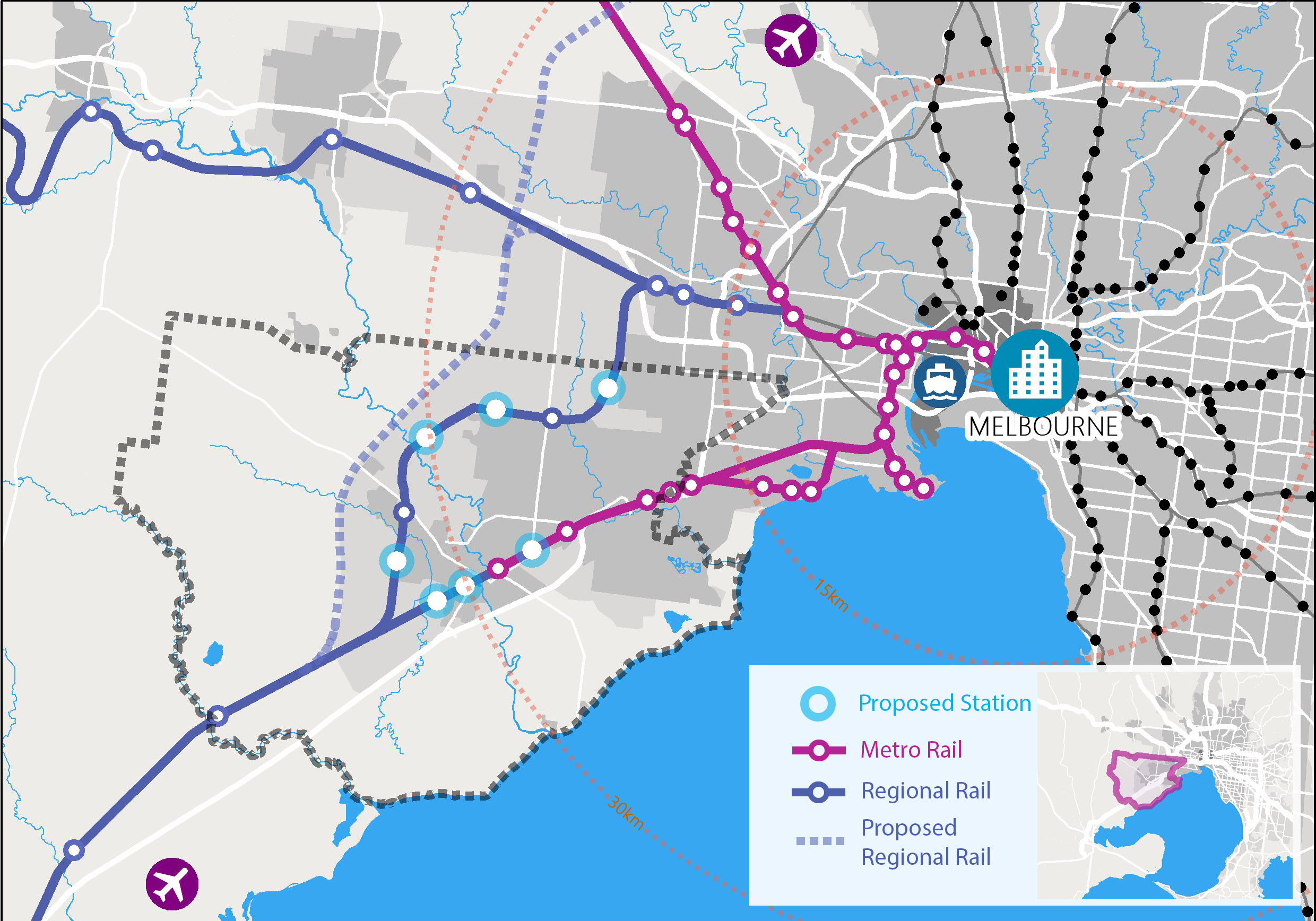
3 Transport infrastructure

3.1 Wyndham City Council strongly supports the construction of the **Ison Road Overpass Bridge** which is the last section needing a funding commitment in delivering a major road connection. VicRoads has prepared a business case detailing the approximately ***$40 to $50M remaining*** to deliver the duplicated four lane overpass. Further, cost savings could be made if a four lane, duplicated road and upgrades to the Princes Highway intersection and Princes Freeway ramps are built concurrently and included in this package. This project is outlined as a priority project in Wyndham West Development Contributions Plan and is expected to ease congestion on many arterial roads in Wyndham West area.

3.2 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 by the then Department of Transport with ARTC and rail operators (Asciano and Queensland Rail). Infrastructure Australia’s June 2010 report to the Council of Australian Governments listed the Western Interstate Freight Terminal ($2.314m) as having ‘Real Potential’ (*Initiatives in this category address a nationally significant issue)*. Wyndham City seeks Australian government and Victorian government joint funding and a completed business case for the WIFT to continue progress on this project with: a) a land and infrastructure planning study; b) master plan development, and; c) land acquisition.

3.3 Wyndham City is leveraging the $4B 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. These sites have been identified as catalysts to ensure the adequate provision of housing, employment and economic development needed to support growth and changing demographic patterns is provided***; the Black Forest Road and Davis Road sites are probably the most critical*** in this regard.

**Map 1: Summary Wyndham’s western region geographic advantages and rail links to Melbourne and regional Victoria.**



3.4 Wyndham City seeks Victorian government support for including the **priority level crossings** in the Werrribee City Centre and Hoppers Crossing, Old Geelong Road, as part of the next package of funded level crossing removals. The road network connecting to this crossing is complex. Delays are a great concern despite recent intersection works by VicRoads.We recognise these investments are significant and should be sequenced carefully with advance budget preparation; Hoppers Crossing grade separation alone is ***estimated at $150 million***. The Hoppers Crossing level crossing will open up the connection between Hoppers Crossing, Hoppers Crossing railway station, and parts of the East Werribee Employment precinct.

3.5 **Bus Service Extensions** are urgently required into new residential subdivisions being approved in the growth areas of Wyndham. Between June 2015 (when Regional Rail Link opened and new bus routes were introduced across Wyndham) and September 2017, more than 13,000 lots were certified, 11,000 lots had statements of compliance issued, and 9,264 building permits for residential dwellings were approved. Many of the lots are within large new subdivisions which are located between 400 metres and four kilometres from the nearest existing bus route.

3.6 **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.

3.7 Wyndham City recognises the importance of and supports work towards the 100-kilometre-long high-speed transport link for people and freight in Melbourne’s north and west. **The Outer Metropolitan Ring Road** advances our city’s economic growth, liveability and employment prospects and we will collaborate with any planning issues as required to ensure progress towards the project’s delivery.

4 Schools

Wyndham City is working in collaboration with the Department of Education (DET) to develop strong forward planning and co-located infrastructure opportunities for schools to service our fast-growing communities of children and young people. **There is an urgent need to address current and imminent capacity shortfalls**. Detailed below are a number of projects and programs, many of which are in Precinct Structure Plans (PSP), that need to be funded and/or fast-tracked in Wyndham’s growth areas.

# Summary of priority schools – 2018-19 State Budget

# **4.1 Priorities for early planning and land acquisition:**

1. Tarneit Missen House Primary School adjacent to the Tarneit North Level 1 Children’s Centre (C-89-01) in the Tarneit North PSP.
2. Riverdale East Primary School adjacent to the Davis Road South local town centre in the Riverdale PSP.
3. Williams Landing Primary School. *There is currently no land earmarked for a future government school.*
4. Wollahra P-6 Primary School: South of the Ballan Road PSP adjacent to the Wyndham Aboriginal Community Centre and Integrated Family Centre site.
5. Aviators Fields Primary School or Point Cook West P-9, as in the EWEP and Aviators Fields PSPs.
6. Holyoake Parade P-6, identified in the PSP.
7. Specialist school provision in the northern growth corridor.

**4.2 Priorities for early planning and land acquisition:**

1. Truganina North 7-12, just outside of the suburb Tarneit, or the Riverdale 7-12.
2. Black Forest 7-12.

**4.3 Priorities for construction:**

1. Point Cook South Senior Secondary College 10-12 (Point Cook). *A senior secondary college is urgently needed in Point Cook.*

**4.4 Priorities for design/construction:**

1. Davis Creek Primary School P-6 (Tarneit) and Integrated Early Years Centre. *This school has been needed since 2016 and is an ideal site for an early childhood development centre on site at the school as part of the school construction.*
2. Wyndham South (Riverwalk) Primary School P-6 (Werribee). *This school is already needed in Werribee.*
3. Truganina S.E. Primary School adjacent to the S-90-04 sports reserve in the Truganina PSP.
   1. **Early years priorities for funding for Wyndham City to design/construct:**
4. Davis Creek Integrated Early Years Centre, as above.
5. Truganina Integrated Early Years Centre.
6. Grange College Integrated Early Years Centre.
7. Tarneit North Family Learning Centre.
8. Riverdale Community Centre.

5 Community and economy

5.1 The *Wyndham Justice Precinct – Integrated Service Planning Project Report (2016*) indicated demand for justice and support services in Wyndham has grown significantly. Delivery of the **Wyndham Justice Precinct** (WJP) project requires a strong partnership approach, with many state government agencies involved. The integrated WJP service model would ensure that the community has access to a good quality, safe, and integrated community services system, would be the first of its kind and scale in an outer growth area, and could be replicable for other growth areas.

The *Wyndham Justice Precinct Integrated Services Facility Scoping Study (2017)* demonstrates that the physical proximity of the three interrelated elements (courts, police, Support Services Hub) is a key enabler of service integration. Funds are urgently required for the Support Services Hub to accommodate a range of mainly not-for profit community/justice related services.

5.2 Wyndham has the largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Melbourne’s west, but currently has no dedicated space for those communities to meet and strengthen culture and community. Wyndham City also recognises the need to improve education and health outcomes for Aboriginal people. In partnership with a community-led committee, Council has facilitated the process of planning and designing an **Aboriginal Community Centre** that will be co-located with an **Integrated Family Centre**. Further, Wyndham City is committed to supporting Aboriginal community-led governance of this innovative centre. To achieve these aims we require long-term staffing, with a funding commitment of ***$2M over five years*** to support the Centre.

5.3 **Werribee Integrated Community Learning Hub** (WILCH) will be a centre for community activity and learning, and the catalyst for a more vibrant and reinvigorated City Centre. The planned relocation of the Werribee Library and the Wyndham Community and Education Centre into the Learning Hub will contribute to achieving increased access to education, employment and skills pathways, and deliver significant improvements to the broader social and economic wellbeing of the Wyndham community. Wyndham City is now seeking Victorian Government investment of ***$3M to deliver project service planning and design work***, and to deliver an interim service hub site in the lead-up to project completion.

5.4 The development of the **Wyndham Regional Art Gallery** supports the principle of planning for long-term growth by providing equitable access to arts facilities for outer metropolitan communities. High growth suburbs like Wyndham need to engage with, and participate in, high quality arts and creative experiences, particularly through new capital funding. Stage 1 design works funding is needed at this stage and is estimated to ***cost $1.25M*** but further funding will be required in successive years.

* 1. Wyndham City seeks a 2018/2019 budget commitment to fast-track the provision of an initial **Health and Wellbeing Hub** for Wyndham**.** Significant shortfalls in allied and acute pediatric services present a strong case for this to occur – and for the Hub to focus on the provision of these services. Wyndham City seeks an opportunity to work with the State Government in identifying an appropriate site within our growth areas.
  2. Wyndham City seeks a commitment to the establishment of a **Parenting Centre of Excellence** similar to the existing Tweddle child and family health service in Footscray. It is well established that parents are the most important influence on a child in the first 1,000 days of life. These services promote the restoration of health and wellbeing where there is distress and disruption in the infant-parent relationship. Higher-than-average levels of vulnerability (along with high growth in the number of young families) create a ***need for such a centre to be located in Wyndham***.
  3. Wyndham City seeks a commitment to prioritise the placement of a **Family Violence Support and Safety Hub** within Wyndham, and for ***land acquisition and design to commence in 2018/19***. Positioning a family violence hub in Wyndham represents an opportunity for the government to allocate resources where they are most needed. In the past 5 years, Wyndham has experienced an increase of over 60% in reported family violence incidents (compared to a 28.8% state-wide increase). Wyndham also has the fourth-highest aggregate number of family violence incidents in Victoria. Despite this, local communities are under serviced by family violence services. Situating the hub in Wyndham complements the service model planned for the future Wyndham Justice Precinct.
  4. Wyndham City requires the **Neighbourhood House Coordination Program** (run through the Department of Health and Human Services) to open funding rounds for Interface Councils to fund our Community Centres/Neighbourhood Houses that do not currently receive support. The Neighbourhood House Coordination Program provides funding for community strengthening activities which are vitally important in rapid growth areas such as Wyndham that face increased challenges in fostering community cohesion, safety, health and wellbeing. Wyndham City is ***seeking $800K to fund the existing gap, plus $100,000 per new centre as they open to the community***.
  5. Wyndham City Council recognises that business attraction, development and innovation will be crucial to the future prosperity and sustainability of our community. We seek a strong collaborative relationship with Business Victoria through the programs of the Regional Business Office and recommend that the $1,500 allocation per participant for the **Victorian** **Government** **Grow** **Your** **Business** **Program** be raised because it has not changed in over ten years. We seek an expansion of this allocation to $2,000 per participant to more adequately fund specialists to undertake either one-on-one or group programs. With approximately 20 participants each year, ***we seek an additional $10K per annum for this program.***

6 Environment

6.1 Wyndham City seeks Victorian Government funding of $250K per annum for increased **weed** **management** **in** **the** **future** **Western** **Grassland** **Reserve.** This 15,000 hectare reserve is designed to protect rare volcanic plains grasslands and was established as an agreed offset for urban development (affordable housing) in western Melbourne between the Victorian and Commonwealth governments under the EPBC Act. The Reserve is under severe threat from invasive weeds and is at risk of losing much of its ecological values of national significance.

6.2 Funding for **stormwater** **harvesting** **infrastructure**: We are a low rainfall area with a rapidly growing population and were severely impacted by the millennium drought. Stormwater harvesting and storage will allow us to improve water security and maintain the public amenity of our open spaces during dry periods which we expect to become more frequent due to climate change. Our proposals strongly align with the recently released state government objectives in ‘Water for Victoria’ and the Integrated Water Management Forums. Three proposed stormwater harvesting schemes are proposed to cost an estimated $3 million so ***the state government funding request is $2M***.

6.3 The **Greening the Pipeline** project aims to transform the 27km heritage-listed Main Outfall Sewer Reserve along Federation Bike Trail into a linear parkland that connects communities and provides a unique space to meet, play and relax. The Greening the Pipeline project is a partnership between Wyndham City Council, Melbourne Water, Vic Roads, City West Water and is supported by Greening the West. The project takes an integrated approach to liveability and sustainable transport with integrated water cycle management as a key principle and requires an ***additional $8M for Stage One- Skeleton Creek Truganina to Lawrie Emmins reserve***.

6.4 As part of Council’s strategic plan for the Wyndham Refuse Disposal Facility (RDF), we are seeking to maintain this regional landfill long-term and create local jobs through innovative resource recovery and alternative waste treatment. As part of this, a **Waste to Energy** proposal has been put forward. Funding is required to confirm waste volumes, technology capabilities, output purchases, grid connection and regulation, legal issues, and construction costs for the project. ***The funding requirement at this time is approximately $350K***.

Wyndham City Council is committed to balancing our strong population growth and urbanisation with support for our important agricultural and green wedge areas. The Wyndham City Plan 2017-21 and documents such as the Municipal Strategic Statement identify our important social, environmental, economic, and cultural assets and the need for sustainable growth. We look forward to working closely with the Victorian government in this exciting time of transformation.

Kelly Grigsby

**Chief** **Executive** **Officer**

