

# WYNDHAM CITY 2019 FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES

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# 10 ways to deliver for Wyndham

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Wyndham is the third fastest growing City in Australia. We are home to a vibrant and diverse community that is expected to double in size to around 490,000 people by 2041, making us bigger than Canberra is today.

Wyndham needs strong representation from the next Federal Government to manage this population growth and reach our full potential.

The 10 initiatives listed in this document will deliver the best outcomes for the people of Wyndham and we are seeking a commitment to deliver them from all candidates.

This list of priorities will be provided to all candidates in the year's election, as well as their respective political parties.

## 1. Major Road Connections

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Around 70% of Wyndham's growth is occurring in Wyndham Vale, Tarneit and Truganina. Funding the major road connection of Ison Rd and Armstrong Rd will connect Werribee, Wyndham Vale and Tarneit and provide an additional Werribee River crossing, supporting Wyndham's existing and future population growth.

The Outer Metropolitan Ring (OMR)/E6 is another vital project. This 100-kilometre-long high-speed transport link for people and freight that will be transformative for Melbourne and surrounding regional areas. It will create better connections to key international transport hubs such as Melbourne Airport, Avalon Airport, the Port of Geelong, and the proposed Western Interstate Freight Terminal (WIFT). The OMR will provide a more direct, high speed alignment for inland rail and will also link residential and employment growth areas in Melbourne, including Wyndham.

Infrastructure Australia has identified acquiring the land necessary for this corridor as a national priority. Wyndham City agrees with this view and believes we need the Federal and Victorian governments to work together in delivering this important project.

## 2. Train Station Parking

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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 roads in Wyndham and towards Melbourne's CBD. We need to provide solutions that reduce reliance on cars and increasing parking spaces at train stations is an important component.

We encourage all election candidates to commit to investing in Wyndham's overcrowded station car parks.

## 3. Melbourne and Geelong Fast Rail Connection, via Wyndham

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Wyndham City welcomes proposals for a fast rail connection between Geelong and Melbourne as a way to reduce traffic congestion and boost employment opportunities, but we urge all candidates to commit to ensuring that any link also stops in Wyndham.

Wyndham's population is greater than Geelong's and we also have the highest proportion of people in Victoria who spend two hours or more commuting to and from work. Council considers any plan for a fast rail that bypasses Wyndham as ill-conceived and with \$4 billion already invested in the Regional Rail Link (RRL), we are calling on all political candidates to support a fast rail link that connects Geelong, Wyndham and Melbourne.



## 4. Regional Rail Link Stations and Capacity

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Trains in Wyndham are regularly overcrowded and there are not enough stations to service our growth areas. This means our residents are more reliant on cars, increasing congestion on local roads and causing an overflow of car parking around existing stations.

Wyndham City is calling on the Federal and Victorian governments to build four new Regional Rail Link (RRL) stations in Wyndham, including:

- Sayers Rd Station in Tarneit West as soon as possible
- Black Forest Rd Station in Wyndham Vale
- Truganina Station in Truganina
- Davis Rd Station in Tarneit West.

With a new 15,000 seat A-League stadium being built in Tarneit, the Sayers Road station is a major priority for Wyndham City and we are calling on the Federal Government to help build this station as soon as possible so Melbourne can capitalise on this unique opportunity.

Our rapidly-growing population also urgently needs additional train capacity on both the Werribee and RRL lines. Currently there is capacity for only one additional RRL train service in the busiest peak hour between Sunshine and the Melbourne CBD.

Given that Wyndham is one of the fastest growing cities in Australia, any future government should invest in additional rail capacity for this region.





## 5. Werribee and Wyndham Vale Rail Connection

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The Victorian Government's proposed Suburban Rail Loop could include a metro rail link from Wyndham Vale to Werribee as part of its western section. Council strongly supports this proposed link as a way to improve the connection between Werribee and Geelong. The link would integrate the metro train line with the RRL and create more employment, economic and lifestyle opportunities for businesses and residents.

We urge all candidates in the upcoming election to support this project and commit to providing funding during both the planning and construction stages.

## 6. Western Interstate Freight Terminal

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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. Currently interstate containers bound for distribution in Melbourne are railed to terminals at Dynon, next to the Port of Melbourne, and then trucked to the outer suburbs. The Dynon terminals have limited space and capacity and can be difficult to access, increasing traffic congestion in Melbourne.

Independent studies have confirmed Truganina as the best location for the WIFT as it is close to around 50 per cent of the existing interstate freight rail customers, with good road access to other parts of Melbourne. The 2018-19 Victorian Budget included \$7.6 million to develop a business case for the WIFT.

Wyndham City is calling on candidates to commit to building the WIFT in Truganina, to establish a Western Freight Infrastructure Investment Plan to coordinate the project, and to begin the necessary land acquisition and reservation. This commitment would help unlock further private investment and ensure certainty for Melbourne's freight industry.

## 7. Werribee Irrigation District

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The antiquated irrigation system in Werribee South is in desperate need of an upgrade. Southern Rural Water and the Victorian Government have each funded a third of this \$33 million project, but the Federal Government is yet to contribute.

The pipeline modernisation for the Werribee Irrigation District is needed to maintain and improve Werribee South's access to water supplies. The Werribee Irrigation District is recognised as an agricultural precinct of state significance with Werribee South 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 by Melbourne University showed that the capacity of Melbourne's city fringe food bowl to feed greater Melbourne could fall from around 41 per cent currently, to around 18 per cent by 2050. Werribee South is therefore indispensable as an agricultural precinct of state significance.

All candidates should commit to funding this food security project fully if elected.



## 8. New and Expanded Bus Services

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New and more frequent bus services are needed for residents in Wyndham's fastest growing suburbs including Tarneit, Wyndham Vale, Manor Lakes, Truganina and Point Cook. These suburbs already have large numbers of people living in new estates that have poor or no access to public transport. With Wyndham's booming population, it's important that residents have access to a wide range of public transport options, including buses to train stations and activity and work destinations.

## 9. Kindergarten Funding

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Under current funding agreements, the Victorian Government provides 10 hours a week of kindergarten per child and the Federal Government funds five hours a week per child. Federal funding is due to run out in December 2020. If this happens local families could be forced to pay an average of \$2000 extra every year and many children may fall through the gaps.

Wyndham City strongly urges all election candidates to commit to ongoing funding for four-year-old kindergarten.

## 10. Financial Assistance Grants

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Victorian Councils have missed out on \$200 million in untied federal funding support for local roads and community services since the Federal Government froze indexation of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) in 2014.

In 1996, FAGs were equal to around one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue. However, a freeze on the indexation of FAGs has seen a 43 per cent decline in relative terms over the past 20 years.

Wyndham City, along with the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Australian Local Government Association, is seeking a commitment from all candidates to advocate to the Federal Government to restore FAGs to a level of at least one per cent on Commonwealth Taxation revenue.

## More information

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For more information on Wyndham City's election priorities and to view our advocacy strategy, *Securing Wyndham's Future*, visit [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/advocacy](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/advocacy).





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