

# WYNDHAM CITY 2020-21 VICTORIAN PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

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wyndhamcity

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# INTRODUCTION

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Wyndham is one of Australia's fastest growing municipalities, expected to almost double in size by 2041. It is the link between Melbourne and Geelong, the two largest cities in Victoria, making it an area of great economic significance that extends beyond its own region, impacting the rest of the state.

More than 270,000 people already call Wyndham home and with our population growing at almost triple the rate of regional hubs Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo combined, this number is expected to surpass 500,000 by 2040.

Wyndham's rapid population growth is creating issues for our communities that only major investment can solve. A clear example of the gap in infrastructure and services being faced by our communities is the fact that we have the highest proportion of people in Victoria who spend two or more hours commuting to and from work.

We need true collaboration between all levels of government to help deliver the projects that will reduce traffic congestion and take advantage of

Wyndham's strategic location as the gateway between Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat and western Victoria.

This collaborative approach is also needed to provide the services that will improve community safety and reduce the environmental impact being felt in communities across Victoria.

Wyndham already needs the Victorian Government to fund eight new schools to cater for our existing population, and with the growth we're experiencing we will only need more in the future. Wyndham City welcomes the State Governments commitment to build 100 new schools by 2026 and looks forward to Wyndham's education needs being included.

This submission provides summaries of Wyndham City's priorities for the Victorian Government's investment in the 2020-21 Budget. These priorities are linked to objectives of the Victorian Infrastructure Plan, the Western Rail Plan, and the Metropolitan Planning Strategy, which align with Wyndham's City Plan 2017 -21.



# BUDGET SUBMISSION SUMMARY

The below budget priorities will deliver significant outcomes for Wyndham, Melbourne's West, and western Victoria. They align with Wyndham City's and the Victorian Government's priorities and should be delivered in collaboration with all levels of government. Details on each project are provided throughout this submission.

## Economic Development and Industry (page 7)

Project	Recommendations
Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor	Fund land acquisition and an Environmental Report.
Western Interstate Freight Terminal	Conduct a Land and Infrastructure Planning Study, develop a Masterplan, commence necessary land acquisition.
Enhanced Employment Services	Fund employment trials through the regional Employment Trial.
Avalon Airport	Support the development of Avalon as Melbourne's second international airport and maintain a shuttle bus connection between Avalon and Tullamarine airports.

## Urban Development and Financial Sustainability (page 09)

Project	Recommendations
East Werribee Employment Precinct	Capitalise on the opportunities presented by the East Werribee Employment Precinct.

## Primary and Secondary Education (page 10)

Project	Recommendations
Truganina North Secondary	Fund land acquisition.
Williams Landing primary school	Conduct a feasibility study to identify suitable land.
Point Cook West P-9	Fund land acquisition.

Tarneit Missen House Primary	Fund land acquisition.
Holyoake Parade Primary	Fund land acquisition.
Lollypop Creek Primary	Fund land acquisition.
Riverdale Secondary School	Fund land acquisition.
Riverdale North Primary	Fund land acquisition.
Completion of P-9 Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doherty's Creek, Truganina</li> <li>• Saltwater, Point Cook</li> </ul>	Fund the completion of stage two as a matter of urgency.
Continue to invest in upgrades to existing schools	Fund upgrades for existing schools.

## Public Transport and Roads (page 12)

Project	Recommendations
Westlink (Ison Road Bridge grade separation)	Fund a duplicated four lane bridge and overpass.
Upgrade Major Road Intersections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Point Cook Road/Sneydes Road signalisation</li> <li>• Boundary Road/Derrimut Road signalisation</li> </ul>	Fund road duplications to improve traffic flow and safety.
Significant Road Upgrades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballan Road duplication</li> <li>• Sayers Road duplication</li> <li>• Point Cook Road duplication</li> </ul>	Fund road duplications to improve traffic flow and safety.
Geelong Fast Rail Connection via Wyndham	Work with all levels of government to deliver a fast rail connection.
Electrification of Wyndham Vale Rail Line and Extension to Connect to Werribee Line	Fund early deliver of this link to provide a significant benefit for both the Western Rail Plan and Suburban Rail Loop.
Regional Rail Link Stations and Capacity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sayers Road Station</li> <li>• Black Forest Road Station</li> <li>• Truganina Station</li> <li>• Davis Road Station</li> </ul>	Revitalise rail infrastructure by building four new Regional Rail Link stations in Wyndham, with Sayers Road Station as the most immediate priority.

Commuter Parking at Train Stations

Fund the provisions of additional commuter car parks at Wyndham railway stations as soon as possible.

Extensions in Bus Service and Frequency

Improve bus services across Wyndham and review bus services every two years to improve integration with trains.

## Health Support and Inclusion (page 18)

Project	Recommendations
Wyndham Justice Precinct	Stage 1 of Wyndham Justice Precinct (Werribee Court and Support Services Hub)
The Orange Door (Family Violence Support and Safety hub)	Fund the provision of The Orange Door in Wyndham.
Youth Pathways Support and Funding	Provide funding to programs that support young people.

## Environment and Sustainability (page 20)

Project	Recommendations
Recycling, Energy from Waste, and the Circular Economy	Fund the early delivery of waste and recycling infrastructure markets and other priorities identified in the Circular Economy Plan.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

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*In 2016 Wyndham's economy grew faster than the Victorian average, yet 66 per cent of Wyndham's workers still leave the municipality to go to work, greatly adding to Melbourne's traffic congestion. We need greater invest in infrastructure and support programs that will attract a diverse range of industries and support local enterprise which can create more diverse employment opportunities so that more of our residents can work close to home.*

## Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor

The Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor (OMR)/E6 is a vital infrastructure project. A 100-kilometre-long high-speed transport link for people and freight, it 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. 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 analysis and is eager to work with the Victorian Government to deliver this important project.

As well as setting aside funds for land acquisition, Wyndham City believes that an Environmental Report on the OMR/E6 should also be funded by the Victorian Government.

## Enhanced Employment Services

Wyndham is an extremely diverse community, with almost half of our residents born overseas in 162 different countries. Wyndham is also younger and more diverse than Greater Melbourne, with 58 per cent of residents under the age of 35. Unfortunately, Wyndham also has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Victoria, with one in 10 young people not engaged in work or study.

Grants provided by Federal, Victorian and Local Governments are working in conjunction with private industries to foster the change we need. Wyndham City is thankful for the previous support our community has received from the Victorian Government in the form of funding for the Jobs Victoria Employment Network. This funding is ending in September 2020 and should be extended to ensure progress made towards tackling youth unemployment is not lost. A dedicated stream within this funding should also be established to support Pasifika and African communities within Wyndham.

Wyndham City also urges the Victorian Government to work more closely with the Federal Government in rolling out an integrated employment service for disadvantaged job seekers. It is vital that the place-based approach to rolling out employment services trials is built on and that Wyndham is identified as a preferred location in the lead up to the end of the current Jobactive funding in 2022. Additional components of the employment trials funded through the Regional Employment Trial should be funded, while existing funding opportunities must be capitalised on.

## Western Interstate Freight Terminal

The proposed Western Interstate Freight Terminal (WIFT) will include the construction of an interstate rail freight terminal and warehousing precinct at Truganina and a rail link to the interstate rail freight network. Currently containers bound for interstate 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, contributing to traffic congestion in Melbourne.

Wyndham City supports calls for the delivery of the Melbourne component of the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail to facilitate easy connection to the WIFT. Independent studies have confirmed that Truganina is an optimal location for the WIFT as it is close to around 50 percent 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 encourages the Victorian Government to continue its progress on this project by conducting a Land and Infrastructure Planning Study, developing a Masterplan, and commencing necessary land acquisition.

## Avalon Airport

Melbourne's air traffic continues to grow and Avalon Airport is well positioned to service Melbourne's West – Victoria's fastest growing region – as well as Geelong and surrounding regional areas.

The commencement of international flights at Avalon Airport adds impetus to the further development of the terminal as an international destination utilised by a multitude of carriers.

In December 2018 Avalon Airport officially became Australia's newest international airport, opening up Melbourne to 500,000 new visitors from Malaysia within the first 12 months alone. In October 2019, Avalon Airport partnered with Vietnamese airline, VietJet Air, adding another estimated 140,000 passengers annually.

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 including freight operations. Wyndham City supports the master planning process and the progression of major projects that will meet its strategic objectives in 2020-21 and into the future.

We urge the Victorian Government to continue to support the development of Avalon Airport as Melbourne's second international airport and to maintain a shuttle bus connection between Avalon and Tullamarine airports in order to boost local tourism and businesses.



# URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

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*Poor access to infrastructure and services leads to a lower quality of life. It also means people have fewer opportunities to reach their potential. With proper planning and investment from the Victorian Government, we can improve living standards and build a strong, nationally-significant local economy.*

## East Werribee Employment Precinct

The East Werribee Employment Precinct (EWEP) is part of the wider East Werribee National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC).

This precinct has tremendous potential for Wyndham as a bustling employment, technology and educational hub. Development here will take pressure off Melbourne's infrastructure and provide more opportunities for the more than half a million residents projected to be living in Wyndham by 2040. With close to 25,000 18-25 year-olds residing in Wyndham in 2019, and this young adult population forecast to grow substantially over the next 20 years, greater tertiary education opportunities are crucial to Wyndham's future.

While the Victorian Government announced recently that it will not be going ahead with the Australian Education City's bid for the development of 400 hectares within this site, East Werribee still represents an excellent opportunity for all levels of government to work together to deliver excellent employment, education, transport, housing, and liveability opportunities for Melbourne residents.

This generational opportunity must be seized as it also provides significant benefits for our neighbouring regional cities of Geelong and Ballarat and many of their residents who will increasingly seek access to employment and services in Wyndham.



# PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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*Many of Wyndham's new housing estates are being built before primary and secondary schools are in place. Existing schools are struggling to cope and are becoming overcrowded. It also means many children travel long distances to attend class, which negatively affects quality of life.*

*We support the Victorian Government's Education State reforms, which are designed to improve quality of learning and break the link between social background and how a child does at school. This relies on families having access to conveniently-located schools that aren't overcrowded.*

*The Victorian Government has pledged to build 100 new schools by 2026 and the existing need for more schools in Wyndham, coupled with our booming population, means we should be a central focus of this commitment.*

## New Schools

Wyndham's suburbs are growing rapidly with a high proportion of families moving into new housing estates. As a result, Wyndham residents will need two new secondary schools and six new primary schools by 2023.

- **Truganina North Secondary** – the school was needed in 2019, however the site is expected to be ready to start construction in 2021. Provision for land acquisition should occur as part of the 2020/21 State Budget with the opening of the school to occur in 2023.
- **A primary school in Williams Landing** – with population growth this school will be needed in 2020 to meet demand. There is currently no land allocated for this school. The Victorian government should conduct a feasibility study to identify suitable land as part of the 2020/21 State Budget.
- **Point Cook West P-9** – with population growth this school will be needed in 2019 to meet demand. To avoid delays in delivering this urgently needed school, located in the East Werribee Employment Precinct, the plan for the school site and adjoining residential areas adjacent to Point Cook should be confirmed now so that land acquisition can proceed in the 2020/21 State Budget.
- **Tarneit Missen House Primary** – with population growth this school in Tarneit will be needed in 2020 to meet demand. Council is planning to co-locate infrastructure with this school which is expected to be delivered in 2022. Provision for land acquisition should occur as part of the 2020/21 State Budget with the opening of the school to occur in 2023.
- **Holyoake Parade Primary** – with population growth this school in Manor Lakes will be needed in 2023 to meet demand. Council is planning to co-locate infrastructure with this school which is expected to be delivered in 2023. Provision for land acquisition should occur as part of the 2020/21 State Budget with the opening of the school to occur in 2023.

- **Lollypop Creek Primary** – with population growth this school in the West of Werribee will be needed in 2022 to meet demand. Provision for land acquisition should occur as part of the 2020/21 State Budget with the opening of the school to occur in 2023.
- **Riverdale Secondary** – with population growth this school in Tarneit will be needed in 2023 to meet demand. Provision for land acquisition should occur as part of the 2020/21 State Budget with the opening of the school to occur in 2023.
- **Riverdale North Primary** – with population growth this school in Tarneit will be needed in 2023 to meet demand. Provision for land acquisition should occur as part of the 2020/21 State Budget with the opening of the school to occur in 2023.

## Completion of P-9 schools

Dohertys Creek P-9 in Truganina and Saltwater P-9 in Point Cook were both opened in 2019. Currently both schools are operating as P-6 schools following completion of Stage 1 of the school buildings.

Wyndham City urges the Victoria Government to fund the completion of stage 2 of these schools in the 2020/21 State Budget to provide much needed-places for Years 7-9 students in Truganina and Point Cook.

## Continue to invest in upgrades to existing schools

While the above new schools are being built, existing schools need upgrades to cope with high levels of current demand and maintain access to quality education for Wyndham students. Wyndham City encourages the Victorian Government to continue to fund much-needed upgrades to existing schools.



# PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ROADS

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*Wyndham has the highest proportion of people in Victoria who spend two hours or more commuting to and from work. Our residents consistently tell us that road congestion and poor public transport are top priorities to be fixed.*

*Our new suburbs have too few bus services and our train station car parks are full. Regional Rail Link and Werribee line trains are overcrowded, and our roads are too congested for residents to quickly and easily go about daily life.*

*This has happened because investment in transport infrastructure and services haven't kept up with high population growth. We're thankful for the investments the Victorian Government is currently making into road and railway infrastructure, but years of underinvestment means there's a lot of catching up to do.*

## **Upgrading Major Wyndham Road Intersections**

Wyndham City is calling for several dangerous and congested road intersections to be upgraded including Point Cook and Sneydes Roads in Point Cook, and Boundary and Derrimut Roads in Truganina.

### **Point Cook Road/Sneydes Road signalisation**

The Point Cook and Sneydes Roads intersection requires an urgent upgrade in order to improve safety for drivers and reduce local traffic congestion.

Approximately 35,000 vehicles use this intersection every day, yet a lack of traffic lights makes turning right onto Point Cook Road extremely difficult and dangerous. Issues with traffic flow at the intersection have a negative flow on effect for surrounding arterial roads. There have been multiple collisions resulting in serious injuries at this intersection.

Council has consistently raised the issue of upgrading and signalising the Point Cook and Sneydes Roads intersection with the Victorian Government and VicRoads. Council has also been proactive in developing construction plans for the intersection to ensure it is shovel-ready.

We are calling on the Victorian Government to fund these works in the 2020/21 State Budget.

### **Boundary Road/Derrimut Road signalisation**

This intersection is a major transport route which links in with the future Western Interstate Freight Terminal and nearby employment precincts. Approximately 24,000 vehicles use this intersection every day and it is fast becoming an accident black spot with 10 crashes in the five-month period between April to mid-August 2019 as recorded by Victoria Police and the Western Roads Upgrade (WRU) team. During the first quarter of 2019 the number of reported crashes also exceeded the average annual total of previous years.

Despite the implementation of actions by the Department of Transport (VicRoads) to reduce the speed limit and upgrade signage, further crashes have occurred at this intersection.

The combination of an arterial road that is operating beyond its capacity and an intersection with no formal control to manage all movements has exacerbated the current situation which our community, including regularly attending police officers, have raised as a major concern.

We are seeking a commitment from the Victorian Government to partner with Council to deliver the much-needed upgrade of the intersection.

Initial development of functional layout plans have commenced, however detailed design, complex service relocations and land acquisition are required to deliver the project which will take time and will require a contribution from the Victorian Government. We are also seeking a commitment from the Victorian Government to deliver interim infrastructure treatments that will improve safety at this dangerous intersection.

### **Other Significant Road Upgrades**

Wyndham has the highest proportion of people in Victoria who spend two or more hours commuting to and from work. Many arterial roads that the Victorian Government is responsible for upgrading and maintaining have reached capacity and are carrying more traffic than they were designed to. Not only is this causing lengthy traffic delays, it is also unsafe. While the Victorian Government's WRU is very welcome and will help by improving some of Wyndham's roads, much more is needed.

Based on analysis of traffic flows and safety issues, Wyndham City is urging the following state-owned roads be upgraded:

- Ballan Road duplication (Armstrong Road to Bolton Road)
- Sayers Road duplication (Derrimut Road to Palmers Road)
- Point Cook Road duplication (Princes Freeway to Sneydes Road, Seabrook)



*The Point Cook and Sneydes Roads intersection should be upgraded as a matter of urgency.*

## Wyndham Westlink (Ison Road Bridge grade separation)

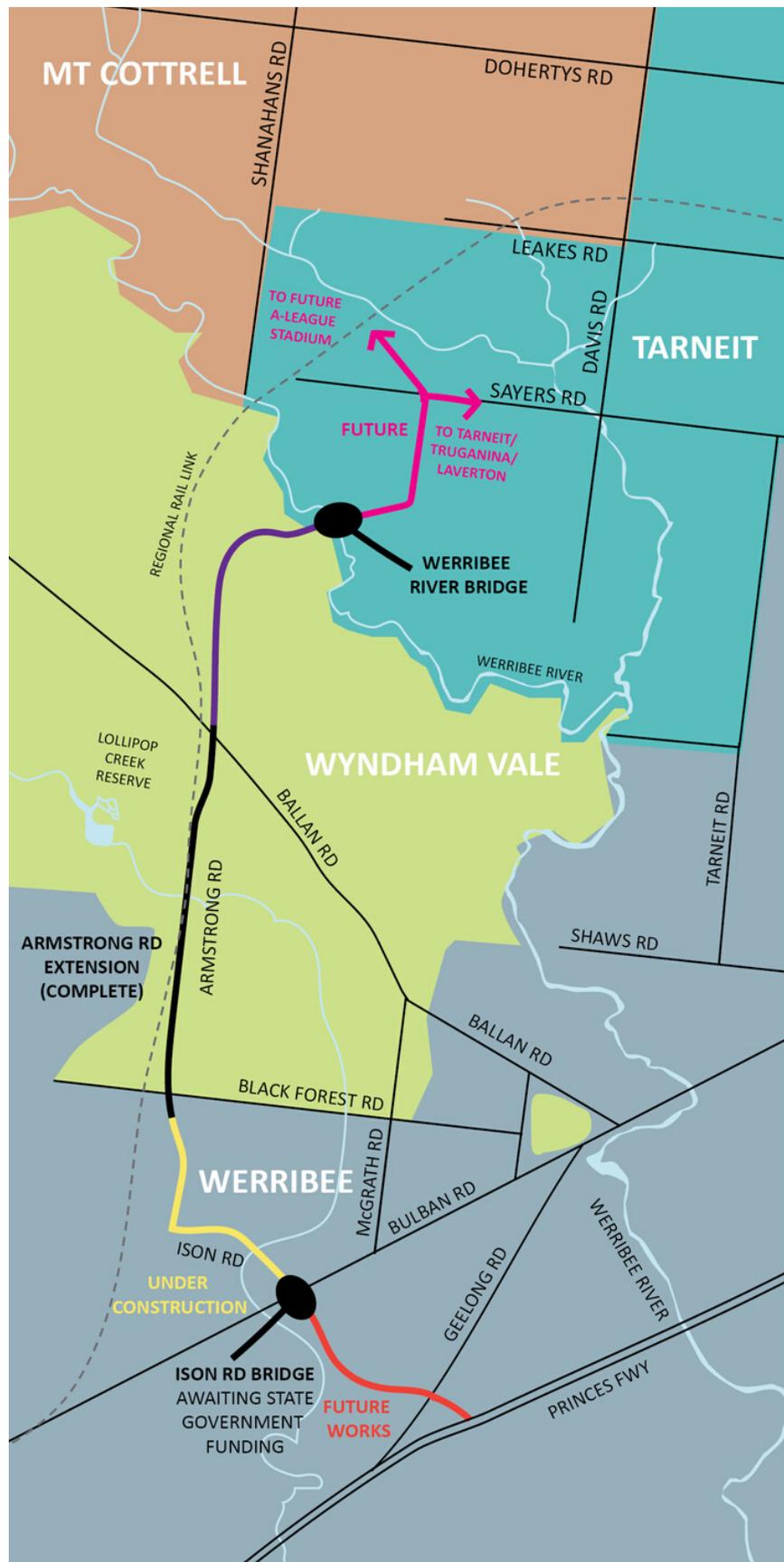
Around 70 per cent of Wyndham's growth is occurring in Wyndham Vale, Tarneit and Truganina. Funding the Westlink – a continuous road link through one of Australia's fastest growing areas, from Tarneit to Wyndham Vale and Manor Lakes, Wyndham Vale and Werribee to the Princes Freeway – will help to support Wyndham's existing and future population growth.

Wyndham City urges the Victorian Government to support this important proposal for Wyndham's connectivity and transport movement.

Current unfunded parts of Westlink, which include the Ison Road grade separation, and the Ballan Road, Hobbs Road, and Armstrong Road intersection upgrade, are estimated to cost between \$50-\$100 million with the bridge over the Princes Freeway representing the largest component of these costs.

If the project is completed it will:

- Relieve significant current and future congestion in Wyndham's North and West
- Leverage the faster realisation of land tax, stamp duty and developer contributions, as well as additional Growth Area Infrastructure Charges
- Provide access to future employment hubs within and near the Werribee Junction Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) area, as well as other nearby employment PSPs.



The Westlink project will relieve significant and future traffic congestion in Wyndham's North and West.

## Rail Projects

### Geelong Fast Rail Connection, via Wyndham

In 2018 the Victorian Government announced plans to invest \$50 million for detailed planning to investigate a fast-rail link between Sunshine and Geelong, via Wyndham. With \$4 billion already invested in the Regional Rail Link, Wyndham City supports calls for the Victorian Government to capitalise on this opportunity and help fund this connection as a way of unlocking major employment opportunities.

A 97 per cent increase in Victorian rail patronage since 2012/13 is one of the reasons provided by the Victorian Government for the need to investigate a fast-rail connection with Geelong which will slash travel times between Victoria's two biggest cities, as well as create a rail connection to Melbourne Airport.

It is vital to note that Wyndham's population is already greater than Geelong's, and connecting Melbourne, Geelong and Wyndham by fast rail would unlock major employment opportunities while reducing traffic congestion. As noted in Infrastructure Australia's recent audit, there is a disparity of transport availability and affordability between inner city and outer suburban areas, and unless this is addressed our transport networks will continue to be inequitable.

Increased rail capacity between Geelong and Melbourne, with a stop in Wyndham, is crucial to unclogging major roads and improving liveability for residents throughout Wyndham, the broader western region, Geelong and Melbourne.

### Electrification of Wyndham Vale Rail Line and Extension to Connect to Werribee Line

The Victorian Government's Western Rail Plan includes a possible metro rail link from Wyndham Vale to Werribee as part of its western section, a critical connection to link the regional and metro lines not only for Wyndham but also for the broader region. This link is therefore an important component for connecting every rail line from Cheltenham to Werribee, as noted in the announced Suburban Rail Loop.

The Western Rail Plan also includes planning for the full separation of regional and metro services on the Geelong and Ballarat lines, the first step in the delivery of fast rail to these cities; as well as detailed planning for the electrification of two metropolitan train lines to Melton and Wyndham Vale with possible new stations and additional tracks between Sunshine and Melbourne.

The current rail service to Geelong via Wyndham is diesel powered, greatly limiting its capacity. Electrification of a separate line to Wyndham Vale is already required to enable fast rail to Geelong. Bringing this forward will provide urgently needed capacity for additional trains to Wyndham Vale and Tarneit, and future stations on the line to Wyndham Vale. This is supported by data presented in the annual VLine report, which showed significant growth on the line and patronage at Wyndham Vale and Tarneit Stations over the last year.

Wyndham City welcomes the Victorian Government's proposed Western Rail Plan and encourages the delivery of the vital rail link between Werribee and Wyndham Vale, as part of the Western Rail Plan, to benefit people travelling between Werribee, Sunshine and Geelong.

Council strongly supports this proposed link to improve the connection between Werribee and Geelong. The link would integrate the metro train line with the Regional Rail Link and create more employment, economic and lifestyle opportunities for businesses and residents. Early delivery of this link is also supported as it will provide a significant benefit for both the Western Rail Plan and Suburban Rail Loop.

### Regional Rail Link Stations and Capacity

Trains in Wyndham are regularly overcrowded and there are not enough stations to cater for 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.

The Regional Rail Link (RRL) was one of the biggest rail infrastructure projects ever undertaken, however it is already at capacity and will not continue to adequately service Wyndham's growth fronts. Wyndham City is calling on the Federal and Victorian Governments to embark on a revitalisation of rail infrastructure by building four new RRL stations in Wyndham, including:

- Sayers Road Station in Tarneit West as soon as possible
- Black Forest Road Station in Wyndham Vale within three years
- Truganina Station in Truganina within three years
- Davis Road Station in Tarneit West within three years.

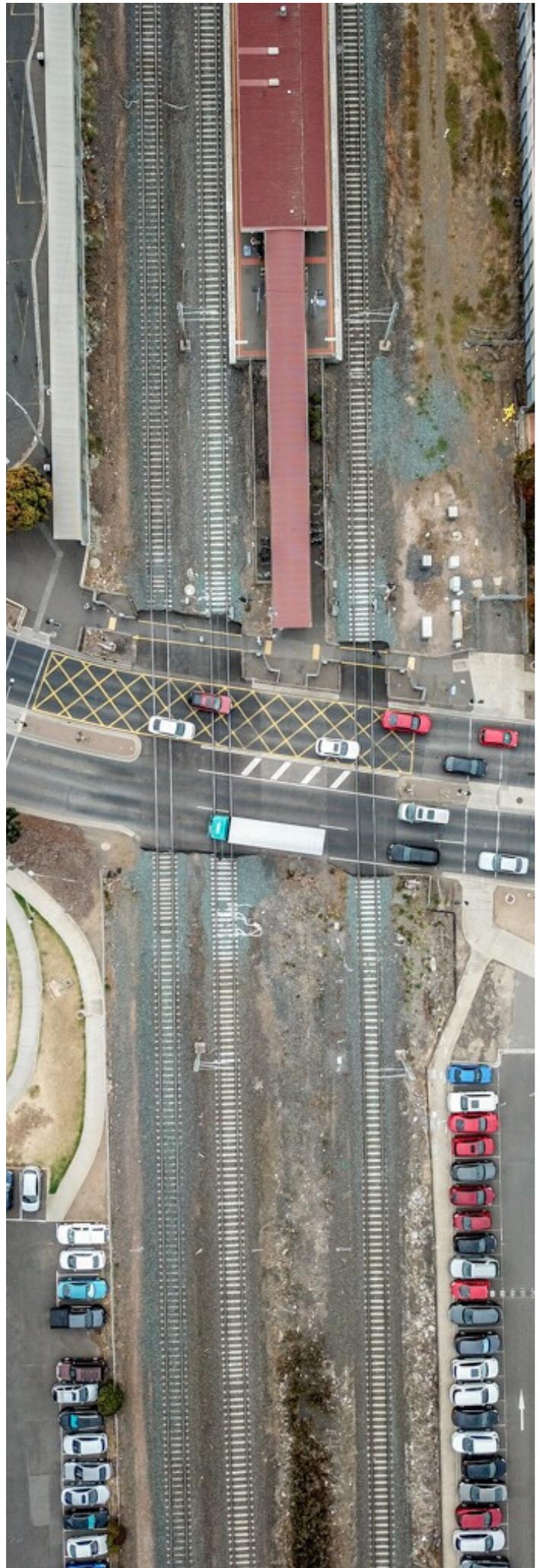
Adjacent to the planned Sayers Road Station will be a major town centre and significant residential development around it. When completed, 34,000 people will call this area home. There is a steady and consistent spread of residential development moving North and West into this area. The Sayers Road Station catchment will exceed 100,000 by 2040.

In addition, the new 15,000 seat A-League stadium is also being built in Tarneit, next to the planned Sayers Road Station. These projects represent significant value capture and creative funding model opportunities. Wyndham City is continuing to call on the Victorian Governments to help build this station as soon as possible so Melbourne can capitalise on this unique opportunity.

### **Commuter Parking at Train Stations**

The rapid population growth in Wyndham, and wider western suburbs area, has given rise to an unmet demand for transport and particularly public transport. This is evidenced by the rapid growth in patronage drawn to the RRL which opened in 2015 and was operating at near capacity during weekday peak periods within two years of opening. Patronage has continued to grow, with the number of commuters using new train stations at Wyndham Vale and Tarneit growing by 20 per cent and 17 per cent respectively in the 2018/19 financial year. Similarly, demand on the Werribee line leads to overcrowding on trains and commuter car parks.

Faced with a scarcity of parking spaces and bike storage at rail stations, many people continue to complete their journey by car, which causes congestion and road safety issues.



From a regional perspective, attracting more patrons onto public transport in Wyndham will lead to significant benefits by reducing congestion on roads in inner areas, thus providing potential to repurpose road space for dedicated public transport and active transport corridors.

Wyndham City supports the provision of additional commuter car parks at railway stations as soon as possible, rather than at the end of the forward estimates included in the 2019-20 Victorian Budget.

### **Extensions in Bus Services and Frequency**

Wyndham already has large numbers of people living in new estates that have poor or no access to public transport. We need new and more frequent bus services for residents in Tarneit, Wyndham Vale, Manor Lakes, Truganina and Point Cook. With Wyndham's high rates of growth, it's important that bus service coverage is reviewed every two years at a minimum.

To provide a bus network that meets the needs of Wyndham residents there needs to be new or extended bus routes, and flexible services such as 'dial up' bus type services provided to support growth areas.

Any increased bus patronage would likely reduce demand on commuter car parking and congested roads. Wyndham residents have consistently raised concerns over the coordination between bus and train services, the frequency of bus services, and the hours of operation.

Wyndham City is calling for:

- Improved bus services across Wyndham, including higher frequencies, reliable bus routes with extended hours of operation that connect with places that people want to get to
- Reviews of bus services every two years to improve integration with trains and match service frequencies, hours of operation, and extend service coverage to support population growth.



# HEALTH SUPPORT AND INCLUSION

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*Wyndham is a vibrant and diverse community, but the health and wellbeing of our people is lower than the rest of Victoria on average. Our community experiences higher levels of diabetes, obesity, and family violence.*

*As a local government, we're uniquely placed to have a positive influence on health and wellbeing at different life stages. We do this by supporting the development of healthy environments, and services. But there's only so much we can do.*

*We need action from the Victorian Government to help us improve quality of life in Wyndham.*

## **Wyndham Justice Precinct**

Wyndham's current Magistrate's Court has just two courtrooms, is outdated and unsafe. Wyndham's population has grown from 40,000 people to 270,000 since these law courts were built, and as such, it is failing to properly service the community. Without immediate action the severity of this issue will only increase as Wyndham's population is estimated to surpass 500,000 by 2040.

There is also a serious shortage of support services in Melbourne's West. An opportunity exists to address safety and service gaps in Level 2 and Level 3 Courts in Melbourne's West, particularly at Werribee.

Wyndham City urges the Victorian Government to include funding in the 2020/21 State Budget to fund stage 1 of the Werribee Court and Support Services Hub.

## **The Orange Door - Family Violence Support and Safety Hub**

Wyndham City is seeking a commitment from the Victorian Government to locate The Orange Door in Wyndham as soon as possible. The service is essential given the current lack of resources and growing rates of family violence within the municipality.

Wyndham had the fourth highest number of family violence incidents of all Victorian municipalities from July 2018 to June 2019, with an increase of 19.2 per cent from the previous year. In comparison, other Greater Melbourne growth areas such as Hume recorded up to a 13.0 per cent increase during the same period. Between the years ending July 2015 and June 2019, the number of family violence incidents in Wyndham increased by 32.2 per cent which is almost twice that for Victoria in the same period (16.6 per cent).

## **Youth Pathways Support and Funding**

Incidents of youth antisocial behaviour in Werribee, Tarneit, Williams Landing and Wyndham Vale have highlighted the need for evidence-based solutions. Wyndham City has been closely collaborating with local stakeholders, including Community Support Organisations to identify opportunities for the Victorian Government to have a real and lasting impact in this area.

Intensive coordinated planning, endorsed as best practice by Victorian Government Departments, has resulted in a more comprehensive approach to coordinating services and outreach across municipalities. However, support agencies, including Wyndham City's Youth Services, have noted that their staffing and resources have been stretched beyond capacity to provide this additional coverage.

Following a collaborative process with a range of key stakeholders, Wyndham City has determined that \$1.765 million is needed to support the following programs:

- \$200,000 to provide additional resources to enable Community Support Organisations to deliver general youth worker services across Wyndham on weekends and after hours.
- \$650,000 to provide a resource to establish a Wyndham youth day program accessible by young people affected by alcohol and drugs.
- \$20,000 to provide additional resources for wardens to enable greater outreach capacity.
- \$800,000 to resource a Community Support Organisation to establish a skilled multi-disciplinary, early intervention, assertive outreach youth team targeting young people who have come to the attention of police as engaging in minor and serious anti-social activities.
- \$95,000 to provide additional resources to a Community Support Organisation to provide targeted Settlement Grant supports to refugee families as required beyond the current five-year time limit.

Wyndham City urges the Victorian Government to maintain funding for these and other local initiatives and programs that provide support and resources for young people.



# ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

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*Wyndham has a delicate natural environment that's home to important waterways, wetlands, coastal areas, and native grasslands. We want to accommodate urban growth and be stewards of the environment that sustains community wellbeing.*

*As a community, we embrace renewable energy, resource recovery and water conservation – and we're committed to planning for climate change. We're seeking action from the Victorian Government that helps us create local solutions for sustainability, adaptation, and conservation.*

## **Recycling, Energy from Waste, and the Circular Economy**

Waste and recycling are essential services and current infrastructure is inadequate to meet social, environmental, and economic demands of a growing Australia.

The importance of the Wyndham Refuse Disposal Facility (RDF) as one of Melbourne's major metropolitan landfills, now and into the future, is highlighted by the fact that Melbourne's waste generation will increase from the current 940,000 tonnes a year to 1.55 million in just over 25 years.

Infrastructure Australia's recent audit also noted that with a limited number of new waste facilities and landfill sites having been approved and residential development encroaching on existing sites, without action, waste freight will have to transport their loads further from the waste generation point.

Wyndham City's recently adopted Refuse Disposal Facility Strategic Plan is timely given that 'business as usual' in the waste and recycling industries is not working at the State, Federal or local levels. The new plan explicitly outlines the considerable steps and preparations that would be needed before a future Council would be ready to commence any decision-making process and community consultation on options to recover energy from waste at the RDF.

Wyndham City therefore calls on the Victorian Government to announce funds in the 2020/21 State Budget that will enable the early delivery of waste and recycling infrastructure markets and other priorities identified in its upcoming Circular Economy Policy.





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