

moving

AUGUST 2016

AHEAD



***Council
Budget Special***

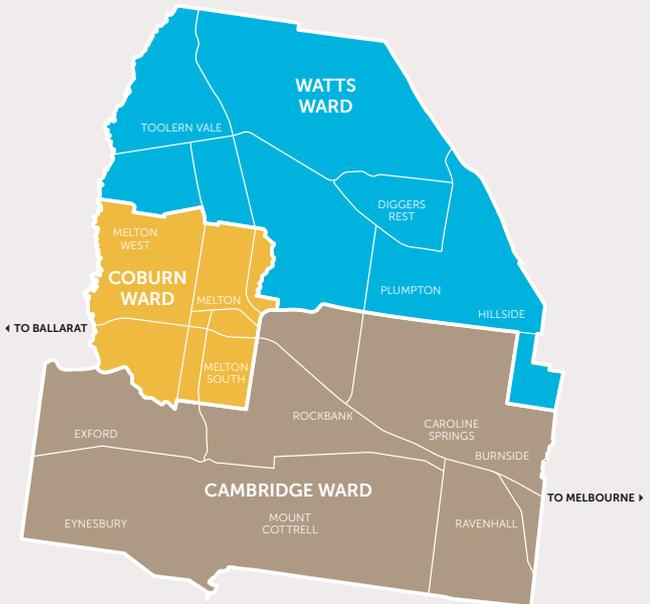


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Message from the Mayor



Cr Kathy Majdlik
 Mayor of the City of Melton

Welcome to the July edition of Melton City Council's *Moving Ahead* newsletter.

It's been a busy few months in the City of Melton, as we've worked hard to prepare our 2016/2017 Budget. We've hosted some really exciting events and opened outstanding new facilities, too. All of this while continuing to provide the everyday services that you, our residents, have come to rely on.

It gives me great pleasure to report that the long awaited Bridge Road Hockey and Athletics Facilities opened at the Bridge Road Recreation Reserve on 27 June, as did the Arnolds Creek Recreation Reserve. These exciting, multimillion dollar facilities demonstrate Council's commitment to delivering quality infrastructure, on time and on budget, so that our community can have exactly what it deserves: the best of everything. If you haven't already done so, why not pop down and explore these vibrant and welcoming community spaces.

Speaking of exploring, I encourage residents to come down and discover the Willows Historical Park which is now open to the community on weekends. There are barbecue and picnic facilities, a heritage walking trail and historical museum to check out – plenty to do with family and friends in a beautiful environment. It really is one of our hidden gems.

In this edition of *Moving Ahead*, we've included an overview of our 2016/2017 Budget, along with a handy guide on how your rate money is distributed. Key highlights include \$50.7 million for infrastructure and facilities, along with \$21.6 million for road projects and \$4.9 million for bridge upgrades. To download a complete copy of the 2016/2017 budget, you can visit our website at melton.vic.gov.au

You can also read about men's health activities in Melton and Taylors Hill; the up-coming expansion of sporting facilities in Caroline Springs including new courts at the Caroline Springs Stadium and the development of the Regional Tennis Centre. We also recap the great results of the recent State Budget where \$518 million was allocated for the duplication of the Ballarat Rail Line between Deer Park and Melton, and over \$17 million for new schools and improved educational facilities within our community.

It's a jam packed edition, so dive in and enjoy.

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This publication is also available in audio, discs available at customer service or in MP3 files from Council's website.

 Ask for help if you need to communicate in your language.



Unlocking history

Head to the banks of the Toolern Creek where Council has opened the gates to the beautiful Willows Historical Park during daylight hours every weekend.

The park offers visitors picnic and BBQ facilities, a heritage walking trail and a historic museum. It is also Council's venue of choice for Australia Day celebrations and other events, such as the Jazz in the Park held in March.

The historic park is steeped in local history including Melton's oldest Victorian homestead, which dominates the grassy grounds and is currently the headquarters of the Melton and District Historical Society.

The homestead was built circa 1850 as a private home and residence of the local pound keeper and his family. It changed hands a few times before being purchased by Council in the early 1970s and listed by the National Trust a few years later.

Since that time, two other local historic cottages have been re-erected at the site – Mac's Cottage and the majestic old bluestone police station, Dunvegan. The latter is regularly hired out as a function space while the gardens make a perfect setting for photographing special moments.

More recently, a Men's Shed and a barn housing historic machinery have been included onsite.



Dunvegan is one of two cottages at the Willows Historical Park.

"It would be just wonderful to see more people use the picnic and BBQ facilities here at the Willows," Melton and District Historical Society

Committee Member Dot Perry said.

"The Committee puts a lot of time and effort into collecting, preserving, maintaining and cataloguing Melton's history, much of which is right here at the Willows."

This project is part of the Melton City Much More tourism campaign, which aims to promote local attractions for residents and their visiting family and friends.

- ▶ Please visit melton.vic.gov.au for more information or contact the Melton & District Historical Society on 9747 3333 for a tour of the homestead.



(L-R) Melton & District Historical Society members Dot and Alan Perry with president of the society Glenda Hutchison.

Melton City Much More

Willows Historical Park and Homestead
76 Reserve Road, Melton
OPEN every weekend during daylight hours

About the Willows

- ▶ Built in 1854 by the local pound keeper
- ▶ Once owned by prominent local family, the Minns
- ▶ Purchased by Council in 1972
- ▶ Listed by the National Trust in 1975

Let the games begin

It's game on in Melton with the highly anticipated Bridge Road Recreation Reserve Hockey and Athletics Facilities now open.

Funded by Council and the State Government, the new hockey and athletics facilities are a major part of the \$11.3 million Bridge Road Recreation Reserve development.

Construction took 12 months – almost to the day – with our foundation tenant clubs, Melton Little Athletics (MLA) and Melton Mustangs Hockey Club, now able to train and compete on their new grounds.

The Melton Little Athletics Club is excited about moving home to Bridge Road and expects to double membership thanks to the opening of the new facility.

MLA Secretary Aimee Orr said the association expects member numbers to jump from 140 to about 300 over the next three years.

"More members means better coaches and more challenging

competitions and this means a lot of kids that were going elsewhere will stay with us," she said.

"We're so excited because this will absolutely mean huge growth for athletics in Melton.

"The opening of this new facility in an Olympic year is also perfect timing for our membership interest."

The little athletics club will benefit from a range of new, state-of-the-art facilities including better high jump bags, hammer throw cages and a wireless timing system.

Ms Orr said these facilities not only improved the experience for athletes but also provided a more efficient competition environment and made it easier for volunteers setting up.

"I can't speak highly enough of it, it's amazing and we can't wait to start the season with it."

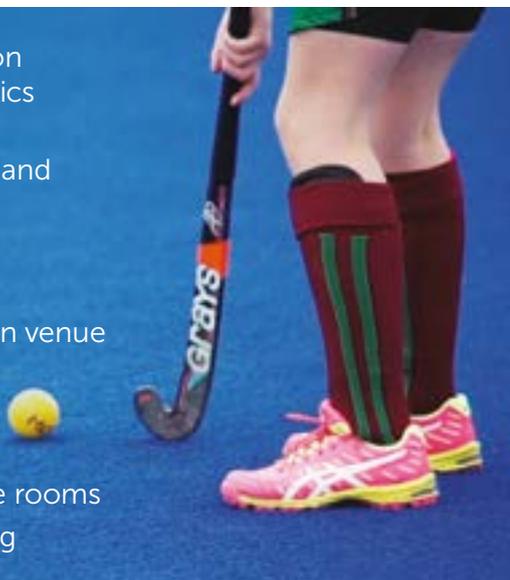
Melton Hockey Club CEO Kellie McLaren said membership numbers had already jumped from 152 to 213 in the lead up to the opening of the Bridge Road Hockey and Athletics Facilities, with this number set to continue rising.

"We are so thankful for this new facility," Ms McLaren said.

The Melton Hockey Club has operated out of an old shed at the

The Bridge Road Recreation Reserve Hockey and Athletics facilities features:

- ▶ Synthetic athletics track and field
- ▶ Wireless timing system
- ▶ Hockey pitches
- ▶ Multipurpose competition venue with training area
- ▶ Community pavilion
- ▶ Canteen facilities
- ▶ Male and female change rooms
- ▶ Separate storage building





“We’re so excited because this will absolutely mean huge growth for athletics in Melton,”
Melton Little Athletics Secretary Aimee Orr



former Mowbray College site for the past 20 years, with only a single toilet located 500 metres from the base. The shed was used as change rooms, social rooms and equipment storage all in one.

Training sessions and game days will now be much more comfortable with

the new facilities providing a separate canteen, change rooms and toilets.

“As a club, Melton has been recognised over the years for our inclusiveness but our facilities have always let us down,” Ms McLaren said.

“We are hoping now that a lot of those local players who have

travelled elsewhere will now join our club, allowing us to grow.”

The Bridge Road Recreation Reserve also includes the Regional Playspace (currently under construction) and is situated next to the Bridge Road Children’s and Community Centre, which opened last year.



Resident participants and staff at McKenzie Street Aged Services stand proud in front of the facility's extension which is currently under construction.

"The new building will provide expanded administrative space while the existing facility will provide additional program areas for activities for participants."

Expanding aged care services

The frame is up and excitement is building as Council's redevelopment of the McKenzie Street Aged Services Centre starts to take shape.

The \$2.8 million redevelopment will see new additions to the Council-owned community building known as 5 McKenzie Street, which incorporates 7 McKenzie Street and 10 and 12 Smith Street in Melton.

The centre assists older adults, people with disabilities and their carers to enjoy happy, healthy and fulfilled lives. It is part of Melton City's Ageing Well Precinct and Council's strategic approach to providing lifelong support to residents.

As part of the redevelopment, a new standalone building is being constructed on vacant land adjacent to the existing facility. The two structures

will be linked via an undercover walkway and once complete will be triple its current size.

The new building will provide expanded administrative space while the existing facility will provide additional program areas for activities for participants.

Manager Community Care, Coral Cramer said the McKenzie Street Aged Services Redevelopment had been the focus of Melton City's Ageing Well Precinct for almost 10 years.

"While many important strides to realise the vision for an Ageing Well Precinct have been made since 2007,

this project is timely and foundational in bringing the ageing services hub to life," she said.

"This project provides for expanded service delivery as well as creating an aged service centre as a hub within the Melton Ageing Well Precinct.

"This important piece of infrastructure will ensure Council can meet future demand for community care and inclusion services."

Melton City Council received \$1.8 million from the State Government's Interface Growth Fund to bring the construction of this important project forward.

Feeling social?

Facebook users can stay in touch with all of Council's news, activities and events by 'liking' its pages. Check them out!

[facebook.com/cityofmelton/](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmelton/)

- ▶ City of Melton
- ▶ City of Melton Youth Services
- ▶ City of Melton Libraries
- ▶ Venture Melton
- ▶ Melton City Council Neighbourhood Houses
- ▶ Healthy City of Melton
- ▶ Djerriwarrh Festival
- ▶ Summersault
- ▶ Pop Culture Melton City
- ▶ Imagine Melton Arts + Culture



Council Budget 2016/2017



Road and bridge upgrades, new buildings and facilities, and improved footpaths and cycle ways feature heavily in Council's new Budget along with a significant investment in service delivery.

Council's 2016/2017 Budget was adopted at the end of June and includes \$110 million for service delivery and a further \$50.7 million for new and improved infrastructure.

\$21.6 million has been allocated to road projects, while \$11.4 million will be invested in buildings and \$4.9 million in bridge upgrades.

A number of recreational, leisure and community facilities are included in this financial year's committed spend with \$5.1 million going towards new and improved facilities while \$2.3 million will be invested in footpaths and cycle ways.

The Budget is aligned to the Council Plan and seeks to maintain and improve services and infrastructure while delivering projects and additional services that are valued by the community.

Mayor Cr Kathy Majdlik said this budget showed Council's continued commitment to responsible and responsive governance as it aims to have the financial capacity to continue to deliver high quality services and infrastructure to our community into the future.

"The 2016/2017 Budget has been delivered in the face of increasing external financial pressures imposed by other levels of government, such as the State Government's rate capping regime of 2.5 per cent rates and the Federal Government's freezing of indexation of grants commission funding," Cr Majdlik said.

Council would like to thank all residents and community groups who shared their ideas and visions for the City of Melton during the budget engagement sessions held earlier this year.

Budget highlights

\$2.35 million - McKenzie Street Redevelopment Stage 1

\$900,000 - Bridge Road Regional Playspace

\$250,000 - Caroline Springs Sub Regional Tennis Centre Stage 1

\$2.4 million - Westwood Drive Bridge

\$5.5 million - Abey Road-Toolern Creek to Ferris Road upgrade

\$3.49 million - Mt Cottrell Road widening Stage 2

\$1.829 million - Minns Road construction

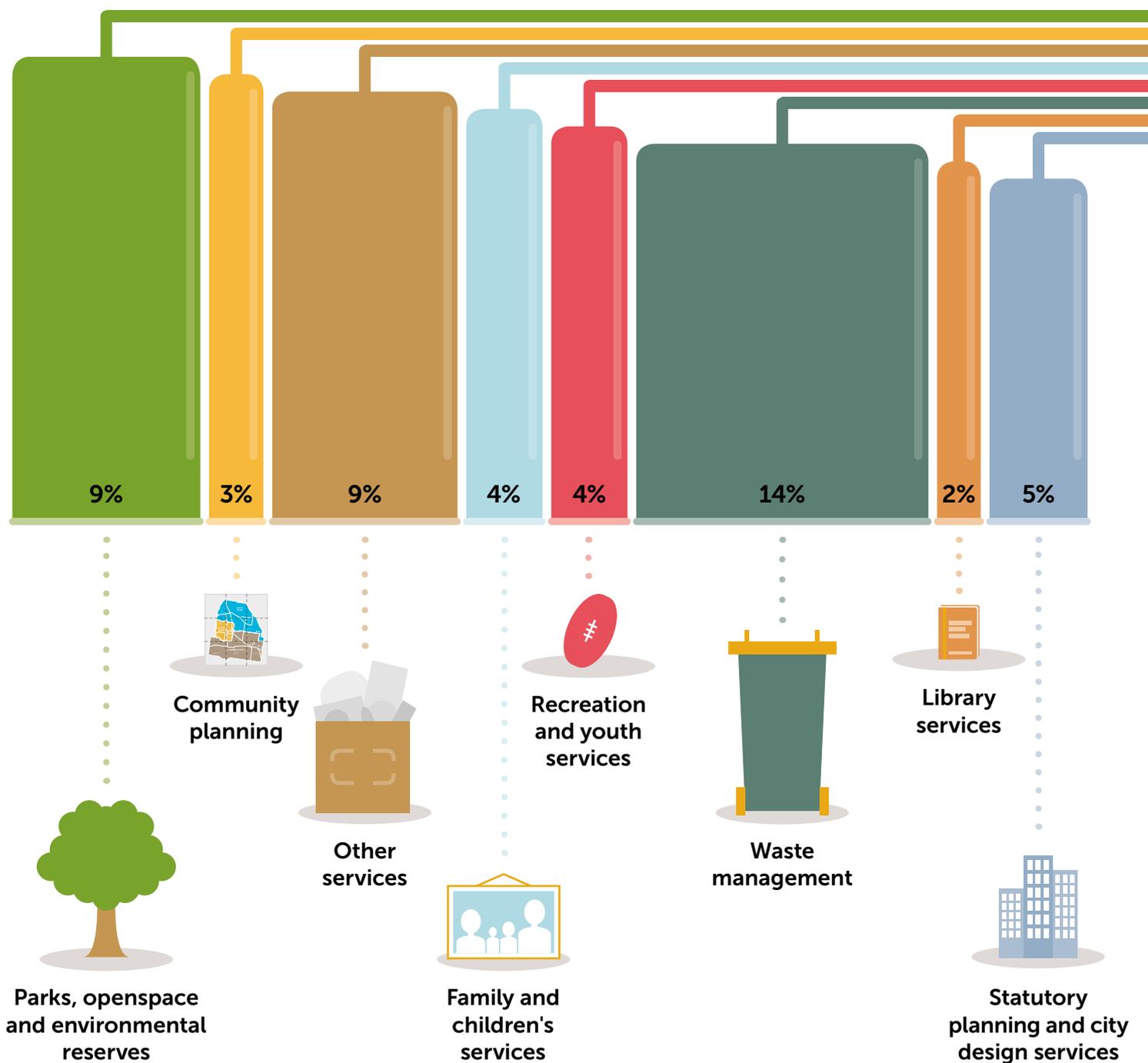
\$4.44 million - streetscape improvements

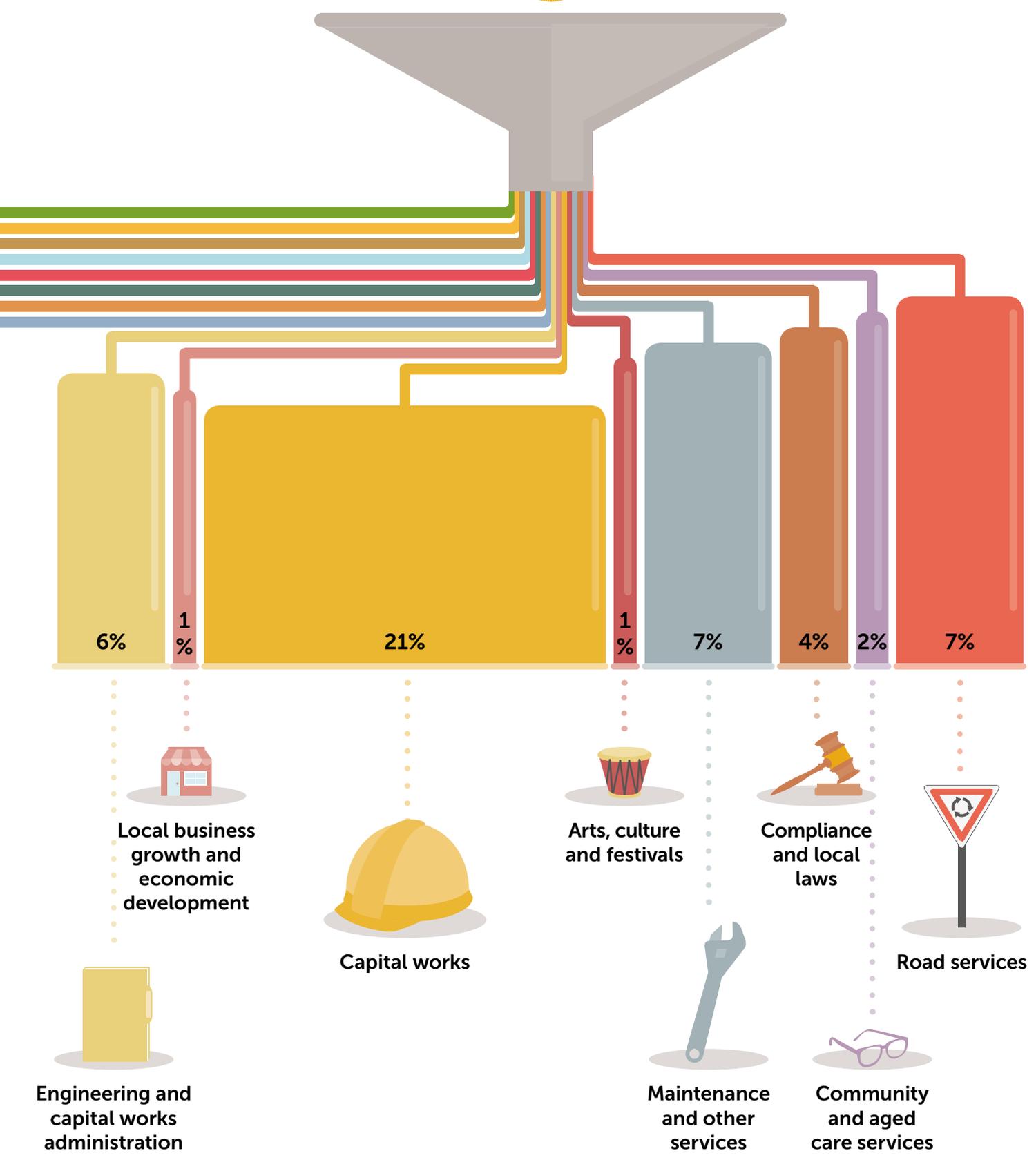


► To view the 2016/2017 Council budget, visit: melton.vic.gov.au

Where do your rates go?

A guide to Council's 2016/2017 Budget







Netballers Bianca Bonanzinga, Maxine Shettigara and Jamie-Rose Ritchie are all smiles about the extra courts planned at the Caroline Springs Stadium.

New courts give Caroline Springs extra bounce

Sports participants are abuzz with excitement over the news that Caroline Springs will receive extra courts for major sports like netball, basketball and tennis.

Council will extend the Caroline Springs Stadium by adding two multi-use courts to the existing three that are shared amongst netball, basketball, volleyball and badminton. This extension will also include additional change rooms and meetings rooms.

In addition, the design for a Regional Tennis Centre will soon start, and will include 12 tennis courts and amenities including change rooms.

President of the Caroline Springs Netball Club Jan Schulz said the funding announcement for additional courts was "fantastic" news.

"Once complete, the Caroline Springs Stadium will be the largest in our region and we will be able to grow our competition," she said.

Currently, 48 netball teams play in five competitions starting from under 11s.

"Teams have stopped asking to join our competition because they know we are at our maximum," Ms Schultz said.

"This extension will allow our competition to grow by allowing us to

access more courts on the same night or hold a competition on a second night.

"This new facility really will be a dream come true."

The contract for the design of the Caroline Springs Stadium extension and Regional Tennis Centre will be awarded soon. The project will also include additional landscaping and car parking. Construction is expected to start early next year.

Two additional multi-use courts
12 new tennis courts

Construction start: early 2017
Project completion: 2018



Caring for men's health

Sons of the West participants out for a walk.

A program aimed at improving the mental and physical health of men living in the City of Melton has started, and it is not too late to join in.

For the third year, the Sons of the West program is being held in the City of Melton.

The free, 10-week program for men aged 18-80 years continues to grow in popularity and will this year be held across two locations – Taylors Hill and Melton West.

Join Sons of the West at:

Taylors Hill Youth and Community Centre

121 Calder Park Drive, Taylors Hill
Tuesdays from 7pm-9pm
Program concludes 9 August

Arnolds Creek Community Centre

19 Claret Ash Boulevard, Melton West
Thursdays from 7pm-9pm
Program concludes 11 August

The program includes guest speakers, health education sessions, workshops and physical activity sessions for all ages and abilities.

Caroline Springs resident John Starford has joined the program for the third consecutive year, partly for the camaraderie and mateship he has found by participating.

"The speakers are inspirational and include stories and experiences about all sorts of issues like health problems right through to gambling," he said.

"But this program is more than that, it is about connecting to your community and quite often there are spin offs and linkages to other programs you might never had heard about.

"It is just a really good opportunity to develop habits that will lead to a healthier lifestyle for you and better outcomes in terms of relationships with your family."

"It is just a really good opportunity to develop habits that will lead to a healthier lifestyle for you and better outcomes in terms of relationships with your family."

Sons of the West is funded by the Western Bulldogs Football Club. The program includes give-aways such as match day experiences.

Men interested in joining Sons of the West can do so at any time from now until the program concludes on 11 August. If you can't make it this year, register your interest for the 2017 program.

► **For more information or to register for 2016 or 2017 programs, please contact Council's Active Communities Officer at leannec@melton.vic.gov.au or 9747 7236.**



All aboard - a second rail line is arriving soon

Council's advocacy for a better rail service for the City of Melton paid off with the State Government tipping in \$518M to duplicate the Ballarat Rail Line. Council will continue its advocacy for electrification of the line under the Fund Our Future campaign. Pictured (L-R) Council Officer Tennille Bradley Ow and Mayor Kathy Madjlik.

Commuter relief is in sight for City of Melton residents as the State Government commits to duplicating the Ballarat Rail Line.



Commuters are set to benefit from improved rail services in the City of Melton.

After significant campaigning by Melton City Council and six other councils dotted along the rail line, the State Government announced \$518 million for rail upgrades that will directly benefit residents living in the City of Melton.

In addition to a second rail line between Deer Park West and Melton, the funding will also be used for station upgrades at Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and Rockbank along with track improvements.

A further \$2.4 million will go towards providing 270 car spaces at Melton Station and another \$229 million for additional VLocity regional trains.

"Melton City Council is hugely appreciative of the commitment the State Government is showing to the City of Melton," Mayor Kathy Madjlik said.

"This is a massive investment that will serve the needs of our growing community into the future."

Over the past five years, patronage on the Ballarat train service has increased by 18.5 per cent. However, the lack of regular services also means that most City of Melton residents travel by car.

While duplicating the rail line will provide train commuters with a better service, it will also reduce traffic congestion, associated road accidents and noise.

Among the road users are a large number of train passengers

who drive to Sunbury to access metropolitan services.

While this State Government funding is great news for the City of Melton, the duplication is only one part of the solution to lifting the Ballarat rail line to a metropolitan rail service standard.

Council will continue to advocate for electrification of the Ballarat Rail Line as part of the National Growth Areas Alliance 'Fund our Future' campaign. Council has joined other growth area councils around Australia to advocate for the creation of a pipeline of funding for critical infrastructure.

**FUND
OUR FUTURE**



**Have your voice heard
and sign the petition at:**

 /FundourfutureAU
 @fundourfutureAU
W: fundourfuture.info

Vox Pop

"How will rail service improvements in the City of Melton make a difference to you?"



Lara Jennings

Business owner

Improved rail services means more people will be inclined to use public transport, thus improving traffic on the roads for staff who are travelling to clients and making deliveries.



Jim Asimakopoulos

Local resident

Train travel is a great experience for me because it gives me a lot of independence, which I value. Therefore, any improvements would be very welcome.



Ciara White

Student

It would be great to reduce my travel time. More regular services would mean that I would not be four hours early or late for my university classes due to the train schedule.



Schools win in State Budget

Education wins

Construction on a new secondary school in Taylors Hill West can start, and improvement plans at two primary and a specialist school will get underway, thanks to funding from the State Government.

Stage 1 of a new secondary school at Taylors Hill West will begin with \$12 million allowing for construction.

The State Government has also committed to funding

master plans for improvements at Melton West Primary and Melton Secondary Schools.

The Melton Specialist School will receive \$5.4 million for modernising, upgrading and relocating buildings to Melton Secondary College.

The State Government also allocated \$102 million for land acquisitions for schools in growth areas, which includes sites within the City of Melton.

State Government Budget highlights

- ▶ \$518M for Ballarat Rail upgrade
- ▶ \$2.4M for 270 new car spaces at Melton Station
- ▶ \$229M for more VLocity trains
- ▶ \$5.4M for Melton Specialist School
- ▶ \$12M for Taylors Hill Secondary College
- ▶ \$50M for Interface Growth Fund



A new vision for the future

So, what do you love about living in the City of Melton? What do you like least? And, what are your hopes for the City in 20 years time?



Timeline

April-June 2016

Residents share their ideas

July-August 2016

Council to report back to community about ideas

September-February 2017

Develop *Our Community Vision, Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan*

February-March 2017

Public comments on *Our Community Vision*

April-May 2017

Public comment on *Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan*

These are the three key questions Council asked residents to help guide the development of a community vision for the future.

Council started working with residents, businesses and community organisations in April to develop a community plan, designed to drive the next four-year Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The City of Melton is home to 137,000 people and is Victoria's fifth fastest growing municipality. Young families have largely driven growth

but the region has experienced exponential rises across all age groups, which is unique.

One of the largest challenges faced by residents is a lack of local job opportunities with one job for every 2.4 residents, compared to one for every 1.9 residents in other growth areas. Most residents also rely on their cars for commuting with 76 per cent driving to work as opposed to 65 per cent of residents in Greater Melbourne.

Over the next 12 months there will be many more ways in which residents

can have their say both online and at face-to-face events. Residents will be asked what they'd like to see in the future and also empowered to suggest how to make their vision a reality.

City of Melton Mayor, Cr Kathy Majdlik encouraged community members to participate.

"These community events are a fantastic way to ensure Council understands community perspectives when we plan for the future of our City," she said.

"Why not come along, enjoy the atmosphere, and let us know how you think we can build a proud, strong and growing community?"

- ▶ For more information on how you can get involved in developing our community vision contact Council's Community Engagement Officer at pernilles@melton.vic.gov.au or 9747 7200.

Snapshot of the City of Melton



137,000
residents



Fifth fastest growing
municipality in Victoria



Tenth fastest growing
municipality in Australia



6,800 registered
businesses



2,300 births
in 2015



22% born in non-
English speaking
countries



More than
40 faiths
represented

Connection key to revitalising Melton

The next stage of revitalising the Melton township is focused on helping pedestrians and cyclists move around easily and safely.

Construction on Stage 2 of the Melton Town Centre Redevelopment Project has commenced. This stage includes improvements to pedestrian connections and access with the installation of new footpaths connecting the Visitor Information Centre, taxi rank and amphitheatre.

Additional trees, street furniture and public lighting will improve the streetscape in Palmerston Street, between High and McKenzie streets.

The amphitheatre is also undergoing a revitalisation which will provide a space for events and play, along with an enjoyable seating area for locals and visitors when it is not in use.

A new outdoor decking area at the Visitor Information Centre is also being constructed during Stage 2 of the project, which is scheduled for completion in September 2016.

Melton Town Centre Redevelopment Project is a \$13.5 million project that includes the redevelopment of the Visitor Information Centre, which opened earlier this year,



An artist's impression of the Melton Town Centre Redevelopment Project.

and works on McKenzie Street between Palmerston and Alexander streets. It also includes Bakery and Wallace squares.

Melton City Council received \$5.45 million in funding from the Australian Government and \$5.3 million in funding from the State Government under its Interface Growth Fund towards the completion of the project.

Stage 3 works, which include McKenzie Street between Palmerston and Alexandra streets, are planned for later this year.

Local businesses are open as usual during construction of the Melton Town Centre Redevelopment Project.



FREE
EVENT

MOVIE NIGHT

TRUE GRIT

STARRING JOHN WAYNE

FRIDAY 5 AUGUST 2016
7.30PM—9.30PM

Doors Open 7.15pm

COMMUNITY HALL
238 HIGH STREET MELTON

Refreshments will be available.

Reserve your place:
melton.vic.gov.au/popculture



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WRITE ON READ ON

MELTON CITY WORD FEST

DATES Saturday 13 August - Wednesday 24 August

LOCATIONS Melton Library & Learning Hub
31 McKenzie Street, Melton
Caroline Springs Civic Centre & Library
193 Caroline Springs Blvd,
Caroline Springs



BOOKINGS & INFORMATION
Free Event. tiny.cc/oeofby

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