



MEDIA RELEASE

29 September 2022

Much-needed community infrastructure for City of Melton funded

The City of Melton has secured nearly \$5.6 million in new funding for community centres and playgrounds from the latest round of the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

Melton City Council has welcomed the announcement this week. As one of Australia's fastest growing local government areas, the funds will ensure the delivery of community infrastructure is in line with the city's growth.

The projects successfully funded this round are new children's and community centres in Aintree, Plumpton and Weir Views, providing families and children access to 3 and 4-year-old funded kindergarten, additional maternal and child health and family and early childhood services, and new play equipment and shade at Barwon Street Reserve, Blackwood Drive Recreation Reserve and Hillside Recreation Park.

Melton City Council has one of the strongest records among all 16 eligible councils for achieving these funding commitments.

Over the last eight years, Council has secured more than \$47 million from the fund to deliver over \$100 million in projects.

Quotes attributable to Mayor of Melton, Cr Goran Kesic

"Council made it our top priority this grants round to fund new community centres because we know children are better prepared for school when they can go to kinder.

"Our community needs better access to health and human services near to where they live – and quality open spaces that they can enjoy with their family and friends.

"The Growing Suburbs Fund has delivered better community infrastructure for our rapidly growing urban fringes for nearly a decade and I look forward to working with the Victorian State Government on making sure no community is left behind for years to come.

"I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Victorian Government and our local members for their ongoing support through the Growing Suburbs Fund. Partnerships like these are vital for ensuring we continue to achieve positive outcomes for our community."



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Project	Council contribution	GSF contribution
<p>Aintree Community Centre</p> <p>The new community centre in Aintree will feature a community meeting space, kitchen, family room and breastfeeding space, two maternal and child health offices, two kindergarten rooms with 33 places each and outdoor play spaces.</p>	\$8,500,000	\$1,500,000
<p>Plumpton Community Centre and Neighbourhood House</p> <p>The new community centre in Plumpton will feature a community meeting space, kitchen, family room and breastfeeding space, two maternal and child health offices, four kindergarten rooms with 33 places each and outdoor play spaces and neighbourhood house facilities.</p>	\$10,000,000	\$1,500,000
<p>Weir Views Community Centre</p> <p>The new community centre in Weir Views will feature a community meeting space, kitchen, family room and breastfeeding space, two maternal and child health offices, four kindergarten rooms with 33 places each and outdoor play spaces.</p>	\$8,500,000	\$1,500,000
<p>Barwon Street Reserve</p> <p>The Barwon Street Reserve upgrade will enhance this essential local reserve through the provision of infrastructure that will improve access to recreational, play and social opportunities.</p> <p>The upgrade will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of additional natural shade in the area directly surrounding the play space. • An extension and increase in play opportunities through the inclusion of tactile play elements. These play elements will provide a range of play activities that are designed to engage and challenge. • Improved arrangement and access to picnic facilities. • Improved connectivity within the reserve to accessible play elements. 	\$250,000	\$250,000



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved activation of the reserve which results in positive health and wellbeing outcomes as well as improved natural surveillance that is a consequence of increased usage 		
<p>Blackwood Drive Reserve</p> <p>The Blackwood Drive Recreation Reserve Revitalisation project will enhance this essential district level reserve through the provision of infrastructure that will provide access to play, physically active and social opportunities for the community.</p> <p>The upgrade will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the provision of additional natural shade throughout the reserve and directly surrounding the play space improved footpath network throughout the precinct providing better connection to and from the site A large variety of play equipment that provides for a range of activities and also caters to a range of ages and abilities exercise equipment to support physical activity and mental wellbeing improved kick-about space and supply of half courts additional seating throughout to facilitate comfortable supervision, respite and social interaction and the provision of picnic and BBQ facilities 	<p>\$500,000</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>
<p>Hillside Recreation Reserve</p> <p>The Hillside Recreation Reserve Playground Upgrade project will enhance this essential district level reserve through the provision of infrastructure that will provide access to play, physically active and social opportunities for the community.</p> <p>The upgrade will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an expanded play space that compliments the existing equipment increased accessibility throughout 	<p>\$400,000</p>	<p>\$400,000</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• increased natural shade extensively across the play space• improved play opportunities for young adults and teenagers• the introduction of more natural materials and• provide exercise equipment to promote physical activity.		
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