

### 7.3 GROWING SUBURBS FUND 2019/2020 PRIORITY APPROVAL

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**Attachments:** 1. Growing Suburbs Fund 2019 with Priorities  
2. Growing Suburbs Fund 2019/2020 Application Guidelines

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#### SUMMARY

The State Government announced 20 August 2019, that it will be investing \$50 million in the 2019-2020 Growing Suburbs Fund to continue to contribute to the delivery of critical community infrastructure in Melbourne's 10 Interface Council areas. Council has been invited to apply for funding under the program for priority projects.

Council has identified priority projects for submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund which align with Council's strategic priorities, are eligible for funding under the program guidelines and which are more likely to be successful under the fund guideline.

The priority projects aim to bring forward the delivery of critical community infrastructure needs across the Shire and deliver projects which support community connection and deliver critical social, recreation and economic benefits to residents.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** Council:

1. Endorse the project priorities for submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund as outlined in Attachment 1.
2. Authorise Council officers to progress the agreed projects for submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund.

#### BACKGROUND

The Victorian Government is investing \$50 million in 2018-2019 through the Growing Suburbs Fund (the Fund) to continue timely delivery of critical infrastructure in Melbourne's Interface Councils.

The aim of the Fund is to enable councils to respond to the pressures being experienced by growing communities by bringing forward local infrastructure projects that will make a significant difference to the day-to-day lives of residents.

Mitchell Shire Council has a solid track record of successfully prioritising its project applications to maximise external grant funding. Council also has developed a good reputation for delivering projects funded through previous Growing Suburbs Funds and its predecessor program (Interface Growth Fund) including the Community Bank Adventure Playground at Wallan, the Broadford Youth Room, the Wallan Family and Children's Centre, Hudson Park Playspace and Moore Court playspace at Kilmore, the Broadford Living and Learning Centre Upgrade, the Wallan Town Heart redevelopment, the Greater Beveridge Community Centre.

## GROWING SUBURBS FUND 2019/2020 PRIORITY APPROVAL (CONT.)

In 2018-2019 Council successfully secured funds to deliver: Activating Ryan's Creek Reserve, Kilmore; Wallan Playspace and Half Courts – Danaher Reserve and Botanical Drive Reserve; Centenary Drive Reserve, Kilmore – Playspace renewal; Wallan Youth Hub; Wallan East Early Learning Centre; Kilmore Creek Pedestrian Bridge; Outdoor Fitness Equipment – Hadfield Park and Hudson Park

Over the life of the GSF program Council has been funded around \$15 million.

## ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The 2019-2020 Fund is targeted at high priority community infrastructure projects that contribute to:

- Stronger, more resilient and livable interface communities.
- Improved local economy in Melbourne's interface communities.
- Improved ability to respond to community needs and demands.

Under the specific criteria for the 2019-2020 Fund, there is no limit on the number of submissions that can be made, and councils must provide a priority order for each project.

There are five weighted criterion:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Why is the project required?                                | 25% |
| 2. Who will benefit and how?                                   | 25% |
| 3. What will be delivered?                                     | 20% |
| 4. How will the project be delivered?                          | 20% |
| 5. The extent of council and community support for the project | 10% |

A key aspect of the assessment of grant applications is that projects should support the State Government's priorities. It is also noted in the guidelines that applications that directly address needs resulting from population growth will be favorably considered.

The 2019-2020 fund will enable the commencement of a mix of projects that have a direct benefit to communities across the following broad infrastructure categories:

- Community health and well-being
- Early education, and learning and training
- Sport, recreation, and leisure facilities that support multi use purposes
- Environmental and climate change resilience
- Placemaking, civic amenity, and community connecting.

All infrastructure projects must commence construction by June 2021 and must be completed within three years from the start of construction.

The Fund is designed to be used by councils to accelerate the delivery of critical community infrastructure and complement, rather than replace, other funding source available. A copy of the application guidelines for the fund is attached (Attachment 2).

GROWING SUBURBS FUND 2019/2020 PRIORITY APPROVAL (CONT.)

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the projects which have been identified for submission to the 2019-2020 Growing Suburbs Fund and the priority order for endorsement.

These projects have been identified through reviewing existing capital works priorities, structure plans, strategic plans and the Council Plan matched against the funding criteria and guidelines and with discussions with Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DWELP) Officers regarding the likely success of funding for possible projects.

No Projects have been listed for Seymour as it is outside of the Urban Growth Boundary and not eligible for Growing Suburbs Funding.

Officers prepared an initial list for discussion at the Strategy Meeting 3 June 2019.

### **Timelines**

Timelines for the announcements and delivery of projects are provided below:

<b>Applications Open</b>	20 August 2019
<b>Applications Close</b>	2 pm 30 September 2019
<b>Assessment and Decision Making</b>	From October 2019
<b>Announcements</b>	From November 2019
<b>Funding Agreements Executed</b>	From December 2019
<b>Construction Commencement</b>	No later than June 2021
<b>Construction Complete</b>	Within 3 years of commencement

### **CONSULTATION**

Consultation for the projects has been undertaken as part of the development of the various township structure plans and Council strategies and also in development of many of the project plans. This year many of the projects are shovel ready. Letters of support have been received from community stakeholder groups for a number of projects. Further consultation would be undertaken with community and stakeholders as part of the planning and design of the projects if the funding application is successful.

The list proposed follows lengthy consultation with Government Officials, from the initial projects Council selected in June 2019.

### **FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Under the funding guidelines, projects that have significant Council contributions and attract further public, not-for-profit or private sector investment are considered

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GROWING SUBURBS FUND 2019/2020 PRIORITY APPROVAL (CONT.)

desirable and strongly encouraged. The guidelines also state that applicants must contribute resources and funding to any GSF funded project.

Analysis of all Interface Council's current budgets is presently being undertaken. This will then be used to demonstrate as Council did over the last two years, whilst Mitchell Shire Council acknowledges that the Growing Suburbs Fund is seeking projects which attract significant co-contributions from councils, Mitchell Shire Council's ability to match funds is restricted due to its unique position of having an extremely low rates revenue and low capital resources as compared to the other Interface council's.

A comparison of all 10 Interface Councils in 2017-2018 budgets clearly demonstrated that Mitchell's rates revenue of \$39,279,000 was nearly a third to over five times smaller than all of the other Interface Councils (which ranged from \$62,733,000 to \$202,310,000). Correspondingly, Mitchell's total capital works budget of \$29,724,000 was the second lowest of the Interface Councils (which ranged from \$21,341,000 to \$154,472,000), yet the total capital works budget represented 76% of the rates revenue. This percentage was the second highest across the Interface Councils (which ranged from 23% to 84%); with majority below 50%. Regrettably, we simply do not have the capital resources available to co-contribute to each these projects.

### **POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Projects identified as priorities align with the Council Plan 2017-2021 and adopted Structure Plans and Council Strategies.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL)**

The projects identified as priorities all aim to improve the social, environmental and wellbeing outcomes for the Mitchell Shire Community and will reflect the objectives of the Mitchell Shires Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Environment Policy.

### **CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered in preparing this report and it's determined that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS**

Targeted consultation has been undertaken during the scoping and design of the projects to ensure that the needs of Children and Young people are understood and taken into account.

### **OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Victorian Government is investing \$50 million through the 2018-2019 Growing Suburbs Fund to continue timely delivery of critical infrastructure in Melbourne's interface.

## GROWING SUBURBS FUND 2019/2020 PRIORITY APPROVAL (CONT.)

Council has identified a number of priority projects for submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund for 2019-2020 which align with Council priorities and meet the aims and eligibility criteria for the grant.

The priority projects aim to address critical community infrastructure needs and bring forward projects which support improved community connection and deliver critical social, recreation and economic benefits to residents.

GROWING SUBURBS FUND 2019/2020 PRIORITY APPROVAL (CONT.)

# **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Council Meeting Attachment**

### **ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**16 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**7.3**

**GROWING SUBURBS FUND 2019/2020  
PRIORITY APPROVAL**

**Attachment No: 1**

**Growing Suburbs Fund 2019 with Priorities**

Priority	Project	Town	Project Description	Value	Category
1	Kilmore Rejuvenation – A Make Over for Sydney Street’s Retail Core	Kilmore	The rejuvenation of Kilmore’s retail core in Sydney Street is critical to enhance the town centre economically and socially. The project will perform a makeover of the central section of Sydney Street from the Town Hall near Bourke St northward to Union Street; by creating new seating opportunities, improving the streetscape and improving pedestrian safety. Over twenty-six new broadleaf deciduous trees will envelop the street in greenery and create a signature annual autumnal display that will truly announce the pride of the town in its retail core.	\$2.2M	Place making, civic amenity, and community connecting
2	Greenhill Reserve – Capacity Building	Wallan	Greenhill Reserve is the only publicly accessible formal multi-uses sports and recreation reserve catering for the growing populations of Wallan and Beveridge. It has two ovals which are ‘at capacity’ with their existing infrastructure. The pavilion operates as a busy community hub which is well utilised by the whole community. Capacity can however be significantly increased, particularly to meet demand for junior sport, and avoid further capping of participation by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing upper oval female friendly change and amenity facilities</li> <li>- Improving upper oval drainage and shaping. Constructing a shelter over one outdoor netball court</li> <li>- Providing upper oval lighting which is compliant to training and competition standards</li> <li>- Increasing the number of cricket practice nets and providing some public access</li> </ul>	\$1.1M	Sport, recreation and leisure facilities that support multi use purposes
3	JJ Clancy Reserve - Community, Sport and Recreation Hub	Kilmore	JJ Clancy Reserve is the community sport and recreation hub of Kilmore. Home to nearly all of Kilmore’s junior sport, it plays a vital role in building broader community connections, particularly for new resident families. Home to tennis, Australian Rules, netball, and Little Athletics the clubs have more than 900 registered players alone. Nearly a third are females and 745 (83%) are juniors. The Committee of Management and user groups have worked together to develop a contemporary inclusive culture at the site. They are keen to replace existing aged, outdated and inadequate pavilion facilities with a consolidated shared use community facility which will support a broader range of community activities. Reflecting the desire to cater for increased and enhanced use of the site as a community, sport and recreation hub, it is proposed that a play space be provided. This will meet a gap in current play space service supply in Kilmore.	\$2.2M	Sport, recreation and leisure facilities that support multi use purposes

Priority	Project	Town	Project Description	Value	Category
4	Taylor's Creek Shared Path	Wallan	Activation along the creek with active trail; shared path with seating BBQ and lighting will be added to the vital creek connection. This project will transform the currently underutilised Taylor's Creek area, making it a vital point of Wallan's active trail network. The trail path will follow the creek, connecting King William Drive in the north with Taylor's Lane in the South. The trail will then connect and continue along Taylor's Lane, providing a critical west-east off-road connection to the soon to be expanded Greenhill Leisure Reserve facilities.	\$1.7M	Community health and well-being
5	Activation of Beveridge Recreation Reserve	Beveridge	Activation of the only public open space serving residents living east of the Hume Freeway in Beveridge. The large reserve has a modern local level community centre and there is an opportunity to enhance the surrounding open space to create an integrated focal site to connect residents of Beveridge from both sides of the Freeway. The reserve has existing BBQ/shelter and toilets to support longer stays. Improvements to the broader open space will facilitate walking, cycling, appreciation of the wetland and environmental interpretation. It is proposed that the reserve be enhanced through the provision of circuit pathways around the wetlands and improving the existing play space and tennis/netball playspaces, with all of these facilities being freely publicly accessible.	\$1.1M	Community health and well-being
6	Wallan and Kilmore - Optimising Value of Existing Community Facilities	Wallan and others	Obtaining best value use of existing community recreation facilities to immediately and cost-efficiently better meet demand in growth- pressured areas – Wallan - Robson Stadium court 1 – improve lighting to competition standard Wallan - Tennis Club facility, 6 courts – improve existing court light to training and competition standard on four courts and light two currently unlit to training and competition standards. Wallan – Greenhill Reserve Main oval – provision of new lighting to meet training and competition standards. Kilmore - JJ Clancy Reserve multiuse courts (netball/ tennis) – improve lighting to training and competition standards. Kilmore Primary School – partnership project with school to use junior oval, refurbished with state government support last year. Provision of oval lighting to training standards to meet demand for junior sport.	\$1.2M	Sport, recreation and leisure facilities that support multi use purposes

Priority	Project	Town	Project Description	Value	Category
7	Activation of Broadford Parks and Play-spaces	Broadford	Broadford has gaps in its diversity and quality of open space. Activation of new open space, now under Council management in general accord with an earlier community-generated master plan, will help address the gaps. The land, the old Police Paddocks, adjoins two GSF-funded facilities which are now successfully operating - the Broadford Living and Learning Centre and the Broadford Youth Centre. Also adjoining is the Broadford Skate Park and the Mount Piper Kindergarten. As part of a linearly connected activation project, it is proposed to upgrade the play space at Memorial Park and the walking tracks around the Broadford Common.	\$580K	Community health and well-being
8	Kilmore Creek Trails	Kilmore	The Kilmore Creek Precinct Landscape Master Plan highlights the importance of the Kilmore Creek Precinct and outlines a vision for it to become the primary recreational open space and environmental corridor in Kilmore, improving local interconnectedness as well as providing an important regional link through the township. Activation along the creek with an active trail; shared path with way finding and four new bridges. The project will provide a continuous shared path from Bourke Street to Green Street incorporating Hudson Park, Apex Park and Sam de Gabrielle Reserve. The section of the path is approx. 1700 metres long and 3.5 metres wide.	\$2.5M	Community health and well-being

# **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

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**16 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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**GROWING SUBURBS FUND 2019/2020  
PRIORITY APPROVAL**

**Attachment No: 2**

**Growing Suburbs Fund 2019/2020 Application  
Guidelines**



# 2019-20 Growing Suburbs Fund

Application Guidelines

Growing Suburbs Fund

[www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/gsf](http://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/gsf)



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## 2019-20 Growing Suburbs Fund Application Guidelines

*The 2019-20 Growing Suburbs Fund is a contribution towards meeting critical local community infrastructure needs for Melbourne's diverse and fast-growing outer suburbs. It is positioned to quickly respond to the pressures being experienced by interface communities by bringing forward local community facilities that will make a big difference in the day-to-day lives of outer suburban families.*

Note to users: These guidelines relate to the 2019-20 Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF).

## Message from the Minister



Melbourne's population is growing at a rapid rate and the Victorian Government is committed to ensuring its' liveability.

Our fast-growing outer suburbs need our support to help fund vital community facilities.

This is why, in 2015, we created the *Growing Suburbs Fund* to help support the 10 councils on Melbourne's interface to respond to rapid population growth and increased demands on services.

The *Growing Suburbs Fund* responds to the pressures of growth and change on community facilities by bringing forward the delivery projects that improve amenity, liveability and resilience in the outer suburbs.

In the past 4 years \$200 million has been allocated to support 161 projects. Seventy-five of these projects are now completed and open to the community.

The \$50 million that was allocated in the 2019-20 Victorian Budget will further this investment and provide interface councils with the opportunity to apply for additional funding to build projects that make a big difference in the day-to-day lives of outer suburban communities. Projects typically include family and community centres, town centres, parks and reserves, and playgrounds.

I encourage you to read these guidelines, which are designed to help applicants understand the objectives, criteria and processes of the *2019-20 Growing Suburbs Fund*.

They have been developed in collaboration and consultation with the interface councils, reflecting the strong partnership between state and local government, to ensure the best possible outcomes for communities living in Melbourne's outer suburbs.

I look forward to seeing the *Growing Suburbs Fund* continue to support the local projects that are helping Melbourne's outer suburbs meet the challenges they face as a result of growth and change.

The future liveability of Melbourne depends on our ability to maintain the distinctive character, vibrant communities, accessible facilities and services, and green and leafy environments of these important outer suburbs.

**The Hon Adem Somyurek MP**  
Minister for Local Government



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