

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL. OUR ADVOCACY PRIORITIES.



February
2019



ABOUT MITCHELL SHIRE.

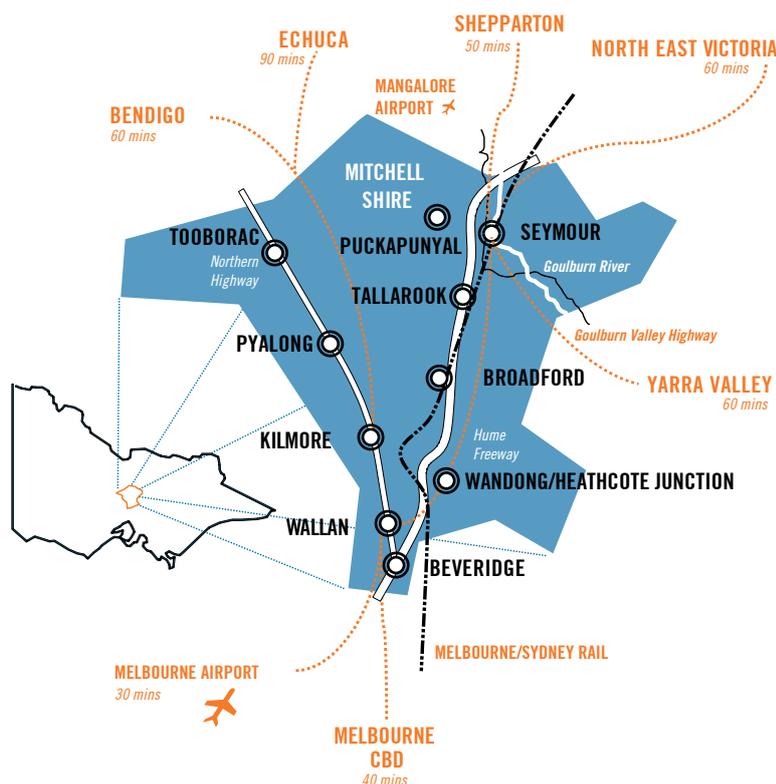
Strategically located just 40 kilometres north of Melbourne, Mitchell Shire is one of Victoria's fastest growing outer metropolitan municipalities.

As an interface growth area, we offer a mix of rural and urban living with affordable housing and a diversity of lifestyle and housing choices.

We have an estimated population of 48,000 in 2018. In the next 25-30 years we expect that 270,000 people will call Mitchell home. Many of these will be families with young children and teenagers. It is anticipated that most of this growth will occur in and around the southern townships of Beveridge, Kilmore/Kilmore East and Wallan.

We have a high commuter workforce and our community relies heavily on regional rail and road networks to travel to and from work and for day to day community activities and access to services outside of the municipality.

Mitchell Shire Council is embracing the opportunities and responding pro-actively to the challenges of this growth to ensure residents have access to the services and facilities they need, can access local jobs and can enjoy a quality lifestyle of choice.



OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



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COUNCILLOR MESSAGE.

Mitchell Shire is one of the fastest growing areas in Victoria and is one of seven growth areas within Melbourne's outer suburbs.

As a result, Mitchell Council Shire faces a variety of funding challenges that continue to require the support of State and Federal Government.

Our historically rural region is undergoing a period of mass urbanisation.

This projected growth will further change the characteristics and demographics of the region and put additional pressures on already strained infrastructure and services.

The total growth in the area presents a new dynamic and urgency to our advocacy efforts to ensure the current and future liveability of our community.

In partnership with our community, we have developed a number of advocacy priorities including a mix of longer and shorter-term initiatives requiring planning or funding investment.

The priorities have been developed based on input from a range of people across our community as well as service providers and industry representatives.

We hope these priorities help the government, elected representatives, election candidates, government departments and service providers to better understand the critical needs our community is facing and to ensure our service and infrastructure investment needs are supported now and in the future.

**Kind regards,
Mitchell Shire Councillors**

OUR COMMUNITY.

Key characteristics



We cover **2864 square kms** of rural and urban land including **Melbourne's Northern Growth Corridor**



We have **18 schools for 7062 students**, many of which are already full.



We are growing **rapidly** and our **population** is expected to increase to more than **270,000 people**



There are approximately **0.77 local jobs available** for everyone who is looking for work. Many people **travel** outside the municipality **for work**



We had **537 new babies** born last year and we added more than **300 new houses**



Our area generates **\$1.4 billion GDP** and has a total economic output of **\$2.83 billion**



We have **12 main towns**, nearly **40 communities**, **1 V/Line rail service**, **3 limited town bus networks** and **no bus connections between towns**



Some people in our community experience significant **socio-economic disadvantage** and we have a large gap between our poorest and wealthiest residents

Infrastructure and services

- > 100+ services
- > 676 km of sealed roads
- > 762 km of unsealed roads
- > 429 km of kerb and channel
- > 253 km of footpaths and walking tracks
- > 261 km of underground drainage
- > 9586 drainage pits
- > 59 road bridges and 36 pedestrian bridges
- > 207 major culverts and fords
- > 1 active landfill
- > 4 resource recovery centres
- > 22 sporting pavilions/clubrooms
- > 9 sporting reserves
- > 2 leisure centres, 5 pools and 4 sports stadiums
- > 7 community halls
- > 24 public toilets
- > 44 playgrounds and 5 skate parks
- > 12 environmental reserves
- > 4 libraries
- > 9 kindergartens
- > 8 maternal and child health centres

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



ROADS

Council will work closely with VicRoads to assist with alignment and planning.

<p>Watson Street Upgrade and Hume Freeway Diamond Interchange - Wallan</p>	<p>Wallan has a current population of approximately 13,000 people. This is expected to grow to 50,000 within the next 20 to 30 years. Residents already experience difficulties travelling to Wallan with significant delays and banking of traffic on the Hume Freeway exit and the Northern Highway.</p> <p>Safe access to and from the Hume Freeway and increased capacity of the main roads connecting Wallan are critical to maintain future liveability, economic viability of shopping centres and to encourage connected communities.</p> <p>>\$80 million for design and construction of the diamond interchange</p>
<p>Capacity improvements to the Northern Highway - Wallan</p>	<p>With the rapid growth currently underway in Wallan South, increasing capacity of the Northern Highway is critical to reduce congestion from banking on the Hume Freeway.</p> <p>Capacity increase through Wallan will also improve economic viability of the main street and support access to community facilities in the Hadfield and Greenhill recreation precincts.</p> <p>Business case commenced for increased capacity for Northern Highway</p>
<p>Wallan/Kilmore Bypass</p>	<p>Delivery of major regional road infrastructure to improve increasing regional traffic movements and improve economic development along the main streets in Kilmore and Wallan.</p> <p>\$40 million for Year 1 design and construction and \$160 million for Year 2 construction</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ACHIEVED TO DATE </div> <p>Purchase of Kilmore land allocated \$20 million</p>
<p>Camerons Lane Interchange - Beveridge</p> <p>Lithgow Street and Hume Freeway underpass upgrade - Beveridge</p>	<p>Camerons Lane is proposed to be a major six lane arterial road which will interchange with the Hume Freeway and provide the main access for residential communities to/from the Hume Highway within the Beveridge Growth Corridor. The current underpass at Lithgow Street provides access into the developing Beveridge and Mandalay communities. It is narrow, unsafe and is in desperate need of an upgrade as an interim measure until the Camerons Lane full interchange is constructed. The interchange will also involve works on the bridge crossing over Lithgow Street to accommodate additional widening.</p> <p>This is particularly important for safe pedestrian access between the Mandalay Estate and the Beveridge township, including the primary school.</p> <p>>\$230 million for planning, design and construction</p>

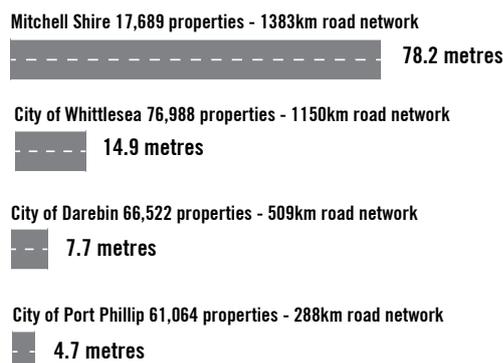
OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



ROADS

<p>Hume Freeway/Gunns Gully Road - Beveridge</p>	<p>A full diamond interchange to enable vehicles to enter and exit from the Hume Freeway. This is a vital enabling piece of infrastructure which will open up much needed employment land to the west and a residential growth area to the east in Cloverton Estate which will house 30,000 residents over the next 20 years.</p> <p>\$80 million for design and construction</p>
<p>Road maintenance</p> <p><i>Council will contribute approximately \$4.585 million towards road maintenance in the shire (subject to budget adoption)</i></p>	<p>Mitchell’s road network is much larger than most in Victoria and we have less properties to help spread the cost of road maintenance, renewals and upgrades.</p> <p>Government funding is vital to ensure we can provide a safe road network for our communities.</p> <p>Commitment to increase funding</p> <p>Reinstate the State Government Country Roads and Bridges Program</p> <p>Continue the Roads to Recovery funding program beyond 19/20</p> <p>ACHIEVED TO DATE Fixing Country Roads \$100 million Statewide which local Councils can apply for.</p>

Metres of local roads funded per residential property



Note: Figures are based on residential dwellings and do not include other land types such as vacant land, commercial and industrial. These are a guide only to demonstrate the ratios between different council sizes.

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Council will work with Transport for Victoria and Public Transport Victoria to assist with route planning, road network changes, identifying infrastructure needs and timetabling.

<p>Integrated Public Transport Strategy</p>	<p>Integrated Regional Transport Plan led by Transport for Victoria and supported by Public Transport Victoria and VicRoads for the new Urban Growth Boundary</p> <p>\$500,000 for strategy delivery</p> <p>ACHIEVED TO DATE \$80,000 grant - Streamlining for Growth Program assistance from Victorian Government</p>
<p>Bus Connectivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Kilmore Town Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - weekend and public holiday services - extend the service to include the Kilmore District Hospital and supermarket complex > Link our rural, urban towns and new estates with bus services including Beveridge, Hidden Valley, Broadford, Puckapunyal and Pyalong
<p>Train Connectivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Enable Seymour trains to bypass the busy Craigieburn line by connecting the Upfield and Craigieburn lines at Somerton to enable a faster and more reliable connection into Melbourne > Upfield to Wallan electrification > Change zoning to provide fairer prices for rural communities > Provide modern commuter-style service for growth areas > Upgrade the fleet to modern trains and the network to support the VLocity Fleet > Build Beveridge train station > Progress high speed rail network plans > Increase train frequency <p>ACHIEVED TO DATE Extra Regional Rail - 15 addition inter-peak services per week to Seymour. \$311.1 million for new VLocity carriages in State Budget. (Seymour line to be confirmed).</p>
<p>Car Parks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increased commutator car parking capacity in close proximity to the Seymour Railway station and surrounding areas

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Internet connection and mobile black spot reduction

With the devastating effects of the 2009 and 2014 bushfires, and with the increasing reliance from emergency services on mobile and internet based warning systems, it is crucial for there to be reliable access to mobile and internet services across the shire. Reliable and fast internet is also critical for businesses, local jobs and economic development.

Increase reliable telecommunications in Glenaroua, Pyalong, Whiteheads Creek and our western fringe as well as our growth areas, particularly around Beveridge and Kilmore where there are many coverage gaps

Water Bores

There are currently 13 water supply points in the Shire, which mainly consist of bores, tanks and standpipes. This is critical infrastructure for relief in drought and large fires. Most of this infrastructure requires significant upgrading.

Increase funding to upgrade stand-alone water supply infrastructure. \$390,000 - \$520,000 approximately.



POLICY

Gambling

- > Regional Cap
- > National Gambling Alliance
- > Increased investment back into community

Council is committed to working with relevant agencies to reduce gambling harm in the area.

Actively advocating to reduce gambling harm in the community.

Inclusion in the Regional Capping to prevent the increase of Electronic Gaming Machines in the shire as our population grows.

Return 10 per cent of State Government gambling revenue back to social services.

Support Municipal Association of Victoria Alliance for Gambling Reform initiatives including placement, operating hours, access to cash and more say for local government over approval of gaming machines.

Growing Suburbs Fund

Council will bring forward projects and co-contribute.

An increased and long-term funding commitment to the Growing Suburbs Fund that to provide certainty for significant pipeline of priority projects.

\$50 million per annum

ACHIEVED TO DATE

Growing Suburbs Fund was reduced to \$25 million in 2017. The fund was restored to previous level of \$50 million in State Budget.

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



ACCESS TO SERVICES

Housing Investment Package

- > Housing services (crisis and accommodation support)
- > Social housing (infrastructure investment)
- > Public housing (infrastructure investment)

Homelessness is one of the key areas of disadvantage in Mitchell Shire. There is significant need for increased funding for homelessness crisis services across the shire and to seek greater investment in social housing (crisis, transitional and long term affordable housing) in all parts of the shire.

\$10 million housing investment package



Social Housing Investment Project (SHIP)
\$200,000 partnership with City of Hume and Whittlesea.
\$3 million to build eight new homes, a partnership between BeyondHousing and Victorian Government.

Family Support

- > Family Violence Satellite station
- > Children and Family Support Services
- > Increased family violence counselling services and crisis support

Establish a satellite station The State Government committed to establish 17 Family Violence Hubs across Victoria over the next four years. The closest existing hub is in Heidelberg and the next closest primary hub is planned for Shepparton.

Mitchell Shire has been identified as one of the most disadvantaged areas in relation to family violence incidents and child support services (such as child protection notifications and substantiations).

Establishment of a satellite station will increase access to specialised (infrastructure investment) services and support for vulnerable women, children and families.

\$500,000 per annum for Children and Family Support Services in Mitchell

Increased children and family support services will enable the growing community to access services when needed and address issues of disadvantage. The services will take a holistic approach to children and family support including addressing co-morbidity issues of family violence, mental health, alcohol and other drugs, socio-economic issues and homelessness.

\$450,000 per annum increased Family Violence counselling services and Crisis Support based in Mitchell

Increased crisis funding for Family Violence will provide the resources to respond to family violence incidents in a timely manner and offer immediate support in crisis situations. This funding would provide five support workers.



\$97,000 Free from Violence Grant - Free Mitchell from Violence: Organisational Primary Prevention Pilot Program

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



ACCESS TO SERVICES

Drug Rehab Facility and Services Package

- > Treatment Services for drug and alcohol addiction
 - Carer/parent support services
 - Outreach community based services
 - Residential Drug Rehabilitation Facility
 - Pilot new and emerging International drug reform programs

Alcohol and drug issues have increased significantly in rural and regional areas, specifically in Mitchell Shire. There is a lack of support services and programs that treat addiction and withdrawal from alcohol and other drugs (licit and illicit). The allocation of a package of services will allow a flexible approach to service provision from residential rehabilitation to community based counselling and support. There will also be a focus on carer support services.

Following emerging evidence-based best practice, access to timely, consistent and targeted prevention, intervention and harm minimisation programs and services are imperative to respond to the needs of our community.

\$7.8 million to construct and operate a Drug Rehabilitation Facility as well as community based outreach services, carer support and drug reform.

Youth Services Hub refurbishment at existing location (Wallan)

- > Mental health and generalist youth services at the old Wellington Street kindergarten site

An existing Council building will be used for this project.

There has been a significant increase in attempted suicide within the youth cohort with limited access to youth specific mental health services. The establishment of a youth hub will assist with addressing the precursors to mental health issues as well as counselling and support for individuals once mental health issues have been identified.

Sufficient access to services will see increased liveability in the area and a decrease in alcohol and/or other drug related harm, mental illness and family violence. It will also reduce commute time to services, currently outside the municipality.

Although the State Government has funded \$645,000 to fit out a new Youth Services Hub in Wallan, we no require \$300,000 per annum for ongoing mental health service provision

ACHIEVED TO DATE

\$645,789 from Growing Suburbs Fund for the major re-development of an existing building in Wallan.

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



JOBS, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM

Kilmore Revitalisation

- > Kilmore Town Centre upgrades (including Sydney Street Upgrade)
- > Kilmore Community Centre precinct master plan
- > Kilmore Creek corridor improvements/ revitalisation

Council has contributed \$380,000 to the Mill Street civic space upgrade

Kilmore Town Centre upgrades - \$17 million

Deliver Sydney Street upgrades between Clarke and Bourke Streets which includes constructing wider footpaths and pedestrian refuges, new street furniture and lighting, as well as planting a deciduous tree avenue.

Develop the Kilmore Creek corridor between Hudson Park and Clarke Street. This component seeks to activate the creek corridor through public realm improvements which includes providing a civic meeting space referred to as the 'Kilmore Waterfront', improving physical access via a shared path and transforming the Mill Street bridge to a pedestrian/ bicycle link, as well as improvements to environmental management and water quality.

Kilmore Community Centre Precinct master plan - \$13.3 million for planning, design and construction

Integrated all-of-life Community Centre including life-long learning to connect community, provide greater liveability and ensure access to positive recreational activities.

Kilmore Creek Corridor Improvements - \$6 million for planning and construction

The Kilmore Creek corridor has the potential to be a key social and environmental asset for the Kilmore community. Previous development has largely failed to integrate with the creek despite its prominent location being parallel with Sydney Street.

The project will involve the development and improvement of the Kilmore creek corridor that runs parallel with Sydney Street. It will provide a link from the Northern part of town to Hudson Park and include Mill Street water front feature to link Sydney Street to the Creek.

It would potentially provide a link for the Wallan to Heathcote Rail Trail and would have an environmental impact improving the creek area.

ACHIEVED TO DATE

\$50,000 from Regional Development Victoria funding for Master Plan and Detailed Design - Kilmore Community Hub.

\$1 million from Growing Suburbs Fund for Ryan's Creek Reserve Activation.

Goulburn River Valley Tourism

Council has contributed approximately \$68,000 per annum

Accreditation as a formal Regional Tourism Board by State Government.

\$150,000 per annum

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



JOBS, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM

Seymour Revitalisation (economic and community development plan; an Integrated Investments Approach)

> Economic and community development plan - an integrated investments approach

Support business case priorities for new investment

To make Seymour a more vibrant, productive and positive community by supporting priorities in the Seymour Revitalisation initiative. This will assist Seymour in growing its economic and social potential.

Seymour Education precinct

> Seymour College stages 2 and 3

Public Open Space Improvements

> Goulburn River Bridge

> Goulburn Park

> Kings Park

> Improvements to Australian

> Light Horse Memorial Park amenities

> Station Street streetscape improvement works

> Feasibility for a new or expanded Seymour visitor information centre

> Seymour Structure Plan Projects, including Town Centre Master Plan and developing Granite Park

ACHIEVED TO DATE

\$900,000 for Stage 1 – Investment business case and open space improvements

Public Open Space Improvements

> \$500,000 for upgrades in total across the three parks for Kings Park, Goulburn Park and Chittick Park

> \$300,000 for business case development

> \$50,000 for feasibility study to progress linking Seymour to Tallarook from the Great Victorian Rail Trail.

Tourism

> \$47,000 to Seymour Railway Heritage Centre for their Getting Seymour Business Back on Track project.

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



JOBS, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM

Tank and Artillery Museum Puckapunyal

A high profile and accessible museum is of strategic importance to the future economic prosperity of Seymour and surrounds and the wider Goulburn Valley Region.

\$44 million

Beveridge Intermodal Freight Transport Hub

Development of a precinct that has been set aside for a freight and logistics terminal that can also accommodate related industries.

State-significant project that will enable the transfer of interstate freight between road and rail. Seeking government to commit to deliver this project ahead of the planned Western Interstate Freight Terminal.

Seeking Government commitment to deliver this project (planning and construction) ahead of the planned Western Interstate Freight Terminal

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



EDUCATION

Wallan East Land Purchase	The purchase of land in Wallan East to build a primary school to cater for this isolated community and for the rapidly growing community in the south of the shire. \$4 million approximately
Land for new Beveridge Primary School	Land for a new primary school located in Beveridge. \$6 million approximately

OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.



ENVIRONMENT

Waste Management

Council has contributed more than \$3.17 million the State Government landfill levies and received nearly \$290,000 back

Key waste and resource recovery infrastructure projects

- > New Seymour Resource Recovery Centre at a new location.
- > Expand and redevelop the Wallan Resource Recovery Centre to accommodate population growth in the southern part of the shire.
- > New Broadford Resource Recovery Centre at a new location.

\$6.3 million for Seymour, Broadford and Wallan resource recovery centre planning, design and construction

Increased funding opportunities from State Government to be able to apply for grants greater than \$500,000

Environmental and sustainability audit

Conduct an environmental and sustainability audit to determine the feasibility of additional environmental initiatives which will assist in addressing climate change and raising the awareness and capacity of our local community to respond to climate change.

\$50,000 for feasibility study plus implementation

PROJECT	OUR ASK	COMMITTED SO FAR
 <div data-bbox="264 517 411 595">ACHIEVED TO DATE</div>	<p>Wallan/Kilmore Bypass</p> <p>\$40 million for Year 1 design and construction and \$160 million for Year 2 construction.</p>	<p>Purchase of Kilmore land allocated \$20 million.</p>
 <div data-bbox="264 685 411 763">ACHIEVED TO DATE</div>	<p>Road maintenance</p> <p>Commitment to increase funding.</p>	<p>Fixing Country Roads \$100 million Statewide which local Councils can apply for.</p>
 <div data-bbox="264 826 411 904">ACHIEVED TO DATE</div>	<p>Integrated Public Transport Strategy</p>	<p>\$80,000 Grant - Streamlining for Growth Program assistance from Victorian Government</p>
 <div data-bbox="264 1003 411 1081">ACHIEVED</div>	<p>Train Connectivity</p> <p>> Increase train frequency.</p> <p>> Upgrade the fleet to modern trains and the network to support the VLocity Fleet.</p>	<p>Extra Regional Rail - 15 addition inter-peak services per week to Seymour.</p> <p>\$311.1 million for new VLocity carriages in State Budget. (<i>Seymour line to be confirmed</i>).</p>
 <div data-bbox="264 1202 411 1281">ACHIEVED</div>	<p>Bus Connectivity</p> <p>More services for Kilmore including to the township and Kilmore District Hospital.</p>	<p>Implementation of flexi ride services for Kilmore.</p>
 <div data-bbox="264 1364 411 1442">ACHIEVED TO DATE</div>	<p>Kilmore Creek Pedestrian Bridge</p>	<p>Growing Suburbs Fund \$745,000</p>
 <div data-bbox="264 1505 411 1583">ACHIEVED TO DATE</div>	<p>Growing Suburbs Fund</p> <p>\$50 million per annum.</p>	<p>Growing Suburbs Fund was reduced to \$25 million in 2017. The fund was restored to previous level of \$50 million in State Budget.</p>
 <div data-bbox="264 1668 411 1747">ACHIEVED TO DATE</div>	<p>Social Housing (infrastructure investment)</p>	<p>\$200,000 partnership with City of Hume and Whittlesea.</p> <p>\$3 million to build eight new homes in partnership with BeyondHousing and Victorian Government.</p>
 <div data-bbox="264 1834 411 1912">ACHIEVED TO DATE</div>	<p>Youth Services Hub refurbishment.</p> <p>\$250,000.</p>	<p>\$645, 789 from Growing Suburbs Fund for the major re-development of an existing building in Wallan.</p>
 <div data-bbox="264 1975 411 2054">ACHIEVED TO DATE</div>	<p>Family Support</p>	<p>\$97,000 from Free from Violence Grant - Free Mitchell from Violence: Organisational Primary Prevention Pilot Program</p>

PROJECT	OUR ASK	COMMITTED SO FAR
 <div data-bbox="276 495 419 568"> <p>ACHIEVED TO DATE</p> </div>	<p>Kilmore Revitalisation</p>	<p>\$50,000 from Regional Development Victoria funding for Master Plan and Detailed Design - Kilmore Community Hub</p>
 <div data-bbox="276 638 419 712"> <p>ACHIEVED TO DATE</p> </div>	<p>Seymour Revitalisation</p>	<p>Combined funding nearly \$1 million</p>
 <div data-bbox="276 781 419 855"> <p>ACHIEVED</p> </div>	<p>Expansion of existing Beveridge Primary School to new location \$13 million approximately.</p>	<p>Primary School in Mandalay \$19.7 million.</p>



MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



Mitchell Shire Council

113 High Street, Broadford 3658

t: (03) 5734 6200

f: (03) 5734 6222

e: mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

