



## EDUCATION

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*Mitchell Shire Council is seeking a commitment from the State Government to fund land and infrastructure for Primary and Secondary educational facilities, to meet significant growth and ensure access to schools for our growing population.*

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### THE ASK

#### THE ASK CONSISTS OF FOUR PARTS:

- 1. BEVERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE \$10 MILLION APPROXIMATELY** IN BUDGET  
Infrastructure funding for the planned primary school in Mandalay, to replace the existing dilapidating primary school building which can no longer accommodate the growing number of students.
- 2. ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL LAND PURCHASE IN BEVERIDGE \$6 MILLION APPROXIMATELY**  
Purchase of land for a new primary school located in Beveridge for the predicted growth surge over the next 10 years.
- 3. WALLAN EAST LAND PURCHASE \$4 MILLION**  
The purchase of land in Wallan East to build a primary school to cater for this isolated area and for the rapidly growing community in the South of the Shire.
- 4. SEYMOUR COLLEGE NEW INFRASTRUCTURE STAGES TWO AND THREE**  
New building infrastructure including an arts and technology building as well as landscaping and sporting facilities.

### THE BENEFITS

- 1. BEVERIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE**  
A new school to replace of the existing Beveridge primary school will offer a state of the art facility to meet the needs of the growing community.
- 2. ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL LAND PURCHASE IN BEVERIDGE**  
Land for a new primary school located in Beveridge will pro-actively meet the predicted growth needs of the Beveridge area. It will also allow students to access education in their local area, building resilient connected communities.
- 3. WALLAN EAST LAND PURCHASE**  
The purchase of land in Wallan East to build a primary school will enable families located in Wallan East the opportunity to attend a school within their own town. This will not only take the strain off neighbouring schools, but will also take strain off one-car families and increase health outcomes for young people, allowing students the opportunity to walk to school.
- 4. SEYMOUR COLLEGE NEW INFRASTRUCTURE STAGES TWO AND THREE**  
New building infrastructure for Years 5-12 and landscaped recreational and sporting facilities will enhance educational opportunities to meet the demand of our changing community's needs across the Shire.



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### CURRENT SITUATION

Mitchell Shire has a current population of approximately 45,000<sup>1</sup> and is one of the fastest growing councils in Victoria<sup>2</sup>. In the next 25-30 years, our population is expected to grow to over 230,000<sup>3</sup>, and in the next ten years one of the fastest growing age groups will be school aged children<sup>4</sup>.

Although we are only at the beginning of our rapid growth, new and emerging communities are experiencing limited access to schools, with some residents having to travel to surrounding areas to access educational facilities. In addition to this, existing schools, particularly in the South are already at or over capacity<sup>4</sup>. Adding to this is the complexity of Mitchell Shire's younger school aged children having a higher rate of vulnerability in one (and two) or more domains compared to Victoria and Australia<sup>5</sup>.

Mitchell Shire has a low completion rate for year 12<sup>6</sup>, and resultantly, has a high proportion of the population with no higher education qualification<sup>7</sup>.

### MITCHELL SHIRE EDUCATION STATISTICS

- > School children in Mitchell Shire accessing the early years of primary school rate higher for vulnerability on one or more domains\* (24.8%) than both Victoria (19.9%) and Australia (22%)<sup>5</sup>.
- > School children in Mitchell Shire accessing the early years of primary school rate higher for vulnerability on two or more domains\* (12.5%) than both Victoria (9.9%) and Australia (11.1%)<sup>5</sup>.
- > Approximately 14% of Mitchell Shire's population are school aged<sup>8</sup>, and this figure is set to rise and become one of the fastest growing age groups in the Shire over the next ten years<sup>9</sup>.
- > Only 38.8% of Mitchell Shire's population aged 15+ has completed year 12 or equivalent, lower than the Victorian average of 54.4%<sup>6</sup>.
- > In Mitchell Shire, only 10.6% of the population (aged 15+) have a bachelor degree or higher<sup>6</sup>.
- > Mitchell Shire has a higher proportion of people (all ages) with no higher-education qualification (43.4%) this is higher than the Victoria average (39.6%)<sup>6</sup>.

\*Domains include: physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills and communication skills.

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**MORE INFORMATION.**  
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