



ROADS

INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE ROADS TO RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mitchell Shire Council is seeking a commitment from the Federal Governments to increase funding for local road maintenance, to ensure our growing communities are connected and safe on our roads.

THE ASK

1. ROADS TO RECOVERY PROGRAM

Increase the funding for the Roads to Recovery program to \$800 million per annum and make the Bridges Renewal Program permanent to boost safety on local roads¹ and help meet the growing demands being experienced by Councils.

THE BENEFITS

Increased funding for road maintenance will enable safer roads for residents and visitors in Mitchell Shire, and will ensure that Council roads and the State managed network is of similar standards.

Metres of local roads funded per residential property



Mitchell Shire 17,689 properties - 1383km road network

78.2 metres

City of Whittlesea 76,988 properties - 1150km road network

14.9 metres

City of Darebin 66,522 properties - 509km road network

7.7 metres

City of Port Phillip 61,064 properties - 288km road network

4.7 metres

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.

1. Australian Local Government Association. All Politics is Local – 12 ways to deliver for Australian communities ALGA Federal Election Initiatives. 2018. Accessed February 1, 2019. https://alga.asn.au/site/misc/alga/downloads/fedelection1819/ALGA_Election_Document.pdf.



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CURRENT SITUATION

Mitchell Shire has 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 Wallan².

This population growth is placing enormous pressure on the existing road network infrastructure throughout Mitchell Shire.

With approximately 1,383km of road to maintain, Mitchell Shire has one of the largest road networks in Melbourne and surrounding councils. As Mitchell Shire originally consisted of country towns, farms and small populations, many roads across our Shire were not constructed to accommodate large volumes of vehicles. The shift of the urban growth boundary to include Wallan and Beveridge, and the increase in population across the Shire is having a toll on our roads, and many of our roads are deteriorating at a rapid rate. Compounding this issue is the expansion of industry and commercial business in Mitchell Shire, increasing the volume of heavy vehicle movements on our roads.

In addition to accommodating for Mitchell Shire's rapid population growth, the maintenance of our roads to reduce risk of natural disasters is also important. Mitchell Shire has a history of natural disasters, including vulnerability towards fire and flood, and the maintenance of our roads is important for quick and reliable transport for emergency vehicles and traveling public.

MITCHELL SHIRE ROAD STATISTICS

- > It is estimated that in order to maintain Australian local roads to a suitable standard, expenditure will need to increase by an average of \$1.2 billion annually until 2025. This figure is for maintenance only, and not improvement³.
- > There are approximately 127,000km of local roads in Victoria which are mostly maintained by municipal councils. In country Victoria, more than 80% of goods are transported by road⁴.
- > Mitchell Shire maintains a road network of 1,383km of roads, consisting of 668km of sealed road and 715km unsealed road.
- > Mitchell Shire maintains 60 Bridges.

Council is grateful to the Federal Government for committing to the ongoing funding of the Roads to Recovery Program and the increase in funding by \$50 million from 2019-20, to increase the annual allocations to \$400 million a year to all councils in Australia.

Council also acknowledges and congratulates the State Government's commitment to provide \$100 million to the Fixing Country Roads Program.

2. Mitchell Shire Council, Our Advocacy Priorities, Broadford: 2018, 2.

3. Roorda, J. and Associates, 2010, "The Local Roads Funding Gap, Study of Local Roads funding in Australia 1999-2000 to 2019-2020". Accessed April 20, 2018. <http://alga.asn.au/site/misc/alga/downloads/transport/LocalRoadsFunding.pdf>.

4. VicRoads. "Victoria's Road Network". 2018. Accessed April 20, 2018. <http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/road-network-and-performance/types-of-roads/victorias-road-network>.

MORE INFORMATION.

Advocacy and Community Services

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