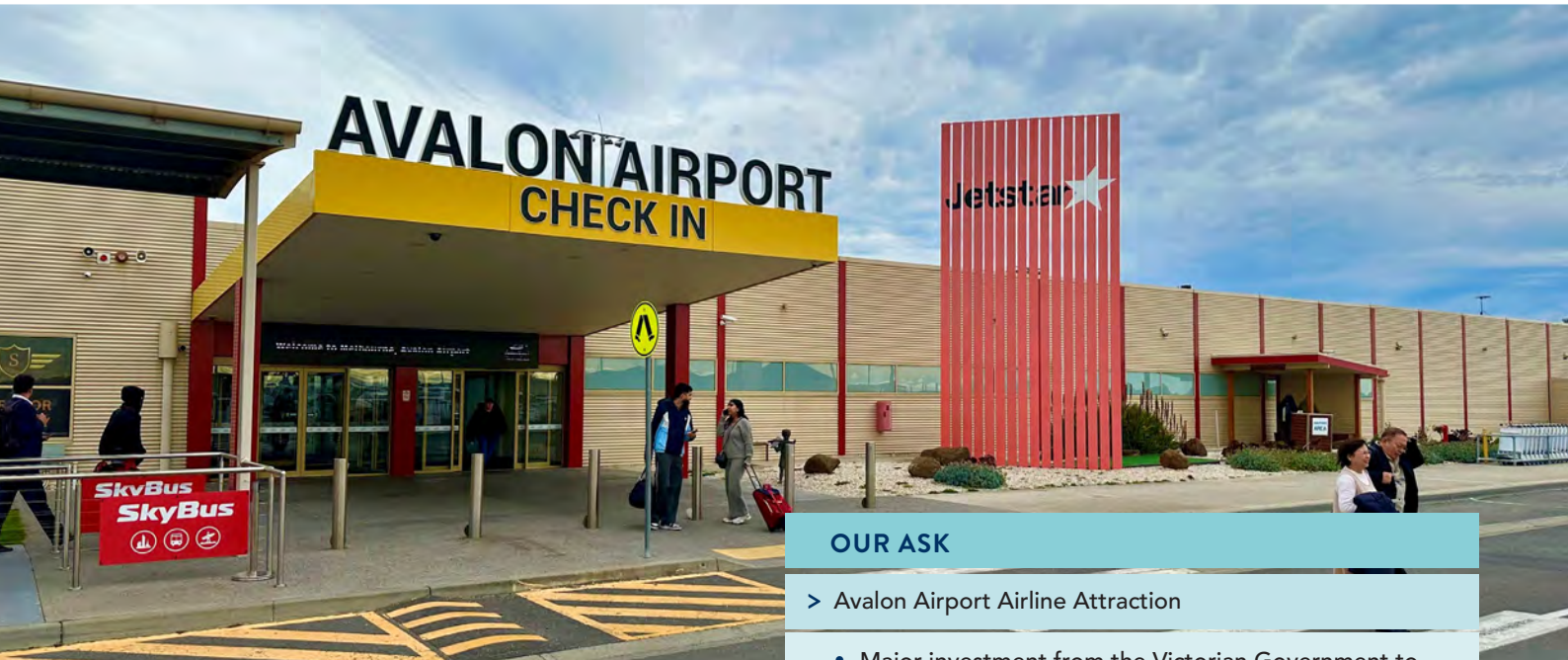


# AVALON AIRPORT



Avalon Airport (IATA: AVV) is just 15 kilometres from Geelong and 50 kilometres southwest of Melbourne’s CBD, and with the support of the Victoria Government, will become Victoria’s much-needed second international airport.

Established in 1953, Avalon has evolved into a versatile aviation and logistics centre, and regional industrial and employment hub.

The airport offers domestic flights serviced by Jetstar since 2004 and has recently added FlyPelican services to Canberra. From March, Jetstar will also commence international services to Bali. The airport operates 24/7 and supports large cargo aircraft, including B747s and Antonovs, with direct freight connections to Asia and beyond.

Avalon is also home to major tenants such as Cotton On, PetStock, Australia Post, and Hanwha Defense, forming part of a growing defence and logistics precinct.

With a catchment area of 3.3 million people within a 60-minute radius, Avalon is strategically positioned for future growth, including plans for Australia’s first fully integrated multimodal logistics hub.

The airport hosts the biennial Australian International Airshow, attracting over 195,000 attendees and showcasing aerospace and defence innovations.

## OUR ASK

### > Avalon Airport Airline Attraction

- Major investment from the Victorian Government to Avalon Airport as the State’s second major airport.
- The allocation and promotion of targeted, Avalon-only investment will instil confidence in the airport’s viability and enable the expansion of the facility as Victoria’s second international airport.
- A three-year program of matched funding in this critical private-public partnership will support the rapid growth of the Greater Geelong and Wyndham/west metro regions.

### > Employment Precinct

- Investment in enabling infrastructure to support the Avalon Employment Precinct growth and workforce capability, delivered through a \$1-billion Regional Infrastructure Fund.

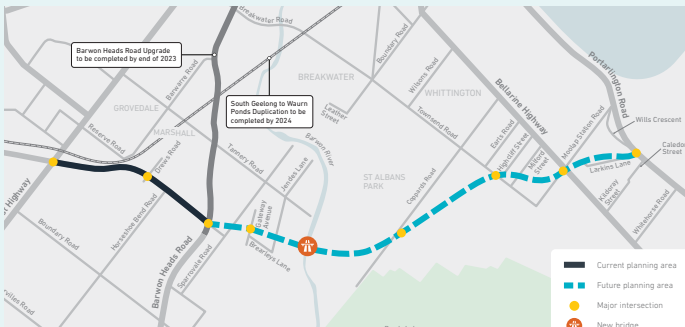
### > Beach Road

- Funding for a major upgrade of Beach Road, the vital link between the M1 Princes Highway and Avalon Airport and commercial precinct.

### > Connectivity

- Medium to long-term: Delivery of the Avalon Airport Rail Link.

# OUR PRIORITY TRANSPORT



## BELLARINE LINK

The Geelong Ring Road Extension (Bellarine Link), part of Victoria's Big Build, will connect Baanip Boulevard to Barwon Heads Road.

It offers a safer, faster route between the Bellarine, Geelong and Melbourne, cutting travel by up to 15 minutes and easing congestion. It will reduce truck traffic in Central Geelong, improve freight access, support population growth, enable active travel links, strengthen rail connections, and enhance access for Bellarine tourism and hospitality.



## ARMSTRONG CREEK SPUR LINE

The Armstrong Creek spur would extend the rail line about 2 kilometres from Marshall Station to a new station in Armstrong Creek town centre, using an existing reserve for this critical infrastructure.

It would significantly cut travel times to Geelong CBD and Melbourne, providing a reliable public transport option for residents of Armstrong Creek, Mount Duneed, Torquay and the Surf Coast, improving connectivity and supporting growth in these rapidly developing communities.

## GEELONG-WERRIBEE LINE

Geelong and Werribee, with a combined population of over 350,000, have lacked a direct public transport link since 2015.

Reinstating the rail service between Geelong and Melbourne would create a vital connection between Werribee, Geelong and Avalon, and deliver a faster rail link to Melbourne. This service would also provide a critical link to Avalon, a major industry hub, supporting regional connectivity, economic growth and improved access for commuters and businesses.



## BANNOCKBURN LINE

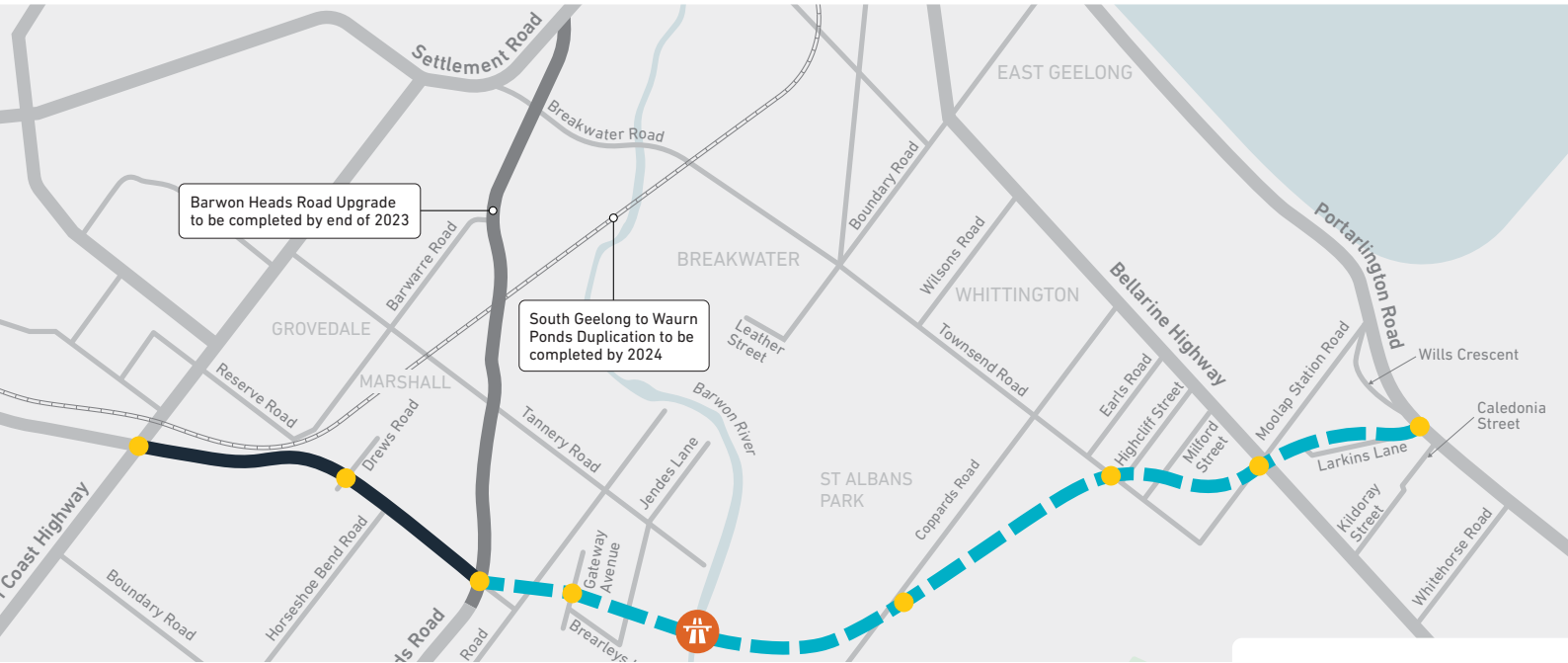
The Bannockburn-Geelong Passenger Rail Line would include upgrading North Geelong rail yards for efficient train movement, refurbishing Bannockburn Station, and adding new stations in the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Area and Bell Post Hill.

Serving a future population of over 100,000, this line would provide a faster, more reliable alternative to road travel, improving connectivity to Central Geelong and supporting growth across key regional communities.

## OUR PRIORITY

# GEELONG RING ROAD EXTENSION

## BELLARINE LINK - STAGE 1



The Geelong Ring Road Extension (Bellarine Link) between Baanip Boulevard (Surf Coast Highway) and Barwon Heads Road, proposed as part of Victoria's Big Build is a key road infrastructure project for Greater Geelong.

The Victorian Government has undertaken community consultation and planning work including traffic modelling, social studies and environmental investigations, which identified environmental and social impacts, design options, and scope and costs of different options.

A Business Case has also been completed and the vital road link now requires Federal and State funding commitments.

### BENEFITS

- > **A safer, faster and more direct route between the Bellarine and Geelong, Melbourne and beyond.**
  - Reduced travel times.
  - Travel between the Geelong Ring Road and the furthest points of the Bellarine could be reduced by 15 minutes.
  - Alleviate congestion, particularly during peak hours and on weekends.
- > **Reduce truck movement in Central Geelong**
  - Improve access for trucks travelling between Northern areas of Geelong/Melbourne and the Bellarine.
- > **Support population growth**
  - Improve access for Bellarine residents working in Melbourne.
  - Support active travel connections through planned infrastructure.
  - Improve rail connections to the Bellarine (Road link to Marshall Station).
- > **Support tourism**
  - Improve access for visitors to Bellarine tourism and hospitality businesses.

OUR PRIORITY

# GEELONG TO WERRIBEE RAIL SERVICE



## BENEFITS

- > A direct rail link between Werribee and Geelong would significantly reduce current public transport travel time.
- > A long-term commitment to a rail duplication between Werribee and Southern Cross would deliver a faster, express service between Geelong and Melbourne via Werribee, a practical alternative to the once-promised Fast Rail project which would have delivered minimal benefits.
- > A station and spur line from the Werribee line to Avalon would benefit:
  - Travellers - A direct train link to Avalon would be a game changer for Jetstar customers, giving people from Greater Geelong, Wyndham and western Victoria convenient, reliable and affordable access to flights.
  - Avalon Airport - As Victoria's second major airport expands its services, a direct rail link would support growth and improve accessibility.
  - Avalon industry-business precinct - Reliable rail access will help companies attract workers and enable the precinct to reach its potential.
  - Employment - Thousands of accessible jobs would be unlocked for Greater Geelong, Wyndham and Melbourne residents.

Geelong and Werribee have a combined population of more than 350,000 yet have been without a direct public transport service connecting the two major centres since 2015.

Re-establishing the rail service between Geelong and Melbourne would deliver a much-needed, viable public transport link between Werribee and Geelong and Avalon, and a faster rail link between Geelong and Melbourne.

Avalon is recognised as a key strategic centre for the state, as Victoria's second major airport and a key industry hub.

Jetstar offers more than 40 direct domestic flights across Australia, with international flights resuming in 2026.

Major operations are already established at Avalon including Hanwha Defence and Cotton On, and the Victorian Planning Authority's plans for Avalon Employment Precinct will create a workplace for 25,000 employees by 2051.

## OUR ASK

- > Victorian Government commitment to:
  - Establish a dedicated rail service between Werribee and Geelong.
  - Provide funding for the planning and delivery of line duplication between Werribee and Melbourne to enable an "express service" between Geelong and Melbourne, and develop a new station and spur line to service Avalon.

# ARMSTRONG CREEK SPUR LINE



## BENEFITS

- > The Armstrong Creek Rail Spur would significantly reduce congestion, reduce pressure on inner-city parking and save significant time for workers in their door-to-door journey.
- > Liveability and sustainability for key growth areas. Access to reliable, viable public transport creates a liveable, appealing community and buses on congested roads will never provide a timely service compared to rail.
- > Removing all-day parking fuel costs from budgets, replacing with train travel ticketing would more than halve worker commuter costs.
- > Shopping, dining and events in Central Geelong would become more appealing for residents from Armstrong Creek to the Surf Coast, with a quick, easy trip and no traffic congestion or parking.
- > Residents and visitors from Torquay and the Surf Coast would park and ride from Armstrong Creek to Geelong and Melbourne CBDs and across the rail network, providing regional benefit.

## OUR ASK

- > Victorian Government commitment to fund and deliver the Armstrong Creek Rail Spur and Armstrong Creek Town Centre Train Station.

The Armstrong Creek area between established Geelong suburbs and coastal growth towns Torquay and Barwon Heads, is among the fastest-growing regions in Australia. Armstrong Creek is home to over 16,650 residents and a key commuter suburb for Geelong and Melbourne. Once fully developed, its population is expected to exceed 55,000—strengthening the case for improved transport links.

The Armstrong Creek spur would involve a rail extension of approximately 2 kilometres from Marshall Station on a reserve that exists to accommodate this critical rail infrastructure, to a new station at Armstrong Creek town centre.

The journey time from Armstrong Creek to the Geelong CBD (and through to Melbourne) would be significantly reduced for commuters, delivering a viable, reliable public transport service for residents in Armstrong Creek, Mount Duneed, Torquay and along the Surf Coast.

Commuters travelling by public bus between Armstrong Creek Town Centre and Geelong's CBD currently spend between 40 minutes and an hour and three minutes to reach their destination.

The construction of a rail spur would provide commuters with a train journey of approximately 11 minutes from Armstrong Creek Town Centre to Central Geelong.

For current road commuters, the Armstrong Creek rail link would cut travel time from Armstrong Creek to Geelong's CBD by almost a third. As traffic continues to increase, congestion worsens at peak times, parking becomes more limited, and travel times rise each year without this critical rail connection.

## OUR PRIORITY

# BANNOCKBURN RAIL LINE



### BENEFITS

- > The establishment of the Bannockburn-Geelong Rail Link would ensure thousands of commuters in key regional growth communities would have access to reliable, time and cost-efficient rail services.
- > Liveability and the appeal of outer residential areas (Bannockburn and new NWGGA suburbs) would increase for Central Geelong workers if shorter, convenient travel options were available.
- > New train services to communities would reduce congestion on main routes into Central Geelong and ultimately reduce the maintenance work required on the Midland Highway and Geelong Ring Road.
- > Property values near stations along the line from Bannockburn into Geelong could increase through public transport connectivity.
- > Public transport infrastructure and delivery must be a focus for growth areas which are critical to Councils' delivery of the Victorian Government's housing target.

### OUR ASK

- > Victorian Government commitment to fund and deliver the Geelong-Bannockburn Rail Line, refurbish Bannockburn Train Station and build new stations in the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Area and Bell Post Hill.

Establishment of the Bannockburn-Geelong Passenger Rail Line, including a rail upgrade of the North Geelong rail yards to allow movement of trains at reasonable speed, the refurbishment of the existing station at Bannockburn, the inclusion of a new station in Northern and Western Geelong Growth Area (NWGGA) and a new station in Bell Post Hill.

The rail line would service a population of more than 100,000 in the next 15 years and provide commuters with a faster, more reliable mode of transport than road to Central Geelong.

The project would reduce road congestion through Geelong which is set to significantly increase with the Victorian Government's housing target for Greater Geelong of 128,600 new homes in Greater Geelong by 2051.

More than 60,000 people will be living in NWGGA, with Bannockburn's short-term population set to reach 20,000 by 2041.

The delivery of a reliable train service through northern suburbs would also allow for infill housing projects around Bell Post Hill and serve the existing community.

Train services for existing commuters and new residents accessing the Geelong-Bannockburn line would significantly reduce the stress on inner-city parking, while reducing pressure on the road network for essential travel.

# OUR PRIORITY CENTRAL GEEELONG



## \$1 BILLION REGIONAL FUND

A dedicated fund will deliver infrastructure, housing and workforce capability across regional Victoria. Housing is key to unlocking Central Geelong's potential, driving revitalisation, growth, prosperity and liveability.



## SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE FOR CENTRAL GEEELONG

The creation of a Special Economic Zone in Central Geelong to accelerate growth, attract investment and revitalise the region through incentives and streamlined regulation, positioning it as a competitive hub for business and innovation.



## GEEELONG GALLERY – REDEVELOPMENT

The Gallery faces critical challenges: limited exhibition space, inadequate storage and poor infrastructure restrict major exhibitions and accessibility. With investment, this becomes a vital project and an unrivalled opportunity for Victoria's cultural future.



## TRANSFORMING MARKET SQUARE QUARTER

Greater Geelong seeks support for a bold Market Square redevelopment, transforming Central Geelong into a vibrant, inclusive, economically dynamic precinct and unlocking the full potential of Victoria's largest regional city.



## KEY CENTRAL GEEELONG REVITALISATION PROJECTS

Central Geelong's transformation relies on investment in streets and public spaces to attract housing, boost business, and deliver the Framework Plan, creating a vibrant, connected, and liveable city centre for Victoria's future.



## GEEELONG STATION PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT

Redevelop Geelong Railway Station into a modern, integrated transport hub and key city arrival point, featuring a new bus interchange to improve connectivity, accessibility and support Central Geelong's urban transformation.



## CBD TRUCK BYPASS

Funding and delivery of road and rail infrastructure is needed to create an east-west truck route, diverting heavy vehicles from Central Geelong to reduce congestion, improve safety, and protect pedestrian and retail zones.

## OUR PRIORITY

# \$1 BILLION REGIONAL FUND



The City of Greater Geelong, as a member of Regional Cities Victoria (RCV), is advocating for the establishment of a dedicated \$1 Billion Regional Fund to support essential community infrastructure, housing development, and workforce capability across regional Victoria.

The fund is critical to the City unlocking Central Geelong's potential.

Geelong has Victoria's highest State Government-set housing target of 128,600, with 77,000 homes to be delivered on infill sites.

Residential housing to bring people into Central Geelong is key to its revitalisation, sustainable population growth, economic prosperity, and enhanced liveability.

A regional fund could enable a strong partnership between the Victorian Government and the City, providing the essential infrastructure and support needed for development in Central Geelong.

### BENEFITS

#### > Projects of scale and ambition

- Enable large-scale, transformative community infrastructure by leveraging co-investment between the Australian and Local Governments.
- Priority project categories include arts precincts, aquatic centres, regional transport interchanges, and other civic infrastructure that underpins regional prosperity.

#### > Unlocking housing

- Fund the delivery of essential infrastructure and services to help develop affordable homes and grow well-serviced communities.
- Investment will focus on water, power, sewerage, roads, intersections, and drainage, allowing regional housing developments to move from planning to construction more quickly
- Priority projects must be complemented by redesign of existing regional transport services based on assessments to meet local needs.

#### > A workforce for growth

- Establish a targeted "earn while you learn" program to address critical workforce shortages including planning, building surveying, and civil engineering.
- Provide funding of up to \$100,000 per student employee per year to ensure a pipeline of qualified Local Government professionals ready to deliver the infrastructure and housing regional communities need.

### OUR ASK

- > \$1 Billion Regional Fund.

# SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE FOR CENTRAL GEELONG



## BENEFITS

- > **Economic Growth:** Stimulates private investment, job creation, and business expansion.
- > **Urban Renewal:** Encourages development of underutilised land and infrastructure.
- > **Housing:** Delivers thousands of homes for 12,000 new residents, transforming the city centre into a vibrant community and advancing the municipality's housing goals.
- > **Innovation and Industry Attraction:** Positions Geelong as a destination for emerging industries and startups.
- > **Government Efficiency:** Demonstrates coordinated intergovernmental support for regional development.

The City of Greater Geelong is advocating for the creation of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Central Geelong, aimed at accelerating economic development, attracting investment, and revitalising the region through coordinated support from all levels of government.

A SEZ in Central Geelong will unlock transformative growth by offering targeted incentives and streamlined regulation, positioning the region as a competitive and attractive destination for business and innovation.

Revitalisation of Central Geelong is essential for Victoria's largest regional city's ongoing transformation and for Greater Geelong to reach its housing target of 128,600 new homes by 2051. While the area is ready to become a thriving hub for business, innovation, and quality residential living, strategic intervention is needed to overcome barriers to investment and development.

The proposed SEZ would be a designated area within Central Geelong where businesses and developers benefit from:

- Land Tax and Stamp Duty Concessions
- Reduction in Fees & Charges
- Financial Backing Scheme to support pre-sales for infill housing outcomes
- Streamlined regulatory processes

These incentives would be delivered collaboratively by local, state, and federal governments, ensuring a unified and effective approach to economic stimulation.

A Central Geelong SEZ could be a Victorian pilot which could then be delivered in other regional cities across Victoria and Australia.

## OUR ASK

- > Commit to the establishment of a Special Economic Zone in Central Geelong.
- > Collaborate on a framework for delivering taxation, levy, and regulatory concessions.
- > Engage with local stakeholders to ensure the SEZ meets community and business needs.

# GEELONG GALLERY REDEVELOPMENT



The Greater Geelong region is experiencing rapid population growth and transformation, positioning itself as a key driver of Victoria's future economic and cultural development. Geelong is Australia's only UNESCO City of Design, a global recognition that demands cultural infrastructure of international standard. Great cities have great galleries, yet, Geelong Gallery, one of the state's most significant regional cultural institutions, is restricted by space and infrastructure, limiting its ability to meet this ambition.

Currently, the Gallery faces key challenges:

- Insufficient exhibition space and inadequate collection storage prevent hosting major, commercially viable exhibitions.
- Infrastructure limitations restrict accessibility and functionality.

With investment, this is an unrivalled opportunity for Victoria, and a vital project in the creation of an internationally acclaimed clever and creative city that drives economic growth through increased visitation and tourism.

## BENEFITS

### > Increase annual visitation growth:

- 1 blockbuster exhibition and 3 major ticketed exhibitions, 9,000 additional program attendees, 19,000 additional education visitors, 30,000 more learning space visitors and 30 training/industry events.
- 398,000 visitors by 2035 (78% paid).

### > Drive economic development:

- \$766m - \$802m in additional operating revenue over 30 years.
- \$132m - \$145m in net induced tourism spend and \$422m - \$523m in amenity benefit over 30 years.
- 304 direct and indirect construction phase jobs and 21.9 additional full time equivalent staff.

## OUR ASK

- > \$157.7m for a partial redevelopment across two stages incorporating the existing Gallery and adjacent conference centre.
- > \$180.5m for a full redevelopment across three stages, incorporating the existing Gallery, conference centre, and City Hall redevelopment.

# GEELONG GALLERY DESIGN COMMISSION



## JOHNSTONE PARK CAFÉ AND EVENT SPACE

An architecturally designed, temporary structure extending from the heritage-listed side entrance to the Geelong Gallery would transform an unutilised space, and create a valuable connection between the iconic art venue and Johnstone Park.

Designed by internationally acclaimed architectural agency, March Studio, this innovative café and event space project would boldly introduce new visitors to the gallery and the arts community, and provide an exciting new attraction in Central Geelong. A major architecture landmark that illuminates at night, this project will celebrate Geelong's position as a leading design centre and represent it's UNESCO City of Design credentials to local audiences and visitors from across Australia and around the world.

Visitors to the space will overlook picturesque Johnstone Park, from a vibrant, welcoming space open to the public as a café by day, while also providing a dynamic venue for hosting opening night events, dinners and local corporate hires. The Gallery currently lacks an event space, and this design commission with both transform the Gallery's capacity to host events as well as deliver on it's promise to celebrate and promote design.

### BENEFITS

- > Introduces new visitors to the Gallery and enhances its appeal as a destination.
- > Immediate activation of Geelong's arts precinct and Johnstone Park, driving foot traffic and local economic benefit.
- > No structural impact to the heritage-listed building itself, while enhancing the functionality of the area and visual amenity.

### OUR ASK

- > \$1m to create the Johnstone Park Café and Event Space

# TRANSFORMING MARKET SQUARE QUARTER



“The city block that encompasses Market Square, including the area relating to Lt Malop Street, has great potential...As Central Geelong grows, this area can be transformed into a place with a thriving laneway culture, given the success of Lt Malop Central.”

*Central Geelong Framework Plan 2023*

The City of Greater Geelong is seeking Victorian Government support to deliver bold and transformative redevelopment of Market Square - the iconic site in the heart of Central Geelong.

This critical, transformational initiative seeks to unlock the full potential of Victoria’s largest regional city by creating a vibrant, inclusive, and economically dynamic urban precinct.

Reimagining Market Square Quarter as the city’s heart could feature:

- Full redevelopment of the shopping centre, which would include partial demolition and restoration of heritage components including the iconic clock tower.
- Creation of a public green town square for weekend markets, live events, and community gatherings.
- Development of a high-rise mixed-use buildings with apartments, retail, and commercial spaces to address housing needs and stimulate economic activity.
- Removal of the Moorabool Street interchange to enable the reinvention of Moorabool Street as a retail destination.
- Extension of the Little Malop pedestrian priority zone to connect the arts precinct and the Little Malop dining precinct with Little Malop Central, enhancing connectivity and vibrancy.

## GEELONG’S HEART

Market Square has been the heart of Geelong since 1837, when Governor Sir George Gipps reserved the site as a town square.

Over the decades, it evolved from a bustling produce market into a cultural and retail hub.

The current Market Square Shopping Centre, opened in 1985, retains key heritage elements including the CML Building’s Austin Clock, but has struggled to maintain its relevance as a shopping centre in a changing urban landscape.

Today, Market Square Shopping Centre, which is privately owned, stands at a crossroads.

With only a handful of active retailers remaining, the site is ripe for renewal.

Its central location - bounded by Malop, Moorabool, Ryrie, and Yarra Streets - makes it the most strategically positioned parcel of land in Central Geelong for a transformative project.

# TRANSFORMING MARKET SQUARE QUARTER



Moorabool Street Geelong Vic, c1930

To realise this project, a collaboration across all levels of government is essential, along with the willingness of the site's current owner to invest or support acquisition.

The Victorian Government's support is critical to:

- Partner with the City to deliver a viable solution to the current Market Square position, including an investigation into acquisition opportunities.
- Deliver a public-private partnership model that will attract private investment and deliver public benefit.
- Provide planning and infrastructure incentives to unlock housing and commercial development.

## BENEFITS

This project aligns with the Victorian Government's Central Geelong Framework Plan and supports goals for regional growth, housing delivery, and urban renewal. It also complements existing investments under the Geelong City Deal, including the Nyaal Banyul Convention and Event Centre and the revitalisation of Central Geelong.

### > Transforming Market Square Quarter will:

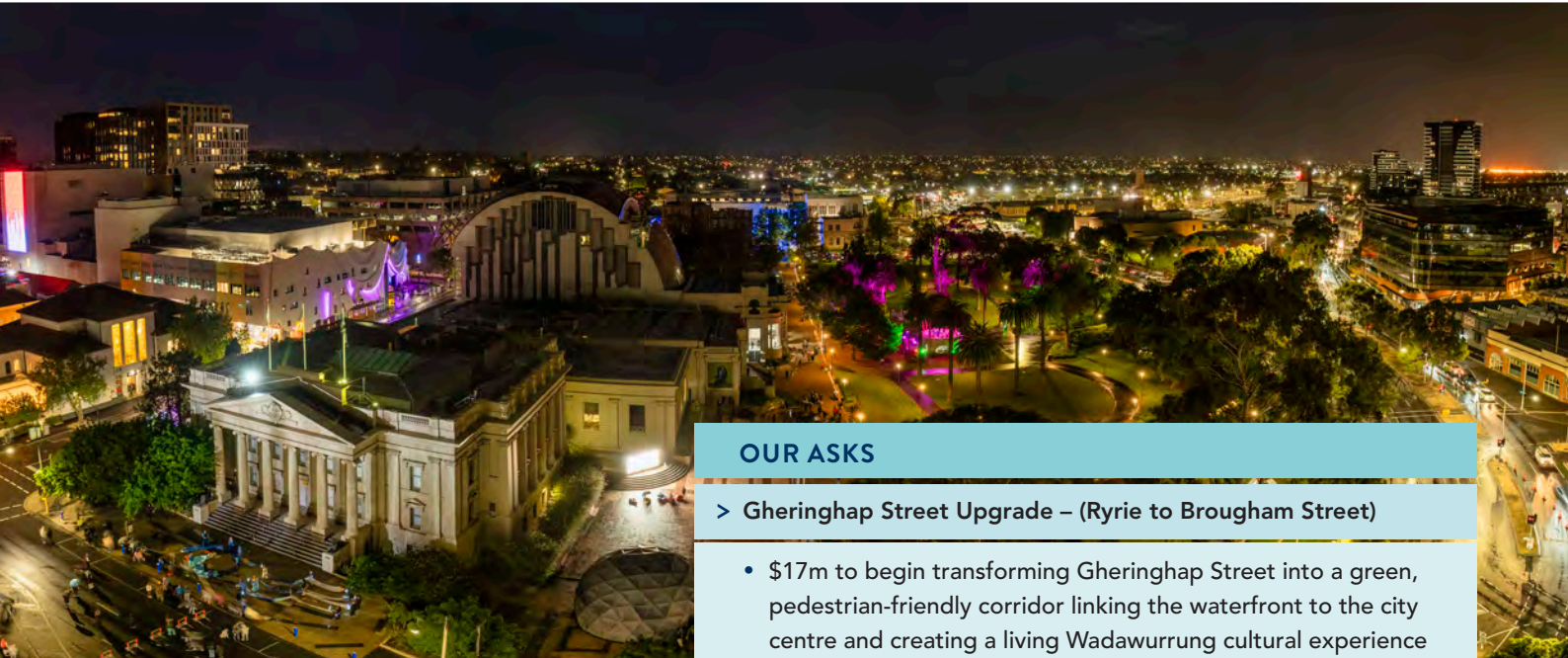
- Reinforce Geelong's role as a leading regional centre.
- Stimulate over economic activity.
- Create a vibrant, inclusive city centre that celebrates heritage, culture, and community.

## OUR ASK

### > The City of Greater Geelong urges the Victorian Government to:

1. Commit funding and policy support to progress a Market Square redevelopment.
2. Facilitate a public-private partnership with the City, Australian Government and private investors.
3. Champion this project as a flagship initiative for regional Victoria.

# KEY CENTRAL GEELONG REVITALISATION PROJECTS



Central Geelong is at the heart of regional transformation.

Investing in street and public space improvements will attract residential development helping to deliver on Central Geelong Framework Plan and Plan for Victoria, attract business investment, and create a vibrant, connected, and liveable city centre.

The City of Greater Geelong is seeking a \$41.6 million investment from the Victorian Government to deliver key initiatives outlined in the Central Geelong Framework Plan, supporting objectives that drive economic growth, enhance urban amenity, and encourage community pride.

These works strategically align with state policy and objectives around economic recovery, transport integration, sustainability, and liveable communities.

Now is the time to accelerate the revitalisation of Central Geelong.

In partnership and with the Victorian Government we can continue to unlock the opportunities which will improve quality of life, deliver housing and a regional capital that meets the needs of future generations.

## OUR ASKS

### > Gheringhap Street Upgrade – (Ryrie to Brougham Street)

- \$17m to begin transforming Gheringhap Street into a green, pedestrian-friendly corridor linking the waterfront to the city centre and creating a living Wadawurrung cultural experience through landscape. Implementing the vision set out in the Mercer, Gheringhap and Bayley Streetscape masterplan.

### > Greenspine Block 3 (Yarra to Bellerine Street, north side)

- \$11.67m to continue the delivery of the award-winning Green Spine, delivering shade, green infrastructure, and people first design to support local business and sustainable mobility.

### > Market Street Upgrade (Myers to Ryrie Street)

- \$2m to create a safer, more attractive connection between key destinations and improve the city's walkability. Supporting current State investment in the Market Street breakthrough project by enhancing the pedestrian experience from the Haymarket carpark into the heart of Central Geelong.

### > Little Malop Street Arts and Cultural Precinct (Fenwick to Gheringhap Street)

- \$7m to enhance this cultural hub with a pedestrian focused streetscape that supports tourism, events, and creative industries.

### > Market Square Quarter street upgrades

- \$3.5m to improve safety and support greater activation in Lt Malop Central between Union and Moorabool Street including upgrades in Rock O'Cashell Lane and Union Street.
- \$500k for Public Art installations.

# GEELONG STATION PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT



The City of Greater Geelong is advocating for the Victorian Government to prioritise the redevelopment of the Geelong Railway Station precinct, transforming it in a key city arrival point and a modern integrated transport hub, featuring a new bus interchange.

Creating a city arrival hub will enhance the commuter experience by delivering improved amenities, more frequent train and bus services, and better short-term park-and-ride drop-off areas. It will also improve longer-stay parking through the consideration of multi-level facilities, resulting in safer and more accessible infrastructure.

A significant upgrade of the bus interchange at Geelong Station will support the renewal of the bus network throughout Central Geelong and create the opportunity to reconsider the location and need for the Moorabool Street bus interchange. This will help increase public transport use and reduce road congestion.

The precinct's transformation must focus on creating attractive pedestrian connections to our key destinations in Central Geelong including the Arts Centre Precinct, Malop Street and our renowned Waterfront.

The upgrade must also enable the delivery of residential development to contribute to Plan for Victoria housing targets and reimagine parking through multi-level options.

## BENEFITS

- > The Geelong line is the most used regional rail service in Victoria, with more than 10 million people using the service in the 2023-24 financial year.
- > An upgrade in 2015 which included the addition of lifts and a new DDA-compliant pedestrian overpass to connect the platforms is the most recent significant improvement to the key public transport hub in Victoria's second-largest City.
- > The Victorian Government's Central Geelong Framework Plan aims to develop the Geelong Station Precinct into a world-class transport hub by:
  - Developing Geelong Station as a major regional transport interchange and landmark serving as the gateway to Central Geelong.
  - Creating a strong sense of place and activity in and around Geelong Station and its broader precinct.
  - Creating a safe pedestrian-focused public realm that provides easy access to Geelong West and Central Geelong.

# CBD TRUCK BYPASS



The City of Greater Geelong is advocating for full funding and delivery of the necessary road and rail infrastructure to establish an east-west truck route that diverts heavy vehicles travelling through Geelong away from Central Geelong.

Central Geelong currently experiences significant volumes of truck traffic, particularly along key corridors that intersect with pedestrian, bike riders, and retail zones. This heavy vehicle presence has a range of negative impacts:

- Pedestrian and bike riders' safety: High truck volumes increase the risk of accidents and discourage active transport.
- Urban amenity and liveability: Noise, vibration, and visual intrusion from trucks detract from the CBD's appeal as a place to live, work, and visit.
- Congestion and travel times: Trucks contribute to peak-hour congestion, reducing efficiency for all road users.

Environmental quality: Emissions and noise pollution from heavy vehicles degrade air quality and contribute to climate impacts.

## BENEFITS

> A proposed bypass would:

- Create a dedicated east-west corridor for freight movement.
- Reduce truck volumes in the heart of the CBD.
- Improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bike riders.
- Enhance the amenity of Central Geelong, supporting economic development and tourism.
- Align with regional transport and freight strategies.

## OUR ASK

> The City seeks the Victorian Government and relevant federal agencies to:

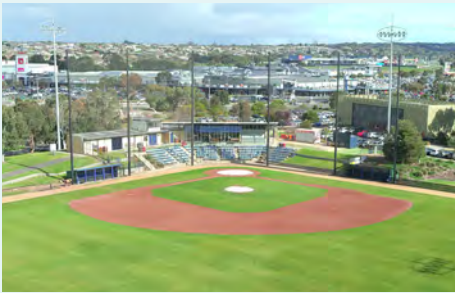
1. Commit to fully fund planning and delivery of a truck bypass.
2. Prioritise infrastructure upgrades that support freight efficiency while protecting urban amenity.
3. Engage with local stakeholders to ensure the bypass meets community and industry needs.

# OUR PRIORITY REGIONAL SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE



## REGIONAL INDOOR SPORTS & EVENTS CENTRE (RISEC)

RISEC will replace Geelong Arena with a modern, accessible boutique venue for sport and events. Designed to meet elite training and competition standards, it will strengthen athlete pathways and support major cultural activities. Hosting at least 85 significant indoor events each year, RISEC will boost community engagement and regional growth.



## GEELONG BASEBALL CENTRE

The Geelong Baseball Centre, one of only two Australian complexes with four or more diamonds, is a crucial community asset and home to two Geelong Baseball League clubs. With renewed investment, it could become a premier national facility, attracting more international teams and boosting sport and tourism in Victoria's largest regional city.



## GEELONG REGIONAL TENNIS CENTRE

Armstrong Creek, one of Victoria's fastest-growing communities, is well placed for a new Geelong Regional Tennis Centre. With no existing courts, it would support more than 75,000 new residents and South West Victoria, responding to rising participation and ensuring fast-growing regions receive equitable access to high-quality sporting infrastructure.



## REGIONAL SOCCER FACILITY

Soccer participation in Geelong is soaring beyond forecasts, reflecting the global popularity of the sport. To meet demand, the City plans a multi-sport hub at Armstrong Creek West as a sub-regional soccer facility, requiring major investment. A regional facility remains a long-term priority, with a Football Victoria-funded feasibility study now underway.



## SAFE CYCLING LINK, GEELONG - TORQUAY

The City of Greater Geelong and Surf Coast Shire have completed an options analysis for a safe cycling route between Geelong and Torquay. The proposed Safe Cycling Link will provide a continuous off-road corridor, encouraging active transport, supporting tourism and improving community wellbeing through a safer, more sustainable travel option.

# REGIONAL INDOOR SPORTS AND EVENTS CENTRE (RISEC)



Geelong's Regional Indoor Sports and Entertainment Centre (RISEC) will deliver a 5,000 - 8,000 seat showcourt in Victoria's second-largest and rapidly growing city.

The centre will have capacity to host major sport and cultural events including national and international level sport matches and tournaments and hosting popular Australian and international music artists.

Geelong's RISEC, proposed on the site of the ageing Geelong Arena which offers optimum accessibility with a train station on its doorstep, would feature:

- High acoustic and audio-visual treatment.
- High performance gym and multipurpose / group fitness rooms.
- Briefing and training spaces.
- Elite change rooms and first aid / drug testing room.
- Support facilities including a large foyer / entry, reception / ticketing, public toilets, food and beverage and bar, storage for staging, an outdoor plaza space that can be activated and car parking.

The scale of the project presents opportunities for collaboration through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to deliver this landmark facility.

The RISEC will enhance Geelong's reputation as a host city through significant improvements in event infrastructure, increasing opportunities to host major events.

It will also support strong relationships with key event stakeholders to promote Geelong as a prime location for major sporting and cultural events.

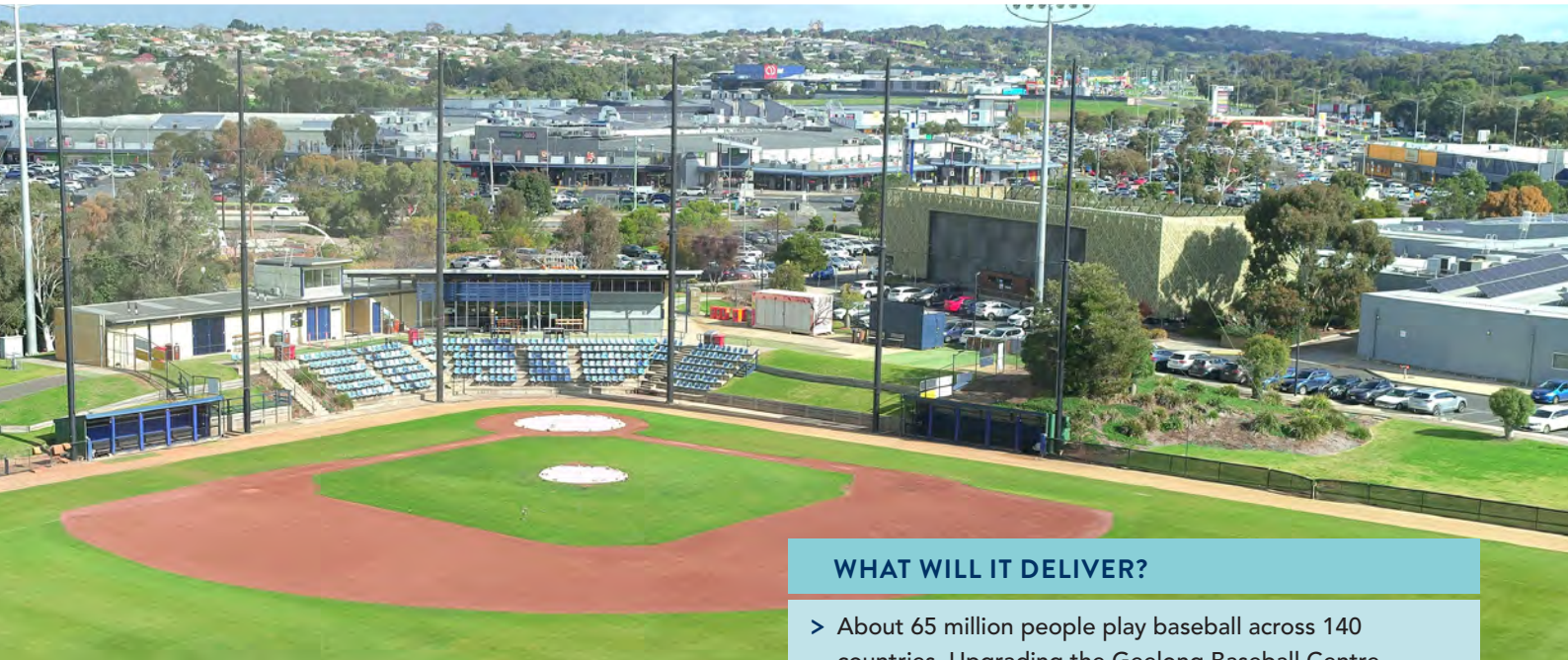
## WHAT WILL IT DELIVER?

- > A regional 5,000 - 8,000 seat showcourt capacity to attract high-visitation major sport and cultural events, diverse programming, and regular events.
- > A facility that supports community basketball and netball competition and training, along with a state-of-the-art facility for current elite sports teams:
  - Geelong Venom WNBL team
  - NBL1 Supercats (basketball)
  - Geelong Cougars VNL (netball)
- > The project will generate an estimated 354 jobs and \$100 million regional benefit during construction and operations to the region over 20 years.

## OUR ASK

- > \$140m

# GEELONG BASEBALL CENTRE



The Geelong Baseball Centre is one of only two complexes in Australia with four or more diamonds. While it serves as the home-ground for two Geelong Baseball League clubs, investment and vision can transform this community facility into a nationally acclaimed Premier baseball facility.

Geelong has been the summer training destination for multiple professional international baseball clubs and a redevelopment of the ageing facilities has the potential to attract even more teams from around the world to Victoria's largest regional city.

South Korean club KT Wiz enjoyed a successful training season in 2025, with the intention to return for future seasons, as the City of Greater Geelong advocates for funding to complete upgrades.

The opportunities to inspire new generations of baseballers, attract national league and international games and deliver economic benefits through visitation and participation will be significant at the upgraded baseball precinct.

A Facility Development Plan is underway to provide further detail on key areas for improvement.

Funding is sought to upgrade player and spectator amenities, alongside improvements to Diamond 3 field and facilities, improving the venue's capacity to host high-quality baseball events.

## WHAT WILL IT DELIVER?

- > About 65 million people play baseball across 140 countries. Upgrading the Geelong Baseball Centre creates a chance to grow the sport locally and attract international teams for training, games, and events, boosting visitation and tourism.

## OUR ASK

- > \$10m for the Diamond 1 Pavilion upgrade and field of play compliance work (cost estimate).
  - Upgrade the pavilion with modern, accessible facilities, female-friendly change rooms, and improved covered seating. Field works include sports lighting upgrade, padded back net replacement, and dugout upgrades.
- > \$3.5m for Diamond 3 synthetic field replacement and sports lighting (cost estimate).
  - Redevelop Diamond 3 synthetic field to meet state hub compliance. The current surface has reached end of life and is vital for community and state competitions. Add sports lighting to enable year-round play in all conditions.
- > \$2.6m for the Diamond 3 and 4 change room.
  - Provide a change facility for Diamonds 3 and 4, addressing the lack of amenities and enabling future hosting at Geelong Baseball Centre.

## OUR PRIORITY

# GEELONG REGIONAL TENNIS CENTRE ARMSTRONG CREEK GROWTH AREA



Hume City Council  
Hume Tennis & Community Centre

Armstrong Creek Growth Area, one of Victoria's fastest growing regions, has been identified as the ideal location for a new Regional Tennis Centre that will nurture future Australian tennis stars while meeting growing community demand.

The Geelong Regional Tennis Centre would service more than 75,000 new residents in Armstrong Creek, as well as thousands more across South West Victoria, underscoring its importance as a genuinely regional piece of sporting infrastructure.

With no existing tennis courts in the Armstrong Creek Growth Area, Horseshoe Bend North Reserve has emerged as the preferred site for a Tier 2 Performance Hub, with capacity for 12 ITF approved courts and eight community courts to support a regional level venue.

The need for this investment is reinforced by strong participation growth. National tennis participation increased by 8.3 per cent in 2025 to 1,346,141 participants, while Victoria recorded 386,584 participants, a 6 per cent increase, highlighting sustained demand for quality tennis facilities. Without new infrastructure, growth areas such as Armstrong Creek risk being left behind.

A detailed master plan will be developed to guide the final scope, staging, and delivery priorities across all proposed use on the site.

### BENEFITS

- > Increased community access to high quality courts and programs.
- > Elite pathway development for regional athletes.
- > Capacity to host professional events, boosting local tourism and economy.
- > A modern sporting precinct aligned with national tennis infrastructure standards.

### WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$13m from the City of Greater Geelong towards delivery of the master plan.
- > \$1m in funding and in-kind support from Tennis Victoria and Tennis Australia.

### OUR ASK

- \$10m

# REGIONAL SOCCER FACILITY



Responding to the surge in popularity of the World Game across Greater Geelong, the City is planning a multi-sport hub at Armstrong Creek West which will serve as a sub-regional soccer facility.

While significant funding will be required to deliver the soccer facility at Armstrong Creek, the long-term development of a regional soccer facility remains a priority.

The next step for the City's future regional soccer facility will be to complete a comprehensive business case with the view to identifying a suitable future location for this facility, facility design, high-level costing and funding strategy.

Football Victoria has funded a study to explore this, and once the study is complete, the City will seek funding to deliver the project.

Soccer, with an estimated 250-million players across more than 200 countries, is experiencing a surge in popularity in Geelong, with participation rates exceeding initial forecasts.

Both men's and women's soccer are seeing growth, particularly among women and girls, fuelled by the Matildas' success in the 2023 World Cup.

## IN THE GEELONG REGION

- > 5,600 participants in 2022
- > 114% increase in female participation between 2015 and 2022
- > 25% of all participants were female in 2022

## OUR ASK

- > \$200k to complete **FUNDED** comprehensive business case
- > Victorian Government commitment to support the delivery of a regional soccer facility, as detailed in the site study and planning work currently underway.

## OUR PRIORITY

# SAFE CYCLING LINK

## GEELONG TO TORQUAY



The City of Greater Geelong and Surf Coast Shire, supported by a TAC grant, have completed a comprehensive options analysis to determine the optimal alignment for a safe cycling route between Geelong and Torquay. The proposed Safe Cycling Link will create a continuous, accessible, and safe off-road corridor connecting these two major regional centres, promoting active transport, tourism, and community wellbeing.

Following extensive community and stakeholder consultation, a preferred route has been identified. It will extend along Horseshoe Bend Road, Warralily Boulevard, the Armstrong Creek transit corridor, Barwarre Road and Barwon Heads Road, with a northern alignment through Marshall via the newly constructed shared path along the rail duplication.

This project aims to make cycling safer and more accessible, encouraging greater uptake of active transport. Reducing car dependence will not only improve public health but also contribute to a more sustainable future for the region.

It will include:

- Construction of a fully off-road shared cycling path between Geelong and Torquay.
- Integration with existing paths and new infrastructure along the Armstrong Creek transit corridor.
- Accessibility upgrades and safety improvements.
- Wayfinding signage and public amenity enhancements.
- Delivery in partnership with Surf Coast Shire.

### BENEFITS

- > Encourages active transport and reduces car dependency.
- > Supports tourism and regional connectivity.
- > Improves safety for cyclists of all ages and abilities.
- > Responds to strong community demand for off-road infrastructure.
- > Aligns with the City of Greater Geelong's Integrated Transport Strategy and health and wellbeing goals.

### OUR ASK

- > \$13m to deliver a safe, inclusive and future-ready cycling corridor connecting Geelong and Torquay.

# NORTHERN SUBURBS MENTAL HEALTH HUB



Barwon Health provides a specialist mental health service in the northern suburbs of Geelong from the Corio Community Health Centre.

The City of Greater Geelong is advocating to the Victorian Government to establish a purpose-built facility similar to the highly valued Mental Health Hub model in Central Geelong, but on a smaller scale.

To replicate the Moorabool Street hub model, the City seeks Victorian Government investment to enable Barwon Health to partner with a developer and deliver this much-needed facility for Geelong's north.

The concept is to provide a "one stop service" open seven days/week, walk-in, capable of providing the full range of services.

The need for a local mental health hub is well established. The Australian Government has identified Corio as an area of need.

Mental health prevalence in Norlane (17.2%) and Corio (11.4%) is higher than the Victorian average (8.8%), highlighting elevated local demand for services.

Norlane and Corio face severe socio-economic disadvantage, with Norlane the most disadvantaged area in Victoria (SEIFA 764.3) and Corio the third most disadvantaged (822.7), reinforcing the need for a local mental health hub.

## BENEFITS

> A Mental Health Hub for Geelong's north will:

- Provide an accessible entry point where a mental health professional will listen and work with people to determine the level of care to match peoples need.
- Coordinate access to existing services and integrate with the existing service system.
- Deliver care from the centre or being connected to specialist or acute mental health services.
- Deliver crisis services.

## ASK

> \$10m

# GEELONG RENEWABLES TERMINAL



The Geelong Renewables Terminal (GRT) is a transformative infrastructure project that will unlock Victoria's offshore wind potential and deliver on the state's legislated targets: 2 GW by 2032, 4 GW by 2035, and 9 GW by 2040.

Strategically located at GeelongPort's Oyster Cove, GRT offers 25 hectares of brownfield land with existing deep-water berths, purpose-built for the assembly and storage of large offshore wind components.

GRT is Australia's only terminal capable of being operational by early 2029, providing industry and government with the certainty needed to meet clean energy milestones.

## BENEFITS

### > Infrastructure for a Clean Energy Future

- Enables Victoria to meet its legislated targets for renewable generation of 65 per cent by 2030 and 95 per cent by 2035.
- Fast-tracks renewable energy development with early operational readiness and a streamlined planning pathway.
- Strengthens Victoria's industrial and logistics base, securing its place in the global clean energy economy.
- Accelerates the transition to new and high-value manufacturing, supporting innovation in turbine assembly, logistics, and port operations.

### > Jobs and Skills for Victorians

- Creates 4,200 construction jobs and 850 ongoing roles in operations and maintenance.
- Unlocks thousands of supply chain opportunities and supports education and training pathways through partnerships with local TAFEs and universities.
- Further develops the region's innovation and skills ecosystem, connecting industry with research and workforce development.

# GEELONG RENEWABLES TERMINAL



Geelong delivers certainty. The GRT offers Victoria the most cost-effective and reliable pathway to meet its offshore wind targets - leveraging existing infrastructure and benefiting from a streamlined planning process.

By delivering GRT, Geelong will become the regional hub for offshore wind, fully aligned with the Victorian Government's Offshore Wind Policy, Energy Jobs Plan, and Barwon Regional Development Strategy.

Geelong is ready. With a skilled workforce, advanced manufacturing capability, and world-class tertiary institutions, the region is primed to deliver.

## > Energy Security and Climate Leadership

- Supports a reliable, renewable energy supply for Victorian homes and businesses.
- Reinforces Victoria's leadership in climate action and energy transition.
- Builds a sustainable and climate-resilient region, reducing emissions and future-proofing infrastructure.

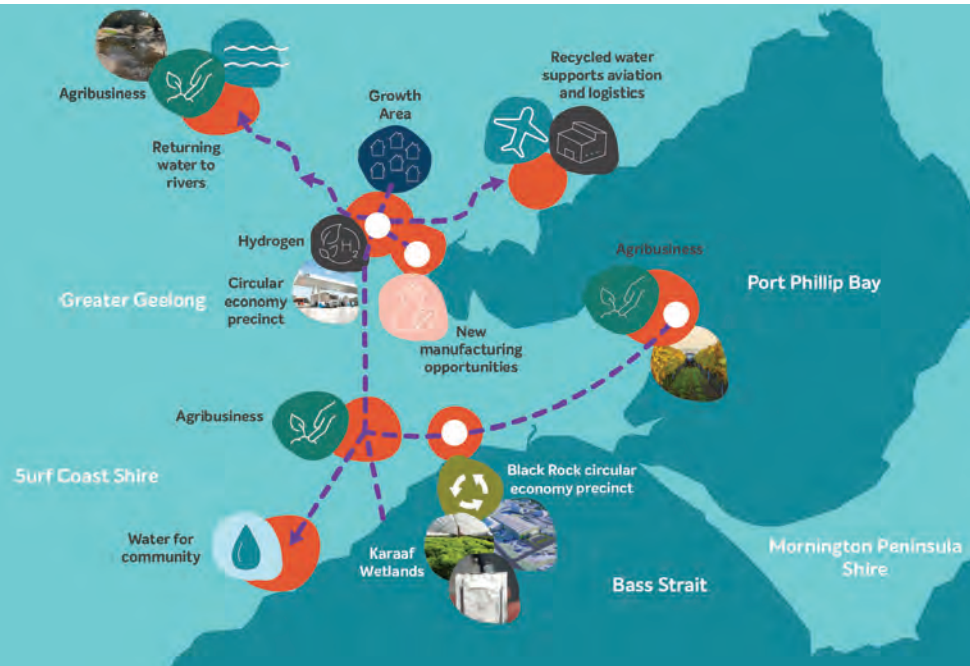
## > Driving Regional Economic Growth

- Positions Geelong as the regional hub for offshore wind, attracting billions in investment and strengthening Victoria's regional economy.
- Maximises economic benefit from expanding service-based sectors, including engineering, logistics, and professional services.
- Unlocks supply chain opportunities and catalyses small to medium enterprise development in Geelong's northern suburbs, creating long-term employment pathways linked to the clean energy transition.

## OUR ASK

- > **Certainty in Port Infrastructure Planning:** Secure Victorian Government commitment to a multiport approach for offshore wind infrastructure delivery that includes GeelongPort as a construction feeder port.
- > **A Shared Funding Model:** Co-investment through state and federal renewable energy and infrastructure portfolios to accelerate delivery and maximise impact.

# SUSTAINABLE WATER NETWORK



The City of Greater Geelong is advocating for the Victorian Government’s continued support of Barwon Water’s innovative Sustainable Water Network (SWN).

The Barwon region’s population is expected to increase from 370,000 to more than 500,000 over the next 15 years. The region experienced a 30 per cent drop in inflows to catchments over the last 20 years, and inflows are expected to halve again over the next 40 years.

While the Greater Melbourne water grid supplements local water reservoirs, investment in local water recycling will help reduce pressure on the drinking water supply.

An innovative and next-generation network will enable Barwon Water to manufacture and move large volumes of recycled water across the region, while also providing the flexibility and adaptability to respond to future challenges and opportunities including the potential use of treated stormwater.

It will support investment in new housing, agriculture, horticulture and industrial ventures, and create healthier environments and communities.

## BENEFITS

- > Major economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits.
- > Help green our gardens and public spaces, irrigate sports and recreation areas, and create cooler, more liveable suburbs.
- > Help grow the food that we need at scale and enable established and new industries to expand and flourish.
- > Potential for the return of water to Traditional Owners and the flow-stressed Moorabool and Barwon rivers, as part of the Victorian Government’s Water Security Plan.

# SUSTAINABLE WATER NETWORK



## LONG-TERM

Barwon Water has a bold aim of converting 100 per cent of its wastewater into valuable resources, with the SWN a key enabler. The Network would be delivered in stages with a range of projects planned, including also the possible use of some stormwater. These would support:

### Housing

North Western Recycled Water Centre - The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas are set to accommodate 40,000 blocks, which will house about 110,000 residents. The supply of Class A recycled water to these homes for non-potable purposes, as already provided in Armstrong Creek and Torquay North, is key to our region's future water security.

### Industry

The supply of recycled water into the key industrial precincts in the Geelong region would support ventures that heavily rely on water such as hydrogen production, waste/resource recovery industries and data centres. If all of our recycled water was used to generate industry value, this would equate to \$3.9 billion gross value add per year.

### Agribusiness

Recycled water is already accessed and used by agribusiness producers on the Bellarine and in the Surf Coast Hinterland. The SWN has the potential to expand on existing initiatives and support food production and wineries.

If all the available recycled water was used to generate high value agribusiness, this would generate more than seven times the total amount of vegetables needed to feed Greater Geelong each year.

## WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$5m from the Australian and Victorian Governments through the National Water Grid Fund for the *Growing the Surf Coast Hinterland and Protecting the Karaaf* project in Torquay.
- > The Victorian Government has supported studies to assess the feasibility of the SWN.

## OUR ASK

- > The next phase will involve attracting private sector investment while partnering with the Victorian Government to progress an application for further funding through the National Water Grid Fund.

# MOUNT DUNEED SECONDARY SCHOOL



The Victorian Government needs to consider the needs of families in the rapidly growing Mount Duneed and Armstrong Creek area and progress delivery of a secondary school on Boundary Road, Mount Duneed.

The City welcomes the opening of the new Yirrama Primary School and Biyala Primary School (and early years facilities) in 2026. The delivery of primary school and kindergarten infrastructure is keeping pace with demand and providing for strong local provision.

Unfortunately, the establishment of secondary school options to the western part of this growth area has lagged, despite funding for the feasibility study.

The Mount Duneed and Armstrong Creek communities seek quality state government education facilities close to home.

Current school zoning misrepresents local access, due to the significant pedestrian barriers to existing state schools.

Walking time to Grovedale College is 46 minutes (despite it being located only 0.8km as the crow flies) due to the train line. Oberon High School is a one hour walk away and requires crossing a highway.

A community survey of almost 580 residents of the Armstrong Creek and Mount Duneed areas indicates more than 90 per cent of residents wish to see a secondary school delivered as soon as possible.

The City has the highest housing target in Victoria and meeting this target requires state government infrastructure that matches the growth of suburbs and the expectations of residents.

## BENEFITS

- > Improves local access and student safety by reducing long walking times and removing barriers such as train lines and highways.
- > Supports rapid population growth in one of the fastest-growing areas in Victoria.
- > Ensures fair and equitable access to quality secondary education for families in western Armstrong Creek.
- > Aligns with strategic growth priorities and responds directly to community needs, with more than 90% of residents identifying an urgent need for a secondary school.

## OUR ASK

- > Delivery of a new secondary school in Mount Duneed to keep pace with demands and meet the needs of families.

# REGIONAL LEVEL CROSSING UPGRADES



The City of Greater Geelong is calling on the Victorian Government to urgently prioritise the upgrade and removal of three high-risk regional level crossings: North Shore (Station Street), Geelong (McKillop Street), and Lara (McClelland Avenue).

These crossings pose significant safety risks, have a history of serious incidents including fatalities and cause disruptions to emergency services and commuters.

Despite the success of the Level Crossing Removal Project in metropolitan Melbourne, road and rail users in Victoria's largest regional city remain vulnerable to preventable tragedies, and major traffic delays and disruptions.

A coroner's report revealed , there were 37 incidents at the Station Street, North Shore level crossing between November 2017 and March 2024, with the Public Transport Users Association labelled it "one of the most dangerous and disruptive crossings in the state".

## STATION STREET, NORTH SHORE

**December 2023:** A 30-year-old truck driver was killed when his vehicle became stuck on the tracks and was struck by a train. The train derailed and services were suspended for over 24 hours.

**July 2025:** A car was struck by a train after becoming stuck on the tracks. The elderly driver escaped but services were again suspended.

## MCCLELLAND AVENUE, LARA

The level crossing is a critical commuter link in central Lara and when activated, causes significant delays for road users and compromises emergency service response times.

Recent incidents and safety concerns at the Lara level crossing include a closure in March 2025 for a two-week period.

## MCKILLOP STREET, GEELONG

A high-volume traffic crossing with frequent V/Line and freight train movements.

This crossing has a complex setup with cantilever gates and is known for congestion and visibility issues causing peak hour delays for thousands of commuters.

Emergency vehicles face delays due to boom gates and traffic congestion.

## OUR ASK

- > We urge the Victorian Government to prioritise and allocate funding for level crossing removal at North Shore (Station Street), Geelong (McKillop Street), and Lara (McClelland Avenue).
- > We ask them to engage with stakeholders including the City, emergency services, and community groups to accelerate planning and delivery.

# OUTER METROPOLITAN RING



The Outer Metropolitan Ring (OMR) Transport Corridor is a proposed 100-kilometre high-speed transport link that provides connection from west of Werribee to the Hume Freeway at Kalkallo.

The OMR would deliver significant benefits for Geelong including growth opportunities for freight and employment.

It would combine a proposed freeway with railway tracks in the median for interstate freight and high-speed passenger trains.

The OMR will connect key transport hubs such as Melbourne Airport, Avalon Airport, the Port of Geelong, the beverage Interstate Freight Terminal and the proposed Western Intermodal Freight Terminal and proposed Bay West Port Precinct.

The Victorian Government defined the corridor through application of a Public Acquisition Overlay in 2010. This allows for compulsory acquisition of property when required.

Modelling by Infrastructure Australia in 2017 estimates the total capital expenditure cost is between \$17.2 billion and \$34.7 billion in total.

Protecting and acquiring the land for the Outer Metropolitan Ring Road/E6 and site for the proposed Western Interstate Freight Terminal at \$2.3 billion (2016 prices).

The City of Greater Geelong supports the joint regional advocacy campaign, in collaboration with the City of Wyndham, City of Melton, City of Whittlesea, City of Hume and Shire of Mitchell, seeking the Victorian Government's commitment to the OMR.



## WHAT WILL IT DELIVER?

- > Prepare for population change through increasing access and road provision for orbital journeys for Melbourne's outer north and western suburbs, and connection to the Greater Geelong region.
- > Enable workforce participation through better connecting people and jobs by providing new high-speed road links to significant industrial and commercial employment clusters.
- > Lift productivity by boosting market access and improving connectivity to enhanced labour skills with new key transport links between growth areas and employment corridors.
- > Be the connection between key freight transport hubs and employment precincts including Melbourne Airport, Avalon Airport, the Port of Geelong and the two intermodal freight terminals in Beveridge and Truganina.
- > Drive Victoria's changing, globally integrated economy through efficient high-speed connected key freight links between transport gateways, industrial precincts, and logistics centres.

## OUR ASK

- > \$20 million – Funding for a Detailed Business Case
- > \$2 million – Environmental Effects Statements

## OUR PRIORITY

# BELLARINE SPORTS CENTRE EXPANSION



The Bellarine Sports Centre expansion will deliver a contemporary six court indoor stadium with a 1,500 seat show court at Bellarine Secondary College in Drysdale, responding to a critical shortage of indoor courts across the Bellarine Peninsula.

Basketball participation on the Bellarine Peninsula has doubled over the past three years, yet the existing three court facility is non compliant and no longer meets the needs of domestic competitions, representative programs or elite development pathways. The Association has reached operational capacity across ten different venues and must increase the provision of indoor basketball courts on the Bellarine Peninsula to meet growing demand.

Building on an established facility within a thriving education, recreation and sporting precinct, the project responds to strong population growth and increasing demand for high quality, fit for purpose indoor sporting infrastructure. The need for additional indoor courts on the Bellarine Peninsula is identified in both the City of Greater Geelong Indoor Recreation Facilities Strategy 2021 and the Basketball Victoria State Facilities Plan 2021–2024.

The City of Greater Geelong is advocating to the Victorian Government for funding for the Bellarine Peninsula Basketball Association to deliver the Bellarine Sports Centre expansion and unlock long term social and economic benefits for the Bellarine Peninsula.

### BENEFITS

- > Responds to strong population and participation growth, supporting increased access to indoor sport across the Bellarine Peninsula.
- > Supports athlete pathways from grassroots participation through to representative and elite competition.
- > Enables the attraction of major events, including Victorian Country Championships, Junior National Championships and potential NBL/WNBL games.
- > Delivers significant economic benefits, creating an estimated 120 jobs and generating around \$20 million in annual regional benefit during construction and the first 10 years of operation.
- > Leverages an established, accessible site, maximising value for money through economies of scale.

### ASK

- > \$46.8m for a three court expansion at Bellarine Secondary College in Drysdale.

# LARA GIANTS STADIUM



A new Lara Stadium will deliver a three court indoor stadium at Beckley Park, Corio, to meet rapidly growing demand for basketball and indoor sport in Lara and the northern precinct of Greater Geelong.

The facility will provide a dedicated home for the Lara Giants Basketball Club while offering year round access for community sport, programs and events.

Demand analysis undertaken as part of the City of Greater Geelong's Indoor Recreation Facilities – Basketball and Netball Needs Analysis identifies a clear need for additional indoor courts in the City's north to cater for current and future growth. The delivery of this project would directly assist in meeting that demand.

Lara is one of Greater Geelong's fastest growing communities, yet access to compliant indoor courts is significantly constrained. As a result, some local teams are missing out on training opportunities, while others are forced to travel more than 40 minutes to access available courts for games and competitions.

This places increasing pressure on families and volunteers, limits participation, particularly for juniors, and constrains the growth and sustainability of local clubs. The proposed stadium directly addresses this inequity in access and supports State and local objectives for healthy, active communities.

## BENEFITS

- > Delivers much needed indoor court capacity to service Lara and Geelong's northern growth areas, improving access to sport for all ages and abilities.
- > Provides a permanent home for the Lara Giants Basketball Club, supporting grassroots participation and clear pathways from junior to representative competition.
- > Encourages healthier lifestyles and stronger community connection through increased participation in organised sport and recreation.
- > Creates a fit for purpose, multi use community asset capable of hosting training, competitions and local events.

## ASK

- > \$18m for the Lara Giants to deliver the Lara Stadium at Beckley Park.

# NORLANE WEST SCOUT HALL



The Norlane West Scout Hall is more than 70 years old and has reached the end of its functional life. It no longer meets the operational needs of the Scout group and does not comply with several of Scouts Victoria's Essential Safety Measures requirements.

To address this, the existing hall will be replaced with a modern, multipurpose facility designed to support Scouting activities and provide a flexible community space for wider local use.

The project has secured Federal funding through a competitive grants process. However, additional funding is required to cover a shortfall currently underwritten by Scouts Victoria. Without further support, this arrangement would trigger an additional levy on local memberships, placing a direct financial burden on families. That is not acceptable.

Norlane West is one of Victoria's most socio-economically disadvantaged communities. The purpose of this upgrade is to improve access, participation and community outcomes for children and families who already face significant barriers. Passing additional costs onto those same families undermines the intent of the grant funding and risks excluding the very young people the project is designed to support.

Works have commenced, and the project will deliver a much-needed, fit-for-purpose community facility.

## BENEFITS

- > Replaces an outdated, non compliant Scout hall with a modern facility.
- > Encourages greater youth engagement in Norlane West through an accessible, welcoming, fit-for-purpose community space.
- > Prevents additional membership levies on local families already facing cost-of-living pressures.
- > Supports leadership, resilience and life-skills development for young people.
- > Delivers a sustainable, low-maintenance community asset that strengthens local connections for decades.

## WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$660k from the Australian Government towards the redevelopment of the Scout hall.

## ASK

- > \$660k

# EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS FUND



Aligned with Regional Cities Victoria (RCV), the City of Greater Geelong is advocating for the Victorian Government to abandon the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) in the interest of equity, sustainability, and fairness.

The Victorian Government's ESVF, replaced the Fire Services Property Levy from 1 July 2025 despite widespread opposition from regional councils, ratepayers, Country Fire Authority and other key stakeholder groups across the state.

The additional tax imposes a significant financial burden on regional ratepayers, particularly the commercial sector, and shifts the administrative responsibility of tax collection onto local governments.

While the levy increase has been paused for farmers for 2025-26 following community backlash, the state's farmers could face the tripling of the Victorian Government tax in 2026-27.

RCV estimates the fund will strip an additional \$60 million annually from regional cities, exacerbating existing cost-of-living pressures and undermining local government sustainability.

## IMPACT

- > Commercial ratepayers have been hit with an average state levy increase of 83 per cent in 2025-26 through the legislation to replace the FSPL with the ESVF.
- > Industrial ratepayers have been hit with an average state levy increase of 61 per cent in 2025-26.
- > Farming families – our food producers – already managing inflation and the impact of drought have the threat of significant levy increases in 2026-27.
- > In 2024-25, the Victorian Government taxed Greater Geelong ratepayers more than 36.8 million through the FSPL. But in 2025-26 the financial impact on ratepayers increased by more than 18.1 million, with the legislation, taking almost \$55 million from ratepayers' pockets.
- > Councils continue to be the Victorian Government tax collector for an inequitable, unfair levy.

## OUR ASK

- > The City joins Regional Cities Victoria and councils across Victoria in urging the State Government to:
  - Withdraw the ESVF legislation.
  - Ensure equity in emergency services funding, particularly for rural and regional communities.
  - Transfer collection responsibility for state levies to the State Revenue Office to reduce local government burden.

# PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING



The City of Greater Geelong is advocating for the Victorian Government to increase operational and infrastructure funding for public libraries to demonstrate its support for libraries, meet growing community needs and reduce the impost on councils and ratepayers.

Currently, local councils fund approximately 80 per cent of public library costs, a burden that has grown as Victorian Government contributions have declined.

Public libraries are critical to Victoria's social and economic wellbeing. Increased state investment is essential to ensure they remain accessible, innovative, and responsive to community needs.

This advocacy aligns with Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) and reflects our commitment to strengthening services for our community.

With many people and families battling the rising cost of living and juggling work, study, and family commitments, access to the free resources provided by public libraries is more vital than ever.

- Children who are read to daily gain the same learning advantage as being almost a year older, regardless of their home background.
- Nearly half (46 per cent) of all library users in growth corridors, such as Bial-a Armstrong Creek Library are aged under 25.
- In regional and rural Victoria, almost 40 per cent of library users are aged over 70.
- One-third of library users speak a language other than English at home. And 1 in 4 come from households living on less than \$49,000 a year.

## KEY ISSUES

- > **Shared Responsibility:** Public libraries are a joint responsibility of the Victorian Government and Local Government. The current funding model does not reflect this partnership, placing disproportionate pressure on councils.
- > **Declining State Contributions:** In some cases, the Victorian Government's share has dropped from 50 per cent to just 17 per cent, forcing councils to either increase spending or cut services.
- > **Funding Gap:** This imbalance strains council budgets and limits their ability to maintain and expand library services.
- > **Community Demand:** Libraries are essential hubs for learning, digital access, and social connection. As Victoria's population grows, so does the demand for well-resourced libraries.

# PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING



## GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY CORPORATION (GRLC)

- **Network:** GRLC operates 20 libraries across Greater Geelong, plus a central library and mobile services.
- **Membership:** Over 128,000 members rely on GRLC services.
- **Daily Usage:** More than 5,000 daily visits, underscoring libraries' role in community life.
- **Programs:** In 2025, 77,188 children and their carers attended early years literacy programs at GRLC libraries. GRLC delivered 272 children and youth outreach sessions with 8,535 attendees and welcomed 1,030 school group visits with 27,972 attendees.

### OUR ASK

#### > Needs-based funding for public libraries

- A new needs-based formula to ensure funding is distributed to library services based on population; adjusted to reflect common equity measures including population dispersion, relative socio-economic advantage or disadvantage, residents' proficiency in English, the proportion of population aged 60+, and the proportion of population aged 0-5 years.
- A 'no worse off' test and top-up funding to ensure no individual library service faces a reduction in funding as a result of the introduction of the needs-based formula.
- An increase to the funding pool of \$10 million in 2025/26 to achieve these objectives.
- Permanently index the funding pool to CPI.

#### > Funding the library infrastructure that connects community

- Restoration of the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program to at least \$4.5 million annually to build, redevelop or refurbish libraries across the state and to replace mobile library vehicles.
- Expansion of eligibility guidelines, to include digital infrastructure such as computers, photocopiers, 'smart return' shelves, and assistive technology like large-print keyboards and electronic magnifiers.
- Shelving and other core library furniture, and upgraded safety features, to be eligible as standalone projects.

# GLASS RECYCLING REFORM



## CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

- > Victoria's CDS currently excludes wine and spirit bottles, despite their significant contribution to glass waste. Expanding the scheme to include all glass containers would:
- > Enhance recycling rates without requiring additional kerbside infrastructure.
- > Reduce contamination in recycling streams.
- > Align with successful models in other states, such as Queensland, which recently expanded its CDS to include wine bottles.

## OUR ASK

- > The City urges the Victorian Government to:
  - Repeal the legislative requirement for councils to implement a mandatory kerbside purple bin for glass recycling.
  - Expand the CDS to include additional glass containers, such as wine and spirit bottles and pasta sauce bottles.
  - Empower councils to choose the most suitable glass recycling method based on local needs, infrastructure, and community preferences.

A flexible, community-driven approach to glass recycling will deliver better environmental outcomes, reduce financial pressure on councils, and avoid unnecessary urban congestion. The Victorian Government has an opportunity to support smarter, more sustainable recycling reform by expanding the CDS and removing the mandatory kerbside purple bin requirement.

The City of Greater Geelong, in alignment with over 30 other Local Government Areas across Victoria, is advocating to the Victorian Government to repeal the mandatory rollout of a fourth kerbside bin for glass recycling (the purple bin) and instead provide councils with the flexibility to choose the most effective and economically viable glass recycling solution for their communities.

- **Financial Burden on Councils:** The City estimates the cost of introducing a fourth bin at over \$7 million for implementation, placing significant strain on council budgets. The cost of the kerbside service will also increase by \$5 million annually (paid directly by the rate payers).
- **Urban Congestion:** Adding another bin to already crowded kerbsides will increase congestion for both pedestrians and traffic, particularly in high-density urban areas and narrow streets. Councils that have already rolled out the service are seeing about 30 per cent of glass bins put out for collection each month, however trucks are required to drive each street, increasing the emissions impact of the kerbside service.
- **Community Benefits from the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS):** The CDS, introduced in November 2023, has already diverted over 1.6 billion containers from landfill. It is widely supported by the community and offers a more efficient and accessible method for glass recycling.



## OUR FUTURE

The Victorian Government has set the City of Greater Geelong the largest housing in the state, delivering 128,600 new homes by 2051 with 77,500 in established areas. A fully funded, future-ready stormwater system is essential to protect established communities, address significant flooding risk, and enhance liveability for residents.

### BENEFITS

- > Protection of residents and their homes.
- > Improved flood resilience through coordinated infrastructure upgrades.
- > Cleaner waterways via catchment-wide pollution controls.
- > Increased water security through stormwater reuse.
- > Planning consistency across the region, aligned with state objectives.
- > Cost efficiencies through integrated asset management.

### OUR ASK

- > We urge the Victorian Government to:
  1. Undertake a comprehensive review of the existing stormwater management model for Greater Geelong, informed by current stormwater management studies.
  2. Fully fund long-term solutions to address the impacts of major flooding incidents which include above floor flooding impact through flash flooding along with upgrading ageing stormwater infrastructure to include treatment outcomes.

## PROPOSAL

The City is calling for the Victorian Government to review the current stormwater management model for Greater Geelong, and review funding to support long-term solutions to address the impacts of major flooding incidents and ageing stormwater infrastructure.

## BACKGROUND

Stormwater management in Greater Geelong is currently the responsibility of the City of Greater Geelong, which maintains over 2,450 km of drainage infrastructure.

Increasing severe weather events are causing residents to face above-floor flooding and live in fear when heavy rain is forecast. The City is currently working with residents to develop case studies to demonstrate the significant impact on their lifestyle, finances, health and wellbeing.

The cost of adequately upgrading stormwater systems can never be met by councils and the Victorian Government must prioritise a funding model that enables delivery of this critical infrastructure in regional cities.

The City urges the Victorian Government to fully fund a new stormwater management model for Greater Geelong which demonstrates and integrates:

- Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD).
- Stormwater harvesting and reuse.
- Flood mitigation and pollution control.
- Collaborative planning tools.

# SCHOOL CROSSINGS



The City of Greater Geelong is advocating for the Victorian Government to fully fund all state-approved school crossing supervisors, ensuring child safety and removing an unfair financial burden from councils and ratepayers.

School crossing supervisors play a vital role in protecting children as they travel to and from school. However, under the current system, local councils bear the financial burden of staffing and maintaining these crossings, including for newly established schools. This arrangement has led to:

- **Delays in service delivery**, particularly for new schools where crossings are not planned or funded as part of the school's development.
- **Unfair financial pressure on ratepayers**, who are subsidising a service that is unrelated to core local government functions and should be a core responsibility of the state government.

## KEY ISSUES

- > **1. Funding Responsibility:** State financial support for councils has steadily declined. Full funding of all state-approved crossings would align with the Victorian Government's role in education infrastructure and services.
- > **2. Planning Integration:** School crossings should be incorporated into the planning and funding of new schools to ensure they are operational from day one, avoiding delays and safety risks.
- > **3. Collaborative Solutions:** The City is committed to working with the Victorian Government and school communities to develop sustainable, equitable solutions that prioritise child safety.

## OUR ASK

- > The Victorian Government should assume full responsibility for the funding and management of the School Crossing Supervisor Program.
- > School crossings must be planned and funded as part of the school delivery process, eliminating delays and safety gaps.
- > The City is seeking to collaborate with the Victorian government and schools to develop solutions that ensure the safety of children without placing an undue financial burden on ratepayers.

# EARLY YEARS SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW



Victoria is investing in early childhood development through landmark initiatives like Best Start, Best Life. However, the systems that support children and families in the early years—from birth to school entry—are fragmented. Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services and kindergartens are primarily the responsibility of local councils, while policy, operational and capital funding, and strategic direction sit with the Victorian Government through its health and education portfolios.

The City's advocacy for a comprehensive, holistic review of early years' service delivery responds to ongoing funding pressures and operational challenges for councils.

A review would identify necessary service changes to ensure long-term sustainability, continuity of education, and improved outcomes for families.

## OUR ASK

- > To address these challenges and build a more integrated, accountable early years system, we urge the Victorian Government to **Commission an Independent Review:**
  - Initiate a comprehensive review of early years service delivery in Victoria, including both kindergarten and maternal and child health services.

# EARLY YEARS SERVICE DELIVERY REVIEW



## KEY ISSUES

### FRAGMENTED GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY GAPS

Early years services are delivered by a mix of Local Government, Community Health Services, and private providers, leading to inconsistent governance and accountability.

Councils are responsible for delivering both MCH and sessional kindergarten services, yet lack direct control over strategic direction, funding models, and workforce pipelines managed by the state.

### FUNDING

The Victorian Government holds responsibility for health and education policy, yet relies on councils to deliver frontline services without adequate funding.

The MAV has identified that Victorian councils are contributing “well above their nominal 50 per cent share of MCH service costs, often absorbing the majority of total expenditure once extensive in-kind contributions such as infrastructure, systems, and workforce support are accounted for”.

This imbalance is compounded by the Victorian Government’s contribution not keeping pace with rising service demand, wage growth, and the increasing complexity of family needs.

The City acknowledges the Victorian Government’s infrastructure investment in new kindergartens in rapid growth areas, but is advocating for the Victorian Government to consider the critical need for increased maintenance investment of older facilities, as part of its early years review.

### REFORMS

The Victorian Government’s Best Start Best Life reforms, including free kindergarten, have resulted in a significant shift, with families moving from long daycare services to sessional kinder as a long daycare option. This move is placing additional pressure on the kinder system.

### WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

The early years sector faces a critical shortage of qualified educators and MCH nurses. Over 11,000 additional educators are needed, and MCH services are also experiencing recruitment and retention challenges.

### CHILD SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

Recent safety incidents in early childhood settings prompted a \$42 million Rapid Child Safety Review. These highlight the need for stronger oversight and consistent safety standards across all early years’ services.



The City of Greater Geelong is calling for a comprehensive review of coastline management in partnership with key stakeholders. The review would explore creating a single coastal management authority, modelled on the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA), to manage the Bellarine coastline and potentially Corio Bay.

Currently, the City is responsible for boating infrastructure, dredging, erosion mitigation, vegetation maintenance, public amenities, and beach access, while also applying for State grants to offset costs. This fragmented approach places a growing financial burden on ratepayers and consumes significant resources. A streamlined governance model would deliver efficiency, reduce duplication, and improve outcomes for the community.

The review would consider the Victorian Marine and Coastal Act and related legislation underpinning the GORCAPA framework. A collaborative approach is essential, involving Traditional Owners, responsible authorities, Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine, user groups, residents, and visitors.

## MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ASSETS

> A single, well-resourced State authority would assume responsibility for maintaining and upgrading coastal assets, including:

- Boating facilities.
- Harbours, ramps, car parks, jetties, pontoons, fish cleaning tables, breakwaters, toilet blocks.
- Piers and jetties.
- Holiday parks and camping grounds.
- Playgrounds, open spaces, and conservation reserves.
- Coastal protection structures – seawalls, breakwaters (including artificial reefs), revetments.
- Some roads, shared paths, beach access stairs, ramps, and boardwalks.

## THE FUTURE

> A single Victorian Government authority managing reserves from Point Impossible to Point Henry would:

- Protect and manage visitation along the Bellarine coast and bayside reserves.
- Enable a holistic approach to addressing the impacts of increasing visitation, environmental processes, severe weather events, and climate change.
- Deliver operations excellence in parks management, visitor enjoyment and appreciation, community engagement and long-term financial sustainability.
- Invest all revenue it raises from caravan parks and other assets back into the land it manages.

## OUR PRIORITY

# MANDATORY INCLUSIONARY ZONING FOR SOCIAL HOUSING



The City of Greater Geelong is advocating for state-regulated Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning (MIZ) for social housing across all new developments with a minimum of 10 per cent for private estates and for government owned land.

MIZ is a planning tool that can boost the supply of social and affordable housing and reduce locational inequality. It offers a sustainable way to deliver new housing without relying on ongoing government funding.

In Australia, MIZ has seen limited use due to complexity, inconsistent application, and a lack of clear policy direction. Since 2020, The Constellation Project and the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) have collaborated to develop a **National MIZ Framework**, bringing together more than 60 stakeholders from the housing and homelessness sectors. This work produced:

- A proposed national framework for MIZ
- Principles for applying MIZ across jurisdictions
- A cross-sector cohort that co-designed and supports the framework

With the Victorian Government setting the state's highest housing target for Geelong, it must also commit to a social housing target and clear delivery timeline.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GEELONG?

- > 7,790 households on the public housing waitlist (Feb 2024).
- > More than 5,000 households experiencing severe rental stress.
- > 1,541 people experienced homelessness in Geelong according to the 2021 census.

### SOCIAL HOUSING PLAN

- > The City of Greater Geelong Council has an endorsed Social Housing Plan 2020 – 2041 which aims to:
  - Increase the supply of social housing from the current 3 per cent to 7 per cent of total households by 2031, an estimated increase in supply of 6,000 dwellings and to 10 per cent by 2041 (a further 6,000 dwellings).
  - Maximise Victorian and Australian government investment in new social housing across the City.

### OUR ASK

- > Victorian Government regulated Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning for social housing across all new developments with a minimum of 10 per cent for private estates and for government owned land.

## OUR PRIORITY

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

## TRANSITIONING TO CLEAN ENERGY



Our community pools are vital spaces for health, recreation, and connection. But right now, they rely heavily on gas, a fossil fuel that contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and rising energy costs.

Transitioning these facilities to clean energy is an opportunity to protect our environment, reduce demand on the grid, and lower costs over time. By leveraging favorable electricity supply rates and securing a long-term renewable electricity supply contract, we can achieve significant annual energy cost savings while demonstrating leadership in sustainability.

Currently, many of the aquatic centres across Greater Geelong use gas-fired boilers for pool heating.

Investment is needed to identify and implement the most effective mix of technologies - including electrification, solar thermal, heat pumps, wastewater heat recovery, and other emerging solutions - to deliver a complete transformation to clean, efficient energy.

### BENEFITS

- > **Cut Emissions:** Aquatic centres are major energy users. Switching from gas delivers big carbon savings.
- > **Healthier Communities:** Cleaner energy means cleaner air and environment.
- > **Lower Costs:** Clean energy reduces long-term operating expenses and shields councils from volatile gas prices.
- > **Grid stability:** Reduces local grid demand and costly infrastructure upgrades.
- > **Boost Resilience:** Modern systems like heat pumps, solar thermal, and wastewater heat recovery make facilities more reliable and future-proof.
- > **Lead Innovation:** Acting now sets an example for residents and businesses, reinforcing our reputation as a forward-thinking, sustainable city.

### OUR ASK

- > Funding to deliver future-ready, low emission heating for community pools:
  - \$3.8m - Leisurelink Aquatic and Recreation Centre
  - \$1.7m - ~~Kardinia~~ Aquatic Centre
  - \$1.9m - Splashdown
  - \$1.8m - Bellarine Aquatic and Sports Centre

## REGIONAL PRIORITY

# FLOOD MITIGATION ACROSS GREATER GEELONG



The social and economic impacts of repeated flood events in Geelong have been significant. Many homeowners have faced considerable financial and emotional stress, compounded by ongoing concerns about rainfall events, home values, and insurance availability. The cost to the City of Greater Geelong and the strain on resources due to these flood events are also considerable.

To address these challenges, stormwater management strategies are being undertaken across the municipality to better understand flood risk and the opportunities for stormwater and integrated water management. Catchment modelling is underway to help the City and relevant authorities manage flood risks more effectively, improve stormwater quality in local waterways, and explore alternative water supply options for the region.

The findings will inform the planning and prioritisation of infrastructure upgrades, flood mitigation measures, and emergency flood management procedures.

## BENEFITS

- > Reduces flood risk by minimising the frequency and severity of flooding events, protecting homes, businesses, and infrastructure.
- > Improves public safety by reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and property damage.
- > Sustains local economy by protecting businesses, jobs, and property values, while reducing repair and disruption costs.
- > Increases community resilience and ensures quicker recovery and less disruption.

## NEXT STEPS – LONG-TERM

- > A revised stormwater management model is needed where the Victorian Government’s water authority, Barwon Water leads stormwater infrastructure and planning across Greater Geelong.

## OUR ASK

- > **Central Geelong:**
  - \$80m
- > **Drysdale / Clifton Springs:**
  - \$3m for Priority 1 projects
  - \$20m for Priority 2 projects
  - \$15m for Priority 3 projects
- > **Lara:**
  - \$2.2m for Stage 1 (Lipson Drive)
  - \$3.2m for Stage 2 (Kyema Drive)
- > **South Geelong:**
  - Catchment modelling underway
- > **Highton:**
  - Catchment modelling underway
- > **Waurin Ponds:**
  - Catchment modelling underway

## OUR PRIORITY

# BARWON HEADS VILLAGE PARK PAVILION REDEVELOPMENT



The redevelopment of the pavilion at Barwon Heads Village Park is a key initiative identified and strategically supported within the Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan and conceptual designs developed since its endorsement in 2021.

The project aims to upgrade facilities to support local cricket, soccer, and junior football, meeting the growing needs of the community and addressing gaps in current infrastructure. The redevelopment will provide additional change rooms that meet modern standards for use and replace the existing public toilet with an accessible facility at the rear of the building.

The project can be delivered as one or two stages as identified.

Stage 1 focuses on essential upgrades, including female-friendly change rooms, storage, and accessible toilets, creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for players and officials.

Stage 2 will enhance social spaces, construct an undercover spectator area, and improve parking facilities, ensuring the pavilion serves as a central hub for sport and community activities in Barwon Heads.

### BENEFITS

- > Enhances club and community engagement by improving spaces that support participation, membership retention, and growth, while providing facilities that attract users and foster a healthy sporting environment.
- > Delivers gender-neutral, modern facilities for cricket, soccer, and AFL, breaking down barriers to participation and promoting inclusivity.
- > Ensures infrastructure meets compliance standards and provides essential amenities, including accessible toilets and storage.

### OUR ASK

- > \$6.2m
  - \$2.6m for Stage 1
  - \$3.6m for Stage 2

# BELLARINE ARTS CENTRE



The Bellarine Arts Centre (BAC) is a vibrant cultural hub that has inspired creativity and connection across the region since 2001. Nestled in the heart of the Bellarine and known to locals as “The Potato Shed”, it has served as a beloved venue for performances, educated an entire generation of performing artists, and hosted countless community events. But the centre is now bursting at the seams - its footprint too small, its facilities outdated, and its potential untapped.

Redevelopment will transform BAC into a contemporary, inclusive, and high-impact regional arts facility. It will amplify the region’s creative voice, support First Nations storytelling, and provide cutting-edge spaces for learning, performance, and cultural tourism. This is more than a building upgrade, it’s an investment in the Bellarine’s identity, economy, and future.

This redevelopment will deliver:

- An additional new state-of-the-art theatre with soundproofing, control room, and expanded backstage areas.
- Revitalised front-of-house spaces with flexibility for exhibitions, cabaret and dinner shows.
- Dedicated creative education spaces including music labs, dance studio, and video editing suite.
- Improved performer amenities with separated dressing rooms and toilets.
- Outdoor amphitheatre for summer performances and outdoor events.
- Hospitality spaces to support events and retail.
- Public deck for circulation and outdoor events.

## BENEFITS

- > Increased creative sector skills development and capacity building.
- > Enhanced cultural activation and community engagement.
- > Expanded reach and audience, with projected visitation growth of 20 per cent per annum.
- > Strengthened regional identity through storytelling and First Nations programming.
- > Support for local schools and education partners through improved facilities.

## OUR ASK

- > \$21.7m for Stage 1
- > \$12.9m for Stage 2

## OUR PRIORITY

# CLIFTON SPRINGS BOAT HARBOUR DREDGING



Clifton Springs Boat Harbour is a vital recreational and boating hub on the Bellarine Peninsula, yet its functionality is increasingly compromised.

Extensive siltation and seasonal seagrass wrack have made the harbour difficult to navigate, particularly at low tide. With average depths of only 0.6 metres below chart datum and potential subsurface rock, the current harbour configuration no longer supports safe, all-tide access.

Without intervention, the harbour risks becoming permanently underutilised, restricting community access, limiting recreational opportunities, and constraining regional tourism growth.

To restore safe and reliable access, a significant capital dredging program is urgently required. Coastal modelling indicates that sediment transport patterns cause material, including seagrass wrack, to accumulate near the harbour entrance. Within the harbour, the decomposition of trapped seagrass wrack further increases sedimentation, progressively shallowing the basin and reducing navigability.

Strategic dredging would reconfigure the harbour basin and improve functionality, reduce annual dredging maintenance costs and improve resilience against climate change impacts such as rising sea levels and storm tides. Without this investment, the harbour will remain unsafe and economically constrained, unable to fulfil its potential as a key regional asset.

### BENEFITS

- > Restores safe, all-tide access for most recreational and emergency vessels and improves access for larger vessels at higher tides.
- > Reduces long-term maintenance costs through strategic design.
- > Supports regional tourism and economic development.
- > Improves environmental resilience to future sea level rise and storm events.

### OUR ASK

- > \$500k

# DEVLINS ROAD RESERVE DEVELOPMENT



The development of Devlins Road Reserve is the critical first step in delivering the Ocean Grove Sporting Infrastructure Plan, centred on relocating the Ocean Grove Soccer Club from Shell Road Reserve.

A dedicated, purpose-built soccer precinct at Devlins Road will resolve capacity constraints, provide compliant facilities, and unlock broader sporting priorities across Ocean Grove, enabling future upgrades at Shell Road Reserve and supporting the City’s long-term network planning.

Ocean Grove and Wallington are experiencing strong population growth, projected to reach 23,650 by 2041. Combined with increasing soccer participation, particularly among girls and women, pressure on existing facilities has intensified. Shell Road Reserve can no longer meet demand, with participation growth outstripping pitch availability, training capacity and access to suitable amenities.

The Devlins Road Reserve development addresses these challenges by delivering inclusive, compliant infrastructure that supports current and future participation while freeing Shell Road Reserve for its next upgrades. The master plan includes new pitches, a pavilion, district-level play space, pedestrian links, parking and landscaping. Stage 1 funding will deliver detailed designs and core infrastructure to support the club’s relocation.

Additional funding is now required to deliver the key elements of the master plan, including two full-sized pitches, sports lighting, fencing, and car parking. These improved amenities will ensure the earliest possible relocation of Ocean Grove Soccer Club to Devlins Road Reserve and enable the wider Ocean Grove sporting network to progress its next priorities.

## BENEFITS

- > Supports participation growth through modern, compliant, and inclusive facilities.
- > Promotes gender equity with female-friendly amenities.
- > Ensures infrastructure compliance and alignment with universal design and accessibility standards.

## WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$8m from the City of Greater Geelong towards delivery of the master plan.
- > \$5m from the Australian Government towards delivery of the master plan.

## OUR ASK

- > \$5m

OUR PRIORITY

# DRYSDALE RECREATION RESERVE

## LIGHTING UPGRADE



Drysdale Recreation Reserve is home to the Drysdale Football and Netball Club and the Drysdale Cricket Club, hosting more than 1,000 participants across all age groups, genders, and programs.

A Facilities Development Plan completed in 2025 identified that, while participation is strong, gaps in facility provision including sportsground lighting, limit the clubs' ability to effectively manage match days and training, and to continue growing as sustainable community clubs.

Upgrading the sportsground lighting to 150 lux LED will support increased usage, provide greater scheduling flexibility, and enable night fixtures.

The current metal halide lights are training-standard only and non-compliant for night competition. Upgrading to LED lighting will deliver fit-for-purpose infrastructure, improve access and usability.

The work can be done with minimal site disturbance, which is important in this culturally sensitive area.

### BENEFITS

- > **Increased Participation:** Enables greater use of the reserve through evening training and competition, supporting continued growth across all teams and programs.
- > **Equity and Access:** Provides flexible scheduling to better accommodate juniors, women's teams, and community programs.
- > **Improved Safety and Compliance:** Delivers lighting that meets match standards and enhances player and spectator safety.
- > **Sustainability:** Modern LED technology reduces energy use, maintenance costs, and environmental impact.
- > **Community Growth:** Strengthens the reserve as a central, active hub for sport and community connection.

### OUR ASK

- > \$500k

# FENCED DOG PARK ON THE BELLARINE



Dogs can draw people together by encouraging them outside to interact, exercise and share the common bond of owning a companion animal. In short, dogs are an important part of a healthy and socially-connected community.

As our population grows and housing blocks get smaller, there is increasing demand for open space where dogs can safely exercise. To meet this need, we are planning ahead and exploring options for a fenced dog park that will complement existing off-leash areas.

There is strong community support for a fenced dog park on the Bellarine.

Fenced dog parks are designated areas where dogs can exercise and socialise off-leash within a secure environment. While relatively new in Australia, they are now available in all states and territories.

These parks will complement, not replace, existing off-leash areas and will be developed in line with community feedback and our guidelines for siting, design, and management.

We are currently identifying suitable locations on the Bellarine for a fenced dog park.

## BENEFITS

- > Opportunity for dogs to exercise and socialise.
- > Can enhance the safety of dogs.
- > Promote responsible pet ownership.
- > Provide space to educate dog owners about dog etiquette and good behaviour.
- > Minimise conflict in other public open spaces.
- > Provide opportunities for people to socialise and build social bridges in the community.

## OUR ASK

- > \$800k-\$1m to enable delivery of a park to meet community expectations, consistent with existing dog parks

# PENINSULA DRIVE EXTENSION AND ROAD LINKS



Peninsula Drive provides access to the Bellarine’s education, arts and culture sub-precinct, including the Potato Shed, Bellarine Secondary College, St Ignatius College and St Thomas Catholic Primary School.

The precinct is also home to the Bellarine’s growing sport, health, and wellbeing hub, which includes the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre, currently undergoing Stage 2 construction, and the Drysdale Sporting Precinct, where work has commenced on a new pavilion and soccer pitch.

The Bellarine Peninsula’s isolation and limited public transport mean most precinct visitors, including families travelling to schools, rely on cars.

Traffic congestion, parking and drop-off issues are common and expected to increase as new facilities are developed, as detailed in the Drysdale Sporting Precinct Master Plan, and the local population grows.

The need for the Peninsula Drive extension to Belchers Road and road links is identified in the Precinct Master Plan and by traffic authority assessments, and remains a recurring concern for road users.

## BENEFITS

- > **Improved Connectivity:** Provides safe, direct access to schools, cultural venues, and sporting facilities.
- > **Reduced Congestion and Enhanced Safety:** Proposed upgrades will ease traffic flow and improve road safety as the precinct grows.
- > **Supports Community Growth:** Enables completion of the Drysdale Sporting Precinct Master Plan, delivering essential sport, health, and wellbeing infrastructure.
- > **Boosts local economic activity:** With improved access to community hubs and events.
- > **Future-Proofed Infrastructure:** Meets long-term transport needs identified by planning and traffic assessments, ensuring sustainable growth and accessibility.

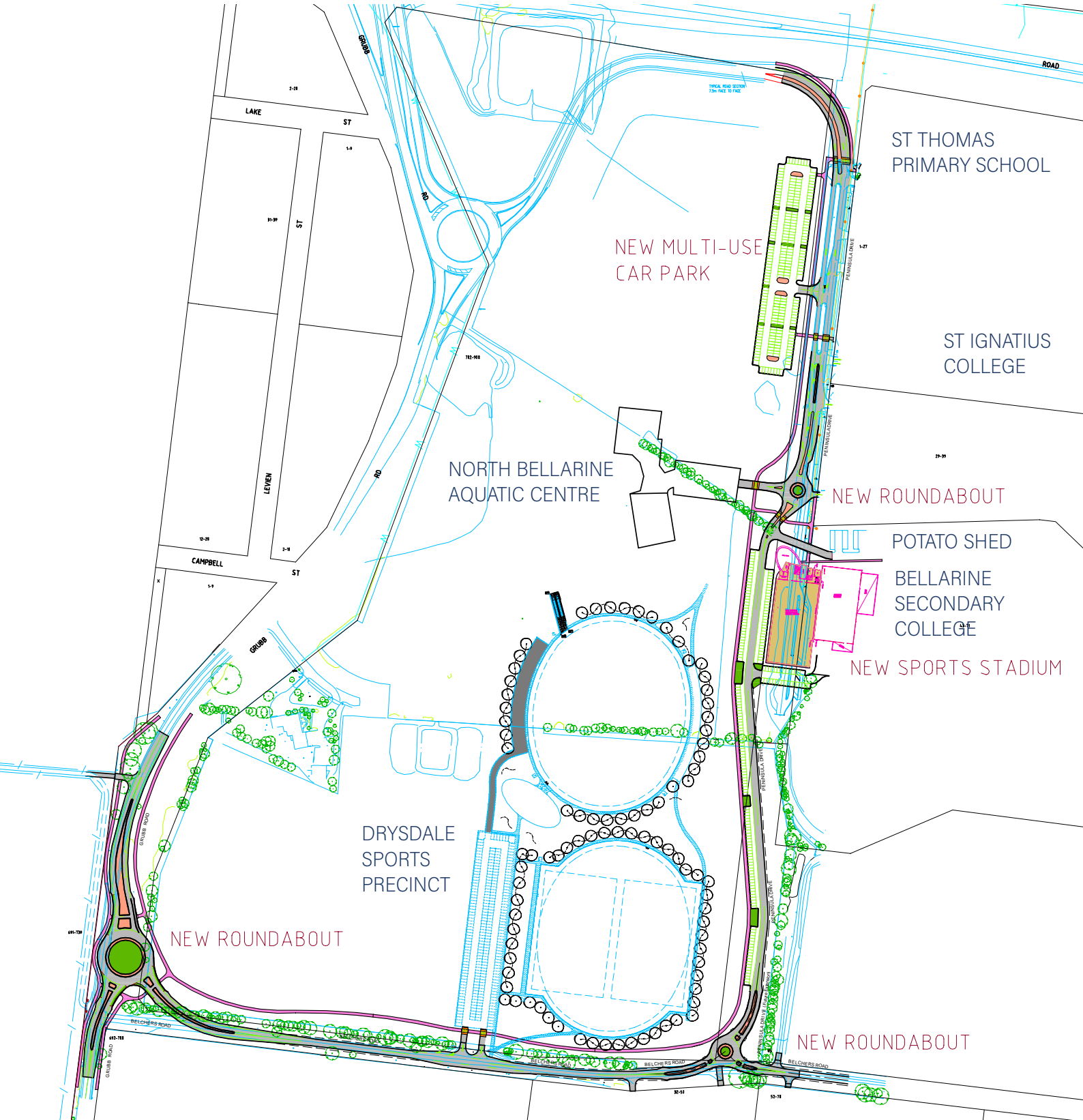
## OUR ASK

- > \$24-\$30m Peninsula Drive extension.
- > \$8m Belchers Lane and Grubb Road intersection.

\*If stakeholders are interested, the City will engage a Quantity Surveyor for updated estimates.

OUR PRIORITY

# PENINSULA DRIVE EXTENSION AND ROAD LINKS



# ERVIN RESERVE REDEVELOPMENT



As one of Geelong’s largest reserves, the redevelopment of Ervin Reserve presents a significant opportunity to create a vibrant community and sporting hub. Located in one of the city’s most socio-economically challenged areas, the reserve plays a vital role in addressing inequities in access to quality recreation and open space.

The Ervin Reserve Facility Development Plan (FDP) is underway and will guide improvements that support the Geelong Sharks Rugby League Club, Newcomb Tennis Club, and Newcomb Bulls Cricket Club, helping to expand participation across all ages and abilities.

The project aims to deliver fit-for-purpose facilities and improved connections throughout the reserve. It will identify the most suitable location for a new pavilion, as the current one lacks compliant amenities to support women’s and girls’ participation. Upgrading playing surfaces and installing sports lighting are also key priorities.

In the 2024 season, the Geelong Sharks Rugby League Club grew by 45 members and anticipates further growth due to the rising popularity of Rugby League in Victoria, which reached a record 5,000 participants. This growth highlights the urgent need for improved facilities to support expanding participation and community use.

## BENEFITS

- > **Equity and Inclusion:** Delivers accessible, compliant facilities supporting women, girls, and diverse community participation.
- > **Participation Growth:** Expands opportunities for local clubs and community use, enabling year-round sport through improved lighting and surfaces.
- > **Safety and Accessibility:** Improves lighting, carpark safety, and connections across the reserve for all users.
- > **Community Connection:** Creates a vibrant, inclusive hub that builds local pride and social connection.
- > **Economic and Health Impact:** Boosts local activity and supports community health and wellbeing.

## OUR ASK

- > Funding to implement priority actions identified in the Ervin Reserve FDP (mid 2026).

# GRINTER RESERVE

## BMX PAVILION



The current BMX pavilion at Grinter Reserve lacks essential amenities such as toilets and showers, which limits participation and the ability to host events. The existing secure steel structure, incorporating a kiosk and club room, meets basic needs but relies on nearby public toilets that are inadequate for the demands of BMX activities and competition use.

This project proposes a complete redevelopment of the pavilion to include a social room, kiosk, toilets, showers and storage. These upgrades will significantly improve the functionality, accessibility and comfort of the facility, creating a safe and welcoming environment for riders, volunteers, officials and spectators. Importantly, the upgraded pavilion will support increased participation, youth engagement and positive community use of the reserve in one of Geelong's most socio-economically challenged areas.

Utility connections will be incorporated to ensure the facility meets contemporary standards, and funding is also required to complete associated track works. Together, these improvements will support Grinter Reserve's continued growth as a strong regional BMX hub and community asset.

### BENEFITS

- > Delivers essential amenities, including toilets and showers, to support growing participation and improve the BMX club's ability to host events.
- > Boosts youth engagement and well being by giving young people a safe, structured place to be active, encouraging physical fitness and building confidence.
- > Strengthens Grinter Reserve's role as a regional centre for BMX in south west Victoria.

### WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$372k through the City of Greater Geelong's Community Infrastructure Grant program for BMX track lighting to AusCycling's 200-lux standard.
- > \$160k jointly funded by the Australian Government and the City of Greater Geelong to asphalt the track berms.

### OUR ASK

- > \$2.5m to redevelop the pavilion.
- > \$250k to complete track works.

# HOWARD GLOVER RESERVE PAVILION AND CHANGE ROOM UPGRADE



The pavilion and change facilities at Howard Glover Reserve are significantly outdated, failing to comply with modern accessibility and functional standards. This project will replace the ageing infrastructure with a contemporary, multi-purpose pavilion designed to meet the diverse needs of newly relocated Geelong City Football Club as well as the broader community.

The upgraded facility will feature gender-neutral change rooms, addressing barriers to participation for women and juniors, and accessible referee amenities in line with sporting association building development guidelines. These improvements will foster an inclusive, welcoming environment that promotes greater participation and enhances the overall experience for players, officials, and spectators alike.

## BENEFITS

- > Improved facilities to support programs, competitions, and training, enhancing participation retention and overall success.
- > Supports the surging demand for soccer and other sports in the region.
- > Modern welcoming facilities that encourage participation by all genders and age cohorts.
- > Breaking down barriers to participation through encouraging more gender diversity and involvement in all facets of the sporting club environment.

## OUR ASK

- > \$5m

# KARDINIA PARK NETBALL COMPLEX



The Kardinia Park Netball Complex redevelopment would deliver modern, fit-for-purpose facilities to support the region's rapidly growing netball community. The upgrade is essential to meet current standards and reflect the scale and professionalism of the sport today.

As of 2024, netball is the fastest-growing sport in Greater Geelong, with participation increasing by 51 per cent since 2022. More than 5,800 players now compete in outdoor netball across the region, with the Kardinia Park Netball Complex hosting a significant proportion of weekly matches, training sessions, and community events.

However, the existing pavilion no longer meets the needs of players, umpires, or spectators. It lacks adequate change spaces, compliant amenities, and appropriate public facilities. The canteen and kiosk also require upgrades to improve safety, accessibility, and service capacity.

Investment in the Kardinia Park Netball Pavilion would ensure the precinct continues to deliver high-quality, accessible facilities that meet the evolving needs of the community and support the future growth of netball across Greater Geelong.

## BENEFITS

- > Support continued participation growth and the long-term sustainability of netball in the region.
- > Enhance health and wellbeing outcomes through increased access to safe and equitable sporting spaces.
- > Encourage community connection by providing a high-quality venue for training, competition, and social events.
- > Strengthen Kardinia Park's role as a premier regional sporting hub, attracting greater use, local pride, and economic activity.

## OUR ASK

- > \$2.5m

## OUR PRIORITY

# RICHMOND OVAL CRICKET NET REDEVELOPMENT



The cricket practice facilities at Richmond Oval are outdated and no longer meet modern standards. The proposed redevelopment will consolidate the two existing structures into a single, streamlined facility featuring a 14.5m turf deck (replacing the current 17.5m deck) and four synthetic lanes, an upgrade from the existing three.

Given the reserve's spatial constraints, the design carefully retains all existing trees to minimise environmental impact. One sports lighting pole currently within the required footprint will need to be relocated before construction can commence.

Detailed designs are complete, making the project shovel-ready once the light pole is moved. This redevelopment will deliver a contemporary, efficient, and user-friendly facility that meets the growing needs of the cricket community.

### BENEFITS

- > The improved facilities will support a higher number of training sessions and competitions, increased participation and club sustainability.
- > The addition of an extra synthetic lane will provide more space for practice allowing for simultaneous use by more players.
- > The consolidated structure has been designed in line with Cricket Australia's Community Facilities Guidelines.

### OUR ASK

- > \$700k

# WHITTINGTON COMMUNITY HUB



Services currently provided in separate ageing buildings within the Whittington Link could be consolidated into a Whittington Family and Community Hub. This could be a vibrant, inclusive facility bringing together essential services, programs, and community activities under one roof. The Hub would support lifelong learning, health and wellbeing, youth engagement, and social connection.

The integrated hub concept was explored in the Whittington Link Social Infrastructure Planning Report (2023), shaped by extensive community and stakeholder feedback to guide future investment in Whittington's social infrastructure.

Funding is now sought to progress further stakeholder engagement and planning to confirm the building's scope, inclusions, and design for a multi-purpose hub that meets the evolving needs of the Whittington community.

Whittington is a proud and resilient community with high levels of disadvantage. Engagement with residents and stakeholders from 2022–2024 revealed strong support for a centralised integrated community hub that addresses:

- Fragmented service delivery caused by outdated, aging buildings that are no longer fit for purpose.
- Lack of youth and family spaces.
- Need for culturally safe and inclusive facilities.
- Demand for lifelong learning and employment pathways.

## BENEFITS

- > **Improved access to services:** Co-located services provided under one roof in a fit for purpose building would reduce barriers for families and individuals.
- > **Youth and family support:** Safe spaces for engagement, learning, and wellbeing.
- > **Stronger community connection:** Inclusive facilities encourage participation and belonging.
- > **Pathways to employment:** Programs support skill-building and job readiness.
- > **Efficient infrastructure use:** Shared spaces reduce duplication and operating costs.

## OUR ASK

- > \$1m to work with the Whittington community and stakeholders to plan and determine the scope and design of a future Whittington Integrated Community Hub.

# WINTER RESERVE

## SOCIAL ROOM AND KITCHEN UPGRADE



Upgrade of the Winter Reserve main pavilion will improve the kitchen to provide a larger, more functional space that meets the growing needs of the Belmont Lions Sports Club and East Belmont Cricket Club.

The kitchen will be relocated to a more efficient layout, improving access and usability. Additionally, minor improvements will be made to the social room area to create a seamless connection with the outdoor spaces, fostering a flexible and inviting environment for social gatherings and events.

### BENEFITS

- > Delivers essential amenities, including kitchen and social spaces, to support participation and improve the club's ability to host events.
- > Improved facilities to support programs, competitions, and training, boosting participation and retention.
- > Designed to attract participants and promote a healthy, inclusive sporting environment.
- > Modern welcoming facilities that encourage participation from all genders and age groups, offering a more comfortable and suitable space.
- > Aligns with universal guidelines, compliance standards, and inclusion requirements.

### OUR ASK

- > \$1.5m

# YOUTH SERVICES SPACES



Young people in Greater Geelong need safe, accessible and inclusive spaces where they can connect, learn and thrive. Building on the success of The Nest Youth Hub pilot in Central Geelong and the continued demand at the fOrT Youth Centre in Norlane, sustained, long term investment is essential to strengthen and enhance these existing spaces.

This project seeks to activate and support youth spaces in priority areas through continued investment, ensuring long term sustainability and equitable access for all young people.

As demand for dedicated youth spaces continues to grow, rising mental health challenges, financial pressure and increasing social isolation highlight an urgent need for places where young people feel safe, supported and genuinely connected to their communities.

By co designing these spaces with young people, we can foster wellbeing, deepen social connection and create meaningful opportunities for participation and personal growth. Sustained investment will ensure these spaces remain responsive, high quality and able to meet the evolving needs of young people in Greater Geelong.

## BENEFITS

- > Supports prevention and early intervention through connection, wellbeing, and timely support
- > Improves equity of access by reducing participation barriers and responding to young people's needs.
- > Creates safe, inclusive spaces that support mental health and community connection.
- > Empowers youth voice in planning and governance by providing meaningful opportunities for young people to be involved in decision making.
- > Strengthens system level coordination by enabling stronger partnerships across the youth sector leading to better outcomes for young people.

## OUR ASK

- > Continued Victorian Government investment to enable The Nest Youth Hub to remain operational beyond the current pilot.
- > Victorian Government investment to deliver essential upgrades at The fOrT Youth Centre.

# CHIRNSIDE PARK



The Chirnside Park redevelopment will transform this underutilised open space into a vibrant district-level park that promotes inclusive play, active recreation, social connection, and environmental sustainability. Guided by a community-informed master plan, the project will respond to local demographic needs, advance social equity, and deliver environmental and place-based benefits that strengthen Lara’s identity and enhance liveability.

Chirnside Park in Lara is a 4.7-hectare open space currently characterised by outdated infrastructure and limited accessibility. Its size, significantly larger than Lara’s two existing district parks—and strategic location north-west of Patullos Road position it to serve the needs of a growing local population and become a key recreational destination for the community.

The park will include:

- Inclusive and accessible play space with sensory elements.
- Footpaths and shared trails connecting park features.
- Natural landscaping and shade.
- Social areas including seating, picnic shelters and barbecues.
- Activity zones for ball games, scooters and dog exercise.
- Accessible toilets and improved car parking.

## BENEFITS

- > **Community and Wellbeing:** The park will offer inclusive play and recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities, encouraging active lifestyles, social connection, and improved mental and physical health.
- > **Environmental Sustainability:** Native planting, enhanced biodiversity, and sustainable design features will support local ecosystems and climate resilience.
- > **Local Identity and Liveability:** As a high-quality, accessible open space, Chirnside Park will strengthen Lara’s identity, and enhance neighbourhood appeal and liveability.

## WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$320k from City of Greater Geelong towards play and half court renewal.
- > \$250k from the Victorian Government through the Pick My Park program for upgrade of play and social spaces.

## OUR ASK

- > \$3m

# COWIES CREEK

## MASTER PLAN



The Cowies Creek Master Plan will protect, restore, and celebrate one of Geelong's most valued urban waterways. Cowies Creek is an important community space, a place for recreation, social connection, education, and nature appreciation, and the community has long advocated for its improvement and protection.

Situated near the Northern Geelong Growth Area and within proximity of the Spirit of Tasmania terminal, Cowies Creek forms a key part of Geelong's northern growth and waterfront renewal area. Enhancing this corridor would strengthen ecological connections between the coast, open spaces, and surrounding neighbourhoods while improving the visitor experience for those arriving through this important regional gateway.

The master plan will deliver strong, measurable environmental outcomes, including:

- Habitat restoration to support native biodiversity and strengthen ecological corridors.
- Improved water quality through integrated, nature-based stormwater management.
- Enhanced climate resilience by increasing tree canopy, stabilising creek banks, and expanding floodplain capacity.

### BENEFITS

- > Inclusive all-abilities access for everyone.
- > Safer, well-lit and upgraded paths for easy movement.
- > Enhanced safety and security throughout the corridor.
- > Signage that tells the rich cultural and environmental stories of the region.
- > Better connections to key destinations like the shopping centre, Seagull Paddock and Wathaurong Community Centre.
- > Stronger community planting and stewardship programs.
- > Improved protection for the threatened Growling Grass Frog.

### OUR ASK

- > Funding for a Cowies Creek Master Plan.

## OUR PRIORITY

# HAMLYN PARK REDEVELOPMENT



Hamlyn Park supports over 1,100 participants across football, netball, cricket, tennis and ballroom dancing. The social rooms and ballroom are a hive of activity, regularly hired out to community and private groups each week.

Despite its popularity, the current facilities fall short of modern standards, lacking universal accessibility, female-friendly design, and adequate space to meet growing community needs.

This project will deliver refurbishment of key facilities including the Geelong Ballroom, Alex Rizun Pavilion and the tennis pavilion, along with improved accessibility and functionality across the precinct. It will also introduce new community amenities such as a play space, an upgraded bike track and enhanced playing surfaces, as well as expanded parking.

These improvements will transform Hamlyn Park into an inclusive, modern and multi-purpose destination for all ages and abilities.

### BENEFITS

- > Modern, inclusive facilities and programs that increase participation, support training and competition, improve retention, and create a healthy, welcoming sporting environment for all abilities and genders.

### WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$1.7m from the City of Greater Geelong to upgrade female change facilities to support netball players.
- > \$250k from the Victorian Government through the Pick My Park program towards a new recreation area.
- > \$250k from the City of Greater Geelong towards play space renewal.

### ASK

- > \$2m to upgrade Geelong Ballroom.
- > \$2m to refurbish the Alex Rizun Pavilion.
- > \$1.2m to upgrade the Hamlyn Park Tennis Pavilion.
- > \$1m to upgrade the recreation area to a district standard, including pump track renewal, car parking, surface upgrade and ball protection fence.

# LARA RECREATION RESERVE

## CHANGE ROOM UPGRADE



The redevelopment of the football change rooms at Lara Recreation Reserve is a key initiative identified and strategically supported within the Lara Recreation Reserve Master Plan and through concept designs developed since its 2019 endorsement.

This upgrade will deliver modern, AFL Victoria-compliant change rooms that are female-friendly and accessible, supporting the growing needs of the Lara Football Netball Club and addressing key gaps in the current pavilion.

The project can be delivered in one or two stages:

- **Stage 1:** Delivers essential upgrades including female-friendly changerooms, accessible toilets, storage, and a new kiosk, creating a welcoming and inclusive space for players and officials.
- **Stage 2:** Renovates existing home team rooms to be female-friendly, adds storage and a gym, and strengthens the pavilion's role as a central hub for football and cricket in the community.

### BENEFITS

#### > Greater participation opportunities:

- Improved space clubs and community participation, membership retention, opportunity and prosperity.
- Facilities attract participants to complement club initiatives and foster a healthy sporting environment.

#### > Delivers gender-neutral, modern facilities to support soccer:

- Breaking down barriers to participation through encouraging more gender diversity and involvement in sport.

#### > Essential amenities:

- Aligns infrastructure with recommended guidelines and compliance requirements for AFL.
- Provides essential amenities, including accessible toilets and storage.

### OUR ASK

#### > \$3.2m

- Stage 1: \$2.4m
- Stage 2: \$800k

OUR PRIORITY

# LEISURETIME SPORTS PRECINCT COURT UPGRADE



The upgrade of the Leisuretime Sports Precinct will see the removal of the central mezzanine and refurbishment of the Beggs and Branch Stadium to create a four-court facility.

The facility will be designed to meet basketball-compliant standards, with new flooring and LED lighting. The project also includes the removal of asbestos from the walls, refurbishment of the roof, and reconfiguration of the rooms off the courts into storage spaces and a referee room.

Originally opened in 1976, the building will be 50 years old in 2026. Much of the internal infrastructure, including the roof, flooring, and walls, remains original, underscoring the urgent need for modernisation to meet current safety, accessibility, and sporting standards.

The precinct supports a wide range of activities including basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, squash, racquetball, futsal (including Little Kickers and Big Issue soccer programs), taekwondo, roller derby, and the Special Olympics disability program. Demand for indoor sports courts continues to grow, placing pressure on existing facilities to serve a rapidly expanding and youthful population.

Indoor sports participation could grow from 25,000 to over 38,000 participants by 2041 if current participation rates are maintained. The Leisuretime Sports Precinct will be a crucial indoor sports facility to support the anticipated growth in the northern planning precinct, which is projected to increase by approximately 40,000 to 50,000 people by 2041.

## BENEFITS

- > **Greater participation opportunities:** Improved spaces to deliver programs, competitions and training to support participation retention, opportunity and prosperity. Facilities attract participants to complement club initiatives and foster a healthy sporting environment.
- > **Supports female participation / gender equity:** Modern welcoming facilities that encourage participation by all genders and age cohorts. Breaking down barriers to participation through encouraging more gender diversity and involvement in all facets of the sporting club environment.
- > **Infrastructure compliance:** Aligns infrastructure with recommended universal guidelines, compliance, and inclusion requirements. Making facilities safer and equitable to other like local venues.

## OUR ASK

- > \$15m

# MYERS RESERVE REDEVELOPMENT



Myers Reserve, situated within the Creamery Road Precinct, lies in the heart of the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas and is positioned to benefit from significant population growth.

The 16.5-hectare reserve, which caters to a diverse demographic, is home to a broad range of organised sports including AFL, cricket, lawn bowls, netball and soccer.

A Master Plan for the redevelopment of Myers Reserve was completed in 2022. Funding is now required to deliver this vision and ensure the reserve continues to serve as a vital community hub.

The plan includes relocating the existing bowls green to allow for the repositioning of netball courts adjacent to the football, cricket, and netball pavilion, creating a more integrated and accessible sporting precinct.

Equally critical is the construction of a new soccer pavilion, identified as a high priority to support the surge in participation and provide a permanent home for the Geelong Rangers and Geelong Galaxy Football Clubs.

## BENEFITS

- > The bowling green relocation unlocks the construction of a modern, fit-for-purpose pavilion, creates capacity for a second green, and resolves flooding issues.
- > The netball court relocation improves safety and compliance, with resurfacing and improved drainage eliminating flooding issues.
- > The new soccer pavilion delivers modern, fit-for-purpose change rooms and amenities to support growing participation.

## WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$1m from the City of Greater Geelong for master plan delivery.

## OUR ASK

- \$6m to relocate and upgrade the bowls facility
- \$3m to relocate and upgrade the netball courts
- \$3.1m for redevelopment of the soccer pavilion (change rooms)
- \$4.2m for redevelopment of the soccer social spaces

# NORLANE COMMUNITY CENTRE



The Norlane Community Centre is undergoing a major transformation to better serve the needs of one of Geelong's most diverse and resilient communities. The redevelopment will deliver a welcoming, accessible and fit-for-purpose facility that supports lifelong learning, social connection, and community-led services.

Stages 1 and 2 are currently under construction and this includes upgrades to the building's main amenities, a multi-purpose room, a store to be used as a foodshare space, and a community garden.

Stages 3, 4 and 5 remain unfunded. These stages will deliver an expanded dining and kitchen area, a new lounge, larger training rooms and expanded outdoor gathering spaces, along with essential improvements to areas that are critical to the centre's work in supporting food relief, mental health, and community empowerment.

The redevelopment has been designed in consultation with the Norlane Community Centre, a neighbourhood house that operates from the facility. Once completed, the upgraded centre will increase capacity to support other organisations and respond to growing community demand for services.

In Norlane, where the incidence of mental health conditions is nearly double the statewide rate and life expectancy is five years lower than the regional average, this project is not just about infrastructure, it's about equity, dignity and opportunity.

## BENEFITS

- > Supports community-led programs and services.
- > Enhances access to training, wellbeing and social support.
- > Creates safe, inclusive and culturally appropriate spaces.
- > Strengthens partnerships with Norlane Community Centre.
- > Aligns with Council's Social Infrastructure Plan and Our Community Plan 2021–25.

## WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$1.6m from the City of Greater Geelong to deliver Stages 1 and 2 upgrades to the building's entry, foyer and outdoor spaces.

## OUR ASK

- > \$3.2m to complete Stages 3, 4 and 5 and deliver a fully redeveloped Norlane Community Centre.

# OSBORNE PARK

## NETBALL COURT AND KITCHEN



The Osborne Park netball duplication and kitchen upgrade would deliver essential improvements to support the ongoing growth and sustainability of the North Geelong Football and Netball Club.

The North Geelong Football Netball Club is currently the only club in Geelong without access to two netball courts, a key limitation affecting participation growth and long-term viability. To address this, the club's highest priority is the duplication of the existing netball court, followed by the redevelopment of the outdated kitchen facilities.

The proposed works include:

- Construction of a second competition-standard netball court (increasing capacity from one to two courts).
- Installation of LED sports lighting compliant with competition standards.
- New player and umpire shelters, access pathways, and associated landscaping.
- Redevelopment of the kitchen facilities to meet modern standards and community use expectations.

The existing kitchen layout and infrastructure no longer meet current functional or accessibility requirements. The club secured a Community Infrastructure Grant from the City of Greater Geelong to prepare detailed designs for the kitchen redevelopment, which have now been completed and fully costed.

Both projects are fully designed, costed, and shovel-ready, positioning them for immediate delivery once funding is confirmed.

### BENEFITS

- > Expanded netball court capacity will offer increased participation opportunities, ease scheduling pressures, and enhance the club's ability to host both training sessions and competitive matches.
- > Installation of new LED lighting, upgraded shelters, and improved landscaping will provide a safer, more welcoming, and accessible environment for all players, officials, and spectators.
- > Modernised kitchen facilities will strengthen support for match days, club events, and broader community activities by ensuring compliance with up-to-date standards and meeting the evolving needs of users.

### OUR ASK

- > \$850k to duplicate the netball court.
- > \$500k to redevelop the kitchen.

# BARWON RIVER LOOP TRAIL



The Barwon River Loop Trail will deliver a continuous, accessible and scenic walking and cycling route around the Barwon River corridor, connecting communities, enhancing liveability and celebrating the region's natural and cultural heritage.

The project includes a new pedestrian and cycling bridge across the Barwon River, linking the existing trail network between Fyansford and Highton. This connection will complete the loop and unlock safer, more inclusive access for residents, visitors and commuters. The bridge design prioritises accessibility, environmental sensitivity and visual harmony with the river landscape.

The trail will support active transport, tourism, and community wellbeing, while strengthening links to key destinations including schools, sports precincts, parks and commercial centres. It also aligns with the City's sustainability and mobility goals and responds to strong community demand for improved river access.

## BENEFITS

- > Completes the loop and links Fyansford to Highton for safe, inclusive access.
- > Provides a scenic, accessible trail for walking and cycling.
- > Attracts visitors and supports local businesses.
- > Showcases the river and cultural heritage through sensitive design.
- > Promotes active transport and aligns with City sustainability goals.

## WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > CCMA secured a \$300k grant for the City to advance design and engineering work on the proposed pedestrian bridge and path connections.

## OUR ASK

- > \$8.5m

# HIGHTON VILLAGE REVITALISATION



Implementation of the Highton Village Urban Design Framework (UDF) will deliver a series of thoughtful improvements that celebrate the precinct's village charm while making it safer, greener, and more connected.

The upgrade will focus on key areas including Belle Vue Avenue, Belle Vue Arcade, Village Walk and Barrabool Service Lane. Improvements will include better pedestrian access, upgraded public spaces, and new infrastructure that supports local businesses and community gatherings.

Developed through comprehensive community consultation, the UDF represents a collective vision for the future of Highton Village.

The City of Greater Geelong has already renewed the Belle Vue Avenue footpath to maintain a safe, accessible, and attractive village environment. Additional funding is now sought to deliver the next stage of upgrades, building on this foundation to fully realise the UDF's collective vision for Highton Village.

By turning vision into action, this project will help Highton thrive as a vibrant local centre that meets the needs of residents, visitors and traders alike.

## BENEFITS

- > Supports local business and economic activity.
- > Improves safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.
- > Enhances public amenity and community pride.
- > Responds to community aspirations for a more vibrant and connected village centre.

## OUR ASK

- > \$2m to upgrade Belle Vue Avenue streetscape projects (stage 2)
- > \$2m to upgrade Belle Vue Arcade and Village Walk streetscape projects.
- > \$1.8m to upgrade the Service Lane streetscape projects.
- > \$2.5m to upgrade Barrabool Road streetscape projects.

# MARSHALL BLUESTONE COTTAGE



Restoration of the Marshall Bluestone Cottage will relocate McAteer's historic 1860s bluestone cottage, a defining piece of Marshall's heritage. For more than a century, the cottage stood on its original site as a tangible link to the area's early settlement and agricultural history.

The cottage was removed by the Victorian Government during the Barwon Heads Road duplication, with community understanding that it would be reconstructed once works were complete. However, the building remains dismantled, with its bluestone stored rather than returned to public use.

In 2021, the City of Greater Geelong commissioned a study to explore viable relocation options and identify sustainable future uses. The preferred option proposes reconstructing the cottage at council owned Marshall Reserve, directly opposite its original site. This would allow the cottage to be rebuilt with minor adaptations for mixed community use, complement the neighbouring community garden, and support users of the new shared path along Barwon Heads Road.

The City has shown strong partnership by offering its land for reconstruction and committing to ongoing maintenance and facilitation of community use. However, it is not in a position to also fund the rebuild.

Despite strong community advocacy, the Victorian Government has declined funding, stating the rebuild falls outside the scope of the road upgrade. State support is now sought to finally restore this iconic heritage structure as a living community asset.

Rebuilding the Marshalltown Bluestone Cottage is essential to protecting local heritage, strengthening community connection, and ensuring this significant piece of Marshall's history is preserved for future generations.

## BENEFITS

- > Preserves and restores a rare 1860s bluestone cottage, protecting an important piece of Marshalltown's heritage.
- > Returns a much loved heritage icon to public use, meeting community expectations established during the Barwon Heads Road upgrade.
- > Strengthens community identity and connection to place by relocating the cottage opposite its original site.
- > Complements the shared path and adjoining community garden, creating a point of interest and gathering place.

## OUR ASK

- > \$1.6m

# MT BRANDON RESERVE PARKLAND



The Mt Brandon Reserve Parkland revitalisation will deliver a staged upgrade of open space between the Geelong Ring Road and Buckley Falls Park. This project will enhance recreational access, protect cultural and environmental values, and create a high-quality public realm for the growing Barrabool Hills community.

The transformation, which is underpinned by the Mt Brandon Landscape Plan, includes new trails, picnic areas, river access, and environmental restoration, and aligns with the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut and the Shared Trails Master Plan.

Key elements include:

- **Picnic and Recreation Areas:** Two new picnic areas with shelters, BBQs, seating, and informal recreation spaces.
- **River Access:** Fishing platforms, canoe access, and stairs to the river.
- **Environmental Restoration:** Indigenous revegetation, habitat corridor enhancement, and weed control.
- **Cultural Heritage Protection:** Interpretation of the historic Mill water race and protection of Wathaurong cultural sites.
- **Shared Trails:** A new 2.5-metre wide sealed pedestrian/cycle path linking Buckley Falls Park to the Geelong Ring Road, with additional unsealed trails to Baums Weir and Rivergum Drive (The Barwon River Loop Trail and bridge connection is a standalone priority project).

## BENEFITS

- > Improved connectivity between residential areas and the Barwon River Trail.
- > Inclusive recreation for all ages and abilities.
- > Environmental stewardship through habitat restoration and revegetation.
- > Cultural recognition of Wathaurong heritage and early European history.
- > Community-led transformation supported by long-standing volunteer groups and existing Plans.

## OUR ASK

- > \$1.3m

# PROVINCE BOULEVARD PLAYGROUND



Design and construction of a new community parkland and supporting community infrastructure including play space, paths, shelter and landscaping within a vacant Council owned reserve. The new reserve will provide an important addition to the network for this neighbourhood which has an under provision of accessible public open space. The development of this reserve will support active lifestyles and improved community connections.

Draft Concept Plans have been prepared in response to initial Community Engagement and include:

- Bulk earthworks
- Vehicle access points
- Two picnic shelters
- Retaining wall balustrades
- Barbecues, signage
- Nature play and play equipment
- External services (electricity and stormwater) connections

## BENEFITS

- > Community connection and development
- > Accessible open space
- > Enable active lifestyles
- > Deliver on community need and expectation arising from a lack of community gathering and play spaces to service this neighbourhood.

## OUR ASK

- > \$2.1m

# SPARROVALE WETLANDS



We have approved a 20-year master plan for the Sparrovale Wetlands, a new world class 550-hectare nature reserve being created near Armstrong Creek and adjacent to the iconic Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve.

The plan's aim is to create significant environmental, tourism and recreational benefits for our region.

The Sparrovale Master Plan provides for environmental protection, a staged opening of the wetlands park and the creation of a regional gateway to the Lake Connewarre area.

This is a unique opportunity to establish a parkland ecosystem in partnership with other government agencies that will protect the area's biodiversity and cater to a range of passive recreational and educational activities, as well as increase access for fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

The plan has three phases from now until 2040 and also identifies the potential to build a regional wetland interpretation centre and lookout structure, to promote the wetlands and Lake Connewarre Ramsar area.

## OUR ASK

- > \$920k for key infrastructure including a viewing platform, picnic areas, pedestrian bridge and building refurbishment.
- > \$620k for public access paths and tracks including boardwalks and culverts.
- > \$330k for water infrastructure - removal of bunds, regulator gates automation, culvert and associated works.
- > \$3.3m for public amenity and eco-tourism investment including sculpture, heritage interpretation.

## OUR PRIORITY

# WAURN PONDS SKATE PARK



Stage 1 of the Waurn Ponds Skate Park was a major step forward in enhancing local recreation. To realise the precinct's full potential and deliver a world-class experience, further upgrades are needed.

The City of Greater Geelong is planning to renew the dirt jumps, strengthening Waurn Ponds' position as a regional hub for wheeled sports and supporting progression for BMX and mountain bike riders.

Funding is now sought to create a more inclusive and comprehensive space for skateboarders, BMX and mountain bike riders, and other park users.

Proposed improvements include:

- An advanced skate bowl and vert ramp renewal to attract experienced riders.
- A new mini ramp to support beginner progression.
- A new road crossing to link the skate park and dirt jumps, improving safety and access.
- Upgraded parking and signage to manage traffic and support growing participation.
- Sports lighting of the skate park for evening and year-round use.

### BENEFITS

- > **Expanded participation:** New features will attract a broader range of users, from beginners to advanced riders, across skateboarding, BMX, and mountain biking.
- > **Improved safety:** A new road crossing and better lighting will reduce risk and support safe use throughout the precinct.
- > **Greater accessibility and inclusion:** A toilet facility and improved signage will support gender equity and access for all users.
- > **Enhanced community appeal:** Upgraded facilities will position Waurn Ponds as a leading regional destination for wheeled sports.
- > **Year-round activation:** Sports lighting will extend usable hours, supporting evening and winter use.

### WHAT HAS BEEN COMMITTED

- > \$600k from the City of Greater Geelong to renew the dirt jumps.
- > \$250k from the Victorian Government through the Pick My Park program for a toilet facility.

### OUR ASK

- > \$2m to improve skate provision and lighting.
- > \$850k for safety, accessibility and amenity improvements.