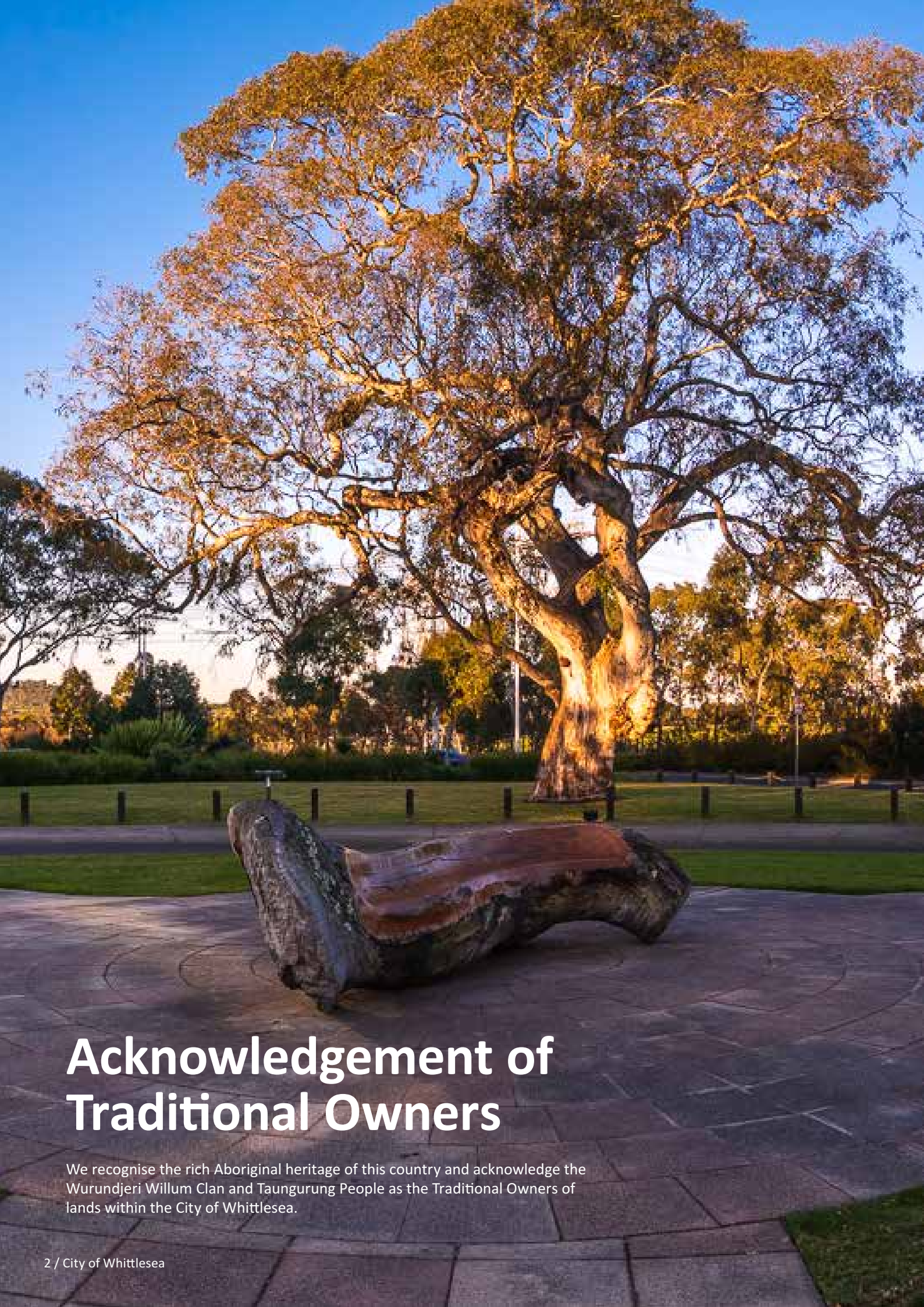




Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan



City of
Whittlesea



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

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Executive summary

In 2040 the City of Whittlesea is a place for all. Our facilities and spaces are welcoming, inclusive and safe. Our community infrastructure provides local opportunities to create social connections and interactions and access to services and activities that support our health, wellbeing and lifelong learning.

The Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan has been developed to guide Council’s ongoing investment in community infrastructure, defined as the buildings and spaces Council has a responsibility for that support the delivery of community services, programs, organised activities, sport and recreation. Taking a long-term outlook, the Plan uses evidence-based analysis and prioritisation, with a focus on equitable and timely community infrastructure provision, supporting our long-term community vision, Whittlesea 2040: A place for all.

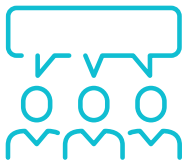
In developing the *Community Infrastructure Plan* a planning methodology and prioritisation approach was established to guide Council’s community infrastructure investment.

- Decision-making is based on robust evidence, with a strong focus on community engagement and service-based reviews that prioritise the delivery of community spaces and places according to local community need
- Community infrastructure principles set out the underlying philosophy that guides the prioritisation, planning, design, operation and activation of community infrastructure
- Place-based planning ensures the distinct needs and aspirations of local areas can be considered holistically.

Recognising the substantial investment required to accommodate the needs of a growing and changing population, Council’s role in providing community infrastructure is focused on maximising the capability, capacity and utilisation of existing community infrastructure. Where a substantial renovation or rebuild is required, or it is necessary to build new community infrastructure, Council will work in partnership with community service providers, other local councils, state and federal government and other relevant stakeholders to deliver and operate community infrastructure and maximise utilisation.

A key desired result of the *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan* is balancing the need for a long-term understanding of the community infrastructure priorities to address current and future community needs and aspirations, while providing the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances. Consequently, the Plan outlines strategic and capital delivery actions expected to commence in the next 10 years, subject to review as part of the annual budget process taking into consideration: ongoing investigation of the condition and capacity of our assets, evolving service requirements, changing community needs and state and federal government policy changes influencing funding for, and provision of, services and infrastructure.

How we engaged



Whittlesea 2040 community consultation
More than 4,000 people participated
through submissions, workshops and forums online, paper-based and in-person activities.



Community Plan 2021–25
Let’s Talk: Shaping the Community Plan 2021–25 consultation program that included community surveys, online and face-to-face events, pop-up stalls and targeted focus groups.



Infrastructure and service needs community consultation 2023
About 400 people
representing community members, local business and community organisations participated in workshops, focus groups, in-depth telephone interviews and surveys.



2021 Household Survey
1,545 people completed the household survey
including questions about participation in sport and recreation, leisure arts and cultural activities, and access to services and facilities.



Community focus groups 2023
Shaped the key directions for Council’s goals; Connected Community and Liveable Neighbourhoods, as well as dedicated sessions for the *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan*.



Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan staff consultation 2023
Council stakeholder meetings and workshops identified potential projects and refined priorities.

“We desperately need a sports and aquatic centre with a swimming pool... and a good big gym!”

“Open community gardens in high-density areas.”

How we plan

An integrated and people-focused approach

The *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan* is one of seven strategies that outlines Council's commitments, the outcomes we strive for and the actions we will deliver for our community.

The seven strategies are known as Council's Integrated Planning Framework. Each strategy expands on our long-term 20-year community vision, Whittlesea 2040: *A place for all*, and our *Community Plan 2021–2025*, to provide our community with more information about Council's priorities and our overall strategic direction.

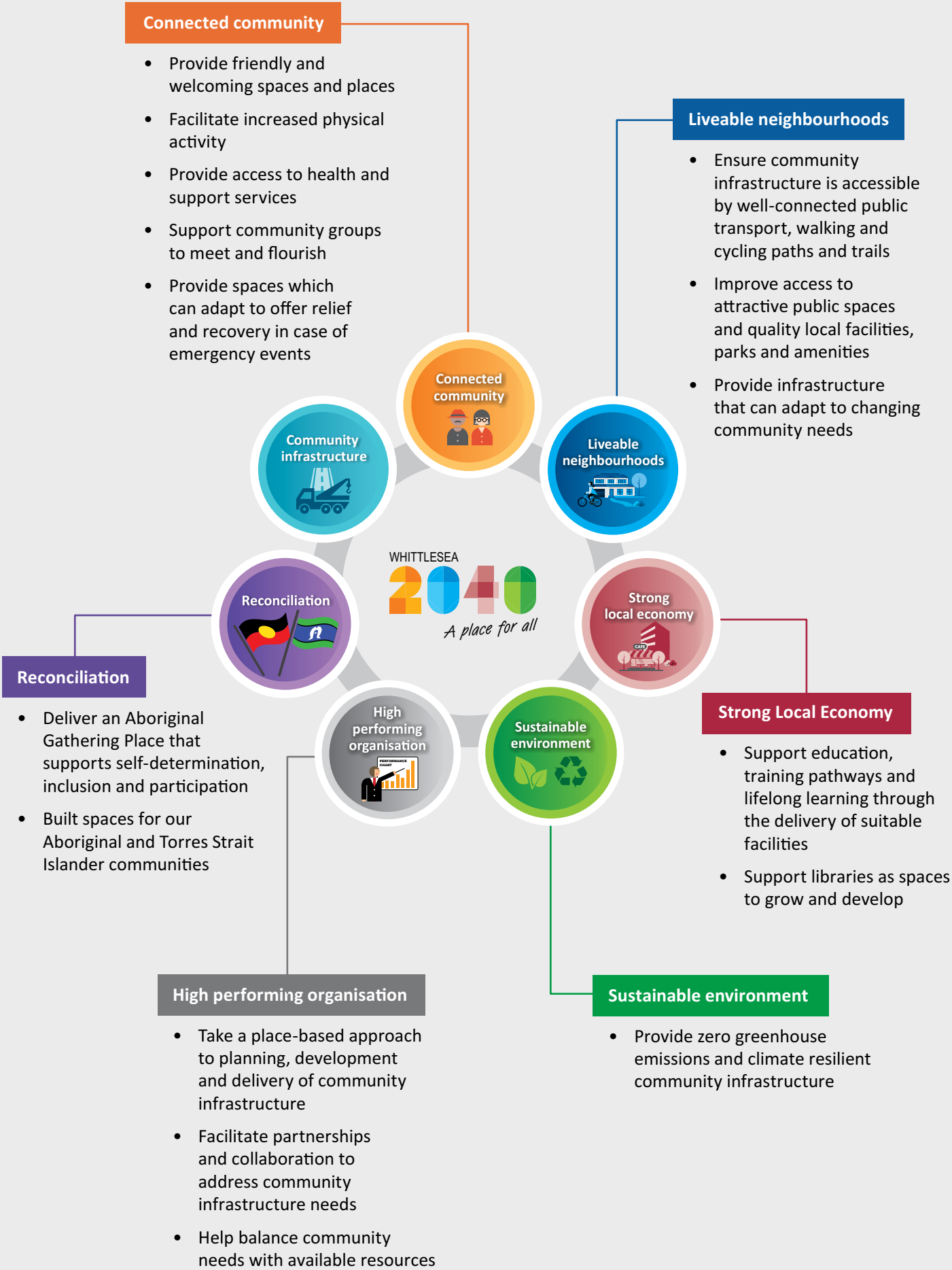
Achievement of the outcomes and commitments outlined in the *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan* rely on Council's collaboration with our community, community service providers, other levels of government, special interest groups and other relevant stakeholders. In referring to "our approach", Council acknowledges the need to work closely with these partners to achieve the best outcomes for our community.

Equity at the heart of 2040

Equity and inclusion sit at the heart of our Whittlesea 2040 vision of a place for all. Actions arising from this Plan will consider the experiences and needs of Aboriginal people, people within the LGBTIQ community and those of different genders, abilities, ages and cultural, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds,

Council is legislated to consider the differing needs of people of all genders and promote gender equality in the way we plan and build our infrastructure in the municipality and has a responsibility to remove barriers for people with disability in order that all community members can participate in public life.

Capital projects and strategic actions arising from the *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan* will include specific consideration of gender equality.



Place-based planning

The Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan takes a place-based approach that is responsive to the distinct needs and aspirations of local communities.

The City of Whittlesea has made significant progress in achieving positive outcomes by placing a strong emphasis on local communities. Our approach involves understanding and addressing the specific aspirations and needs of each community within our municipality, with the goal of directly addressing these when delivering initiatives and creating a place for all.

Our key priorities are to recognise and appreciate the distinct characteristics across our municipality; embrace and celebrate the rich diversity; work in partnership and collaboration with various stakeholders, including residents, community groups and organisations to coordinate our services, programs, and infrastructure planning. Adopting a localised approach allows Council to facilitate equal opportunities for community members to participate and engage within their local areas, fostering strong social connections and building resilience within our communities.



Providing community infrastructure for a diverse and growing community

The City of Whittlesea is the fifth most populous local government area in Victoria and the fifth fastest growing in the last 10 years. Between 2023 and 2040 the population is estimated to grow by more than 45 per cent from 244,119 to 355,144 people, which is about 6,531 new residents per year.

Like other municipalities experiencing rapid population growth, having the resources available to deliver the services, spaces and places to service community needs is challenging, as is finding the balance between addressing significant increased demand for community infrastructure in new suburbs with expansion and renewal of existing facilities to accommodate growth in established areas.

Infrastructure implications of population growth

Between 2023 and 2040 an additional



10,446 children aged 5 and under will require access to services including **Maternal and Child Health, childhood immunisation and early childhood education and care.**

More than 70 additional kindergarten rooms will be needed to meet demand for **3- and 4-year-old kindergarten.**



The number of young people aged between 10 and 25 years will increase by more than 35 per cent, significantly increasing demand for **library services, sport and leisure facilities** and welcoming spaces to collaborate, study and socialise.



Residents aged 50 years and over are forecast to increase by 66 per cent, with the 75+ population anticipated to grow by 119 per cent.

This will create substantial increases in demand for **health and wellbeing services and social activity opportunities**, including informal recreation especially in more established areas such as Thomastown, Lalor, Mill Park and Epping.



There is significant cultural and linguistic diversity (CALD) in the City of Whittlesea, with **almost half of the population speaking a language other than English at home, and 37.6 per cent of the population born overseas.**

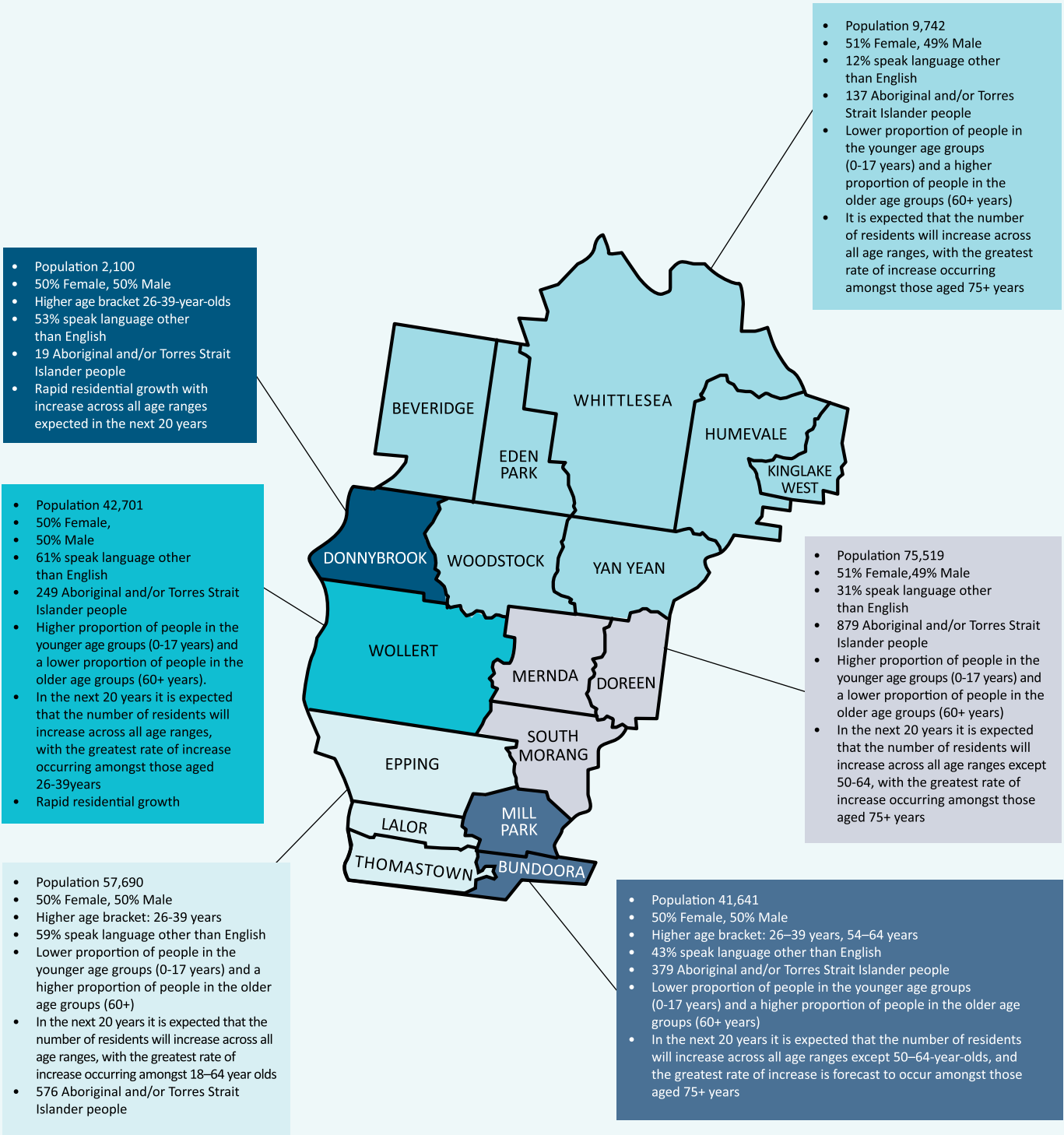
The CALD profile of each suburb within the City of Whittlesea is uniquely diverse, strengthening the need for tailored delivery of services and infrastructure that will continue to play a significant role in creating social connections and **facilitating a welcoming environment for new migrant residents.**



Residents identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doubled between 2011 and 2021, with almost half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25 years or under.

Creating welcoming, inclusive and culturally safe spaces where all Aboriginal people have a sense of belonging and can strengthen culture is a priority for Council.

Current and projected population (2023 & 2040)



Benefits of community infrastructure



Development of the *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan* starts with listening to what the community has told us about the importance of community infrastructure and its timely provision.

What is community infrastructure?

For the purposes of this Plan, community infrastructure is defined as the buildings and spaces Council has responsibility for that support the delivery of community services, programs, organised activities, sport and recreation. This includes community centres, halls, neighbourhood houses, kindergartens, Maternal and Child Health centres, libraries, performing arts spaces and sports and leisure facilities, including sports grounds, stadiums, courts, pavilions and aquatic and leisure centres.

Out of scope

Parks and playgrounds, public toilets, council offices and transport infrastructure, including roads, car parks and footpaths, are not included in the scope of this document.

Community facilities in the City of Whittlesea...

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Provide spaces that are welcoming, accessible, safe and inclusive for all | 6 Provide local access to early education services and supports |
| 2 Help create social connections and interactions | 7 Provide environments that encourage increased physical activity for all ages and abilities |
| 3 Create a sense of place and connect residents to their neighbourhood | 8 Provide adaptable and multi-functional spaces that enable community groups to thrive |
| 4 Deliver local access to lifelong learning | 9 Provide facilities that help build resiliency and ensure we are prepared for climate change and hard-to-predict events such as natural disasters and pandemics. |
| 5 Foster individual and family health and wellbeing through locally accessible services and activities | |



Community infrastructure context in the City of Whittlesea

Council’s role in community infrastructure delivery

Investment in the delivery, maintenance and operation of community infrastructure by Council includes more than 140 community facilities and sporting precincts, providing an array of recreation, culture, life-long learning, social and leisure opportunities across the City of Whittlesea. While Council’s investment in community infrastructure is substantial, it is not the sole provider of infrastructure.

In line with the *Whittlesea 2040 Strategy*, Council predominantly plays one of three roles in supporting community infrastructure delivery:



Council’s focus as a **provider** is to deliver community facilities to address the gaps in community need that are not being met by local business or other providers. As part of this role, Council has the responsibility to deliver community infrastructure identified in precinct structure plans prepared to guide the development of new growth areas. This community infrastructure is partly funded using developer contributions levied from these areas.



Facilitating partnerships to deliver new infrastructure and shared utilisation of facilities such as community access to school gyms is critical, particularly in growth corridors experiencing rapid population expansion.



Advocacy is also crucial. Additional funding from federal and state governments is needed to enable timely delivery of regional community infrastructure and for the expansion of health and wellbeing services and supports. The *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan* will help guide Council’s community infrastructure advocacy priorities.



Community infrastructure quick facts



The **Spring Street Hall** in Thomastown is the oldest community centre in our municipality, built in **1924**



Our **3 aquatic centres** had more than **900,000 visits in the last 12 months**



Council took more than **6,500 bookings** in the **first six months of 2022** and our **community centres** are used for around **62,870 hours per year**



Council continues to make significant capital investments in community infrastructure. **In the last 10 years** Council has been involved in the delivery of **9 new kindergartens, 2 kindergarten room extensions on existing facilities, 9 new community centres, 1 new council services hub, 5 new sporting precincts** and **new sporting infrastructure on a further 6 recreation reserves**.

Highlights from 2023 include:

- The Mernda Social Support Centre located next to the Mernda Village Community Centre is providing day respite and social support services for older residents living in the municipality’s rapidly growing northern suburbs.
- Three new kindergartens on school sites in Epping, Lalor and Wollert
- The Whittlesea Service Hub is enabling residents in the north to connect with Council closer to home.



Shifting practice in design, activation and delivery

In the past, community facilities were mostly built to deliver a single service. This is evident in the established southern parts of the municipality, including Lalor and Thomastown, where there are many stand-alone community facilities including kindergartens, Maternal and Child Health centres, libraries and community halls.

In recent years, the trend has moved to delivering larger facilities that can accommodate a range of services. This approach has many benefits. It is cost effective, maximises efficient land use and provides the flexibility to adapt to changing community needs over time. Additionally, it enables community members to travel to a single destination to access multiple services. When service model planning and facility design occur at the same time, this can support and encourage seamless service delivery and service integration. This approach is important for improving health and wellbeing outcomes, with increasing recognition that strengthening links between service providers can better address the complex needs and issues faced by many community members.

Traditional planning for community infrastructure has relied on benchmarking – a standard to guide the level, scale and quantity of diverse types of community infrastructure for a given population expressed as a ratio. For example, one multipurpose room per 1,400 people. Disregarding the challenge in finding agreed benchmarks for service provision, this approach can be helpful in setting aside sufficient land for community infrastructure, such as open spaces, community centres and schools when planning for new precincts and suburbs. It does not, however, account for the distinct characteristics of the local community, nor the Victorian rate cap that continues to have a significant ongoing impact on Council’s ability to keep pace with the service delivery and infrastructure requirements of our growing community.

Given the resourcing challenges faced by Councils, the recognition of the benefits of seamless service delivery and service integration, and the differing needs and characteristics of our local communities, Council has undertaken a service-led approach to infrastructure planning.



How we make decisions about community infrastructure

Decision-making in relation to the prioritisation, investment, design and delivery of community infrastructure is based on robust evidence, with a strong focus on community engagement and service-based reviews that prioritise the delivery of community spaces and places according to local community need.

The consistent application of guiding principles supports the identification of infrastructure priorities and informs the design and location of community infrastructure and how we operate and activate community facilities.

Place-based planning ensures the distinct needs and aspirations of local areas can be considered holistically, taking into account opportunities to optimise utilisation of existing community infrastructure.

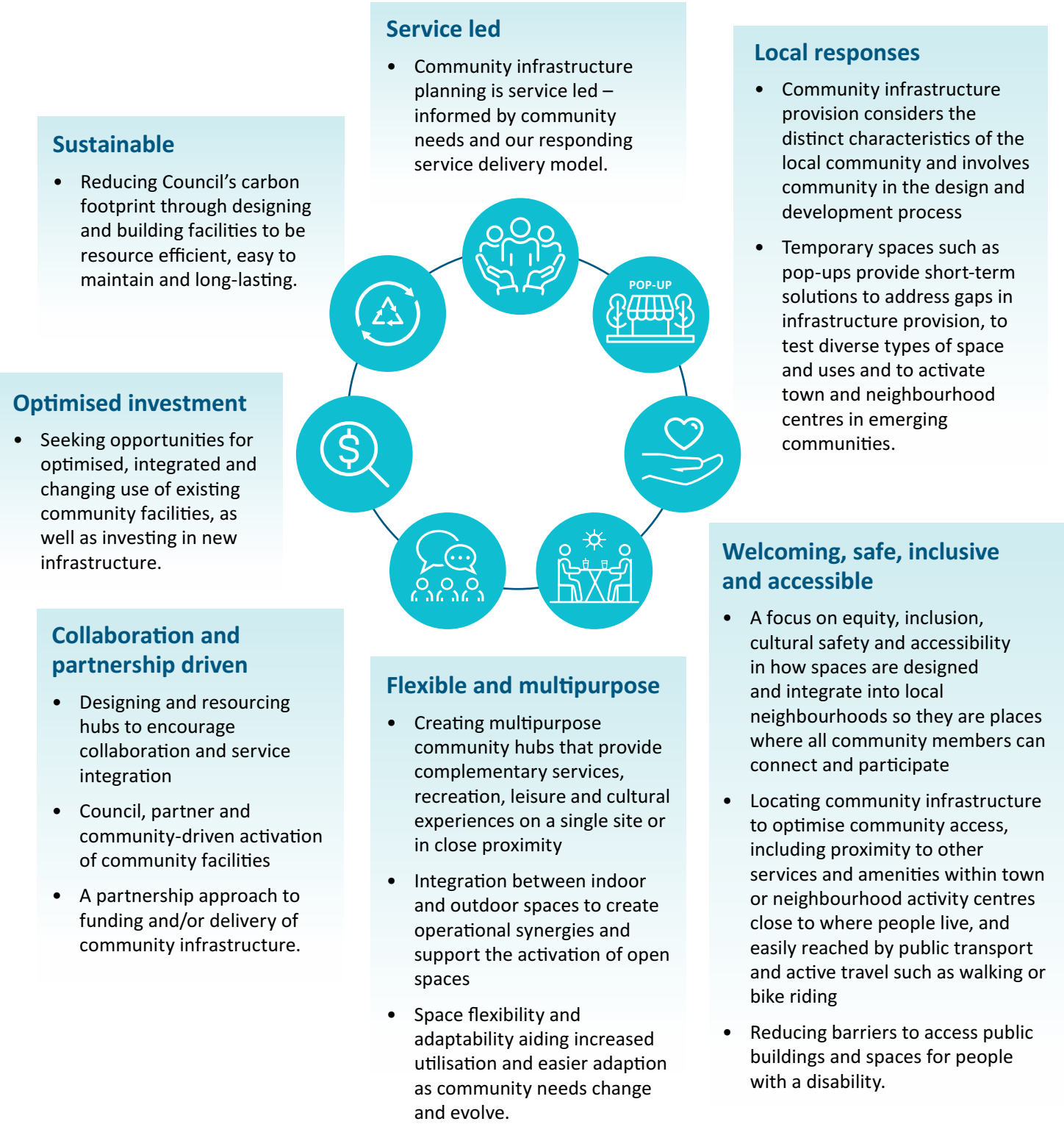
The community infrastructure planning process is developed and implemented in a way that allows for responsive planning over time and includes regular review to respond to changing circumstances.



Community infrastructure principles

The following community infrastructure principles set out the underlying philosophy that guides the prioritisation, planning, design, operation and activation of community infrastructure.

The community infrastructure principles have been developed considering community and stakeholder feedback, and our integrated people-focused, social, environmental and economic planning approach.



The community infrastructure planning process





Service planning

The first step in developing the *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan* involved undertaking detailed planning for future services and infrastructure needs across the many services that the community use in the City of Whittlesea.

Starting with an understanding of the unique social characteristics of a local area and community needs and aspirations, Council then investigated usage patterns including barriers to access, emerging trends, policy changes and best practice service delivery to develop a service delivery model.

This model informed the type and location of spaces and places required for each service. Analysis of the capacity of existing facilities used for that service, as well as planned infrastructure investment, determined the likely shortfall/surplus of facilities available and the resulting infrastructure priorities.

The following is a summary of the community infrastructure and service provision needs and infrastructure priorities by service area. These include strategic actions that will be undertaken in the short term to optimise use of community facilities, seek out partnerships and other forms of investment and increase our understanding of opportunities and barriers to access. These actions will continue to inform our community infrastructure investment.



Children and family services

Council's role in supporting children and families in the City of Whittlesea is diverse, including delivery of universal and enhanced Maternal and Child Health services; immunisations; facilitating and supporting playgroups; providing training, education and support for parents and educators, operating a kindergarten central application system to allocate kindergarten places and the contract management of kindergarten provision in Council facilities.

Additionally, Council makes substantial investment in the planning, provision and maintenance of infrastructure to support the delivery of early years services.

Key reforms being driven by the Victorian Government will have a significant impact upon the provision of kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health services over the next decade. The increase in kindergarten hours (15 hours for 3-year-old kindergarten by 2029 and 30 hours for 4-year-old kindergarten/pre-prep by 2032), and the subsidising of kindergarten to make it free for all families as part of the *Best Start, Best Life* initiative is placing significant pressure on the sector, both in relation to infrastructure provision and workforce planning. Furthermore, expansion of the Maternal and Child Health Key Age and Stage model from 6.45 hours to 8 hours per child over the next four years, combined with policies targeting improved childhood immunisation rates have heightened pressure on Maternal and Child Health immunisation and universal access provision.

These Victorian Government reforms, combined with rapid population growth, workforce shortages, more children and families presenting to local services with additional and complex needs and increased infrastructure costs, has created multi-faceted pressure within the sector. In response to these pressures Council will continue to roll out infrastructure in partnership with the Department of Education. It will also facilitate access by allied health and family support services to spaces in community infrastructure to encourage those services to have and maintain a presence in communities.



Our priorities for action

- In early 2024 Council will develop an options paper and implementation plan to provide strategies and recommendations on future service modelling, delivery and infrastructure to inform Council's response and delivery of the *Best Start, Best Life* kindergarten reform
- Investigate the feasibility of expansion/renewal of single room kindergartens and potential integration with other early years services in established areas, as well as considering the location of future consulting suites for Maternal and Child Health to ensure a joined-up model
- Respond to population growth and the roll out of kindergarten reform and Maternal and Child Health services by providing some capacity in new, planned for community centres in the northern growth areas (balancing demand for early years infrastructure with wider community needs)
- Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to ensure adequate provision of early years facilities to accommodate increased demand for kindergarten, through delivery of new community centres, expansion of existing kindergarten services and delivery on school sites
- Undertake a review of Maternal and Child Health consulting spaces in South Morang, Mernda and Doreen to determine where services should remain and opportunities to provide access to consulting spaces for other service providers.



The number of children aged 5 and under will grow by 49% between 2023 and 2040.

49% ↑



Youth services

Council's approach to supporting young people aged 10 to 25 years and their families is to take an early intervention, preventative and strength-based activities approach that responds to locally identified community needs.

This includes a strong focus on collaboration and partnerships to ensure young people and families can access additional support and resources from specialist services when required.

In terms of trends, the City of Whittlesea has one of the highest levels of community mental health contacts per capita, most prevalent in people aged 18 to 24 years. This is heightened in new and emerging communities, which are at a higher risk of health concerns due to a lack of services and facilities, and the absence of strong social connections. This, combined with the multiple negative effects the COVID-19 pandemic had on young people, has increased the pressure on already limited youth support services operating in the City of Whittlesea.

Council is the lead tenant and provides overarching support for the Edge youth facility. Located in the Westfield Plenty Valley shopping centre, the Edge operates as a co-located services space with youth mental health service providers. Functionality of the space is limited as the configuration makes it difficult for programs and activities to occur at the same time clinical mental health services are offered. In addition to the Edge, place-based service delivery occurs in a multitude of spaces across the community according to local need, and where young people already gather including schools, libraries, community centres, parks, leisure centres and shopping centres. Increasingly, event and program delivery are constrained by and often tailored to suit the infrastructure available, and there is a need for youth-focused, multi-use spaces suitable for a variety of activities.

Victoria's Youth Strategy 2022-2027 highlights the importance of providing support to young people and recognises the critical role youth hubs play. A priority in the Strategy is to partner with local government and the community sector to provide local youth hubs, co-designed with young people, in priority areas across the state. The City of Whittlesea has been identified as a priority location and Council is currently partnering with the Victorian Government and other partners to explore opportunities to meet demand for youth focused spaces.



Our priorities for action

- Following completion of the *Youth Service Model and Infrastructure Response*, identify the spaces and infrastructure required to support the needs of young people living, studying or working in the City of Whittlesea
- Continue to partner with the Victorian Government and other stakeholders to explore opportunities to meet demand for youth-focused spaces
- Consider options to create a family services hub that includes access to allied health and parenting support services and a separate but interconnected middle years/youth space to service emerging communities in the north of the municipality.



The City of Whittlesea has one of the highest levels of community mental health contacts per capita, most prevalent in people aged 18-24 years.



Ageing well

Council predominantly supports older adults from 50 years of age who live in the City of Whittlesea in two key focus areas – supporting older adults 65 and over with ageing in place assistance (personal care, meals, domestic assistance) and promoting positive ageing through a combination of place-based and centre-based services.

The Australian Government aged care reforms, as a result of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, have fundamentally changed how support and care are funded and provided for older people. The Victorian Government's Ageing Well in Victoria and research via *'Ageing is everyone's business'* report identified issues of loneliness and isolation in older people. Policy reforms, combined with rapid population growth of people over 50 will significantly increase demand for ageing well services in the next 10 to 20 years.

Council acknowledges that although we are one in the vast array of community, government and commercial organisations that support older members of the community, increased service and facility provision by Council will be crucial in meeting demand. Delivering new and upgraded multipurpose facilities with an 'age-friendly' lens will support activity preferences, demand for health and wellbeing opportunities and desire for more multigenerational activities, encouraging our community to age well. To meet the growing demand for services, Council will consider the delivery of new ageing well hubs in the north and south of the municipality, and potential expansion of services in the central area to continue to partner with other aged care providers and community groups for co-location of complementary health and wellbeing services.



Our priorities for action

- Evaluate the Mernda Social Support Centre model to ascertain learnings and applicability to other Council community centres
- In the long term, investigate the feasibility of delivering wellness hubs designed to support partnership approaches with other aged care providers and community groups for co-location of a range of complementary health and wellbeing services. (Potential sites include the Barry Road Community Centre in Lalor, expansion of the Mernda Social Support Centre and a planned for community centre in the north of the municipality).



72 seniors clubs use our community facilities.



Community Activation

Community activation is guided by the key directions within the Connected Communities goal for Council's Whittlesea 2040 vision *A Place for All*.

Council works with people in their local community to develop capacity that fosters community wellbeing through supporting community-led initiatives; linking residents into activities and services; and working with community groups and partner organisations to deliver a program of events and activities. Delivery occurs both in council-owned facilities and local parks, as well as non-Council-owned places such as faith-based group facilities, scout halls and schools.

Council also undertakes the management and operation of Council-owned community centres, halls and community pavilions. These are available for hire by local groups with some facilities also available for social functions. In addition to operating one local neighbourhood house, Council supports other neighbourhood house providers, the majority of whom operate from Council-owned facilities.

Local governments are identified as the lead agency for relief and recovery at the local level in the Victorian Government *Emergency Management Manual Victoria*, as such selected community centres and halls strategically placed throughout the municipality support evacuation as relief centres.

Similar to all service areas, the demands of population growth, COVID-19 impacts and the high portion of the City of Whittlesea population born overseas continues to influence the future provision of community meeting and activity spaces in the City of Whittlesea. There is changing and growing demand for and use of community facilities as established groups decline, and new groups seek opportunities to connect and run programs and activities. There is also growing demand for programmed activities and increased and diversified low-cost and no-cost programming will continue to support and encourage re-engagement from participants who have not returned after COVID-19 lockdowns, those keen to re-connect and welcome new residents.



Our priorities for action

- Complete a community halls evaluation to better understand the challenges and opportunities for uses in community halls across the eastern suburbs and recommend sites for renewal
- Explore models for activation of Council-owned community facilities
- Review Council's relevant community infrastructure strategies, policies and guidelines to ensure they provide best practice functional understanding of flexible, adaptable space design and service delivery aligned with the community infrastructure principles
- Review and define Council's position and approach to community facilities available for hire including halls, community centres and sporting infrastructure considering access, allocation and fees and charges
- Evaluate the success of the Whittlesea Service Hub and conduct regular needs analysis and benchmarking of our growing community to determine if and where additional council service hubs are required to support our community
- Deliver new multipurpose community centres in the northern growth areas that provide complementary services, recreation, leisure and cultural experiences on a single site, including investigating the scope of selected community centres to deliver neighbourhood house services in partnership with a local service provider
- In consultation with local stakeholders, review and implement community hall, neighbourhood house and community centre renewal, taking into consideration: facility condition and fitness for purpose; compliance; emerging community needs; opportunities for optimisation and expansion, as well as service co-location and integration.



38% of the population was born overseas. Providing culturally safe spaces and amenities and activity programming plays an important part in making new residents feel welcome and creating a sense of belonging.



Libraries

Local libraries are an important universal service that provide free, safe and accessible places and resources to support community development, lifelong learning and a distinct sense of place.

The purpose of libraries is evolving and they have become much more than a place to borrow books. Libraries provide a range of recreational, educational, social, information and employment-related benefits for community members of all ages, interests and backgrounds. This includes involvement in programs and services, accessing computers and other technology, interacting with staff and undertaking informal recreation.

The City of Whittlesea Library Service is delivered on behalf of Council by Yarra Plenty Regional Library Corporation (YPRL). Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, existing regional library corporations, including YPRL, must be wound up by 2031 and transition to a new corporate entity. Council's review of the model has recommended the City of Whittlesea commit to a shared-service model for library service delivery. This model will support integration with the *City of Whittlesea Community Plan*, broader Council services and operations, as well as ensure adaptation to changing community need.

Provision of library services is not evenly distributed across the municipality. Council will ensure local access to library services through a network of library services. In the short-term this includes expanded access through inclusion of community library hubs in newer community centres and libraries on short-term leases, supplemented by mobile library coverage to test and evaluate temporary solutions to meet the needs of growth communities. In the longer-term it will include renewing ageing library infrastructure to create modern library spaces and planning for additional library services in a co-located way that enables community members to access multiple services in the single location.



Our priorities for action

- Increase access to library services through a network of library provision, including increased mobile library coverage, additional community library hubs, mini-branch libraries and branch libraries



82% ↑

In a 2006 library poll, less than half (47%) of library users believed libraries were a hub for community activities and connections. In 2022 that figure leapt to 82%.



Sport and leisure

Council is responsible for the delivery and maintenance of sport and leisure facilities including sports grounds, stadiums, indoor and outdoor courts, pavilions, golf courses and aquatic and leisure centres.

These facilities create opportunities for the community to be physically active, improve health and wellbeing and connect with others. Council's focus as a provider of sport and leisure infrastructure is to address the gaps in community need that are not being met by local businesses or community organisations, prioritising local competition and training. Infrastructure that supports higher levels of elite performance is usually funded by state and federal governments as they support participants from a wider catchment, beyond the municipality.

Population growth is increasing demand for both formal and informal sport and leisure facilities, while an expanding ageing population will influence the mix of activity preferences. For example, population growth is increasing demand for soccer in the north of the municipality, while the growing older population is creating demand for new age-friendly sports such as walking football.

Other trends influencing sport and leisure include smart technology changing the way people choose to engage in physical activity, in part overcoming barriers to access including time constraints, lack of transport and participation costs. A growing number of women and girls are playing traditionally male-dominated sports, including Australian Rules Football, increasing demand for access to playing fields and changerooms. A new policy enacted by the Victorian Government's - Fair Access Policy Roadmap prioritises the access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure for women and girls with eligibility for infrastructure funding for councils and clubs linked to gender equitable access and use policies.

Council is moving away from delivery of single sports grounds to promote club sustainability and co-location of facilities for formal and informal sports participation and wider community use. Multi-use sports precincts are identified in multiple growth suburbs, whilst infrastructure renewal in the established areas will be focused on fair access for all and optimising utilisation of existing access. Furthering partnerships with schools and retaining open space are also key features in ensuring community sport and leisure needs can continue to be met in the long-term.

Council's Leisure Centres are very well utilised with more than 900,000 visits a year across Mill Park Leisure, Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre and Whittlesea Swim Centre, and a membership base which is more than 10,000 members. The Regional Aquatic and Sports Centre planned for Mernda will address a significant demand for indoor and outdoor courts, aquatic and health and wellbeing facilities to the north of the municipality.



Our priorities for action

- Speaking directly to schools, partner with Sport and Recreation Victoria and the Department of Education to develop a standardised Joint User Agreement policy to benefit schools and communities through the provision of increased access to meeting and activity spaces
- Develop operation and management guidelines to improve community access and experience of using sporting pavilions and facilities outside of traditional sporting times
- Develop an allocation policy to ensure equitable access to sport and leisure facilities for women and girls and provide a welcoming 'place for all'
- Update the Sports Infrastructure Renewal Manual to incorporate fair access principles and pavilion upgrade priority program
- Deliver new local sporting precincts, where possible adjacent to other community facilities, designed for both shared use by sports with similar requirements and the co-location of formal and informal sports participation
- Ongoing review to improve/upgrade/renew ageing sport and leisure infrastructure to ensure facilities remain fit for purpose and to increase capacity where desired and feasible
- Deliver Stages 1 and 2 of the Regional Aquatic and Sports Centre at Mernda – a regional level indoor and outdoor sports, leisure and aquatic facility. Continue to seek co-investment for Stage 3.



In 2022 47 clubs with a total of 11,240 players used our sport and leisure infrastructure on a regular basis.



Arts and culture

Arts and cultural activities can play a key role in fostering a connected and cohesive community through supporting social cohesion, helping to understand different perspectives and cultures and creating social connections.

Council plays a significant role in delivering, funding, hosting, supporting and promoting arts and culture in the community through the activation of Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre (PRACC), an extensive program of festivals and events, arts and engagement programs and public art exhibitions.

The Australian Government National Cultural Policy Revive: *a place for every story, a story for every place* is a five-year plan that commenced in 2023 to renew and revive Australia's arts, entertainment and cultural sector. Similar to Revive, the Victorian Government policy *Creative State 2025* outlines a four-year plan to restore economic prosperity and social wellbeing via effective creative industries planning. These policies, the impacts of COVID-19 and the evolving landscape of the arts industry, continues to shape Council's response in supporting the ongoing transformation of the arts industry.

The key asset response identified to support the arts is the transition of PRACC to a new operating model (Creative Industries Hub) to increase precinct vibrancy and drive utilisation across all spaces. Proposed plans include a new gallery space. Additionally, the long-term scope of planned for community centres in the north to host dedicated arts and culture spaces will be explored, considering identified community need, existing provision of infrastructure (such as school theatres and private studios), customisation for local need, and partnership opportunities with state and federal funding bodies and philanthropic organisations to ensure a financially sustainable service delivery model.



Our priorities for action

- Ensure new and renewed libraries and community centres have the flexibility to support place-based arts and cultural programming. For example, public art installations, hosting of events and festivals and walls suitable for displaying visual arts exhibitions
- Implement a new operating model for the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre to increase utilisation and precinct vibrancy and investigate options to house a gallery within the centre
- In the long-term investigate the feasibility of dedicated arts and cultural spaces in the north of the municipality.



31% of people who participated in some form of arts activity showed higher instances of self-reporting their general health as very good, compared to 23% of those who had not participated.



Human services

Council has a role to protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within the community.

Some of the ways it does this is by advocating for provision of services and infrastructure and working in partnership with local organisations to facilitate collaborative responses to specific service gaps, unmet demand and emerging issues. Council's commitment to our role is highlighted in the delivery of the Epping Community Services Hub. The hub attracts a diverse range of not-for-profit service providers and service types to the municipality and co-locates them in a Council-owned and managed premises. The operational model of the hub fosters collaboration and strengthens network links between local service providers, with improved outcomes for community. Additional consultation rooms and meeting spaces are also available via some of Council's community centres. For example, Kirrip Community Centre in Wollert offers two for-hire consult rooms for services and allied health professionals.

Engagement with Hub stakeholders and findings of the *City of Whittlesea 2023 Human Service Needs Analysis*, undertaken by services working in the municipality, have identified an increased need for support services relating to: ongoing issues of mental health exacerbated by COVID-19; cost of living pressures; increased family violence; a current lack of culturally safe services and population growth – intensified in new suburbs to the north.

Advocating for additional health and wellbeing services, and an integrated community services hub in the north of the municipality, are key focus areas for the Council in supporting community need for human services over the next 20 years.



Our priorities for action

- Optimise use of existing resources through facilitating access to Council-owned buildings or consult rooms and meeting spaces in Council-owned community centres
- In the long-term investigate the feasibility of delivering a community services hub in the north of the municipality in partnership with local health and wellbeing service providers, to encourage service delivery and collaboration in the north of the municipality
- Advocate to increase provision of community transport to facilitate improved access to health and wellbeing services.



34% of culturally and linguistically diverse residents have difficulty or are not able to access health or social support services



Aboriginal services

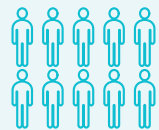
The City of Whittlesea has the second largest Aboriginal community in metropolitan Melbourne.

Consultation with our local Aboriginal community has identified Aboriginal people living in the City of Whittlesea have limited local access to culturally appropriate services that respond to their immediate and long-term cultural needs. Plans are underway to deliver an Aboriginal Gathering Place in the Quarry Hills Regional Parkland in South Morang. This will be the first of its kind delivered in the City of Whittlesea and follows the success of similar Gathering Places located across Victoria. Co-designed with the Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group, the Gathering Place will support and facilitate a variety of cultural activities and programs that incorporate art, music, language and storytelling that strengthen culture and enhance wellbeing.



Our priorities for action

- Build an Aboriginal Gathering Place in the Quarry Hills Regional Parkland in South Morang.



In 2021, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population was 2,270 people



Community infrastructure priorities

Once community facilities and spaces required to meet community needs were determined a place-based lens was applied to identify potential community infrastructure projects.

This approach, the second step in the community infrastructure planning process, ensured collaborative and coordinated planning focusing on distinct local community needs and aspirations.

Consideration was given to provision at both a regional level – that is, those services and facilities that cater to the broader population, including in other municipalities – as well as a local level.

For the purpose of this plan, six geographical areas were used. These areas were chosen based on local transport patterns and to account for differences between current and future growth and established areas within the municipality.

All place-based projects were then further assessed using a number of prioritisation criteria aligned with the community infrastructure principles. This third step has resulted in a list of prioritised community infrastructure projects.

This section outlines the priority capital project actions Council will focus on delivering over the next 10 years. It includes investment in the delivery of new, upgraded or expanded community infrastructure. It does not include routine maintenance and renewal to ensure our community infrastructure remains compliant and fit for purpose. This is considered in Council’s Asset Plan.

- **Short-term actions (2024 – 2028)** are underway or expected to commence in the next five years.
- **Medium- and long-term actions (2029 – 2033)** are expected to commence in the next five to 10 years.

Projects expected to commence later than 10 years have not been included in the *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan* and will continue to be considered as part of future long-term planning.

The Plan will be reviewed as part of the annual budget process taking into consideration ongoing investigation of the condition and capacity of our assets, evolving service requirements, changing community needs and state and federal government policy changes influencing funding for, and provision of, services and infrastructure.

A list of Council owned and or / operated community infrastructure and proposed projects is provided in Appendix 1.

Regional level community infrastructure

While the *Long-Term Community Infrastructure Plan* adopts a localised, place-based approach to planning, some community infrastructure services a broader population. Regional level community facilities are built for and used by people across the municipality and beyond. Examples of regional infrastructure include large performing arts facilities, regional parks and competition level sporting infrastructure that supports elite performance.

Within the City of Whittlesea, the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre has local audiences for events including school productions and dance recitals, while well-known performers attract audiences from across Victoria. Epping Soccer Stadium is a professional soccer facility based in Epping, which has regularly been used by local, national and international football teams as a training and match venue. In addition to providing for local clubs and school athletics competitions, the Meadowglen International Athletics Stadium offers an international standard athletics facility that hosts district and state competitions.

As regional infrastructure draws a wide catchment, provision of regional level facilities takes into account the planning and delivery of regional infrastructure in neighbouring municipalities. It also requires working closely with other municipalities, and advocating to state and federal government to invest in regional community infrastructure to provide the facilities and services that enhance conditions for economic growth, liveability and sustainability, benefiting our rapidly expanding, diverse population.

Following are the priority regional level capital projects that are underway or expected to commence within the next 10 years.

Regional				
Site	Action	Suburb	Short Term*	Medium – Long Term**
Regional Aquatic and Sports Centre at Mernda	Stage design and delivery of the Regional Aquatic and Sports Centre at Mernda	Mernda	✓	
Aboriginal Gathering Place	Complete design and build an Aboriginal Gathering Place in the Quarry Hills Regional Parkland in South Morang	South Morang	✓	
Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre	Implement a new operating model for the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre to increase utilisation and precinct vibrancy and investigate options to house a gallery within the centre	South Morang	✓	
Epping Central	Continue to progress planning for the long-term development of Epping Central, designated as a metropolitan activity centre	Epping	✓	
Cloverton (Kalkallo)	Contribute to Cloverton master planning and service provision considerations as a combined initiative between Hume City Council, Mitchell Shire and City of Whittlesea	Cloverton (Hume)		✓

*Has already commenced or is expected to commence in the next five years (2024–2028)
**Is expected to commence in the next five to 10 years (2029–2033)

High population growth is driving a significant increase in demand for additional community facilities and services

The emerging community of Donnybrook is anticipated to experience population growth of more than 40,000 people between 2023 and 2040. The area has limited access to services, activities and infrastructure, with inadequate provision of major roads and public transport making it difficult for residents to utilise community facilities in neighbouring areas. While a partnership with a local developer has been invaluable in enabling early provision of services, including Maternal and Child Health, pop-up library and gathering space from Olivine Place, as the population has grown, so too has demand. In addition to a shortage of consulting spaces for Maternal and Child Health, meeting spaces are sought after for use by community groups and council program activation.

Considered planning is required to ensure the considerable number of community facilities and sporting precincts identified in Precinct Structure Plans are optimised and have the adaptability to accommodate growing and changing needs for services, programs and activities. This includes finding a balance between significant demand for early years services and meeting the diverse needs of the wider community, including the older population aged 50 and over.

The Eucalyptus Parade kindergarten service, located on a school site, combined with two kindergarten rooms (built as part of the Patterson Drive Community Centre) and a planned ‘kinder on school site’ to open in 2024 will meet short-term demand for kindergarten services. In the medium- and long-term, substantial additional kindergarten programming will be required to meet increased demand for three- and four-year-old kindergarten resulting from population growth and the Victorian Government *Best Start, Best Life* early years reform. A partnership approach is required to ensure sufficient resources are available to accommodate growing demand for both early years services and sport and leisure activities, and to attract health and wellbeing services to the north.

Following are the priority capital projects that are underway or expected to commence within the next 10 years in Donnybrook.

Donnybrook				
Site	Action	Suburb	Short Term*	Medium – Long Term**
Donnybrook Primary School Kindergarten	Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to deliver a kindergarten on school site	Donnybrook	✓	
Olivine Place	Investigate options for future community service provision – and corresponding infrastructure – from Olivine Place	Donnybrook	✓	
Patterson Drive Community Centre	Complete construction of community centre including kindergarten, MCH consulting rooms, community spaces and community library hub	Donnybrook	✓	
Darebin Creek Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options for a new community centre	Donnybrook	✓	
Family services hub and youth space	Review opportunities to create a family services hub that includes access to allied health and parenting support services and a separate but interconnected middle years/ youth space (site TBC)	Donnybrook	✓	
Shenstone Park Community Centre and Neighbourhood House	Investigate preferred service delivery and design and construction options for a new community centre taking into consideration potential integration of community centre and community pavilion to service adjacent sports reserve	Donnybrook	✓	
Donnybrook Farmhouse Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery and design and construction options of a new community centre	Donnybrook		✓
Olivine Sports Reserve	Work in partnership with developer to complete delivery of oval playing fields and community pavilion	Donnybrook	✓	
Shenstone Park Sporting Precinct	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Donnybrook	✓	
Darebin Creek Sports Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Donnybrook		✓

*Has already commenced or is expected to commence in the next five years (2024–2028)

**Is expected to commence in the next five to 10 years (2029–2033)

Donnybrook



KEY: Existing Existing (upgrade) New build

- 1

Darebin Creek Community Centre
(service delivery mix TBD)
- 2

Darebin Creek Sports Reserve
(sporting infrastructure, pavilion)
- 3

Donnybrook Farmhouse Community Centre
(service delivery mix TBD)
- 4

Donnybrook Primary School Kindergarten
(kindergarten)
- 5

Eucalyptus Parade Kindergarten
(kindergarten)
- 6

Olivine Place
(MCH, library, community spaces)
- 7

Olivine Sports Reserve
(ovals, pavilion)
- 8

Patterson Drive Community Centre
(MCH, kindergarten, library, community space)
- 9

Shenstone Park Community Centre
(service delivery mix TBD)
- 10

Shenstone Park Sporting Precinct
(sporting infrastructure, pavilion)
- 11

Family Services Hub and Youth Space
(family support, youth services)

Whittlesea township and surrounding rural area

Small and moderately growing population with a large and increasing proportion of people aged 50 years and over

The current population of Whittlesea Township and surrounding rural area is 8,761. While minimal growth is anticipated, the population is ageing, increasing demand for already highly utilised community meeting and activity spaces, as well as accessible health and wellbeing services.

Services and infrastructure for this rural community are predominantly located in the Whittlesea Township. For a small community, the area is well serviced for sport and leisure infrastructure. It has a variety of well-utilised local facilities including sports courts (tennis and basketball/netball), ovals (cricket and football), BMX and skate park facilities, as well as the Whittlesea Swim Centre. Two golf courses, located in the surrounding rural areas of Humevale and Yan Yean service both the local as well as regional population.

The Whittlesea Community Activity Centre is a highly activated hub in the Whittlesea Township including branch library, Maternal and Child Health consulting rooms, early learning centre and meeting and activity spaces. The Whittlesea Community House hosts a diverse program of classes and activities. Both facilities are ageing and at utilisation capacity. Kindergarten provision from the early learning centre located in the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre and nearby Whittlesea Preschool is meeting current demand for early education. In the medium-term, additional kindergarten programming will be required to meet increased demand for three- and four-year-old kindergarten resulting from the Victorian Government *Best Start, Best Life* early years reform.

The newly opened Whittlesea Service Hub is responding to local need in enabling residents in the north to connect with Council closer to home, while the preferred location for delivery of courts to meet demand for outdoor netball is currently being investigated.

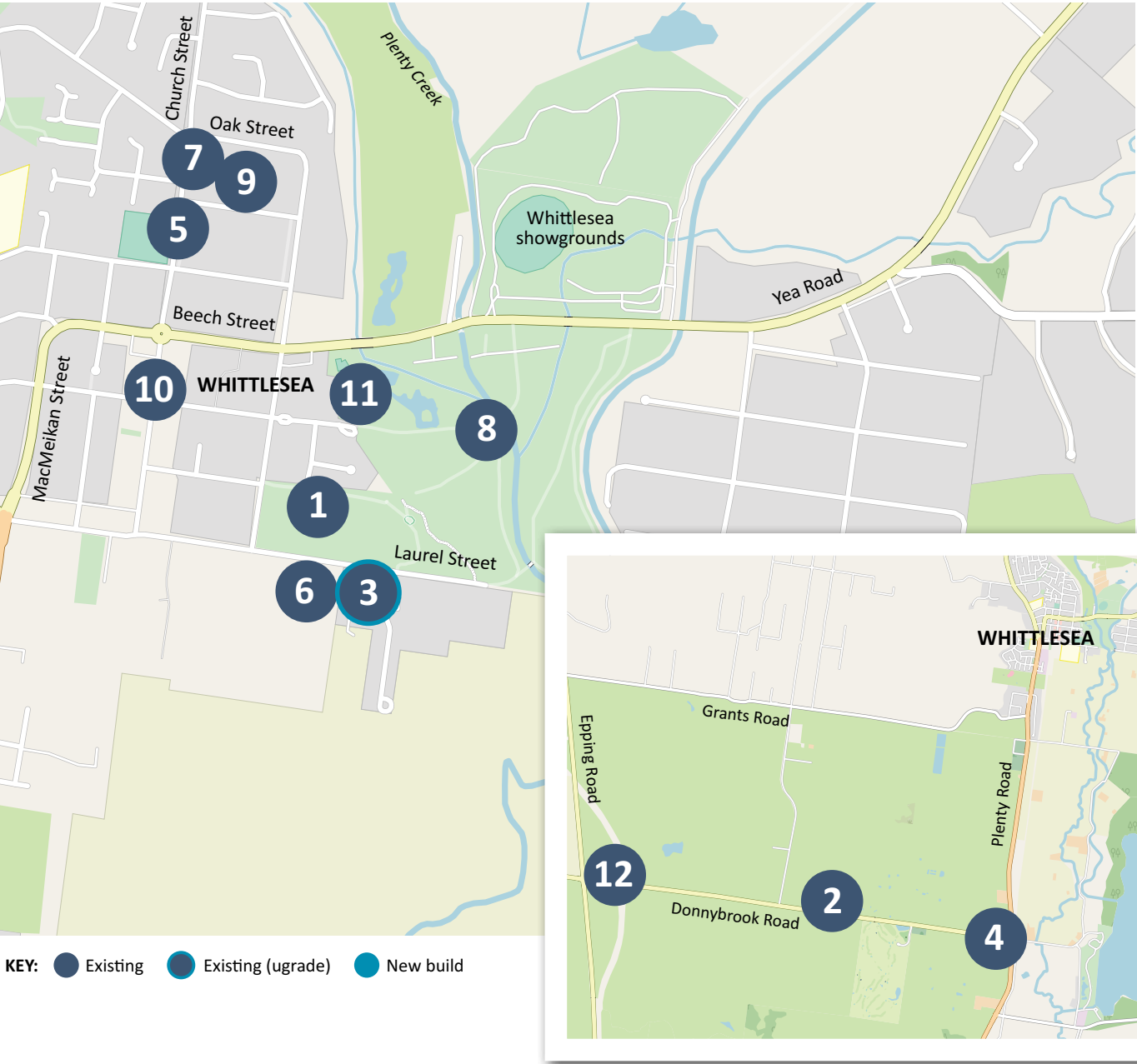
Following are the priority capital projects that are underway or expected to commence within the next 10 years in the Whittlesea Township.

Whittlesea township and surrounding rural area				
Site	Action	Suburb	Short Term*	Medium – Long Term**
Whittlesea Park	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Whittlesea	✓	
Laurel St Modulars	Refurbishment of existing modular buildings to support delivery of kindergarten reform	Whittlesea		✓
Whittlesea netball courts	Undertake masterplan for provision of netball courts (site TBC)	Whittlesea		✓

*Has already commenced or is expected to commence in the next five years (2024–2028)

**Is expected to commence in the next five to 10 years (2029–2033)

Whittlesea township and surrounding rural area



- 1 AF Walker Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 2 Growling Frog Golf Course (sport & leisure)
- 3 Laurel St Modulars (kindergarten)
- 4 TH Hurrey Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 5 Whittlesea Bowls Club (sport & leisure)
- 6 Whittlesea Community Centre (kinder, MCH, community space, library)

- 7 Whittlesea Community House (neighbourhood house)
- 8 Whittlesea Park (sport & leisure)
- 9 Whittlesea Preschool (kindergarten)
- 10 Whittlesea Service Hub (civic services)
- 11 Whittlesea Swim Centre (community space)
- 12 Woodstock Community Hall (community space)

The current population of 31,300 is projected to grow rapidly, driving increased demand for services and facilities

A substantial population increase has occurred in Wollert over the last 20 years, a trend set to continue with the number of people living in the area predicted to grow by more than 35,000 people, to 66,928 people by 2040.

In recent years Council has delivered new multi-purpose community centres with a strong focus on the provision of early years services. This is fulfilling current demand for spaces for community activation, as well as kindergarten and Maternal Child Health services. The inclusion of a kindergarten on a newly opened primary school site and private childcare centres in Wollert are also responding to increasing demand for kindergarten services in the short-term. The soon-to-be operational community library hub in the Kirrip Community Centre will address a gap in library services for the Wollert community in the short-term.

Tennis courts, located in Tuttle Recreation Reserve are the only existing sport and leisure infrastructure for Wollert. Investment in new sporting facilities has not kept up with rapid population growth and this is placing excessive demand on infrastructure to the south, in particular established soccer clubs in Epping.

Population growth will increase demand for local access to spaces and places to play a diverse range of sport, to exercise and stay active and to meet and build social connection. Population growth combined with kindergarten reform will increase demand for co-located and integrated provision of early years services including kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health, playgroups and family support services. In the longer-term a branch library will be required to meet increased demand for library services.

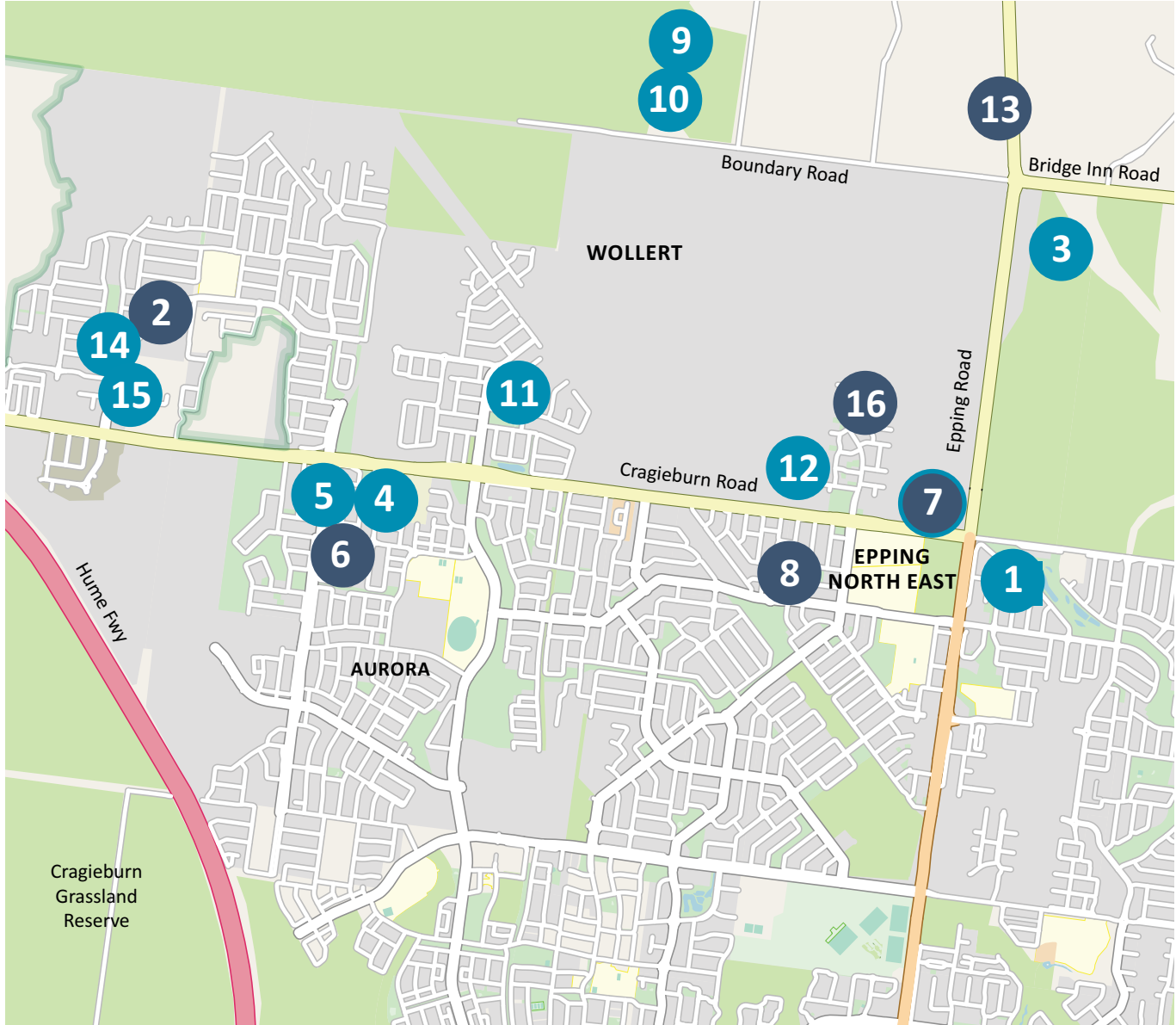
Considered planning is required to ensure sites identified in Precinct Structure Plans for community use are optimised and have the adaptability to accommodate growing and changing needs for services, programs and activities. Additionally, a partnership approach is required to ensure sufficient resources are available to accommodate growing demand for services.

Following are the priority capital projects that are underway or expected to commence within the next 10 years in Wollert.

Wollert				
Site	Action	Suburb	Short Term*	Medium – Long Term**
Edgars Creek Sports Reserve	Design and construction of outdoor rectangular courts, oval playing field and community pavilion	Wollert	✓	
Sports Reserve (Alkira Boulevard)	Design and construction of rectangular playing fields and community pavilion	Wollert	✓	
North Wollert Sports Reserve	Design and construction of rectangular playing fields and a community pavilion	Wollert		✓
Sports Reserve (Baltrum Drive)	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Wollert		✓
Kirrip Community Library Hub	Internal refurbishment to establish a community library hub in the Kirrip Community Centre	Wollert	✓	
West Wollert Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options, design and construction of a new community centre	Wollert	✓	
Baltrum Drive Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options, design and construction of a new community centre	Wollert		✓
North Wollert Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options, design and construction of a new community centre taking into consideration potential integration of community centre and community pavilion to service adjacent sports reserve	Wollert		✓
East Wollert Centre	Determine need for infrastructure to support early years/alternate use on this site based on Kinder Reform Options recommendations	Wollert		✓
Wollert Central Primary School Kindergarten	Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to deliver a kindergarten on school site	Wollert	✓	

*Has already commenced or is expected to commence in the next five years (2024–2028)
**Is expected to commence in the next five to 10 years (2029–2033)

Wollert



KEY: Existing Existing (upgrade) New build

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Baltrum Drive Community Centre
(service delivery mix TBD) | 7 Kirrip Community Centre
(kindergarten, MCH, library, community spaces) | 13 Tuttle Recreation Reserve
(sport & leisure) |
| 2 Barrawang Primary School Kindergarten
(kindergarten) | 8 Korin Korin Child and Family Centre
(kindergarten, MCH) | 14 West Wollert Community Centre
(service delivery mix TBD) |
| 3 East Wollert Centre
(service delivery mix TBD) | 9 North Wollert Community Centre
(service delivery mix TBD) | 15 Wollert Central Primary School Kindergarten
(kindergarten) |
| 4 Edgars Creek Secondary College Oval
(sport & leisure) | 10 North Wollert Sports Reserve
(sport & leisure) | 16 Wollert Community Centre
(community space) |
| 5 Edgars Creek Sports Reserve
(sport & leisure) | 11 Sports Reserve (Alkira Boulevard)
(sport & leisure) | |
| 6 Ganbu Gulinj Community Centre
(kindergarten, MCH, community space) | 12 Sports Reserve (Baltrum Drive)
(sport & leisure) | |

South Morang, Mernda and Doreen

Continued moderate growth with a significant increase in the older population

Major growth occurred in the central east suburbs of South Morang, Mernda and Doreen in the early 2000s and this area is currently home to more than 79,500 people. Moderate growth is projected between now and 2040 with a significant increase of residents aged 50 and over.

The central east has good access to early years education and services to meet current demand. In addition to nine kindergarten programs, operating mostly from multi-purpose community centres, several private childcare providers in the area offer funded kindergarten programs. Additional kindergarten programming will, however, be required to accommodate additional hours of three- and four-year-old kindergarten resulting from the Victorian Government *Best Start, Best Life* early years reform. As the population has aged, a reduction in demand for Maternal and Child Health services (currently operating from seven sites) provides an opportunity for consulting suites to be used by other health and service providers.

Although there are seven community hubs in the area, three of these have an early years' focus and additional spaces for community groups to meet is sought after, including increased capacity for youth service programming and activities. A mobile service has been servicing the central suburbs with stops in Epping, Doreen and Mernda. A soon-to-open mini-branch library operating from retail space in the Mernda Town Centre will create a physical space and provide additional room for community to gather. In the medium-term, a larger branch library will be built adjacent to the Mernda Town Centre. The additional floor space will mean an expansion of library services and increased opportunities for programming and activities.

While there is local access to ovals, tennis courts, indoor courts and BMX, the supply of sporting and leisure infrastructure is insufficient to meet demand. Rectangular playing fields as well as aquatic, health and fitness facilities and additional courts are required to address the current and future shortfall. Delivery of sport and leisure infrastructure to be built as part of the Regional Aquatic and Sports Centre will serve a dual purpose of servicing the population across the municipality, as well as meet the need for local facilities.

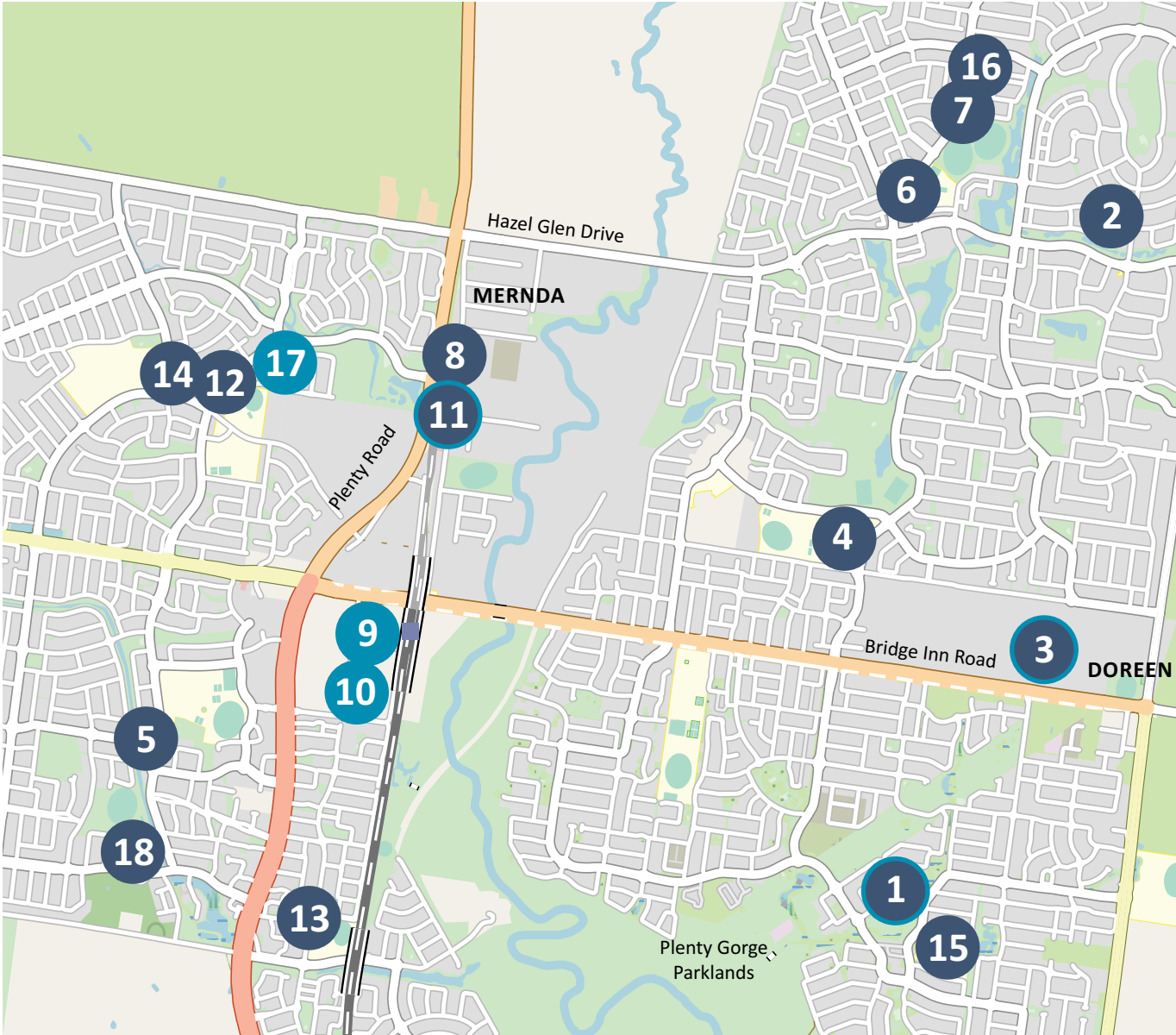
Following are the priority capital projects that are underway or expected to commence within the next 10 years in South Morang, Mernda and Doreen.

South Morang, Mernda and Doreen

South Morang, Mernda and Doreen				
Site	Action	Suburb	Short Term*	Medium – Long Term**
Mernda mini-branch library	Deliver a mini-branch library in retail space in the Mernda Town Centre shopping centre to provide services until construction of permanent Mernda branch library is complete	Mernda	✓	
Mernda Library	Investigate preferred service delivery options, design and construction of a permanent branch library	Mernda	✓	
Mernda Recreation Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Mernda	✓	
Hillsview Recreation Reserve	Deliver infrastructure improvements to provide female friendly facilities	South Morang	✓	
Hawkestone Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	South Morang	✓	
Ashley Park Sporting Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Doreen	✓	
Doreen Recreation Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Doreen	✓	

*Has already commenced or is expected to commence in the next five years (2024–2028)
**Is expected to commence in the next five to 10 years (2029–2033)

Mernda and Doreen



KEY: ● Existing ● Existing (upgrade) ● New build

- 1

Ashley Park
(sport & leisure)
- 2

Brookwood Community Centre
(community space)
- 3

Doreen Recreation Reserve
(sport & leisure)
- 4

Hazel Glen Child and Family Centre
(kindergarten, MCH, community space)
- 5

Jindi Family and Community Centre
(kindergarten, MCH, community space)
- 6

Laurimer Community Centre
(community space)
- 7

Laurimer Recreation Reserve
(sport & leisure)
- 8

Mernda Community House
(neighbourhood house)
- 9

Mernda Library
(library)
- 10

Mernda mini branch library
(library)
- 11

Mernda Recreation Reserve
(sport & leisure)
- 12

Mernda Social Support Service
(Ageing well)
- 13

Mernda South YMCA
Early Learning Centre
(kindergarten, MCH)
- 14

Mernda Village Community
Activity Centre
(kindergarten, MCH, community space)
- 15

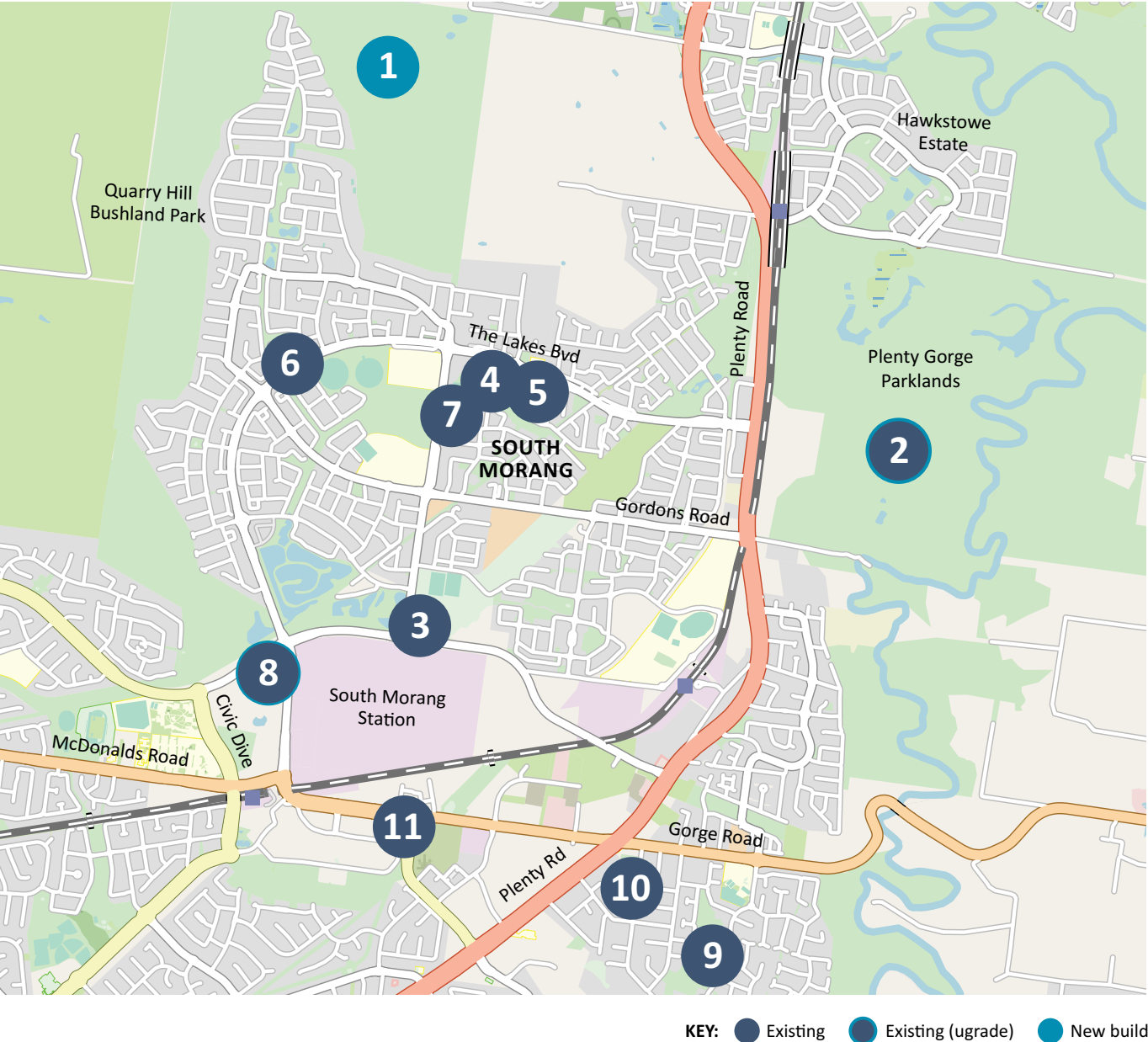
Orchard Road Community and
Early Learning Centre
(kindergarten, MCH, community space)
- 16

Painted Hills Recreation Reserve
& community Pavilion
(sport & leisure, community space)
- 17

Regional Aquatic and Sports
Centre at Mernda
(sport & leisure)
- 18

Waterview recreation reserve
(sport & leisure)

South Morang



- 1 Aboriginal Gathering Place

2 Hawkestone Reserve (sport & leisure)

3 Hillsvie Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)

4 Mill Park Lakes MCH (MCH)

5 Mill Park Lakes Preschool (kindergarten)

6 Mill Park Lakes Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 7 Mill Park Lakes Tennis Club (sport & leisure)

8 Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre (arts & culture)

9 Riverside Community Activity Centre (community space)

10 South Morang Preschool - Reid St (kindergarten)

11 The Edge (youth services)

Mill Park and Bundoora

Population growth in this established part of the municipality will continue steadily over the next 20 years

In contrast to rapidly expanding populations in the north, growth in the south-eastern suburbs of Mill Park and Bundoora will be slower, with an additional 6,083 residents anticipated by 2040.

Community infrastructure is characterised by ageing, often single purpose facilities. While service provision is generally adequate there is increased demand for services and support that facilitate ageing well and additional spaces are sought to support large community group activities.

The two community centres and neighbourhood house are used extensively and have limited capacity to accommodate additional demand, including for large meeting spaces. The recently refurbished Mill Park Library is well used with programs attracting large audiences.

Provision of early years infrastructure is sufficient for now, but additional kindergarten programming will be required to meet population growth and increased demand for three- and four-year-old kindergarten resulting from the Victorian Government *Best Start, Best Life* early years reform. The considerable number of single room kindergartens will be challenged in how they can implement this reform. There is an opportunity to look closely at these sites to identify whether they remain fit for purpose, whether there are opportunities for consolidating to fewer sites, or whether they can be expanded to support future demand for kindergarten.

Across the south east there are several sport and leisure facilities that provide for a variety of sports including bowling, tennis, basketball, aquatic and gym fitness, football, cricket, soccer, netball, softball/baseball, skate and gymnastics. Most of these facilities are ageing and will require upgrade or renewal over the next two decades to remain fit for purpose.

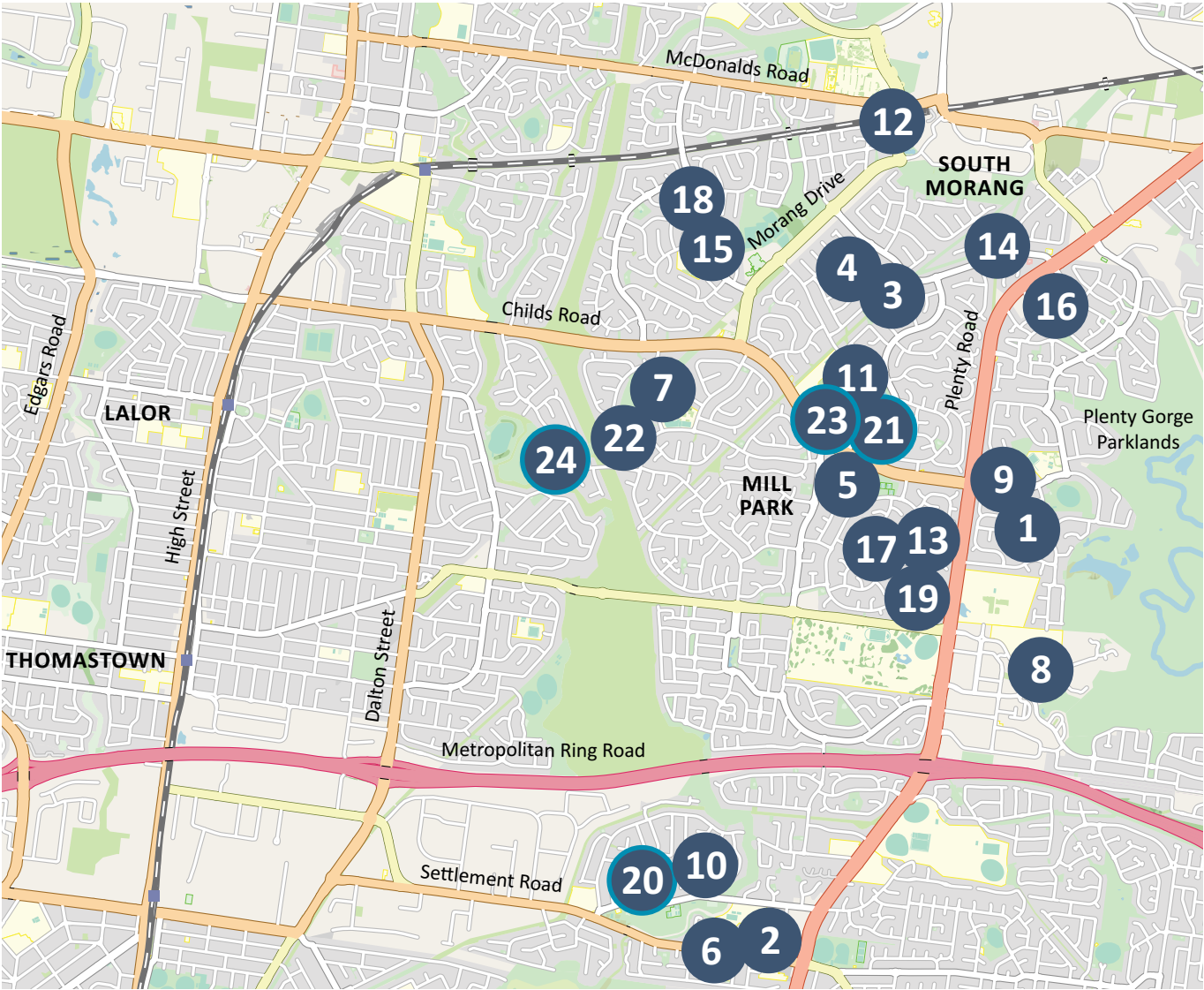
Following are the priority capital projects that are underway or expected to commence within the next 10 years in Mill Park and Bundoora.

Mill Park and Bundoora				
Site	Action	Suburb	Short Term*	Medium – Long Term**
Stables Kindergarten	Redevelop and expand kindergarten	Mill Park	✓	
WA Smith and Sycamore Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Mill Park / Lalor	✓	
Dr Harry Jenkins Reserve	Undertake tennis courts renewal to support equitable access	Mill Park	✓	
Redleap Recreation Reserve	Upgrade oval playing field	Mill Park	✓	
Norris Bank Reserve	Undertake tennis court redevelopment	Bundoora	✓	

*Has already commenced or is expected to commence in the next five years (2024–2028)
**Is expected to commence in the next five to 10 years (2029–2033)

Lalor, Thomastown and Epping

Mill Park and Bundoora



- 1

Blossom Park Kindergarten
(kindergarten)
- 2

Bundoora MCH Centre
(MCH)
- 3

Centenary Drive Kindergarten
(kindergarten)
- 4

Centenary Drive MCH
(MCH)
- 5

Dr Harry Jenkins Reserve
& Mill Park Tennis
(sport & leisure)
- 6

Edward Street Preschool
(kindergarten)
- 7

Findon Recreation Reserve
(sport & leisure)
- 8

Janefield Community Centre
(community space)
- 9

Kelynack Recreation Reserve
(sport & leisure)
- 10

McLeans Road Kindergarten
(kindergarten)
- 11

Mill Park Basketball Stadium
(sport & leisure)
- 12

Mill Park Children's Centre
(MCH, human services)
- 13

Mill Park Drive MCH
(MCH)
- 14

Mill Park Heights Childcare
Centre and Kindergarten
(kindergarten)
- 15

Mill Park Leisure
(sport & leisure)
- 16

Mill Park Library
(library)
- 17

Mill Park Preschool
(kindergarten)
- 18

Mill Park Recreation Reserve
(sport & leisure)
- 19

Miller Community Centre
(community space)
- 20

Norris Bank Reserve
(sport & leisure)
- 21

Redleap Recreation Reserve
(sport & leisure)
- 22

Roycroft Kindergarten
(kindergarten)
- 23

Stables Kindergarten
(kindergarten)
- 24

WA Smith and Sycamore Reserve
(sport & leisure)

The large population of more than 76,000 will continue to grow, placing pressure on existing services and infrastructure

The established south-west area of Lalor, Thomastown and Epping will increase by over 19,000 people between 2023 and 2040 to 95,614.

There are many community facilities that include spaces for community activation including two library branches and a click and collect library service operating from the Galada Community Centre in the north of Epping, three halls, six community centres, two neighbourhood houses, a senior citizens centre, men’s shed and community pavilions. With the exception of some recent community infrastructure delivered to service growing community in the north of Epping, infrastructure is ageing, several facilities have limited capacity to support increased use and some groups currently miss out on access. There is also unmet demand for spaces suitable for Men’s Sheds and Community Sheds in the area and increased demand for services and supports that facilitate ageing well.

Provision of early years infrastructure is extensive. In addition to four Maternal and Child Health facilities and 17 kindergarten programs operating mostly from stand-alone facilities, several private childcare providers in the area (predominantly in Epping) and two kindergarten programs operate on school sites with more planned, including one to be delivered and operated by the Victorian Government under the *Best Start, Best Life* early years reform. Additional kindergarten programming will be required to meet population growth and increased demand for three- and four-year-old kindergarten resulting from the Victorian Government Best Start, Best Life early years reform, and the considerable number of single room kindergartens will be challenged in how they can implement this reform. There is an opportunity to look closely at these sites to identify whether they remain fit for purpose, whether there are opportunities for consolidating to fewer sites or whether they can be expanded to support future demand for kindergarten.

Across the south-west there are 25 sites that provide sport and leisure infrastructure catering for diverse sport and leisure activities, including tennis, soccer, gymnastics, bocce, cricket, football, athletics, skating, tennis, swimming and gym fitness. These facilities are sufficient to meet both current needs and to service the growing population in Lalor and Thomastown. However, many of these facilities are ageing and will require upgrade or renewal over the next two decades to remain fit for purpose.

There is a growing need for youth-focused, multi-use spaces suitable for a variety of activities, including creative arts spaces, general programming spaces and quiet spaces for generalist support and specialist service provision. Council is partnering with the Victorian Government and other partners to explore opportunities for meeting this demand.

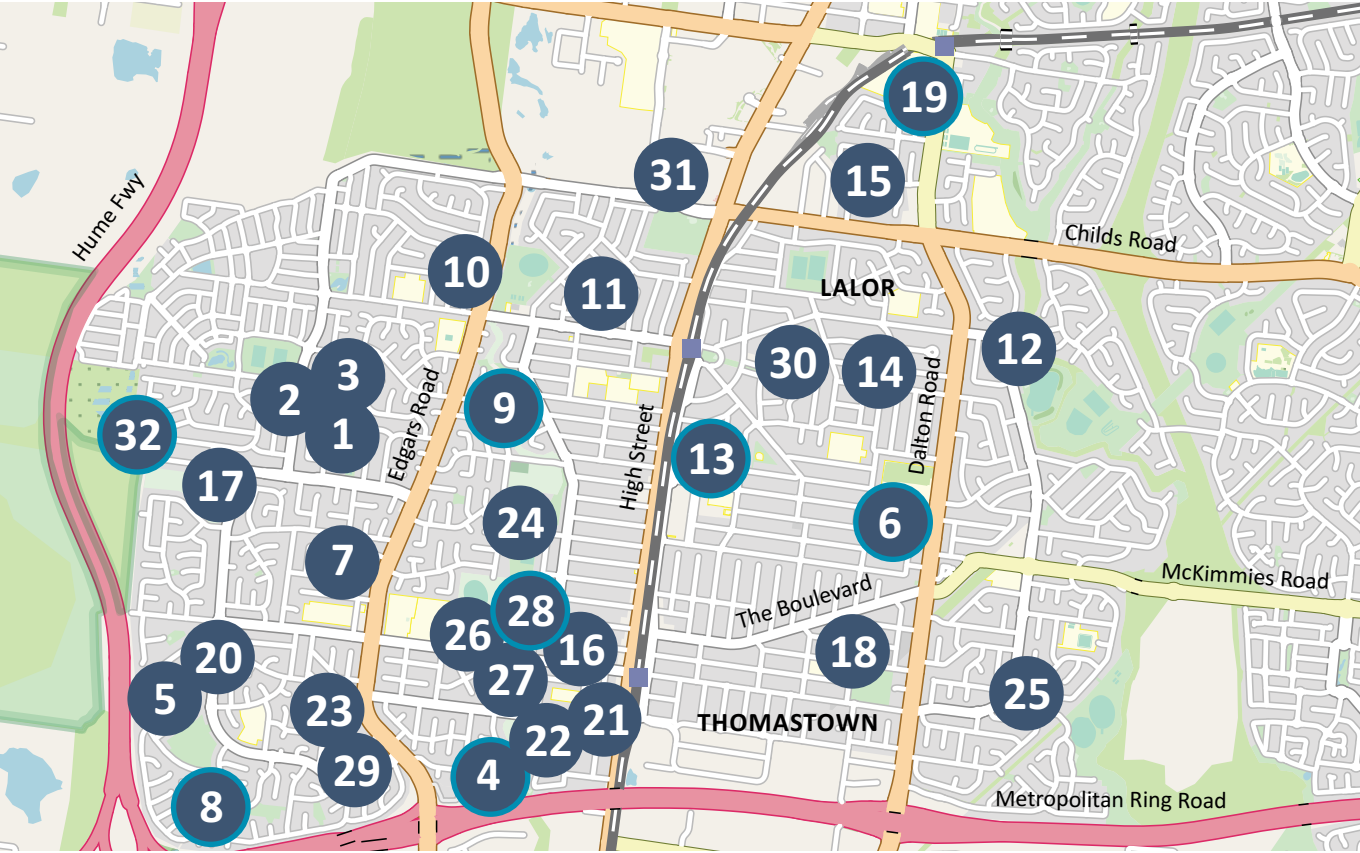
Following are the priority capital projects that are underway or expected to commence within the next 10 years in Lalor, Thomastown and Epping.

Lalor, Thomastown and Epping

Lalor, Thomastown and Epping				
Site	Action	Suburb	Short Term*	Medium – Long Term**
Whittlesea Public Gardens	Complete second stage of the Whittlesea Public Gardens redevelopment including skate park, rock climbing wall and basketball court	Lalor	✓	
Huskisson Reserve	Construct six new courts and community pavilion	Lalor	✓	
Partridge Recreation Reserve	Convert one existing rectangular field to synthetic surface and install new sports lighting to support synthetic field use	Lalor	✓	
Lalor Recreation Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Lalor	✓	
V R Michael Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to improve site condition and facilities	Lalor	✓	
Epping Recreation Reserve	Construct new netball courts, as well as renew existing tennis court surfaces.	Epping	✓	
Harvest Home Road Recreation Reserve	Complete replacement of the synthetic soccer pitch	Epping	✓	
HR Uren Recreation Reserve	Upgrade existing community pavilion	Thomastown	✓	
Sports Reserve (Cerridwen St)	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Epping		✓
Epping Regional Rec Reserve	Undertake a feasibility study to assess site conditions, service demand and sport and leisure infrastructure requirements	Epping		✓
Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre	Undertake renewal works including sustainability upgrades	Thomastown	✓	
Lalor Library and Conference Room, Lalor Neighbourhood House, May Road Senior Citizens Centre, French Street Hall	Undertake masterplan of the May Street precinct in Lalor to investigate opportunities to upgrade and integrate facilities, enhance access and utilisation, unlock public realm potential, and improve perceptions of safety	Lalor	✓	
Epping Memorial Hall	Complete a community halls evaluation to better understand the challenges and opportunities for uses in community halls across the eastern suburbs and recommend sites for renewal. Undertake a masterplan of the site as part of broader consideration of the Memorial Avenue precinct.	Epping	✓	
Bubup Wilam Aboriginal Child and Family Centre	Complete facility extension and upgrade works	Thomastown	✓	
Boori Children's Service and Derby Meadows Preschool	Design and construction of an integrated kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health facility	Epping	✓	
Dalton Road Preschool and Dalton Road Maternal and Child Health Centre	Design and construction of an integrated kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health facility	Thomastown	✓	

*Has already commenced or is expected to commence in the next five years (2024–2028)
**Is expected to commence in the next five to 10 years (2029–2033)

Lalor and Thomastown



KEY: Existing Existing (upgrade) New build

- 1

Barry Road Community Centre (community space, ageing well)
- 2

Barry Road Preschool (kindergarten)
- 3

Barry Road Tennis Club (sport & leisure)
- 4

Bubup Wilam Aboriginal Child and Family Centre (kindergarten)
- 5

Carrington Children's Centre (playgroups)
- 6

Dalton Road Preschool and Dalton Road MCH (kindergarten, MCH)
- 7

Harbard Street Kindergarten (kindergarten)
- 8

HR Uren Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 9

Huskisson Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 10

Jacaranda Preschool - Kingsway Drive (kindergarten)
- 11

Jacaranda Preschool - Nebel St (kindergarten)
- 12

Lalor East Preschool (kindergarten)
- 13

Lalor Library and Neighbourhood House, May Road Senior Citizens Centre, French Street Hall (community spaces, library, neighbourhood house)
- 14

Lalor Primary School Kindergarten (kindergarten)
- 15

Lalor Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 16

Main Street Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 17

Mosaic Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 18

Nick Ascenzo Community Centre (community space)
- 19

Partridge Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 20

RGC Cook Community Pavilion & Reserve (sport & leisure, community space)
- 21

Spring St Hall (community space)
- 22

Spring St Kindergarten (kindergarten)
- 23

Thomastown Childcare Centre (childcare, kindergarten)
- 24

Thomas St Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 25

Thomastown East Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 26

Thomastown Library (library, MCH)
- 27

Thomastown Neighbourhood Centre (neighbourhood house)
- 28

Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre (sport & leisure)
- 29

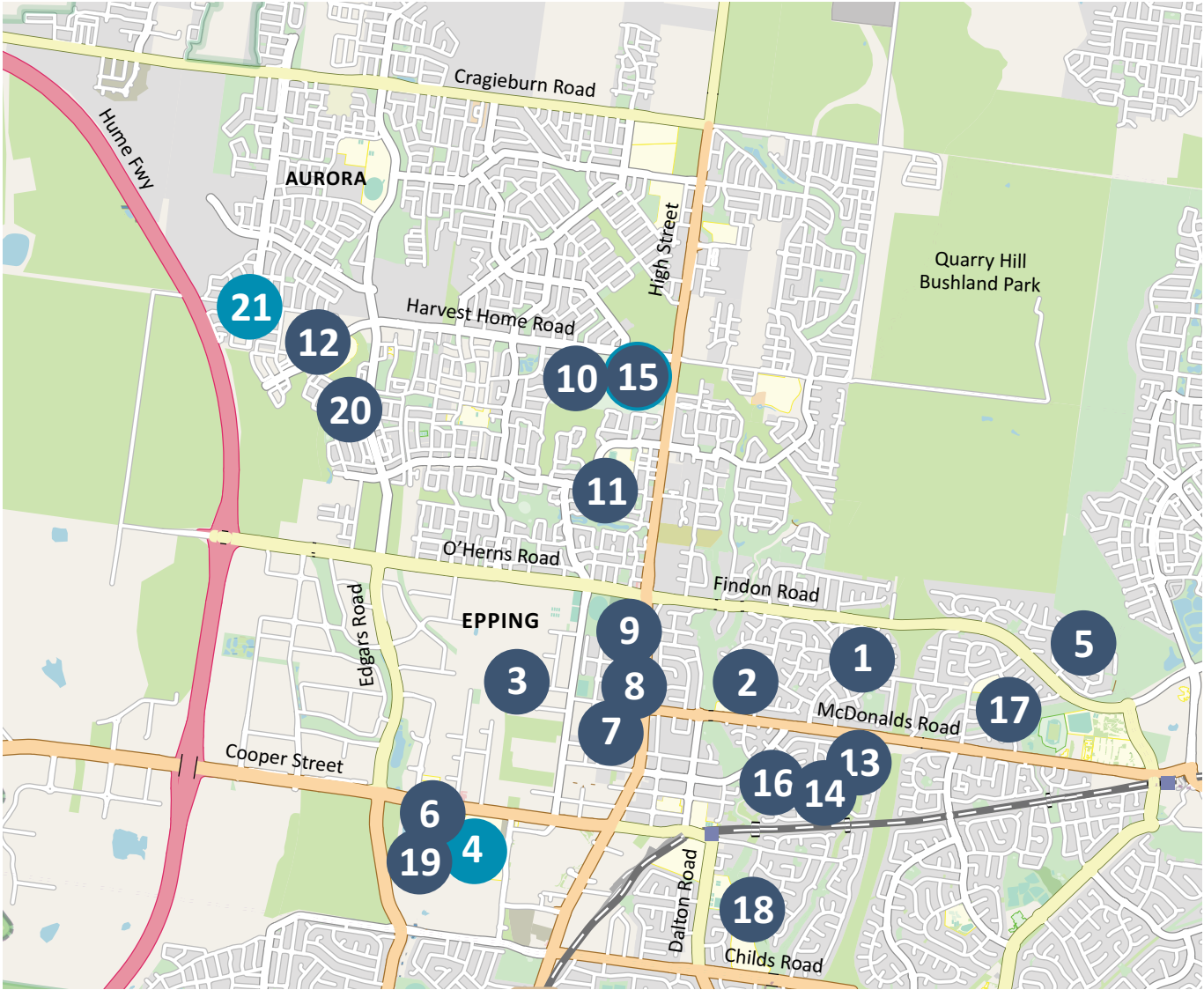
Thomastown West Kindergarten (kindergarten)
- 30

Vasey Park Preschool (kindergarten)
- 31

VR Michael Reserve (sport & leisure)
- 32

Whittlesea Public Gardens (sport & leisure)

Epping



KEY: Existing Existing (upgrade) New build

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Boori Children's Centre and Derby Meadows Preschool (kindergarten, MC, plagroup) | 8 Epping Preschool (kindergarten) | 15 Harvest Home Road Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure) |
| 2 Darebin Creek Parklands (sport & leisure) | 9 Epping Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure) | 16 Lowalde Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure) |
| 3 Duffy St Recreation Reserve (sport & leisure) | 10 Epping Soccer stadium (sport & leisure) | 17 Meadow Glen International Athletics Reserve (sport & leisure) |
| 4 Epping Central (community space, library, arts & culture) | 11 Epping Views Family and Community Centre (children & families, community space) | 18 Oakbrook Kindergarten (kindergarten) |
| 5 Epping Community Centre & Epping North Preschool (community space, kindergarten) | 12 Galada Community Centre (children & families, community space, library) | 19 Pacific Epping MCH (MCH) |
| 6 Epping Community Services Hub (human services) | 13 Greenbrook Community House (neighbourhood house) | 20 Prism Park (sport & leisure) |
| 7 Epping Memorial Hall (community space) | 14 Greenbrook Kindergarten (kindergarten) | 21 Sports Reserve (Cerridwen Street) (sport & leisure) |



Appendix 1

Community infrastructure

The following is a list of Council owned and or/operated community infrastructure and proposed projects:

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Aboriginal Gathering Place	Complete design and build an Aboriginal Gathering Place in the Quarry Hills Regional Parkland in South Morang	South Morang	short-term
AF Walker Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council’s ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Whittlesea	subject to Council’s maintenance and renewal program
Ageing Well Hub – north	Investigate the feasibility of delivering wellness hubs designed to support partnership approaches with other aged care providers and community groups for co-location of a range of complementary health and wellbeing services. (Potential sites include the Barry Road Community Centre in Lalor, expansion of the Mernda Social Support Centre and a planned for community centre in the north of the municipality)	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years
Ashley Park Sporting Reserve	Undertake site masterplan and commence design of rectangular fields and community pavilion	Doreen	short-term
Baltrum Drive Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options of a new community centre	Wollert	medium/long-term
Barrawang Primary School (Kindergarten)	Consider infrastructure improvements to the kindergarten on the school site as part of Council’s ongoing maintenance and renewal program	Wollert	subject to Council’s maintenance and renewal program
Barry Road Community Centre	In the long term, investigate the feasibility of delivering wellness hubs designed to support partnership approaches with other aged care providers and community groups for co-location of a range of complementary health and wellbeing services, considering Barry Rd Community Centre as a potential site to support community in the South of the municipality	Thomastown	beyond 10 years
Barry Road Preschool	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council’s response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Thomastown	short-term
Barry Road Tennis Club	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council’s ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Thomastown	subject to Council’s maintenance and renewal program

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Blossom Park Kindergarten	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council’s response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Mill Park	short-term
Boori Children’s Service and Derby Meadows Preschool	Design and construction of an integrated kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health facility	Epping	short-term
Brookwood Community Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council’s ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Doreen	subject to Council’s maintenance and renewal program
Bubup Wilam Aboriginal Child and Family Centre	Complete facility extension and upgrade works	Thomastown	short-term
Bundoora MCH Centre	Leased facility. Consider internal improvements as part of Council’s routine maintenance and renewal program	Bundoora	subject to Council’s maintenance and renewal program
Carrington Children’s Centre	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council’s response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Thomastown	short-term
Centenary Drive Kindergarten and maternal and child health centre	Consider kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health provision as part of the options paper to inform Council’s response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Mill Park	short-term
Community Services Hub	In the long-term investigate the feasibility of delivering a community services hub in the north of the municipality in partnership with local health and wellbeing service providers, to encourage service delivery and collaboration in the north of the municipality	Donnybrook / Wollert	beyond 10 years
Dalton Road Preschool and Dalton Road Maternal and Child Health	Design and construction of an integrated kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health facility	Thomastown	short-term
Darebin Creek Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options for a new community centre	Donnybrook	short-term
Darebin Creek Parklands skate facility	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council’s ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Epping	subject to Council’s maintenance and renewal program
Darebin Creek Sports Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Donnybrook	medium/long-term
Donnybrook Farmhouse Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery and design and construction options of a new community centre	Donnybrook	medium/long-term

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Donnybrook Farmhouse Sports Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years
Donnybrook Primary School (Kindergarten)	Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to deliver a kindergarten on school site	Donnybrook	short-term
Doreen Recreation Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Doreen	short term
Dr Harry Jenkins Reserve	Undertake tennis courts renewal to support equitable access	Mill Park	short-term
Duffy St Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
East Wollert Centre	Determine need for infrastructure to support early years/alternate use on this site, based on Kinder Reform Options recommendations	Wollert	medium/long-term
East Wollert Sports Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Wollert	beyond 10 years
Edgars Creek Secondary College oval	Continue to maintain the oval surface and upgrade infrastructure improvements in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Wollert	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Edgars Creek Sports Reserve	Design and construction of outdoor rectangular courts, oval playing field and community pavilion	Wollert	short-term
Edward Street Preschool	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Bundoora	short-term
English St Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options for this site	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years
Epping Central Health and Wellbeing Community Hub / Epping Central Information Learning and Cultural Hub	Continue to progress planning for the long-term development of Epping Central, designated as a metropolitan activity centre	Epping	short-term
Epping Community Centre (contains Epping North Preschool)	Consider infrastructure improvements as part of Council's routine maintenance and renewal program Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Epping Community Services Hub	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Epping Memorial Hall	Complete a community halls evaluation to better understand the challenges and opportunities for uses in community halls across the eastern suburbs and recommend sites for renewal Undertake a masterplan of the site as part of broader consideration of the Memorial Avenue precinct	Epping	short-term
Epping North Community Centre (Aurora Estate)	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options of a new community centre	Epping	beyond 10 years
Epping North West Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options of a new community centre	Wollert	beyond 10 years
Epping North West Sports Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Wollert	beyond 10 years
Epping Preschool	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Epping	short-term
Epping Recreation Reserve	Construct new netball courts, as well as renew existing tennis court surfaces	Epping	short-term
Epping Regional Recreation Reserve	Undertake a feasibility study to assess site conditions and sport and leisure infrastructure requirements	Wollert	medium/long-term
Epping soccer stadium	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Epping Views Family and Community Centre	Consider infrastructure improvements as part of Council's routine maintenance and renewal program	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Epping West ovals	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Epping	beyond 10 years
Eucalyptus Parade Kindergarten	Consider infrastructure improvements to the kindergarten on the school site as part of Council's maintenance and renewal program	Donnybrook	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Family services hub and youth space	Review opportunities to create a family services hub that includes access to allied health and parenting support services and a separate but interconnected middle years/youth space (site TBC)	Donnybrook	short-term
Findon Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mill Park	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
French St Hall	Undertake masterplan of the May Street precinct in Lalor to investigate opportunities to upgrade and integrate facilities, enhance access and utilisation, unlock public realm potential, and improve perceptions of safety	Lalor	short-term
Galada Community Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Ganbu Gulinj Community Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Wollert	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Greenbrook Community House	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Greenbrook Kindergarten	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Epping	short-term
Growling Frog Golf Course	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Yan Yean	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Harbard Street Kindergarten	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform.	Thomastown	short-term
Harvest Home Road Recreation Reserve	Complete replacement of the synthetic soccer pitch	Epping	short-term
Hawkestone Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	South Morang	short-term
Hayes Hill Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Hazel Glen Child and Family Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Doreen	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Hillsview Recreation Reserve	Deliver infrastructure improvements to provide female friendly facilities	South Morang	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
HR Uren Recreation Reserve	Upgrade existing community pavilion and provide lighting to the synthetic pitch	Thomastown	short-term
Huskisson Reserve	Construct six new courts and community pavilion	Lalor	short-term
Jacaranda Preschool – Kingsway Drive	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Lalor	short-term
Jacaranda Preschool – Nebel St	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Lalor	short-term
Janefield Community Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Bundoora	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Jindi Family and Community Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mernda	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Kelynack Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mill Park	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Kirrip Community Centre and community library hub	Internal refurbishment to establish a community library hub in the Kirrip Community Centre	Wollert	short-term
Korin Korin Child and Family Centre	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Wollert	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Koukora Drive Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options of a new community centre	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years
Koukora Drive Sporting precinct	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years
Lalor East Preschool	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Lalor	short-term

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Lalor Library and conference room	Undertake masterplan of the May Street precinct in Lalor to investigate opportunities to upgrade and integrate facilities, enhance access and utilisation, unlock public realm potential, and improve perceptions of safety	Lalor	short-term
Lalor neighbourhood house	Undertake masterplan of the May Street precinct in Lalor to investigate opportunities to upgrade and integrate facilities, enhance access and utilisation, unlock public realm potential, and improve perceptions of safety	Lalor	short-term
Lalor Primary School (Kindergarten)	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Lalor	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Lalor Recreation Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Lalor	short term
Laurel St Kindergarten Modulars	Refurbishment of existing modular buildings to support delivery of kindergarten reform	Whittlesea	medium/long-term
Laurimer Community Centre	Complete a community halls evaluation to better understand the challenges and opportunities for uses in community halls across the eastern suburbs and recommend sites for renewal	Doreen	short-term
Laurimer Recreation Reserve	Consider infrastructure improvements to the kindergarten on the school site as part of Council's routine maintenance and renewal program	Doreen	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Lockerbie East Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options of a new community centre	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years
Lockerbie East Sports Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years
Lowalde Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Main Street Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Thomastown	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
May Road Senior Citizens Centre	Undertake masterplan of the May Street precinct in Lalor to investigate opportunities to upgrade and integrate facilities, enhance access and utilisation, unlock public realm potential, and improve perceptions of safety	Lalor	short-term

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
McLeans Road Kindergarten	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Bundoora	short-term
Meadow Glen International Athletics Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mernda Community House	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mernda	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mernda Library	Investigate preferred service delivery options, design and construction of a permanent branch library	Mernda	short-term
Mernda mini-branch library	Delivr a mini-branch library in retail space in the Mernda Town Centre shopping centre to provide services until construction of permanent Mernda branch library is complete	Mernda	short-term
Mernda Recreation Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Mernda	short-term
Mernda Social Support Centre	Evaluate the Mernda Social Support Centre model to ascertain learnings and applicability to other Council community centres and consider long-term expansion	Mernda	short-term
Mernda South YMCA Early Learning Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mernda	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mernda Village Community Activity Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mernda	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mill Park Basketball Stadium	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mill Park	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mill Park Children's Centre	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Mill Park	short-term
Mill Park Drive MCH	Investigate the feasibility of integrating Maternal and Child Health services with the adjacent Mill Park Preschool (located within the Miller Community Centre) as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life kindergarten reforms	Mill Park	short-term

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Mill Park Heights Childcare Centre and Kindergarten	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Mill Park	short-term
Mill Park Lakes MCH	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	South Morang	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mill Park Lakes Preschool	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	South Morang	short-term
Mill Park Lakes Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	South Morang	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mill Park Lakes Tennis Club	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	South Morang	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mill Park Leisure	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mill Park	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mill Park Library	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mill Park	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mill Park Preschool	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Mill Park	short-term
Mill Park Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mill Park	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Mill Park Tennis Club	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	South Morang	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Miller Community Centre	Investigate the feasibility of integrating Maternal and Child Health services with the adjacent Mill Park Preschool (located within the Miller Community Centre) as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life kindergarten reforms	Mill Park	short-term
Mosaic Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Lalor	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Nick Ascenzo Community Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Thomastown	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Norris Bank Reserve	Upgrade tennis infrastructure in line with Council's renewal program	Bundoora	short-term
North Wollert Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options, design and construction of a new community centre taking into consideration potential integration of community centre and community pavilion to service adjacent sports reserve	Wollert	medium/long-term
North Wollert Sports Reserve	Design and construction of rectangular playing fields and a community pavilion	Wollert	medium/long-term
Oakbrook Kindergarten	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Epping	short-term
Olivine Place	Investigate options for future community service provision – and corresponding infrastructure – from Olivine Place	Donnybrook	short-term
Olivine Sports Reserve	Work in partnership with developer to complete delivery of oval playing fields and community pavilion	Donnybrook	short-term
Orchard Road Community and Early Learning Centre	Consulting rooms leased for Council provision of Maternal and Child Health services	Doreen	
Pacific Epping MCH	Consulting rooms leased for Council provision of Maternal and Child Health services	Epping	
Painted Hills Community Pavilion and Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Doreen	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Patridge Recreation Reserve	Convert one existing rectangular field to synthetic surface and install new sports lighting to support synthetic field use	Lalor	short-term
Patterson Drive Community Centre	Complete construction of community centre including kindergarten, MCH consulting rooms, community spaces and community library hub	Donnybrook	short-term
Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre	Implement a new operating model for the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre to increase utilisation and precinct vibrancy and investigate options to house a gallery within the centre	South Morang	short-term
Prism Park	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Epping	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Quarry Hills Central Multipurpose Sports Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	South Morang	beyond 10 years
Quarry Hills Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options of a new community centre	South Morang	beyond 10 years
Redleap Recreation Reserve	Upgrade oval playing field	Mill Park	short-term
Regional Sports and Aquatic Facility	Deliver Stages 1 and 2 of the Regional Aquatic and Sports Centre at Mernda – a regional level indoor and outdoor sports, leisure and aquatic facility Continue to seek co-investment for Stage 3	Mernda	short-term
RGC Cook Community Pavillion & Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Thomastown	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Riverside Community Activity Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	South Morang	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Roycroft Kindergarten	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Mill Park	short-term
Shenstone Park Community Centre and Shenstone Park Neighbourhood House	Investigate preferred service delivery and design and construction options for a new community centre taking into consideration potential integration of community centre and community pavilion to service adjacent sports reserve	Donnybrook	short-term
Shenstone Park Sporting Precinct	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Donnybrook	short-term
South Morang Preschool – Reid St	Develop an options paper and implementation plan to provide strategies and recommendations on future service modelling, delivery and infrastructure to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life kindergarten reform. This will include investigating the feasibility of expansion/renewal of existing stand-alone kindergartens	South Morang	short-term
Sports Reserve (Alkira Boulevard, Wollert)	Design and construction of rectangular playing fields and community pavilion	Wollert	short-term
Sports Reserve (Baltrum Drive)	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Wollert	medium/long-term

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Sports Reserve (Cerridwen Street, Epping)	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Epping	medium/long-term
Sports Reserve (corner Epping and Cragieburn Rd)	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Wollert	beyond 10 years
Spring St Hall	Complete a community halls evaluation to better understand the challenges and opportunities for uses in community halls across the eastern suburbs and recommend sites for renewal	Thomastown	short-term
Spring St Kindergarten	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Thomastown	short-term
Stables Kindergarten	Redevelop and expand kindergarten	Mill Park	short-term
TH Hurrey Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Yan Yean	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
The Edge – City of Whittlesea Youth Services	Following completion of the Youth Service Model and Infrastructure Response, identify the spaces and infrastructure required to support the needs of young people living, studying or working in the City of Whittlesea	South Morang	short-term
Thomas St Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Thomastown	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Thomastown Childcare Centre	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Thomastown	
Thomastown East Recreation Reserve	Consider infrastructure improvements as part of Council's routine maintenance and renewal program	Thomastown	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Thomastown Library (includes Main St MCH Centre and Thomastown Neighbourhood Centre)	In the long-term undertake renewal of Thomastown Library to maintain compliance and meet fit-for-purpose requirements	Thomastown	beyond 10 years
Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre	Undertake renewal works including sustainability upgrades	Thomastown	short-term
Thomastown West Kindergarten	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Thomastown	short-term

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Tuttle Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Wollert	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Vasey Park Preschool	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Lalor	short-term
VR Michael Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to improve site condition and facilities	Lalor	short-term
WA Smith and Sycamore Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Mill Park / Lalor	short-term
Waterview Recreation Reserve	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Mernda	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
West Wollert Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options, design and construction of a new community centre	Wollert	short-term
Westgarth Heritage and Lutheran Church and Ziebell's Farm	Consider development of a Masterplan for the Westgarthtown Pinoneer Precinct in consultation key stakeholders In consultation with Heritage Victoria, consider improvements to infrastructure of Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum Investigate a stronger integration and relationship between Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and the Westgarthtown Pioneer Precinct Reserve in consultation with key stakeholders	Thomastown	beyond 10 years
Whittlesea Service Hub	Evaluate the success of the Council Service Hub in Whittlesea and conduct regular needs analysis and benchmarking of our growing community to determine if and where additional council service hubs are required to support our community	Whittlesea	short-term
Whittlesea Bowls Club	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Whittlesea	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Whittlesea Community Centre (includes library) & Early Learning Centre including Laurel St Preschool	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Whittlesea	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Whittlesea Community House	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Whittlesea	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program

Site	Action	Suburb	Timeline
Whittlesea Netball Courts	Undertake masterplan for provision of netball courts (site TBC)	Whittlesea	medium/long-term
Whittlesea Park	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Whittlesea	short-term
Whittlesea Preschool	Consider kindergarten provision as part of the options paper to inform Council's response and delivery of the Best Start, Best Life early years reform	Whittlesea	short-term
Whittlesea Public Gardens	Complete second stage of the Whittlesea Public Gardens redevelopment including skate park, rock climbing wall and basketball court	Lalor	short-term
Whittlesea Swim Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Whittlesea	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Wollert Central Primary School Kindergarten	Work in partnership with the Victorian Government to deliver a kindergarten on school site	Wollert	short-term
Wollert Community Centre	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Wollert	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program
Wollert Major Town Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options of a new community centre and outdoor active space	Wollert	beyond 10 years
Wollert MTC Indoor Leisure Centre	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Wollert	beyond 10 years
Wollert MTC Performing Arts Space	In the long-term investigate the feasibility of dedicated arts and cultural spaces in the north of the municipality	Wollert	beyond 10 years
Wollert Regional Recreation Reserve (Wollert Multipurpose-sports reserve)	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Wollert	beyond 10 years
Woodlands Community Centre	Investigate preferred service delivery options and design and construction options of a new community centre	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years
Woodlands Sports Reserve	Undertake site masterplan to review site conditions and confirm project scope, including sport and leisure infrastructure provision	Donnybrook	beyond 10 years
Woodstock Community Hall	Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure in line with Council's ongoing maintenance and renewal programs	Woodstock	subject to Council's maintenance and renewal program



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**City of
Whittlesea**