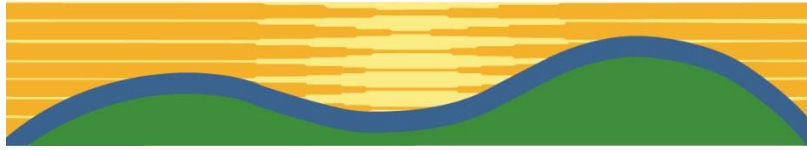


# MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

### AGENDA

**MONDAY 17 JULY 2017**  
**7.00pm**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that **Ordinary Council Meeting** of the Mitchell Shire Council will be held at **Mitchell Civic Centre, 113 High Street Broadford**, on **Monday 17 July 2017** commencing at **7.00pm**.

**DAVID TURNBULL**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



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**1 GOVERNANCE DECLARATION**

**2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

*In accordance with Section 79 of the Local Government Act 1989.*

**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 June 2017, as circulated, be confirmed.

**5 PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS**

*In accordance with Clause 66 of the Meeting Procedure Local Law.*

**6 PRESENTATIONS**

*In accordance with Clause 65 of the Meeting Procedure Local Law.*

## 7 ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### 7.1 2017-2019 GROWING SUBURBS FUND PROJECT PRIORITIES

**Author:** Kellie Vise - Acting Director Advocacy and Community Services

**File No:** GF04/150

**Attachments:** 1. GSF 2017-19 Guidelines

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#### SUMMARY

The State Government recently announced it is investing \$50 million over two years through the Growing Suburbs Fund to contribute to the timely delivery of critical community infrastructure in Melbourne's interface council areas. Council has been invited to apply for funding under the program for priority projects.

Council has identified several priority projects for submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund which align with Council's strategic priorities and are eligible for funding under the program guidelines.

The priority projects aim to bring forward the delivery of critical community infrastructure needs across the Shire and deliver projects which support community connection and deliver critical social, recreation and economic benefits to residents.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** Council:

1. Endorses the project priorities for submission and enable council officers to progress the agreed projects for submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund.

#### BACKGROUND

The Victorian Government is investing \$50 million over two years through the 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund (the Fund) to continue timely delivery of critical infrastructure in Melbourne's interface.

The aim of the Fund is to enable councils to respond to the pressures being experienced by interface communities by bringing forward local infrastructure projects that will make a significant difference to the day-to-day lives of residents.

Council has a solid track record of successfully delivering projects funded through previous Growing Suburbs Funds and its predecessor program (Interface Growth Fund) including the Community Bank Adventure Playground at Wallan, the Broadford Youth Room, the Wallan Family and Children's Centre, Hudson Park Playspace, Moore Court Playspace at Kilmore, and Greenhill Reserve Pavilion extension.

In the current financial year, Council has successfully secured funding through the Fund to deliver the Wallan Town Heart redevelopment, the Greater Beveridge Community Centre and the Broadford Living and Learning Centre Upgrade.

In total, Council has successfully secured over \$8.4 million dollars since the inception of the fund.

## 2017-2019 GROWING SUBURBS FUND PROJECT PRIORITIES (CONT.)

**ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**

The 2017-19 Fund is targeted at high priority community infrastructure projects that contribute to:

- Stronger, more resilient and livable interface communities.
- Improved local economy in Melbourne's interface communities.
- Improved ability to respond to community needs and demands.

Under the specific criteria for the 2017-19 Fund, no more than three (3) projects with a maximum construction value of less than \$750,000 can be submitted. The number of projects that can be submitted over \$750,000 is not limited.

A key aspect of the assessment of grant applications is that projects should support the State Governments priorities relating to supporting victims and reducing the prevalence of domestic violence. It is also noted in the guidelines that applications that directly address needs resulting from population growth will be favorably considered.

The Fund is designed to be used by councils to accelerate the delivery of critical community infrastructure and complement, rather than replace, other funding sources available. A copy of the application guidelines for the fund is attached.

Following a recent review of Council's previous funding applications with Growing Suburbs Fund representatives, Council has been advised that for projects where there is an existing specific funding stream (e.g. Living Libraries for libraries, Better Pools for leisure facilities, Sport & Recreation Victoria for Sporting Facilities), funding should be sought through those programs rather than the Growing Suburbs Fund.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the candidate projects which have been identified for submission to the 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund.

These projects have been identified through reviewing existing capital works priorities, structure plans, strategic plans and the Council Plan matched against the funding criteria and guidelines. The Wallan projects address the needs of both the growing community in Wallan and also play an important role in servicing an entire growth corridor until other facilities can be provided in the future.

**Table 1- Priority Project List (projects listed in priority order)**

Project	Project Description	Total Project Cost Estimate*
<b>Project 1</b> <b>Connecting Kilmore</b> Part A - Activating Ryan's Creek Reserve	This project aims to provide a significant recreational asset for residents on the western side of Kilmore which is experiencing increased residential development. This development has created increased demand for open space areas which provide opportunities for social family recreation, community connection and health and wellbeing activities.	\$800K

## 2017-2019 GROWING SUBURBS FUND PROJECT PRIORITIES (CONT.)

	<p>This project will deliver the early stages of a large linear park along Ryan's Creek. It will result in improved connectivity to the town centre and schools with pathways and provide opportunities for social connection and recreation. The park will provide a welcoming natural environment and include pathways, gardens, picnic spaces, BBQ facilities, plantings and a contemporary place space area. The project seeks to create a community asset to support greater connections for all ages and abilities.</p> <p>The establishment of a linear open space park along the west of Kilmore which connects neighbourhoods and community facilities is identified as a priority in the Kilmore Structure Plan.</p>	
Part B - Kilmore Town Heart Renewal	<p>The project aims to develop a strong focal point for the Kilmore town heart and deliver significant public realm and streetscape improvement works in the Kilmore town centre along Sydney Street and the Kilmore Creek.</p> <p>The Sydney Street streetscape improvements will revitalise the precinct and stimulate improved economic activity in the centre of town. The project incorporates pedestrian refuges, street trees and street furniture to create a sense of vibrancy and connection for the Kilmore community.</p> <p>The Kilmore Creek revitalisation will provide a community meeting space, incorporating this key natural asset and significantly improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity.</p> <p>The works will be focused on Sydney Street and Patrick Street near the intersection of Mill Street in Kilmore. The project builds on from the recently completed Mill Street Streetscape Upgrade project and will achieve key projects identified in Council's adopted Kilmore Structure Plan.</p> <p>A letter of support has been provided by Mitchell Environmental Group (BEAM) for the project.</p>	\$3.1M
<b>Project 2 Connecting Wallan Neighbourhoods</b>	<p>This project aims to deliver an important shared trail link which will form part of a township wide active transport network that will improve</p>	\$400K



## 2017-2019 GROWING SUBURBS FUND PROJECT PRIORITIES (CONT.)

Part A - Wallan neighbourhood Off-Road connection	<p>walkability of the town, connections to schools and shops and offer improved social and wellbeing outcomes.</p> <p>The shared trail will contribute to several of the key objectives in the Wallan Structure Plan by improving pedestrian amenity along a key route that connects the town centre to a linear open space reserve along Taylors Creek.</p> <p>Watson Street west of the Northern Highway is the only continuous East-West road linking new residential development to the Wallan Town Centre. The Wallan Structure Plan identifies Watson Street as a Collector Road and key route for pedestrian priority improvement. The Structure Plan also identifies Watson Street as being a public bus route and a key active transport route with both on-road and off-road cycling facilities.</p>	
Part B – Connecting Neighborhood Families	<p>This project aims to address key gaps in the neighborhood playspace and family social recreation areas in Wallan to cater for an increasingly diverse and isolated community. New residents of Wallan often consist of families where one partner commutes for work leaving the other at home with children and no private transport options. This project aims to connect these families by providing vibrant places for them to come together.</p> <p>The Connecting Neighbourhood Families project aims to bring forward the delivery of priority play and social gathering spaces, upgrades and associated infrastructure to three sites across high growth development areas in Wallan, within walking distance of high density residential developments.</p> <p>Council's Play Space Strategy 2015 identifies significant gaps in play space service provision for current residents of Wallan including Coffey Drive, Lisa Place and Roulston Way. Projects at these three sites will provide local play space opportunities for children within walking distance of their homes, as well as social meeting spaces for all, promoting healthy, physically active and connected communities.</p>	\$300K
<b>Project 3 Seymour Town Centre Revitalisation</b>	The project aims to continue to expand the revitalisation of the Seymour town centre, improving the public realm and streetscape in	\$655K

## 2017-2019 GROWING SUBURBS FUND PROJECT PRIORITIES (CONT.)

Station Street streetscape project	<p>Seymour and complimenting previous streetscape improvements carried out in the main public transport interchange in Station Street.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the streetscape improvement works will encourage the community to use the area as a public gathering space, traders will feel confident in offering footpath trading and potential customers will be more inclined to 'venture' down the other end of town.</p> <p>The project will create a vibrant civic space which stimulates the growth in economic activity, supports improved visitor servicing and enhances the vitality of this precinct.</p> <p>This project aligns with key priorities under the Draft Seymour Structure Plan and brings forward this important town centre renewal. A letter of support for the project has been provided from Seymour Business and Tourism Inc.</p>	
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*\*Costs are estimates only*

Following endorsement of the agreed priority projects by Council, applications for eligible projects will be submitted by 10 August 2017. The assessment process will be finalised by the end of October with announcements expected in November 2017. Projects would then need to commence no later than September 2018.

## CONSULTATION

Consultation for the projects has been undertaken as part of the development of the various township structure plans and Council strategies. Letters of support have been received from community stakeholder groups for a number of projects. Further consultation would be undertaken with community and stakeholders as part of the planning and design of the projects if the funding application is successful.

## FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Under the funding guidelines, projects that have significant council contributions and attract further public, not-for-profit or private sector investment are considered desirable and strongly encouraged. The guidelines also state that councils must contribute resources and funding to any project.

While no specific budget allocations have been made in council's adopted 2017-18 capital budget for the proposed priority projects, resources such as project

2017-2019 GROWING SUBURBS FUND PROJECT PRIORITIES (CONT.)

management and preliminary works were made available under existing budget allocations during the concept and planning stages.

### **POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Projects identified as priorities align with the Council Plan 2017-21 and adopted Structure Plans and Council Strategies.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL)**

The projects identified as priorities all aim to improve the social, environmental and wellbeing outcomes for the Mitchell Shire Community and will reflect the objectives of the Mitchell Shires Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Environment Policy.

### **CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered in preparing this report and it's determined that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

### **OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Victorian Government is investing \$50 million through the 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund to continue timely delivery of critical infrastructure in Melbourne's interface.

Council has identified a number of priority projects for submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund for 2017-19 which align with Council priorities and meet the aims and eligibility criteria for the grant.

The priority projects aim to address critical community infrastructure needs across the Shire and bring forward projects which support improved community connection and deliver critical social, recreation and economic benefits to residents.

2017-2019 GROWING SUBURBS FUND PROJECT PRIORITIES (CONT.)

# **MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Council Meeting Attachment**

### **ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**17 JULY 2017**

**7.1**

#### **2017-2019 GROWING SUBURBS FUND PROJECT PRIORITIES**

**Attachment No: 1**

**GSF 2017-19 Guidelines**

# 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund

## Application Guidelines

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*The 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund is a contribution towards meeting critical local infrastructure needs for communities in Melbourne's diverse and fast-growing outer suburbs. It is positioned to quickly respond to the pressures being experienced by interface communities by bringing forward local infrastructure projects that will make a big difference in the day-to-day lives of outer suburban families.*

Note to users: These guidelines relate to the 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF).

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## Message from the Minister

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the challenges faced by Melbourne's ten interface council areas as a result of unprecedented growth and change. Through the Growing Suburbs Fund we have already invested \$100 million in 76 local projects. These projects are already making a difference in the day-to-day lives of local families.

Melbourne's ten interface councils are expected to accommodate 46 per cent of the state's population growth from now until 2031. These communities are diverse – home to some of the city's most vulnerable communities, and are also responsible for the management of 90 per cent of Melbourne's green wedge areas.

More needs to be done which is why we have added an extra \$50 million to the Growing Suburbs Fund this year.

I am delighted that the 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund will support interface councils to better meet the needs of their diverse communities. It will fund community facility projects that improve the liveability of interface communities, enhance services and provide local jobs.

These guidelines provide information to applicants about the objectives, criteria and process for the 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund. I am pleased that they have been developed in collaboration and consultation with interface councils, reflecting the strong partnership between state and local government to ensure the best possible outcomes for communities living in Melbourne's outer suburbs.

In addition to formal applications I am also interested to understand, in a general sense, what projects Councils see as necessary in coming years.

I am also pleased that there is a commitment from Councils to add to the State's investment to ensure that the total value of projects delivered will be more than double the funding. Local communities will be the beneficiaries of this commitment by Councils.

I welcome your interest and participation in the 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund. Together we are delivering liveable, inclusive and sustainable communities.

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## 1. Overview

The Victorian Government recognises that Melbourne's interface councils are diverse and are home to some of the city's most vulnerable communities. They play a critical role in supporting Victoria's population growth and economy, contain productive rural land and are responsible for 90 per cent of Melbourne's Green Wedge areas.

As a group, the interface councils on Melbourne's urban fringe have been experiencing significant population growth over the last two decades, with growth consistently doubling the state's average. This is expected to continue with more than 1 million additional residents expected to be living in the interface by 2031.

The Victorian Government is investing an additional \$50 million through the 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) to continue timely delivery of critical infrastructure in Melbourne's interface.

The GSF will be delivered in coordination with other government infrastructure investments in interface communities. It is overseen by the Minister for Local Government and administered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

## 2. Objectives

The 2017-19 GSF intends to contribute to a prosperous and liveable Melbourne by improving the quality of life for those living in the outer suburbs. It will fund infrastructure that improves the community and economic development, liveability and resilience of these communities.

Grants will be targeted at high priority community infrastructure projects that contribute to:

- stronger, more resilient and liveable interface communities
- improved local economy in Melbourne's interface communities
- improved ability to respond to community needs and demands.

## 3. Who can apply

The 2017-19 GSF is open to Melbourne's ten interface councils.

The ten interface councils are: Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Mitchell<sup>1</sup>, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Wyndham, and Yarra Ranges.

While only interface councils can apply for funding and enter into a funding agreement with the department, not-for-profit or private sector organisations are encouraged to partner with these councils to put forward proposals for the 2017-19 GSF.

Applicants should review these guidelines to confirm their eligibility.

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<sup>1</sup> Mitchell Shire Council is identified as a Regional Municipality in the Regional Growth Fund Act 2011 (Vic), however it is also considered an interface council for the GSF.

## 4. What will be funded

The 2017-19 GSF will fund new, expanded or upgraded infrastructure<sup>2</sup> projects within Melbourne's ten interface councils.

### 4.1 Scope

The 2017-19 GSF will fund a mix of projects that have a direct benefit to communities across these broad infrastructure categories:

- community health, well-being, and social interaction
- early education, and learning and training
- sport, recreation, and leisure
- environmental and climate change resilience
- placemaking, civic amenity, and community connecting.

All infrastructure projects must commence construction within 10 months of the grant being announced and must be completed within three years from the start of construction.

The commencement of construction does not include early site works such as drainage, service connection or earthworks.

The 2017-19 GSF will not fund:

- projects that have already commenced construction
- land acquisition as an isolated activity (e.g. purchasing land for future use) as the fund is designed to support delivery of urgently needed local infrastructure, unless land acquisition forms part of the delivery of an implementation-ready<sup>3</sup> infrastructure project
- infrastructure that is fully scoped and funded through a development contributions plan, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that GSF funds will bring forward delivery, or that the actual costs of delivering the infrastructure materially exceed the total of development contributions
- routine or ongoing maintenance activities, cosmetic works, or repair of facilities damaged by vandalism, fire or other natural disasters where the damage should be covered by insurance
- recurrent operating costs, including for utilities and staffing resources
- drainage, waste, roads and associated footpaths, and public transport infrastructure
- construction of infrastructure that does not have a direct community benefit or address an identified community need
- service connections, however, we note these elements will form part of construction; council's contributions should be used for these activities.

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<sup>2</sup> Expansion or upgrades to leased premises may be considered based on cost-benefit over the length of the lease.

<sup>3</sup> Implementation-ready infrastructure is defined as infrastructure for which, if funding were committed, construction works would commence within 10 months of funding announcement.

#### 4.2 Specific criteria for 2017-19 GSF

- No more than 3 projects with a maximum construction value of less than \$750,000 can be submitted
- A council resolution providing support for the application and a priority order is essential
- Bundling of small projects into a larger project for submission must:
  - clearly demonstrate the need and benefit of each individual element
  - must be costed individually; and
  - timeframes identified for each element.
- Funding ratios will be calculated based on the costing provided. The funding agreement will consider this ratio and projects that are delivered under the budget outlined in the application will be required to return the appropriate portion of the underspend to the Fund. For example, a project that is projected to cost \$1,000,000 with a 50/50 funding contribution that is delivered for \$900,000 will be required to return \$50,000 to the fund upon completion of the project.

#### 4.3 Funding from other programs

The GSF should accelerate the delivery of critical community infrastructure and complement, rather than replace, other funding sources available to these communities. As such, some projects might be suitable for funding by multiple programs, including Children's Facilities Capital Program and the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Applications received for the 2017-19 GSF that are eligible for and primarily within the scope of other funding programs should clearly identify the additional value to be achieved through GSF funding. They should also identify any alternate sources of funding sought, including State and Commonwealth government programs, as well as eligibility for contributions from developers.

#### 4.4 Assessment criteria

Percentage weightings are provided as a guide to the relative importance of different criterion in the assessment process. Applications should address all relevant criteria and provide relevant supporting documents as set out in section 4.5

Information contained in the applications may be shared with other State Government agencies in order to assist with cross government coordination and enable the department to seek clarification on an application or applicants.

##### *Individual project assessment*

Applications for infrastructure will be assessed against five individual project assessment criteria:

##### *Criterion 1 – Why is this project required? – 25%*

Applications will be required to demonstrate the extent to which the project addresses an identified need in the community by:

- clearly identifying the need or gap in infrastructure provision that the project will address
- demonstrating (by quantifying) the breadth and depth of the need or gap in infrastructure provision
- demonstrating how the project aligns and delivers against current state policy objectives.

Applications that directly address needs resulting from population growth will be favourably considered.