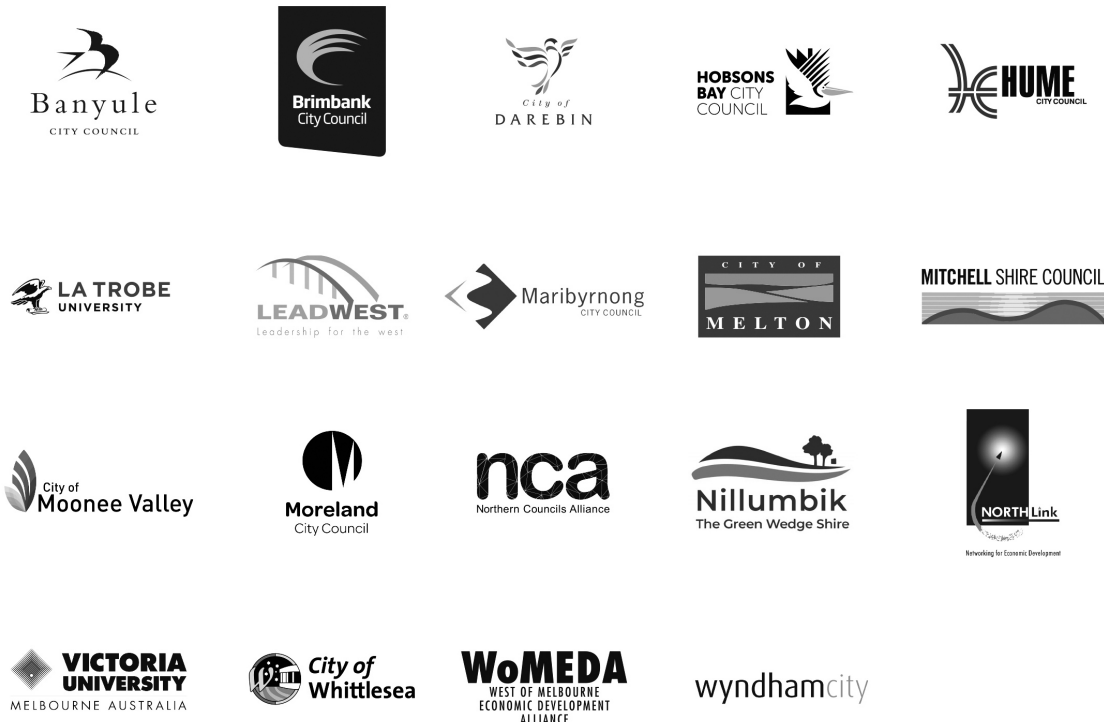


# North & West Melbourne City Deal Plan 2020–2040



# Key stakeholders



## Statement of intent

The North and West of Melbourne is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. With population increasing at a rate far exceeding jobs growth, a City Deal is critical to connect the major employment precincts across the region, build connectivity within and beyond the region, and improve economic growth, liveability, health and wellbeing.

This proposal is the beginning of a process that links all levels of government, universities and business in maximising benefits for the current and future community. It focuses on the eight priority precincts in the region that have been designated by the Victorian Government as Priority Precincts, National Employment and Innovation Clusters or Metropolitan Activity Centres.

With an unprecedented level of cooperation among all stakeholders, the timing for action has never been better to provide resources that will underpin and boost economic and social development, create local jobs, increase efficiencies in passenger and freight transport and improve quality of life for the region's residents.

A North West Melbourne City Deal will achieve all that, and more.

NOTE: It is understood that the world will change as a result of COVID-19 and this report is being prepared during the pandemic. The pandemic may change the way in which people work and live, but the implications of this may not be understood for some time.

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri), Boonwurrung, Taungurung, Dja Dja Wurrung and the Wathaurung groups who form the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land. We pay respect to the deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community and their ownership of Country. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is a place of age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal and that the Kulin people's living culture has a unique role in the life of this region.

## Thanks

Thanks to those whose advice and expertise led to development of this document:

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Domenic Isola	Leon Morris	

## Enquiries

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# Vision

All levels of government are working together with education and industry to secure the economic prosperity of North and West Melbourne (NWM), one of Australia's fastest growing regions and Melbourne's gateway to the rest of Australia. It's a region with immense state and national significance. Without a City Deal, NWM is facing a crisis – a significant lack of jobs. A City Deal presents the region with huge opportunities.

The region's 13 councils and two key universities are working closely on this project with business and community to get the best results for the region. This level of regional cooperation is unprecedented and provides a foundation for once-in-a-generation change. The NWM City Deal will unlock employment and economic development opportunities centred on the eight key precincts of Broadmeadows, Cloverton/Beveridge, Cobblebank, Epping, Footscray, La Trobe, Sunshine and Werribee.

The NWM City Deal will position the region to embrace the new knowledge economy, through 66 transformative and enabling projects to support four guiding themes:

- **Future Economy:** a workforce skilled in the digital economy, leading Australia in new and revitalised industries such as advanced manufacturing and the circular economy, securing Australia's essential supply chains and growing the range of professional services
- **Transport and Connectivity:** improved transport and regional connectivity, providing access to industry, employment, health, education and liveability options
- **Health and Wellbeing:** world-class health service delivery, training and research to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population
- **Liveability:** thriving and sustainable communities, focused on quality of life and place.

**One in every 12 Australians and one in every three Victorians live in this region.**

North and West Melbourne in 2040  
- a region of more than  
**3 million people**

Delivering social and economic inclusion across  
**8 connected economic development precincts**

With  
**300,000**  
new jobs

Leveraging an enviable portfolio of road, rail, air and sea infrastructure

Covering **13** Local Government Areas

Supported by an advanced, high tech and innovative knowledge economy

# Introduction

North and West Melbourne (NWM) is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, with a population projected to exceed three million within the next 20 years – 50 per cent larger than that of South Australia. There is an immediate need to regionally respond to this growth with a strategic approach to planning for infrastructure, jobs and provision of vital services.

Exactly 30 years ago, during the 1990–1991 recession, Commonwealth and state governments worked together to unlock regional productivity and potential by investing in Melbourne's Metropolitan Ring Road. Their investment in regional economic development organisations (REDOs) helped to drive this work.

Today this region, along with the rest of the world, is facing another significant challenge, and key organisations across NWM – LeadWest, NORTH Link, Northern Councils Alliance (NCA) and WoMEDA (West of Melbourne Economic Development Alliance<sup>1</sup>) – are ready to play their part again, in partnership with La Trobe University in the North of Melbourne and Victoria University in the West. This partnership provides a strategic approach to inform investment projects that will result in significant growth. It also offers the research, skills development and training required to support these initiatives.

A number of transformative projects are on the way, including the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, the North East Link and the West Gate Tunnel. But these projects won't be enough, as they largely cater for yesterday's congestion and growth.

In May 2019, the Australian Government made a commitment to deliver a NWM City Deal. With City Deals, Commonwealth, state and local governments can drive national priorities tailored to local needs, develop plans for growth and commit to the actions required.

The NWM City Deal will unlock economic potential and meet the health and social needs of the region's communities, including responding to the challenge of COVID-19 recovery, by delivering world-leading industry activity in connected economic development precincts. It will be nationally and internationally recognised for establishing a unique mix of traditional and innovative economic activity in key industry sectors.

This will be achieved by all levels of government working together to unlock the region's productivity and potential, including through improved transport/connectivity, innovation in advanced manufacturing, energy efficiency and new energy and waste technologies, and expansion of knowledge industries and services.

The challenge in unlocking manufacturing and knowledge industries is heightened by the severing of supply chains due to COVID-19. The return of manufacturing in a more sophisticated and competitive form will be realised by support for closer links between tertiary institutions and industry in key precincts and sectors. Critical enablers include effective freight networks to move goods, and passenger road/rail/cycling/walking networks to connect knowledge workers to jobs. The region is home to Melbourne Airport and Essendon Airport, and adjacent to the Port of Melbourne and Avalon Airport. This provides significant advantage and the opportunity to build on existing infrastructure to create employment hubs linked by vibrant job corridors. Unlocking Commonwealth land such as the Defence Site Maribyrnong and Maygar Barracks for significant projects will provide real opportunities for affordable and social housing and other development options.

This City Deal has strong potential to create significant relationships and synergies that currently do not exist. For example, there may be an opportunity for La Trobe University to work with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment quarantine facility at Mickleham to support food security and production. Another example in the West is the opportunity for Victoria University to work with Commonwealth, state and local governments, and the private sector, to develop the skills needed to support a civic construction boom to help recovery from the recession, and also to promote green jobs in areas such as waste and recycling.

The Suburban Rail Loop and Outer Metropolitan Ring will strategically link NWM as an integral part of the vision (from Werribee to Heidelberg, with Victoria University, Melbourne Airport, Melbourne Market, La Trobe University, Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal, Western Intermodal Freight Precinct and everything in between), just as the original Metropolitan Ring Road did 30 years ago.

<sup>1</sup>LeadWest represents the six councils in western Melbourne  
NCA represents the seven councils in northern Melbourne  
NORTH Link and WoMEDA are the peak economic development alliances in the region

- **Innovation and knowledge economy**
- **Best placed for advanced manufacturing**
- **Enviably connectivity/supply chain – port, airports, road and rail**
- **Active and vibrant job corridors**



# Key projects

## Transformative projects

Commenced	Committed	Planned	New opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Gate Tunnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melbourne Airport Rail Link</li> <li>New Footscray Hospital and Footscray University Town</li> <li>Western Rail Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadmeadows Revitalisation</li> <li>East Werribee Employment Precinct</li> <li>New Melton Hospital</li> <li>North East Link</li> <li>Outer Metropolitan Ring</li> <li>Suburban Rail Loop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal</li> <li>Epping Innovation and Food Export Hub</li> <li>La Trobe University City of the Future Redevelopment</li> <li>Western Intermodal Freight Precinct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melbourne Metro 2</li> <li>New Outer North Hospital</li> </ul>
<b>Connecting North and West</b>	<b>Adds capacity to North and West</b>	<b>Further develops arc from West to North</b>	<b>Improves freight in North and West and supports northern precincts</b>	<b>Advantages North and West, caters for future growth</b>

## Enabling projects

### Priority precinct focused

Precinct	Project
<b>Broadmeadows</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadmeadows Revitalisation Enablers</li> <li>Kangan Institute (TAFE) Campus Redevelopment</li> <li>Maygar Barracks Redevelopment</li> </ul>
<b>Cloverton/Beveridge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electrification of North East Line to Wallan</li> <li>Northern Highway Upgrade</li> </ul>
<b>Cobblebank</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western Business Accelerator and Centre of Excellence Expansion</li> <li>Western Highway Upgrade</li> </ul>
<b>Epping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wollert Rail</li> </ul>
<b>Footscray</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footscray Library, Community and Cultural Hub – NeXT</li> <li>Health, Sports and Active Living Innovation Hub</li> <li>Irving Street Interchange and Paisley Street Improvements</li> <li>Northern Maribyrnong and Defence Site Maribyrnong</li> <li>West Footscray Community Facilities Plan – RecWest Redevelopment</li> <li>Whitten Oval Redevelopment</li> </ul>
<b>La Trobe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BioInnovation and Sustainable Agrifoods Hub</li> <li>Digital Innovation Hub</li> <li>La Trobe NEIC Enablers</li> <li>North West Health and Wellbeing Alliance</li> </ul>
<b>Sunshine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy Park Regional Sports Facility</li> <li>Mitchell Institute Centre for Jobs and Skills</li> <li>St Albans Health and Wellbeing Hub</li> </ul>
<b>Werribee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melbourne Centre for Civil Construction</li> <li>New A-League Stadium Value Capture</li> <li>Sustainability Futures Centre</li> <li>Sustainability Project</li> <li>Westlink Ison Road Bridge</li> <li>Wyndham Refuse Disposal Facility</li> </ul>

# Enabling projects

## Theme focused

### Precinct

### Project

#### Future Economy



- Brunswick Design District
- Melbourne Innovation Centre Redevelopment
- North and West Melbourne Data Analytics Hub Expansion
- Scienceworks the National Science Museum

#### Transport and Connectivity



- Airport Rail East – SRL/Mass Rapid Transit Solution
- Eltham Congestion Busters
- Essendon Fields/Airport West Improved Connectivity
- Greensborough Station Redevelopment
- Hume Freeway Diamond Interchanges
- Moonee Ponds and Essendon North Intersection Upgrades
- North Arterial Roads Package
- Route 86 Tram Extension
- Upfield Rail Project

#### Health and Wellbeing



- Flemington Community Hub
- Northern Centre for Health and Education Research Enhancement
- Western Aquatic and Leisure Centre

#### Liveability



- Greening the North
- Greening the West
- Hobsons Bay Foreshore Infrastructure
- Hobsons Bay Wetlands and Biodiversity Centre
- Northern Cultural Trails
- Northern Regional Trails
- Western Metropolitan Regional Trails – West Trails

**A number of transformative projects are on the way, including the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, the North East Link and the West Gate Tunnel. But these projects won't be enough, as they largely cater for yesterday's congestion and growth.**



















**Transformative projects** are major projects that have broad region-wide significance.

**Enabling projects** will capitalise on the investment in transformative projects by activating precincts and surrounding areas in support of four guiding themes: Future Economy, Transport and Connectivity, Health and Wellbeing, and Liveability.













# North & West Melbourne

## Transformative projects

-  Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal
-  Broadmeadows Revitalisation
-  East Werribee Employment Precinct
-  Epping Innovation and Food Export Hub
-  Footscray University Town
-  La Trobe University City of the Future Redevelopment
-  Melbourne Airport Rail
-  Melbourne Metro 2
-  New Footscray Hospital
-  New Melton Hospital
-  New Outer North Hospital
-  1 North East Link
-  2 Outer Metropolitan Ring
-  3 E6 (proposed)
-  Suburban Rail Loop
-  West Gate Tunnel
-  Western Intermodal Freight Precinct
-  Western Rail Plan

## Existing key infrastructure

-  La Trobe University
-  Victoria University
-  Kangan Institute
-  Melbourne Polytechnic
-  RMIT University
-  Melbourne Airport
-  Melbourne Market
-  Rail network
-  State Significant road corridor
-  Hospitals







**Cloverton/Beveridge**

Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal (indicative)

New Outer North Hospital (indicative)

**Broadmeadows**

**Epping**

**La Trobe**

**Sunshine\***

**Footscray**

**CBD**

Port of Melbourne



\* The Sunshine Priority Precinct includes the Sunshine Health Wellbeing and Education Precinct, Sunshine NEIC, Sunshine Metropolitan Activity Centre, Sunshine Super Hub, St Albans Major Activity Centre and Victoria University.

# About our region

NWM has a proud history of significant contribution to the state and national economy, from its traditional manufacturing and heavy industry base. A thriving and culturally diverse region with a deep Indigenous history, NWM is home to residents from 200 countries who significantly contribute to the creation of economic prosperity and rich cultural and social fabric of its communities.

Driven by rapid population growth and recent major infrastructure projects, there is strong momentum across the region to transform its base to advanced manufacturing and knowledge-based industries.

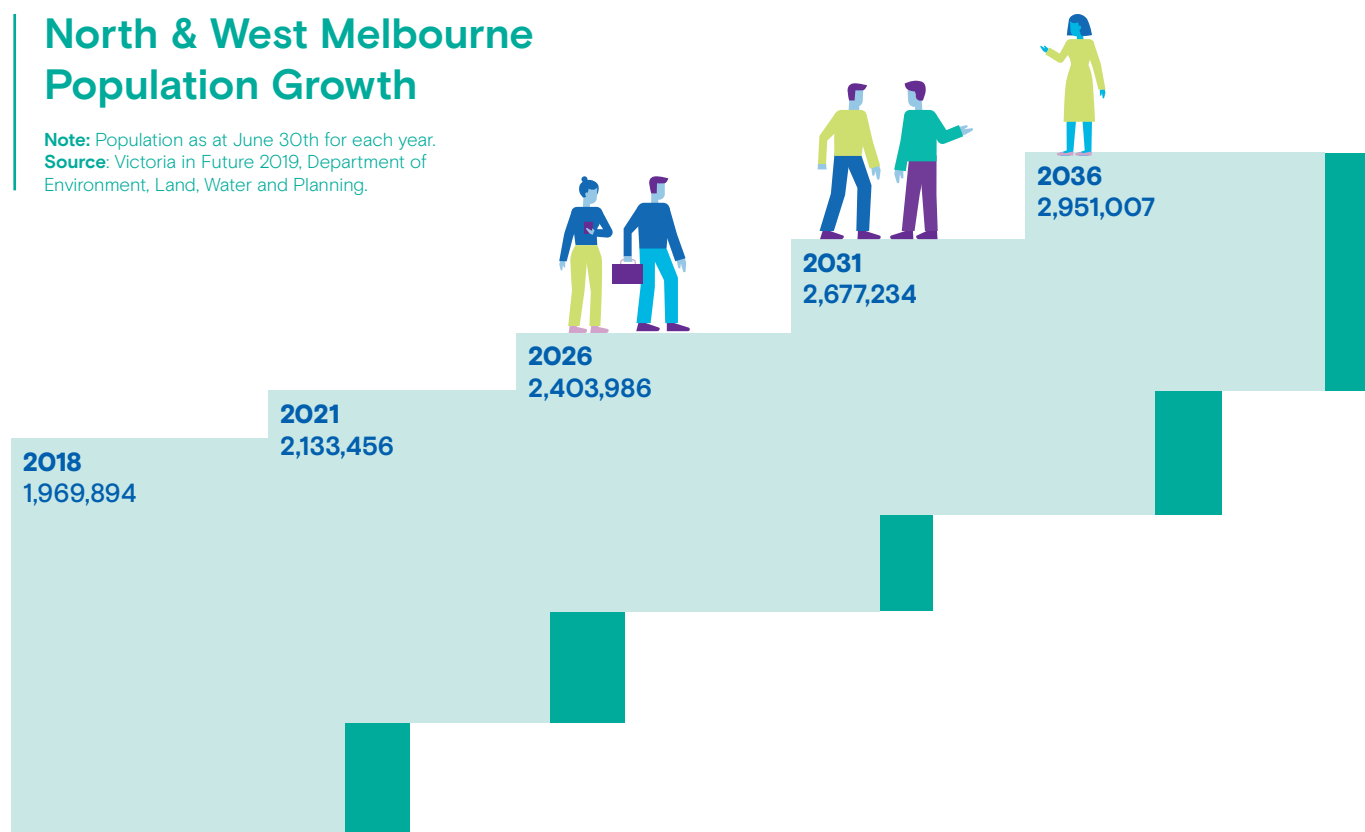
By 2036, NWM will add one million residents and will have a population 50 per cent larger than that of South Australia.

**980,000+**  
**new residents**  
**expected by 2036**

**50% population**  
**growth over that time**

## North & West Melbourne Population Growth

**Note:** Population as at June 30th for each year.  
**Source:** Victoria in Future 2019, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.



# Research shows that NWM has had the least infrastructure funding of all Greater Melbourne regions on a population growth basis.

## Key socio-economic indicators of NWM show the following:

- **local job availability** – eight NWM LGAs are among the nine lowest in Melbourne for local job availability
- **socio-economic disadvantage** – eight of the bottom 10 LGAs (out of 32 in Greater Melbourne and Mitchell) in the ABS SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage are in NWM, suggesting that the region has a strong case for priority in government programs that can improve urban equity
- **road congestion** – Infrastructure Australia's analysis of Victorian roads ranks roads in NWM as eight of the top 10 most congested in the state
- **Year 9 literacy** – eight NWM LGAs rate among the 10 lowest in Melbourne
- **obesity levels** – 10 NWM LGAs are rated among the highest 12 LGAs out of 32 in Melbourne
- **canopy cover** – Melbourne's West has just 4.2 per cent tree cover and the North has 12.1 per cent compared to the Melbourne average of 15 per cent.

The rapidly growing population of NWM is creating unprecedented and unmet demand for educational offer at all levels, and medical services and facilities. The latest research<sup>2</sup> shows that NWM has had the least infrastructure funding of all Greater Melbourne regions on a population growth basis.

*Plan Melbourne* envisages that National Employment and Innovation Clusters (NEICs) in the suburbs will be the primary focus for knowledge-based and high-productivity jobs. Together with key industrial precincts, transport gateways, health and education precincts, Metropolitan Activity Centres (MACs) and Major Activity Centres, these clusters will attract investment and stimulate employment. Connecting precincts by creating job corridors is central to the successful outcomes of Victorian Government planning policy in NWM.

It has been identified<sup>3</sup> that NWM has just one significant employment activity cluster – the La Trobe NEIC, specifically around Heidelberg. To support growth and better share benefits, there is a pressing need for development of stronger clusters in the region. Urban clusters<sup>4</sup> are crucial for economic development and productivity growth in the knowledge economy, and clusters need economic density for productivity.

The Victorian Government has started to address this issue with its Precincts Policy, which includes Footscray and Sunshine among the six designated Priority Precincts, the La Trobe and Werribee NEICs, Epping, Broadmeadows and Cobblebank as MACs and Cloverton (formerly known as Lockerbie) as a planned MAC.

<sup>2</sup> NORTH Link-NIEIR, Northern Horizons, 2020

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> A cluster is taken to contain at least 40 employees per hectare in 2011 or 2016, was more than 4 kms from Melbourne CBD, and at least 6000 employees worked there on 2016 census day.



## About our region

# Importance of adequate public transport

The key driver to accessing employment is transport connection. Game-changing infrastructure projects need to be delivered to enable access to employment clusters and key precincts across the entire region.

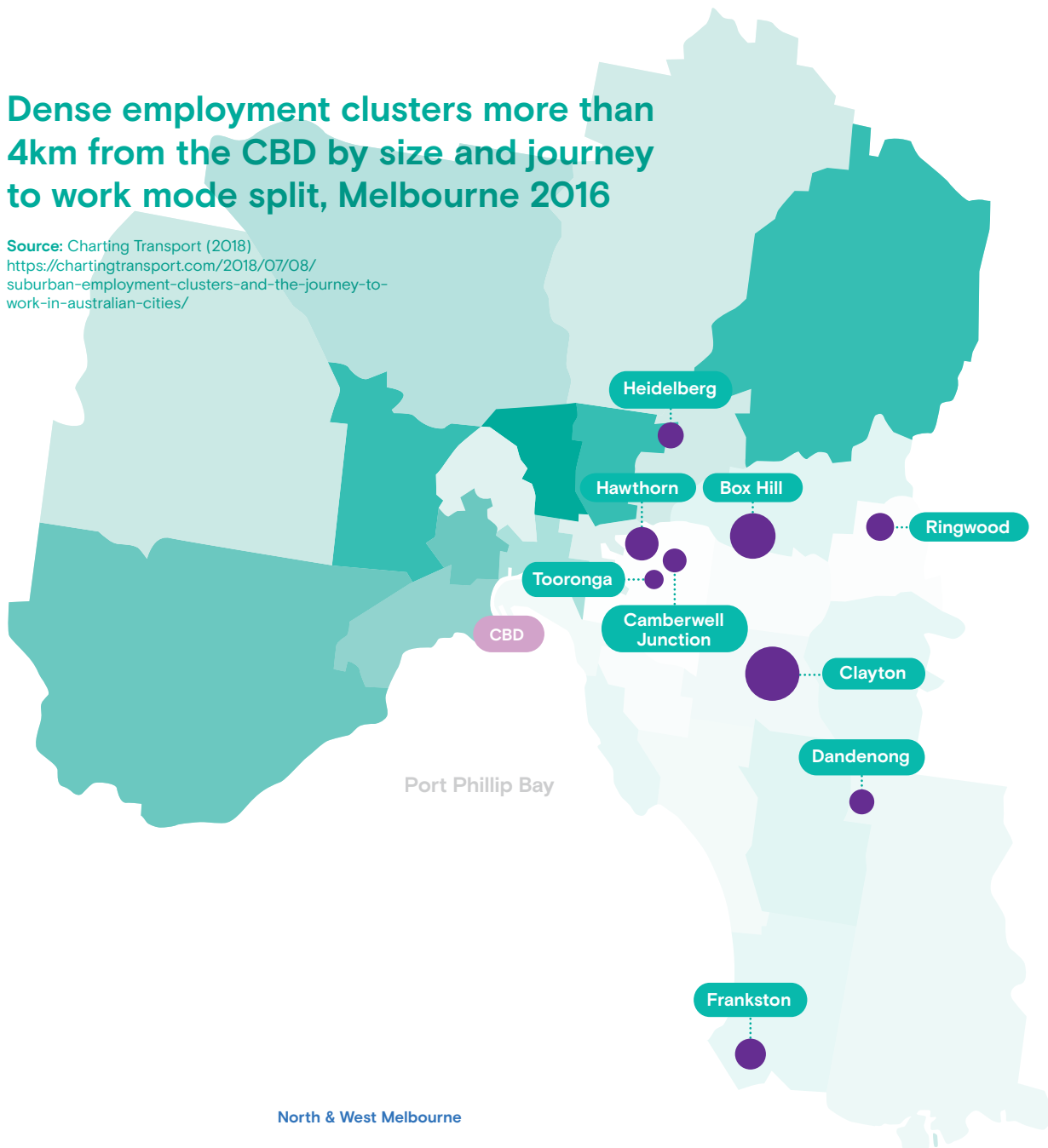
For example, the La Trobe NEIC, which is a major employment and innovation cluster in NWM, has the poorest public transport accessibility of the six original *Plan Melbourne* NEICs. The 70th percentile public transport trip to La Trobe NEIC is almost two hours in the morning peak, including access-egress time and wait/transfer times. As a result, of all the NEICs, La Trobe relies least on public transport. Poor transport hinders its development as an NEIC and this is a critical developmental barrier that needs to be removed.

Improved transport links into Sunshine will be critical to the success of the Sunshine Priority Precinct. The precinct includes the administrative and retail centre of Sunshine as well as neighbouring St Albans, and the Sunshine Health and Wellbeing Precinct focused on the Sunshine Hospital, all important activity centres identified as having strong social and economic opportunities. Transport infrastructure projects such as those within the Western Rail Plan provide new and upgraded stations, including the Sunshine Super Hub. Other projects such as the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, level crossing removals, the Western Intermodal Freight Precinct and the Suburban Rail Loop will greatly improve public transport, freight movement and traffic congestion within the region. Related projects such as Melbourne Metro 1 and Geelong Fast Rail will also contribute to increased capacity in NWM.

The challenges faced by these two precincts are representative of those faced by all precincts across the region.

## Dense employment clusters more than 4km from the CBD by size and journey to work mode split, Melbourne 2016

Source: Charting Transport (2018)  
<https://chartingtransport.com/2018/07/08/suburban-employment-clusters-and-the-journey-to-work-in-australian-cities/>





## Jobs and commuting

The population of NWM is predicted to grow by one million between now and 2040. It can be assumed that approximately 650,000 of those people will be of working age. Applying the average labour force participation rate of 65 per cent means the region will need to provide an additional 422,000 jobs unless unemployment is to rise. The central issue then becomes the extent of commuting.



## NWM: Competitive strengths and challenges

### The key strengths are:

- large and rapidly growing population
- residential and industrial land availability (70 per cent of Melbourne’s vacant industrial land)
- proximity to the Port of Melbourne, airports and main interstate transport routes
- collaborative tertiary sector with universities focused on their regions
- major public hospital clusters
- pre-existing manufacturing capability, which will be more important post-COVID-19
- high degree of regional cooperation
- strong, diverse multicultural community.

### The main challenges are:

- pressure on services from rapid population growth
- under-development and insufficient employment clusters in the region (ie mismatch of jobs with skills and inadequate number of jobs)
- predominance of lower skill jobs (ie shortage of more senior/technical/professional roles)
- dominance of the radial transport system of Melbourne (ie excessive commuting)
- under-developed amenity offerings
- concentrations of low socio-economic groups in parts of the region
- deficiencies in canopy cover
- population growth outpacing provision of health care services.

**The region has 70% of Melbourne’s vacant industrial land.**

# Guiding themes for our City Deal proposal

In considering the broad range of needs across the region, it was agreed that the following four themes will drive work and aspirations.



## Future Economy

With an increasing population and economic disruption caused by COVID-19, the shortfall of jobs available to residents in NWM continues to grow.

We will take advantage of existing strengths (eg health, food production and manufacturing) and new and emerging opportunities in the knowledge, new energy and circular economies to build the future economy and future jobs.

We will build on the strengths and versatility of our key tertiary institutions – La Trobe University, Victoria University<sup>5</sup>, Kangan Institute, Melbourne Polytechnic and Victoria University Polytechnic – along with other tertiary institutions that have a presence in the region. Improved links with industry will benefit in terms of R&D, skills currency, innovation and employability.

Education for specific cohorts is essential, from early childhood through to additional needs students, at-risk teens and new migrants, to lifelong educational retention to break the cycle of disadvantage. And sustainability in every sense will be a significant contributor to the future economy.

**NWM has existing strengths in health, food production and manufacturing.**

<sup>5</sup> Our two universities are both ranked in the top 2 per cent of universities worldwide. La Trobe University is in the top 400 of all three major world university rankings and was recently ranked second in the world for health and wellbeing. (*Times Higher Education Impact Rankings*)

Victoria University is ranked in the world's top 12 places to study Sport Science and #35 in the world for Hospitality and Tourism Management research. (*Academic Ranking of World Universities*)



## Health and Wellbeing

In less than 20 years, with one million additional residents, NWM will have a population 50 per cent larger than South Australia.

NWM already has world-class health service delivery, training and research capacity, from Austin Health, Mercy Health, Northern Health, Western Health and other providers in the region. This will need to scale up to meet the challenges of a rapidly growing population (with significant pre-existing levels of socio-economic disadvantage and associated physical and mental health indicators) and post-COVID-19 recovery. The region's unique mix of world-class universities and cooperative local governments make it well placed to provide health and wellbeing leadership post-COVID-19.

We will harness our collective strengths in primary and allied health care (including physiotherapy, psychology, speech pathology, podiatry, dietetics and nutrition, and occupational therapy) and public health (including disability, injury prevention and rehabilitation, sexual health and families, youth and adult mental health support, and wellbeing). The sports science facilities at La Trobe University and Victoria University provide health and wellbeing based on the latest research and technology, through partnerships with leading soccer and AFL clubs.

There is a need to provide more in aged services, particularly in transitioning older people from hospitals to home. Presently these facilities are outdated, in and around the CBD and difficult for family from the outer suburbs to get to. NWM has the available land to develop aged care zones, hospitals, care and remediation facilities in and around key precincts so that they are easily accessible by residents and their families.

**NWM is well placed to provide health and wellbeing leadership post-COVID-19.**



## There is an opportunity for NWM to leverage significant infrastructure investments.



### Transport and Connectivity

A significant proportion of residents and workers in NWM commute two hours or more daily, increasing as urban spread continues. A lack of integrated public transport options, particularly to employment hubs such as the La Trobe and Werribee NEICs, increases traffic congestion and commuting times, as outlined in the *Plan Melbourne* vision for 20 minute cities.

Improved transport infrastructure leads to lower transport costs, better employment opportunities, more time with family and community, increased community connectivity and increased safety and health benefits through improved design of roads, cycle paths and pedestrian walkways.

Goods and services need to get to local, regional, national and international markets from a growing region. This will require multi-modal transport options for workers and freight, including new freight hubs such as the Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal and Western Intermodal Freight Precinct connecting to the Commonwealth Inland Rail project.

The benefits for industry include but are not limited to increased travel range, reduced freight costs, higher employee productivity, quicker times to market, attraction of new investment and greater supply chain efficiency, underpinned by advanced digital connectivity.

There is a unique and exciting opportunity for NWM to leverage significant infrastructure investments already committed or announced, including the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, Melbourne Metro 2, Outer Metropolitan Ring, North East Link, Suburban Rail Loop, West Gate Tunnel and Western Rail Plan projects. Existing and developing regional transport strategies will deliver comprehensive advice on future transport infrastructure opportunities.

Developing strong transport linkages across and throughout precincts will create vibrant job corridors and precincts, promote collaboration, increase innovation and build a powerful NWM region for the future.



### Liveability

To sustain Melbourne's growth, Victoria has a need for thriving and sustainable communities outside the CBD. NWM will build on its existing strengths in sectors such as waste, water, energy, food and the built environment to deliver improved environmental, recreational, conservation and Indigenous outcomes. The City Deal provides an opportunity to focus on building stronger local communities by enhancing quality of life and quality of places where people live, work and recreate.

This extends to lifting and maintaining standards of urban design in inner suburbs where significant infill development is occurring, halting and addressing the degradation of natural ecosystems in urban areas, ensuring adequate quality open space and cultural amenity, urban greening, protecting and enhancing foreshore infrastructure, and purpose-designed bicycle and pedestrian pathways for transport and recreational amenity.

Activities in the arts, sport and recreation space are important for community health and wellbeing and can also be significant sources of community innovation. These actions can lead to improved mental and physical health outcomes for residents across the region.

Sustainability, culture and tourism are other areas that are significant contributors to the economy and liveability. Actions to deliver more affordable housing and new social housing initiatives will also be required across the region, including, for example, unlocking Commonwealth land in strategic redevelopment sites.

## Victoria needs thriving and sustainable communities outside the CBD.



# Eight priority precincts

1

## Broadmeadows (Metropolitan Activity Centre)

Broadmeadows is located 16 km from the Melbourne CBD, 9 km from Melbourne Airport and is the civic centre of Hume LGA. Hume's current population (2016) is 207,041; the population in 2036 will be 345,942, an increase of 138,901. The main local industries (by jobs) are Transport Postal and Warehousing, Manufacturing, Retail, Construction, and Education and Training. It has a major hospital presence in Northern Health and is the home of Kangan Institute Broadmeadows campus, Hume Multiversity, Magistrates' Court and the Department of Justice as well as a regional office of the NDIA.

### Key local issues and opportunities

- food and other manufacturing strengths
- presence of major health and education assets
- need for more local jobs
- heavy commuting load
- social disadvantage
- lack of white-collar employment opportunities
- underinvestment in Broadmeadows Station.

2

## Cloverton/Beveridge (planned Metropolitan Activity Centre)

Cloverton/Beveridge (formerly known as Lockerbie) is located 38 km from the CBD, 26 km from Melbourne Airport and is a future commercial and industrial centre in the Hume, Whittlesea and Mitchell LGAs. It is strategically located near both the Hume Freeway and the national standard gauge freight and passenger rail line linking Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Home to Merrifield, one of the fastest growing mixed-use communities in Victoria, it has significant industrial land. The planned Outer Metropolitan Ring transport corridor route passes through this precinct.

Key projects include the planned Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal, planned public hospital, planned TAFE campus and planned Outer Metropolitan Ring transport corridor.

### Key local issues and opportunities

- junction of Hume Freeway, Outer Metropolitan Ring and Inland Rail
- transport linkages not keeping up with industry and population growth
- heavy daily commuting load of local employees.







3

## Cobblebank (Metropolitan Activity Centre)

Cobblebank is 36 km from the CBD, within the Melton LGA. The 2016 population in the City of Melton was 141,422 rising to 332,051 by 2036, an increase of 190,629. Planning and development of the regionally significant Cobblebank MAC is underway and will include the new 24-hour Melton Public Hospital, justice precinct, sports precinct, university and TAFE education, civic buildings, commercial office space, residential accommodation and 70,000 sqm of retail space. Cobblebank will feature 20,000 dwellings, a population of around 55,000 and approximately 22,000 jobs.

The Cobblebank MAC, together with the Western Intermodal Freight Precinct, will support significant investment attraction to increase employment and address local issues.

### Key local issues and opportunities

- significant investment attraction opportunities
- need for increased hospital, health and human services for the growing population
- local jobs required for local residents – 73 per cent of workers commute outside the LGA
- youth unemployment, with 11 per cent disengaged from work (v 7.5 per cent for Greater Melbourne)
- significant areas of social disadvantage (four suburbs below 950 SEIFA).

4

## Epping (Metropolitan Activity Centre)

Epping is located 19 km from the CBD, 16 km from Melbourne Airport and is an emerging commercial and industrial centre in the Whittlesea LGA. Whittlesea's current population (2016) is 207,058; the population in 2036 will be 356,350, an increase of 149,292. The main local industries (by jobs) are Retail, Health, Logistics, Manufacturing, Construction and Accommodation/ Food. The region hosts growing subsectors of manufacturing (food and caravans). It has a major hospital presence in Northern Health and its associated Northern Centre for Health and Education Research, two proposed private hospitals, allied health (DPV Health) and is the home of Melbourne Polytechnic Epping campus. Other key job generators are the Melbourne Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Market and Pacific Epping. A key spine is the Hume Freeway.

### Key local issues and opportunities

- presence of Melbourne Market, Northern Health, education and Hume Freeway
- transport linkages not keeping up with industry growth
- heavy daily commuting load of local employees
- location of railway station not central to future employment hub.

## Eight priority precincts



5

### Footscray (State Priority Precinct)

Footscray is located 6 km west of the CBD, is adjacent to the Port of Melbourne in Maribyrnong LGA and is the civic centre of Maribyrnong LGA. Maribyrnong's current population (2016) is 86,942; the population in 2036 will be 147,464, an increase of 60,522. A total of 77 per cent of local residents commute to work. The main local industries (by jobs) are Health, Professional, Education, Accommodation/Food and Public Administration. Footscray is home to the headquarters of Western Health and Victoria University as well as Footscray Hospital.

The Defence Site Maribyrnong is a significant parcel of Commonwealth land that has potential for major inner urban renewal opportunities, while central Footscray needs to be redefined and redeveloped. In particular, there needs to be transport links between Footscray Station and the hospital-university precinct.

#### Key local issues and opportunities

- capturing the local employment and education benefits of development of the new public hospital and the co-location with Victoria University's Footscray Park campus
- opportunity to build on a vibrant community and arts culture
- noise/pollution associated with port and the expected growth of container traffic, but this is expected to reduce considerably after the West Gate Tunnel opens in 2023.

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### La Trobe (National Employment and Innovation Cluster)

The La Trobe NEIC is a high-level activity centre for knowledge-based activity in NWM, making it crucial for regional productivity and employment growth. The La Trobe NEIC is anchored by La Trobe University (Bundoora campus) and the Heidelberg medical precinct – the two key hi-tech/knowledge-based cores. It also includes Northland Urban Renewal Precinct, Heidelberg West Business Park, Northland Activity Centre and Heidelberg Activity Centre.

Vital to the La Trobe NEIC is La Trobe University's \$5billion University City of the Future plan and enabling transport infrastructure. This plan, which will involve significant investment over the next 10 years on Bundoora campus, includes education facilities, health facilities, housing, a new town centre, sports park, research and innovation precinct, an environmental corridor and green spaces for student and community amenity, and better transport links. It is expected to create 20,000+ new jobs, provide additional on-campus housing for 12,000 residents and contribute \$3.5billion in GRP.

#### Key local issues and opportunities

- major education, health, industry and retail assets
- creation of higher value jobs and supporting local industry
- inadequate transport linkages
- poor health outcomes and social disadvantage.



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## Sunshine (State Priority Precinct)

Sunshine is located 12 km from the CBD, 12 km south of Melbourne Airport, is adjacent to the Western Significant Industrial Precinct and is the civic centre of Brimbank LGA. Brimbank's current population (2016) is 204,190; the population in 2036 will be 244,500, an increase of 40,310. The main local industries (by jobs) are Retail, Health, Logistics, Construction, Manufacturing and Accommodation/Food. It has the Sunshine Health and Wellbeing Precinct, the Sunshine Hospital and the Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital, led by Western Health, and is the home of Victoria University Polytechnic.

The Sunshine Priority Precinct includes the Sunshine Health Wellbeing and Education Precinct, Sunshine NEIC, Sunshine Metropolitan Activity Centre, St Albans Major Activity Centre and Victoria University. With investment in the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, the Western Rail Plan and the Suburban Rail Loop, the creation of a Sunshine Super Hub will be a major catalyst for improved transport connectivity within and beyond NWM. All service sector facilities need to grow: education, health, legal, business and professional.

### Key local issues and opportunities

- opportunity for expanded range of businesses and greater range of housing stock, building on the Sunshine Super Hub
- need significantly more local jobs for residents
- heavy commuting load, with 68 per cent of local employees commuting every day
- social disadvantage – index 921 (v average of 1000)
- insufficient recreation facilities, open space and canopy cover
- land contamination issues need to be addressed.

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## Werribee (National Employment and Innovation Cluster)

Located 32 km south-west of the CBD, 38 km from Geelong and accommodating the civic centre of Wyndham LGA, Werribee connects Melbourne and Geelong. Wyndham's current population (2016) is 227,008 and the population in 2036 will be 459,216, an increase of 232,208 or 11,610 per year. The main local industries (by jobs) are Retail, Logistics, Education, Health and Manufacturing. There is no major public hospital and limited higher education facilities. It is the home of the Werribee Tourism Precinct including the Werribee Park and Mansion and expanding Werribee Open Range Zoo. Planned future projects include the A-League Stadium (a public private partnership with opportunities for significant value capture) and enhancement of the Refuse Disposal Facility as a centre for innovative environmental recycling (possibly including a waste to energy project) and green jobs.

The heavy commuting load imposes long delays and heavy pressure on transport routes. Potential arising from the East Werribee Employment Precinct is yet to be realised. All service sector facilities need to grow: education, health, legal, financial, business and professional.

### Key local issues and opportunities

- unlocking the potential of the East Werribee Employment Precinct
- need significantly more local jobs for local residents
- heavy commuting load – 62 per cent of local employees commute every day.

# Transformative projects

A raft of major intergenerational infrastructure projects are either commenced, committed to or being planned across all levels of government. Together, these projects will deliver an unprecedented level of investment in the region, providing the stimulus for further job creation and economic investment opportunities.

## Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal

The Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal is a major freight precinct that will play a significant role in delivering efficiencies in freight movement, ease traffic congestion and unlock job opportunities for the rapidly expanding community across northern metropolitan Melbourne. It will also maximise productivity in Australia's freight network and encourage additional investment in this important growth corridor. Its construction is crucial to the Inland Rail project.

## Broadmeadows Revitalisation

Revitalisation of the Broadmeadows Town Centre will address underlying disadvantage, reverse underinvestment and meet the need for increased manufacturing in food and health post-COVID-19. Unlocking the development capacity of strategic sites may realise 1500 new jobs. It includes commercial development of Hume Central, redevelopment of Broadmeadows Station and an Advanced Manufacturing Centre for Assistive Technology.

## East Werribee Employment Precinct

The precinct is home to research organisations, medical facilities, advanced manufacturing and educational organisations and has significant potential as an employment, technology and educational hub. It comprises 775 hectares of predominantly greenfield land for mixed-use city development. Development here will take pressure off Melbourne's infrastructure and provide opportunities for the more than half a million residents projected to be living in Wyndham by 2040.

## Epping Innovation and Food Export Hub

The Melbourne Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Market at Epping has an adjoining 51-hectare site available to develop a 21st century food cluster. The cluster will be a food manufacturing, distribution and research hub, in line with identification of the growing food and beverage industry as a distinctive regional competitive strength of the North.

## La Trobe University City of the Future Redevelopment

The La Trobe University City of the Future will create 20,000+ new jobs, education facilities for 40,000+ students, housing for 12,000 and \$3.5billion in GRP over the next decade. It involves starting the Suburban Rail Loop project sooner and implementing a short-to-medium term Mass Rapid Transit solution to mimic the Suburban Rail Loop route. Central to redevelopment is a transformed Research and Innovation Precinct, comprising priority projects.

## Melbourne Airport Rail Link

The Melbourne Airport Rail Link is a transformation of Victoria's transport network, connecting Melbourne Airport with a rail service for the first time. The Victorian Government has selected the Sunshine Route as its preferred course. Development of the detailed business case is now underway, with the project set to begin construction by 2022 and take up to nine years.





## Melbourne Metro 2

The Melbourne Metro 2 tunnel will add capacity to the Mernda, Hurstbridge and Werribee lines, necessary to cater for population growth and use. It will link the northern suburbs to Fishermans Bend and Newport, through to Altona North and Sunshine using existing freight lines, and connect the Werribee and Mernda lines. The Melbourne Metro 2 tunnel will also enable the Lalor to Wollert rail extension.

## New Footscray Hospital and Footscray University Town

This health and education precinct will include a new \$1.5 billion 504-bed public hospital (to be operated by Western Health), create 2000 ongoing jobs, and align with the Footscray University Town initiative between Victoria University and the Maribyrnong City Council, which will deliver a smart, creative and vibrant multicultural community in Footscray.

## New Melton Hospital

Building a 24-hour, cutting edge major public hospital in Melton will improve health outcomes and quality of life for one of Australia's fastest growing municipalities and the broader region. Located within the Cobblebank MAC, the Melton Hospital will be managed by Western Health and be a catalyst for a major health and education precinct with both public and private hospital services.

## New Outer North Hospital

The major public hospitals within the North are at capacity and the Northern Hospital is undergoing significant pressure from population growth. Hospital beds available in the North are well below the standards of provision for eastern and southern regions. A new major public hospital is required to address high demand.

## North East Link

North East Link is the biggest road transport project in Victoria's history, fixing the missing link in Melbourne's freeway network. Up to 135,000 vehicles will use North East Link every day, reducing congestion in the north-east while maintaining local roads for local trips.

## Outer Metropolitan Ring

The Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor/E6 will be a 100 kilometre long high-speed transport link for people and freight. It will create better connections to key international transport hubs such as Melbourne Airport, Avalon Airport, the Port of Geelong and the proposed Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal and Western Intermodal Freight Precinct. A business case has been co-funded by state and Commonwealth governments.

## Suburban Rail Loop

The Suburban Rail Loop is a new underground rail link connecting Melbourne's middle suburbs. It will include new stations and connect major railway lines from the Frankston line to the Werribee line via Melbourne Airport. The project will connect Melbourne's middle suburbs to priority growth precincts, and is set to commence build in the south-eastern suburbs.

## West Gate Tunnel

The West Gate Tunnel Project will give Melbourne a second freeway link between the West and the city. Construction is underway, with the new road opening in 2023. Currently more than 200,000 vehicles a day rely on the West Gate Bridge. The project will end reliance on the Bridge by building a new tunnel and new links to the Port of Melbourne, CityLink and the CBD.





## Western Intermodal Freight Precinct

The Western Intermodal Freight Precinct will dramatically improve efficiencies in local, national and international freight movement by bringing national warehouse and freight precincts closer to freight terminals and industry. It will reduce the number of trucks and trains required to transport interstate freight into Port Melbourne, reduce congestion and attract investment to this major industrial precinct. Its construction is crucial to the Inland Rail project.

## Western Rail Plan

The need for a fast, high capacity rail network to service the rapidly growing West and regional cities will include two electrified metropolitan rail lines in Melton and Wyndham Vale, with increased capacity between Sunshine and the CBD to cater for faster and more frequent metropolitan and regional trains. Project staging is being considered and will be incorporated alongside Melbourne Airport Rail Link planning.

# Enabling projects

Project name	Themes	Description
<b>Airport Rail East – Suburban Rail Loop/Mass Rapid Transit Solution</b>		This involves commencement of the Suburban Rail Loop project at same time as south-east and west regions, and implementation of a short-to-medium term Mass Rapid Transit solution (fast buses) to mimic the Suburban Rail Loop route. Predictions are that this early connection will deliver \$11million in economic benefit and 11,000 jobs.
<b>BioInnovation and Sustainable AgriFoods Hub</b>		This La Trobe University Hub will provide early development through to full-scale testing to enable growth and evolution of the NWM food industry, focusing on 'food for health'. It will include food pilot plants, product development labs, co-working and flexible spaces alongside an incubator, accelerator and other entrepreneurial programs and activities.
<b>Broadmeadows Revitalisation Enablers</b>		Revitalisation of the Broadmeadows Town Centre will unlock employment and education opportunities. This includes redevelopment of Broadmeadows Station, affordable housing, business and commercial development, and a new Advanced Manufacturing Centre for Assistive Technology. The Kangan Institute (TAFE) Broadmeadows campus redevelopment is closely aligned to this project.
<b>Brunswick Design District</b>		The Brunswick Design District is a partnership between Moreland Council, RMIT University and Creative Victoria to position Brunswick as a nationally significant hub for creative industries and design professions. Vital for enterprise development, creative and social activity, 33 Saxon Street and 420 Victoria Street Brunswick are ripe for investment.
<b>Digital Innovation Hub</b>		A new La Trobe University Digital Innovation Hub will offer local SMEs, start-ups and corporates solutions to real-world problems and transform companies. Focused on AgTech, Digital Health and CleanTech, it will foster industry partnerships with world-class research expertise across internet of things, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data analytics and digital networks.
<b>Electrification of the North East Line to Wallan</b>		This project will provide essential transport services to Wallan as it rapidly becomes a suburban centre within Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary. The current service is insufficient to support Wallan's population now, and will come under more pressure. The project will also ensure appropriate and sufficient public transport access for the Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal.
<b>Eltham Congestion Busters</b>		This project includes improved pedestrian facilities, traffic management measures, improvements to the Eltham railway station bus interchange and improved car parking management, unlocking mobility and connectivity in the highly mobile outer north-east which currently does not have direct access to La Trobe University.
<b>Energy Park Regional Sports Facility</b>		Energy Park includes former Sunshine Landfills centrally located in the Priority Precinct. A Master Plan is required to ensure this significant land is fit for purpose to develop a regional sports precinct. It is a major driver for jobs, tourism and innovation as value creation and capture associated with the Melbourne Airport Rail Link.



**Future Economy**



**Transport and Connectivity**



**Health and Wellbeing**



**Liveability**

Project name	Themes	Description
<b>Essendon Fields/ Airport West Improved Connectivity</b>		The Victorian Planning Authority identified Airport West and Essendon Fields as a key aviation, technology and employment precinct. It generates significant employment and economic opportunities for NWM. Strong population growth is forecast, yet the area around Airport West is a rail transport black hole and improved connectivity is urgently required.
<b>Flemington Community Hub</b>		A new Hub is required to replace the ageing Flemington Community Centre and Debnays Park Sports Pavilion. A community hall, exhibition space, kitchen, training rooms, offices, artroom and sport pavilion space will provide access for youth and older people, offering a welcoming place for diverse communities and cultures.
<b>Footscray Library, Community and Cultural Hub – NeXT</b>		Development of a landmark civic building will cater to the future needs of a diverse population by providing cultural, learning and social spaces in a welcoming, accessible and technologically advanced building. Currently, the West does not have a substantial (500+) community performance venue.
<b>Greening the North</b>		Greening the North involves the greening of space, including trees along streets, parks and gardens, sports/recreation grounds, areas of indigenous/natural vegetation, waterways and highway verges. Urban greening will bring high impact results – environmentally, economically and crucially, for the health and wellbeing of residents.
<b>Greening the West</b>		Expansion of the Greening the West strategy will deliver positive health outcomes, enhanced liveability and increased environmental benefits across Melbourne’s West, which currently has only 4.2 per cent canopy cover, compared with a Melbourne average of 15 per cent. Green spaces have proven benefits for the environment and health.
<b>Greensborough Station Redevelopment</b>		This redevelopment includes a significant, fully accessible bus interchange to facilitate trunk and last mile connections to the new station (linking to the La Trobe NEIC).
<b>Health, Sports and Active Living Innovation Hub</b>		The new Footscray Hospital offers an opportunity for development of a Health, Sports and Active Living Innovation Hub between Victoria University and Western Health. It will offer start-up development and support, assist Western Health to identify innovative solutions to problems and help staff to develop significant ideas for improvement.
<b>Hobsons Bay Foreshore Infrastructure</b>		To continue meeting community need, protection works at regionally accessible coastal areas are required. Immediate risks include the degradation of beaches and foreshore areas through loss of sand and foreshore edge erosion, flooding of public infrastructure and private assets in low lying areas, and flash flooding due to drainage systems overload.
<b>Hobsons Bay Wetlands and Biodiversity Centre</b>		This state-of-the-art centre will provide community recreation and education close to internationally recognised wetlands and biodiversity hotspots that contribute significantly to social, economic and environmental values. It will encourage the community to understand and enjoy foreshore areas and contribute to economic growth by providing jobs in health, recreation, education and tourism.



# Enabling projects

Project name	Themes	Description
<b>Hume Freeway Diamond Interchanges</b>		Improved interchanges between the Hume Freeway and major arterial roads will be a catalyst to unlock significant development within the northern urban growth boundary, improving residential accessibility. Diamond interchanges at Watson Street, Camerons Lane and Gunns Gully Road are priorities and a new Hume Freeway interchange at English Street is required.
<b>Irving Street Interchange and Paisley Street Improvements</b>		Footscray is a major transport hub, being Melbourne's busiest suburban train station and second busiest for bus movements. A central Footscray bus terminal that is well integrated with train services and enhances city design is required, as is consolidation of bus stops in a new Footscray Transport Interchange in Irving Street.
<b>Kangan Institute (TAFE) Campus Redevelopment</b>	 	This project, at Broadmeadows campus, creates two Centres of Excellence to train critical trades workforces, particularly plumbing and electrical, as well as healthcare, aged and disability care. A new campus, possibly at Melbourne Airport, will serve the growing needs of specialist training for servicing electric and heavy vehicles.
<b>La Trobe NEIC Enablers</b>		Connectivity enhancement will bring the La Trobe NEIC alive, unlocking education and employment opportunities. This includes links from Heidelberg Suburban Rail Loop station to Repatriation Hospital and Northland, construction of Watsonia multideck carpark, Macleod Station shuttle to La Trobe University, road improvements and bicycle links.
<b>Maygar Barracks Redevelopment</b>	 	Maygar Barracks in Broadmeadows is a significant parcel of Commonwealth Government owned land. As part of a NWM City Deal, re-investment into this site to facilitate housing including affordable and social housing (not the core focus), commercial and industrial development will derive significant economic benefits for its communities.
<b>Melbourne Centre for Civil Construction</b>		Home to Victoria University's School for Civil Construction and Transport Systems, this centre in Werribee will include research and training facilities, and a large enterprise hub for construction, engineering and transport businesses to co-locate. By attracting expertise and talent to these areas, it will create a highly specialised and competitive industry cluster.
<b>Melbourne Innovation Centre Redevelopment</b>		Melbourne Innovation Centre's Alphington site, an old Council depot, urgently needs capital works to become fit for purpose. Firms that participate in an incubator program typically report its significance in aiding business survival, particularly through periods of market disruption and in nurturing growth. This project can align with La Trobe University's Digital Innovation Hub.
<b>Mitchell Institute Centre for Jobs and Skills</b>		This institute at Victoria University will specialise in geographic distribution of jobs within major cities to secure better employment outcomes. It will analyse the future of work, locations and skills required, with potential to develop employment clusters closer to where Australians live. This will support NWM to recover from the COVID-19 recession.





**Future Economy**



**Transport and Connectivity**











**Health and Wellbeing**



**Liveability**

Project name	Themes	Description
<b>Moonee Ponds and Essendon North Intersection Upgrades</b>		The Moonee Ponds population will increase by close to 45 per cent by 2041. Moonee Ponds Junction is the third-worst site for pedestrian crashes in Victoria and an upgrade is required to improve public transport and pedestrian connectivity. Upgrade is also required at Mount Alexander and Lincoln Roads in Essendon North.
<b>New A-League Stadium Value Capture</b>		Wyndham City Stadium is a 15,000-seat football stadium, the future home of Western United FC, to be built in Tarneit. Development is being undertaken by Western Melbourne Group and Wyndham City Council. Residential and commercial development is planned for the surrounding area, representing a significant value capture opportunity.
<b>North and West Melbourne Data Analytics Hub Expansion</b>		The Hub gives businesses an opportunity to harness student skills, analyse data they collect and use that data to build business capability. University and TAFE students matched to organisations through the Hub stretch each client business into a new direction. This project can align with La Trobe University's Digital Innovation Hub.
<b>North Arterial Roads Package</b>		The Bulla Bypass will relieve pressure on Sunbury Road, connect Melbourne Airport to the Outer Metropolitan Ring, and improve connectivity between Sunbury and precincts. Further duplication of Somerton Road will relieve congestion while duplication of Mickleham Road is important to connect new residents to Melbourne Airport and the Tullamarine Freeway.
<b>North West Health and Wellbeing Alliance</b>		The Alliance of education, training and service delivery partners (La Trobe University) will train future and upskill existing healthcare workers. It will offer student placements, internships, graduate employment and new jobs. The Alliance can also model and track regional economic and health impacts of COVID-19 and identify opportunities for economic activity.
<b>Northern Centre for Health and Education Research Enhancement</b>		The Centre is a partnership between Northern Health, universities and government focused on innovative teaching and research for health professionals. New programs will counter regional chronic health problems (such as obesity and diabetes) through telehealth and digital health, allowing patients to manage their health at home with the aid of data analytics.
<b>Northern Cultural Trails</b>		Aligned with Northern Regional Trails, a Cultural Trails initiative will coherently link tourism product and help revive the visitor economy, for example promoting connections between attractions such as Montsalvat, La Trobe University Sculpture Park, Bundoora Homestead, Emu Bottom and more.
<b>Northern Maribyrnong and Defence Site Maribyrnong</b>		These planned major inner urban renewal opportunities with community and transport infrastructure will support the creation of jobs and housing. Defence Site Maribyrnong is a significant parcel of Commonwealth Government-owned land. Re-investment to facilitate housing (including affordable and social housing), commercial and industrial development will derive significant economic benefits for communities.

# Enabling projects

Project name	Themes	Description
Northern Regional Trails		Adopted by northern Councils in 2016, the Northern Regional Trails Strategy will provide a connected, functional off-road network with regional-scale economic, social and environmental value. Implementation of the network will deliver combined benefits valued at \$159–\$250million over the first 12 months.
Northern Highway Upgrade		Upgrade of the Northern Highway will improve vital connectivity between the Hume Freeway and the rapidly growing township of Wallan, easing increasing congestion and promoting more efficient movement within the Northern Urban Growth Boundary. The upgrade is key to unlocking the connection between Wallan and any future development of the Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal.
Route 86 Tram Extension		Extension of tram route 86 to South Morang Station will unlock study and employment opportunities for outer northern residents. It will improve public transport access to significant education, employment and service hubs. Mernda train service users will be able to transfer to a high capacity tram service at South Morang.
Scienceworks the National Science Museum		Scienceworks, part of Museums Victoria, administers cultural, scientific and technological collections, hosting around 505,000 visits annually. It has potential to grow into a state-of-the-art multimedia technology and education precinct of national significance. The vision includes an upgraded and expanded museum, a STEM school, a university, a TAFE and an industry partner.
St Albans Health and Wellbeing Hub		The Hub will become the active and preventative health precinct for the western region, strategically located in the vicinity of the Sunshine Precinct and linked with Sunshine Hospital. Stage 1 will create a minimum of 100 construction jobs and 120 ongoing jobs, and generate one million visitors per year.
Sustainability Futures Centre		A Sustainability Futures Centre at Victoria University's Werribee campus will progress sustainable development initiatives, supporting local industries and businesses to compete in the global market. Housed in a green star building exemplifying the latest in sustainable building design, it will focus on the waste, water, energy, food and built environment sectors.
Sustainability Project		The Sustainability Project, a Victoria University initiative, will focus on local planetary health issues and provide an opportunity for enhanced educational, environmental, conservation and Indigenous cultural outcomes, as well as offering a new eco-tourism opportunity for the region.
Upfield Rail Project		This project will resolve a number of transport issues in the North. The track extension project and connection to the Craigieburn railway line will address capacity constraints on the Craigieburn Line and provide future capacity for residents in growth areas, while enabling direct access to RMIT University and employment hubs.



**Future Economy**



**Transport and Connectivity**



**Health and Wellbeing**



**Liveability**

Project name	Themes	Description
<b>West Footscray Community Facilities Plan – RecWest Redevelopment</b>		With all recreation facilities in Maribyrnong currently at capacity, population growth presents a real challenge. An opportunity exists to develop an interconnected community, sport and recreation precinct for continued growth of existing clubs and organisations, and a place of inclusion and wellbeing for the local community.
<b>Western Aquatic and Leisure Centre</b>		A new aquatic centre in Altona Meadows will meet the needs of residents and encourage a healthy, active and connected community, providing a place to build social networks and connections. Duplication of Central Avenue and improvement of the Point Cook Road and Princes Freeway interchange will support access to the Centre.
<b>Western Business Accelerator and Centre of Excellence Expansion</b>		The Western BACE is a co-working space and business accelerator for start-up businesses. With a successful business model to assist businesses in their early growth phase, the opportunity exists to provide additional co-working space and meeting rooms supporting entrepreneurship and innovation.
<b>Western Highway Upgrade</b>		The Western Highway in Melton is a critical arterial road link and economic driver at a metropolitan, state and national level. Funding is required to upgrade the Western Highway to an urban freeway standard with additional lanes and interchanges to enable efficient freight movements from the Western Intermodal Freight Precinct and reduce congestion.
<b>Western Metropolitan Regional Trails – West Trails</b>		The West Trails Strategy is an initiative to improve connectivity, quality and usage of regional trails for pedestrians and cyclists across Melbourne's West and into the North. Implementation of the network needs to continue over the next five years to provide multiple transport, health, economic and environmental benefits.
<b>Westlink Ison Road Bridge</b>		Westlink, a continuous road link through one of Australia's fastest growing areas, will help to support significant population growth. It will relieve significant current and future congestion and provide access to future employment hubs within and near the Werribee Junction Precinct.
<b>Whitten Oval Redevelopment</b>		This redevelopment will provide new facilities for the Western Bulldogs AFLW team, a refurbished entry and café, expanded community meeting spaces, a new museum, an expanded performance centre, new seating and standing areas, a match day pavilion, and provision for a playground, running circuit and walking trails, all with community access.
<b>Wollert Rail</b>		A link from Lalor train station to the Epping MAC precinct and the rapidly-growing communities of Epping North and Wollert, home to almost 95,000 residents by 2040, will provide access to inner North jobs and education and Epping's Northern Health, private health, retail and Melbourne Market.
<b>Wyndham Refuse Disposal Facility</b>		The Refuse Disposal Facility is one of four major metropolitan landfills. It will be developed as a precinct for green jobs development and as a Waste Management Centre of Excellence. The goal is to move away from traditional landfill to a resource and energy recovery operation.



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