

The Eastern Metro Bugle

THE LATEST NEWS FROM YOUR STATE LABOR MEMBER FOR THE EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGION, SONJA TERPSTRA MP

2020/2021 SUMMER EDITION

MID-TERM REPORT

Since coming to office in 2018, the Andrews Government has been hard at work investing in the Eastern Metropolitan Region. We haven't wasted a minute!

In this bulletin you'll find information about progress being made on major government infrastructure projects which were promised in the lead up to the 2018 election, such as North East Link and the Suburban Rail Loop as well as investment in core areas such as education, housing, jobs, health and more.

You'll also see budget announcements that show the levels of investment projected to be made in the Eastern Metropolitan Region for the next financial year and beyond.



Socially distant. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews with Member for the Eastern Metro Region, Sonja Terpstra MP.

BUDGET 2020/2021: INVESTING IN PEOPLE IN THE EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGION

When the Andrews Government was elected, we promised to put people first. As our state begins its recovery from the global pandemic, people will continue to be our priority.

The Victorian Budget 2020/21 delivers on the investments that will see our community recover – and come back even stronger.

Schools

As kids get back into the classroom, this Budget delivers the single biggest investment ever in our schools – making sure students have the classrooms, libraries and learning spaces they deserve.

Over \$40 million is being invested in schools in Bulleen, Croydon and Warrandyte to ensure future students have the best facilities.

Schools across the Eastern Metro region will benefit from funding to provide facilities for additional enrolments for the 2023 school year, in addition to the already announced funding from the Infrastructure Planning and Acceleration Fund.

See pages 4 and 11 for more details.

The Government's investment will also support local jobs, with our investment in school infrastructure expected to create more than 6,400 jobs across the state.

As we recover, we want our state to come back stronger than ever, delivering the biggest investment in inclusive education in our state's history.

A further \$1.6 billion will transform support for students with disability, doubling the number of students receiving extra support to 55,000, and creating up to 1,730 jobs across the state by 2025.

Jobs

To help get more Victorians back into work, the Andrews Government is setting itself an ambitious target – creating 400,000 new jobs by 2025, half of them by 2022.

Our new Jobs for Victoria initiative will help locals find a new job – and with it, security, stability and certainty. This includes \$250 million to partner with employers to cover the wages of at least 10,000 new workers. These positions will be for Victorians hardest hit by this pandemic, including women, young people, retrenched workers and people who have been long-term unemployed.

This investment will also deliver targeted and tailored support for those who need it – such as mentoring, career counselling or more intensive support.

Paid Sick/Carers Leave

We know too many Victorians are having to choose between going to work sick and losing wages, so the Andrews Government will invest \$5 million to develop a new Secure Work Pilot Scheme. Once in place a two-year pilot will provide up to five days of sick and carer's pay at the national minimum wage for casual or insecure workers in priority industries.

Household bills

This year's Budget will help nearly one million local families save hundreds on their power bill. Concession card holders, such as Victorians receiving JobSeeker payments, will be eligible for a one-off \$250 payment to help cover the cost of their energy bills.

An extra 250,000 low-income households will benefit from new more efficient heating and cooling, while heating, cooling or hot water systems will be upgraded across an extra 35,000 social housing homes – reducing bills for tenants and making winter and summer more comfortable.

Solar Energy

The Andrews Government's Solar Homes will also be expanded to an extra 42,000 rooftop solar rebates plus 14,500 solar batteries, cutting power bills for local families. And for the very first time, small businesses will also be eligible.

We've already completed 100,000 solar homes across the state.

Public Housing

We're also delivering the biggest investment in public and community housing in Australia, ever. This investment will build more than 12,000 new homes – making sure thousands of Victorians have a place to call home, and thousands more Victorians have a job.

Free Kinder

Even with kids back at school, the balancing act that many families know all too well isn't easy. That's why this Budget will make kinder free in 2021 and deliver outside school hours care at up to 400 extra schools, saving parents money and giving them greater flexibility when it comes to work and care.

Mental Health

This Budget will ensure Victorians have the mental health support they need as we get on with fixing a broken system. That includes nearly \$870 million for mental health, including to implement the Royal Commission into Mental Health's interim report findings and recommendations and deliver care for local families.

Family support

We're also investing more than \$1 billion for children and families at risk, including targeted support to help families stay together. A further \$235 million will build our Recovery Workforce, creating 500 new jobs across mental health, family violence, health and child protection with hundreds more new training opportunities, so Victorians have the support they need as we recover from this pandemic.

Health

We also want to make sure we continue to give patients flexibility in their care, allowing them to choose what is best for them and their families.

This Budget will invest \$121 million for 'Better at Home', increasing the delivery of hospital services in patients' homes – ensuring these Victorians can recuperate in the comfort of their own home.

We'll also strengthen and expand virtual care technology, making it easier for busy families to access support.

This is a Budget to repair, recover and make us stronger than before. This is a Budget, and a Government, that puts people first.

To see a breakdown of the big budget items in your electorate, turn to page 11.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

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TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



The southern connector of the North East Link project at the Eastern Freeway Source: NEL Project

Major Road Project: North East Link

North East Link is the biggest road transport project in Victoria's history – finally fixing the missing link in Melbourne's freeway network. It will remove 9,000-11,000 cars and trucks off Rosanna Road every day.

It will create more than 10,000 jobs, providing a \$427M annual economic boost from better freight connectivity as well as improving access to 56,000 more job opportunities for workers in the north-east and deliver on 25 kilometres of new and upgraded bike paths.

Better Access To Public Transport

As part of the project, North East Link will build Melbourne's first dedicated busway – with a new Bulleen Park & Ride that will be delivered sooner than planned!

Construction of the new park and ride at Bulleen is being fast tracked by four years to open by late 2022.

The design for the premium transport hub, is to be located to the east of Thompsons Road, in Bulleen and includes multi-level parking for 370 cars, a 5,000 square metre green roof for a community park, dedicated quick drop off and pick up bays bike storage, myki and other facilities, commuting time cut by 30%, solar panels provide clean energy to light the park and ride.

Tree Planting

North East Link is delivering one of the largest tree planting programs for a major transport project in Victoria. More than 30,000 trees will be planted along and near the North East Link Project, keeping them as close as possible to where they have been removed. Trees will also be planted to shade and cool places nearby like local parks, nature reserves and walking and cycling paths.

Investing in Community Sport

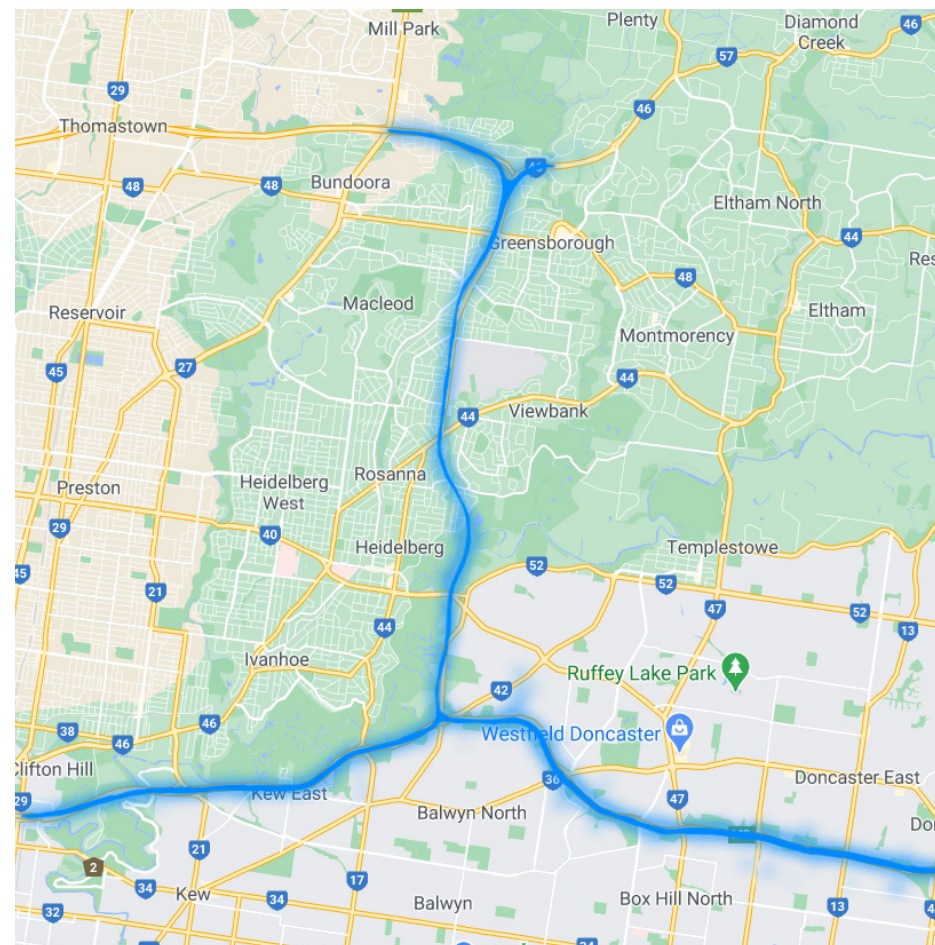
As part of the \$68 million sports investment announced as part of the project, three new soccer pitches are proposed to be built at Templestowe Road, Bulleen. NEL has worked in partnership with Manningham City Council developing a masterplan for the use and development of the Bulleen Driving Range and Parks Victoria-owned land next door for new sporting facilities and passive open space which includes:

- Three new soccer pitches; one synthetic, two natural pitches
- A pavilion between pitches 1 & 2 to provide sports amenities and spectator facilities
- Tiered seating
- Signalised intersection and upgrade of existing access to Templestowe Road
- Car parking facilities with 176 spaces
- Walking and cycling infrastructure
- Environmental enhancement
- Landscaping
- Drainage, storm water management and flood mitigation
- Lighting

For more details on the progress of North East Link visit: <https://northeastlink.vic.gov.au/>



Bulleen Park and ride



A map of the North East Link Project

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

Major Rail Project: Suburban Rail Loop

Announced in the lead up to the 2018 election, the Andrews Government committed to building the Suburban Rail Loop which is the biggest rail project ever built in Victoria's history.

Commuters in the Eastern Metropolitan Region are set to benefit as Glen Waverley and Box Hill are being included in Stage One of the project. Doncaster and Heidelberg will benefit by being included in future stages of the project.

Ninety kilometres of rail line will link every major rail service from the Frankston line to the Werribee line. It will provide a direct rail link to Tullamarine Airport as well as the new Melbourne Airport Rail.

Whilst the Suburban Rail Loop will be a standalone line, it will fully integrate into the wider public transport system. Interchange stations will connect with metropolitan and regional rail lines which will allow passengers to seamlessly transfer from one part of the rail network to another.

The Suburban Rail Loop will have a dedicated fleet of quick, high-tech trains that will deliver an efficient, modern 'turn-up-and-go' service. Suburban Rail Loop will integrate with the walking,

cycling, bus and road networks to enhance Melbourne's overall public transport efficiency.

Stage 1 of the project connects Cheltenham to Box Hill via Monash University

Local Jobs

The Suburban Rail Loop will generate about 20,000 jobs during the construction phase and will help train the next generation of skilled workers by providing jobs for up to 2,000 apprentices, trainees and cadets via the Andrews Government's Major Projects Skills Guarantee.

The Project – Stage One

Site investigations and preliminary works began on this project in May 2019 and have been continuing since. In November 2020, Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop Jacinta Allan announced \$2.2 billion for early works on Stage One of the project which will run between Cheltenham and Box Hill.

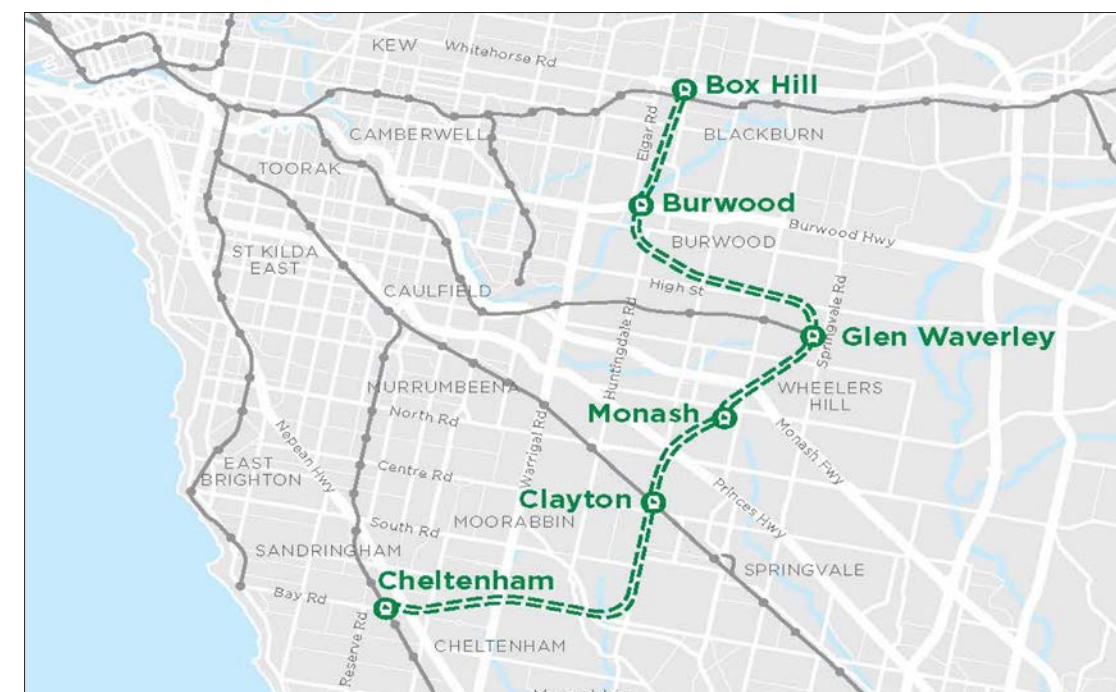
Early works will commence in 2022 and will create up to 800 jobs establishing launch sites for tunnel boring machines. Funding for early works will also cover the purchase of land, upgrades to roads and power supplies where needed, build new sub-stations, relocate and protect gas, water and other utilities, and deliver other vital works to prepare for major construction.

Six new stations have been announced with the line commencing near Southland, underneath Sir William Fry Reserve in Highett.

Other proposed stations are next to Monash and Deakin universities – central to the Box Hill and Glen Waverley activity centres – and north of Carinish Road in Clayton, where a transport super-hub will connect regional passengers to the loop.

An interactive mapping tool and survey capturing local community views on each of the proposed station locations remains open. Victorians are encouraged to have their say by visiting suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au/Have-Your-Say.

To stay up to date with the progress on Victoria's biggest rail project, visit <https://suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au/>



Stage 1 of the suburban rail loop project

Road and rail upgrades in the Eastern Metropolitan region

In addition to North East Link, the Suburban Rail Loop and Level Crossing Removal Project, various improvements have been made to the road and rail network in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

- Hurstbridge Rail Line Duplication between Rosanna and Heidelberg
- building a new and modern station at Greensborough
- a major upgrade to Montmorency Station
- the duplication of around three kilometres of track between Greensborough and Montmorency
- Heathmont Station upgrade
- Ringwood East Station Car Park upgrade

Fitzsimons Lane Upgrade

- upgrade the intersection at Williamsons Road and Foote Street
- install traffic lights to replace the roundabout at the intersection of Fitzsimons Lane and Porter Street
- install traffic lights to replace the roundabout at the intersection of Fitzsimons Lane and Main Road
- install traffic lights at the intersection of Main Road and Leane Drive
- open up the bus lanes between Porter Street and Foote Street to all traffic
- build new walking and cycling paths
- install safety barriers along the road

Other road upgrades:

- Upgrade of Canterbury Road and Bedford Road intersection at Heathmont
- Dorset Road Croydon upgrade
- Bolton Street Eltham upgrade complete

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visit [SonjaTerpstraMP.com.au](https://sonjaterpstraMP.com.au) to subscribe



Mooroolbark level crossing and station. Source: LXRP

Level Crossing Removals

In coming to office in 2014, the Andrews Government announced it would remove 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings investing \$2.4 billion for the task in the 2015-2016 Victorian Budget with 20 of those crossings removed in the first term of Government.

A further 25 level crossings will be removed by 2025 in addition to the 50 already planned bringing the total number of level crossings to be removed to 75. Forty three level crossings are gone for good as at the end of 2020, with 46 brand new and upgraded stations being delivered and creating 4,500 jobs in the process.

In the Eastern Metropolitan Region, 8 level crossings have been removed or are planned to be removed. They are:

Rosanna
Level crossing removal, construction of new, modern station and improved cycling paths.
Works Completed in 2018.

Union Road, Surrey Hills
Level crossing removal, construction of a new Mont Albert and Surrey Hills stations.
Geotechnical works have commenced.

Mont Albert Road, Mont Albert
Level crossing removal, construction of a new Mont Albert and Surrey Hills stations.
Geotechnical works have commenced.

Blackburn Road, Blackburn
Level crossing removal, station enhancements. New walking/cycling paths delivered between Blackburn and Nunawading and better pedestrian paths.
Works Completed in 2018.

Heatherdale Road, Mitcham
Level crossing removal, new station, Box Hill to Ringwood cycling trail, plus 'kiss and go' drop off point.
Works Completed in 2018.

Manchester Road, Mooroolbark
Level crossing removal, new station, multi deck car park at Mooroolbark doubling car parking capacity to 900 spaces.
Works commenced in late 2020.

Mountain Highway, Bayswater
Level crossing removal, new station and precinct, better walking and cycling paths, public artwork installation by indigenous artists and students from Bayswater Secondary College.
Works Completed in 2017.

Scoresby Road, Bayswater
Level crossing removal, new station and precinct, better walking and cycling paths, public artwork installation by indigenous artists and students from Bayswater Secondary College.
Works Completed in 2017.

To find out more about the program of works being undertaken by the Level Crossing Removal Authority, visit: <https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/>

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

EDUCATION

The Andrews Government will deliver free kinder for 2021!

The Victorian Budget 2020/2021 will deliver up to \$169.6 million to make kinder free next year, saving families around \$2,000 for every child enrolled in a participating funded kinder program. This investment will not only make sure more kids can access a great early childhood education, it will make it easier for parents – particularly women – to return to the workforce as we recover from the pandemic.

Families with children enrolled in kinder programs at a long day care centre will also benefit from a saving of around \$2000 in fees. And for those families that have kids attending unfunded three-year-old programs in sessional kindergartens, there will also be reduced fees. This is a smart investment. Not only will free kinder save families thousands

of dollars –it'll get more kids into kinder, back early childhood services and workers, and help support more parents, especially women, into the workforce.

During 2019, many preschools in the Eastern Metropolitan Region shared in a range of funding initiatives. Grants for playgroup funding, shade grants, facilities and equipment upgrades, information technology grants, minor infrastructure refurbishments, building improvement funding were made available for kinders to do more for our littlest Victorians. On top of this, many kinders in the EMR in the state electorates of Bulleen, Warrandyte and Croydon shared in \$628,780 in school readiness funding to help ensure our kids get the best start before they head off to prep.



Launch of the Chin Hakha Language Program at Mooroolbark Kinder, 2019.

\$515 million Government School maintenance blitz



Warranwood Primary School, Maintenance Funding blitz announcement, 2019

Announced in late 2019, primary, secondary and specialist schools across the state shared in \$515 million, for a range of works including building repairs and refurbishments, better bushfire safety facilities, landscaping and tree inspections.

This project was part of the Andrews Government's Building Works package, which delivered \$2.7 billion in shovel-ready projects – big and small. The package included a \$1.18 billion education building program that will build new schools, deliver and refurbish relocatable classrooms and make schools more accessible for students and staff with disabilities. This \$1.18 billion education building program is in addition to the \$6.1 billion invested by the Andrews Government on delivering school upgrades since 2014, supporting more than 7,500 construction jobs for Victorians.

This project created space for more than 21,000 extra students in Victoria's education system and created more than 1,600 local construction jobs in communities across Victoria. Government Schools in the following districts in the Eastern Metropolitan Region shared in funding from the blitz:

State seat of Bayswater:	\$1,563,383	State seat of Forest Hill:	\$2,060,579
State seat of Box Hill:	\$1,828,391	State seat of Ivanhoe:	\$1,139,998
State seat of Bulleen:	\$1,788,829	State seat of Mount Waverley:	\$1,826,628
State seat of Croydon:	\$1,444,901	State seat of Ringwood:	\$1,945,614
State seat of Eltham:	\$1,816,178	State seat of Warrandyte:	\$1,478,501
State seat of Ferntree Gully:	\$1,353,506		

There will be more to come in school funding announcements across the remainder of the term.

Funding boost for TAFE

Premier Dan Andrews, Deputy Premier James Merlino and Minister Gayle Tierney MP announced the \$260.8 million package, which includes a \$191.9 million guarantee to lock in funding at expected pre-COVID-19 levels and an additional \$68.9 million in crisis support to ensure Victoria's public training system can respond and recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Like universities and other higher-education providers, the economic impacts of coronavirus have hit the training sector hard. International students are no longer able to enter the country and many other students can't pay their fees. The funding will help our TAFEs and training providers transition to delivering more online and remote learning, keep staff on, and continue teaching skills that will be critical in the fight against coronavirus. Free TAFE is already providing a pipeline

of nurses and other essential health care workers. Through the Working for Victoria program more than 685 people have already completed free short courses in food hygiene and cleaning, with more courses in fields like infection control and first aid coming online this week.

This funding builds on the Andrews Government's \$1.7 billion economic survival and jobs package – which has already provided more than \$400 million in payroll tax refunds, \$65 million in business support grants and found new jobs for more than 1,500 people through Working for Victoria.

For further information please visit:
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/tafe-students-funding-and-support>

Minor Capital Works Fund

I am pleased to announce fast-tracked funding for a number of schools in the Eastern Metro region for upgrades to their facilities, supporting local jobs through Victoria's economic recovery.

- Ainslie Parklands Primary School will be receiving over \$250,000 to update their playgrounds and provide shading for students.
- Wonga Park Primary School will receive over \$41,000 to upgrade playground space and install a sensory garden.
- Milgate Primary School is getting over \$57,000 to upgrade school fencing.
- Donburn Primary School will use over \$155,000 to upgrade staff facilities and bathrooms.
- Kilsyth Primary School will be upgrading a playground space with over \$97,000 in funding.
- Croydon Special Developmental School will receive \$500,000 for refurbishment of relocatable buildings.

Projects will commence from early 2021.

Victoria's school building boom is the biggest in the country. More importantly, it'll mean our kids have the classrooms – and the bright futures – they deserve.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: NEW BUILDS AND UPGRADES

Croydon Community School – New School build

Croydon Community School is a small secondary school with the capacity to enrol approximately 100 students on its current site at Mt Dandenong Rd in Croydon. The school's vision is to graduate confident, compassionate, reliable and resilient young people who possess a positive personal philosophy, and a focus on continuing growth.

Following previous planning funding, additional funding of \$18.12 million is being provided to enable the relocation of the Croydon Community School to the Croydon Road site, including for new administration, wellbeing and advisory

buildings, physical education facilities and Town Hall.

This project is part of the Andrews Government's Building Works package, which will deliver \$2.7 billion in shovel-ready projects – big and small – to get thousands of people back to work across our state.

The package includes a \$1.18 billion education building program will also build new schools, deliver and refurbish relocatable classrooms and make schools more accessible for students and staff with disabilities.



The new Croydon Community School Designs



Templestowe Heights Primary School to receive new facilities

Templestowe Heights Primary School will receive \$1.448 million from the Infrastructure Planning Acceleration Fund (IPAF) for an upgrade and new facilities to accommodate projected growth in enrolment numbers at the school.

Templestowe Heights Primary School has a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. Specialist areas are literacy intervention/EAL, enrichment, Art, Physical Education, Performing Arts, and Italian. Instrumental music classes, swimming programs, lunchtime clubs, camps, and after school activities are offered. In 2020 the school will celebrate its 50th anniversary.



Templestowe Heights Primary School

Ruskin Park Primary School to receive upgraded facilities to cater for an additional 200 enrolments

Ruskin Park Primary School will receive \$1.18 million Infrastructure Planning Acceleration Fund (IPAF) to upgrade and provide facilities for an additional 200 enrolments to accommodate projected growth in the area.

The school's vision follows the belief that 'every student at Ruskin Park can develop their natural curiosity and imagination through new and engaging approaches to teaching and learning. The encouragement of a positive attitude within a friendly community of learners will promote success today, tomorrow and into the future'. The school values are: Building Friendships, Creativity, Honesty and Respect.



Ruskin Park Primary School

Architects appointed to design new outdoor play areas for local schools

During April 2020, architects were appointed to help design new outdoor play areas for the following schools:

- Design Core Architects Pty Ltd have been appointed to design Croydon Special Development School's new accessible playground.
- Bryant Alsop Pty Ltd has been appointed to design Templestowe Park Primary School's new outdoor sensory area.



This \$200,000 Inclusive Schools Fund project is part of the Andrews Government's commitment to inclusive education, which is ensuring that students with disabilities and additional needs get the same opportunities as other students. Inclusive education is about ensuring that all students, regardless of disabilities or other differences, can fully participate, learn, develop and succeed in Victorian government schools.

Since the Fund was established by the Andrews Government in 2015 more than 232 creative projects to build inclusive learning spaces, outdoor sensory areas and accessible playgrounds have been announced.

ENVIRONMENT



Victoria's Renewable Energy Target – 50% by 2030

In August 2019 the Andrews Government introduced a Bill into parliament to legislate increasing Victoria's Renewable Energy Target (VRET) to 50 per cent by 2030 – as promised at the 2018 State election.

The Renewable Energy (Jobs and Investment) Amendment Bill 2019 builds on the Government's VRET legislation, which will ensure 25 per cent of our electricity generation comes from renewable sources by 2020, and 40 per cent by 2025.

A strong renewable energy target boosts the pipeline of renewable projects and encourages businesses to invest in the local supply chain, boosting employment – particularly in regional Victoria.

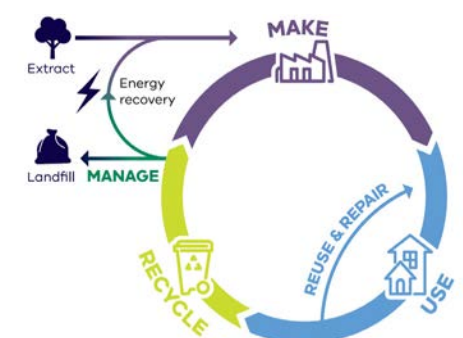
An increased VRET will create around 24,000 jobs by 2030, driving an additional \$5.8 billion in economic activity in Victoria, push down the cost of power and will reduce emissions – the equivalent of taking 655,000 cars off the road for a year.

Recycling and circular Economy Policy

Earlier this year, the Andrews Government released its circular economy strategy – Recycling Victoria – a 10-year plan that will completely overhaul Victoria's recycling sector, create 3,900 jobs and reduce waste going to landfill.

These announcements are part of a suite of comprehensive measures outlined in the plan to better collect and sort recyclable materials, and better use them in new products, including:

- a new four-bin household recycling system to separate recyclables, glass, food and organics, and waste;
- a container deposit scheme to be developed in consultation with councils and industry and begin by 2023. See more on this initiative below.
- a statewide education program to help households, businesses and councils transition to the new system
- the doubling of funding for businesses to invest in infrastructure to sort and process recyclables
- new grants to make Victoria a leader in recycling innovation
- new grants to help business reduce waste and increase recycling in their daily operations
- funding for waste-to-energy initiatives, recognising its role in an integrated waste recovery system
- a Business Innovation Centre to develop new, innovative technology and solutions to waste problems
- support to target hazardous waste and protect the community from dangerous chemical stockpiles.



To learn more about our circular economy policy visit: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/circulareconomy>

Container Deposit Scheme

The Andrews Government is introducing a container deposit scheme (CDS) to increase beverage container recycling and reduce litter in Victoria. The scheme is due to commence in 2022/2023.

A container deposit scheme works by applying a small deposit to beverages sold to consumers which covers the cost of recycling. When the empty beverage containers – such as those in plastic, glass bottles and aluminium cans, are returned to a refund collection point, a cash refund can be collected for each container returned.

The benefits of improving our rubbish and recycling systems are immense. We can reduce waste and litter by increasing recycling of plastic, aluminium and glass drink containers, provide more money

for councils to spend on the community rather than on cleaning-up, improved resource recovery means reduced use of virgin materials as well in resulting in a cleaner and healthier environment.

Hundreds of new jobs will also be created via the establishment of new collection points throughout the state, jobs in recycling, re-processing and re-manufacturing as well as transport and logistics and support services like technology, community education, auditing and reporting.

The CDS will also provide for a new way for individuals, charities and community groups to raise money.

To follow the progress on our container deposit scheme, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme>



Ending logging in old growth forests

The Andrews Government announced in November 2019 a \$120 million Native Forest Transition Package to support Victoria's forest industry to move away from native timber. Victoria's Forestry Plan will see logging in old growth forests end immediately, with all logging in native forests in Victoria to cease by 2030. Logging of old-growth forests is now banned.

This will deliver immediate protections for 90,000 hectares of the state's remaining rare and precious old growth.

Also immediately protected from logging another 96,000 hectares, including areas of the Central Highlands and East Gippsland, home to the iconic Greater Glider and more than 35 other threatened species including the Leadbeater possum.

That's 186,000 hectares now protected from logging, equivalent to more than 100,000 MCGs or two Wilsons Promontory National Parks...the biggest addition to our reserve system in almost 30 years.

Under this policy, the Strathbogie forest is now permanently protected and the Greater Gliders and their little mates have a much better chance of being around for future generations to enjoy.

For more information on this announcement visit: <https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/forest-management/environmental-regulation-of-timber-harvesting>

Opal Australian Paper will also be supported to transition to a full plantation-based supply, ensuring it operates until at least 2050 – providing support to its almost 1,000-strong workforce and stability to its customers.

The plan is backed by \$120 million in industry support – including re-employment and re-training services for impacted workers, and funding for community projects that support local businesses and help create local jobs.

For the latest news on what's happening in the Eastern Metro Region, visit SonjaTerpstraMP.com.au

BUSHFIRE SEASON 20/21

Are you bushfire ready?

During an emergency such as a bushfire, it is hard to think clearly. You may forget important things or waste valuable time deciding where to go.

There are some simple steps you can take to get ready now:

- learn about what Fire Danger Ratings mean and check them every day during the fire season
- make your fire plan and talk with your family about what you will do. Just as every family or household is unique, every plan will be different
- if you are in a regional area at risk of bushfires or grassfires, be prepared to leave early on very high-risk days or if a fire starts. It is the safest option.

For the latest fire warnings in your area:

- visit the Vic Emergency website at emergency.vic.gov.au
- download the Vic Emergency app
- check the Vic Emergency Twitter or Facebook for any alerts

If you see smoke in your area and are not aware of any planned burns, call the Vic Emergency hotline on 1800 226 226



Reducing bushfire risk together

It is important to highlight to local residents the important work that the Andrews Government is doing and continues to do in ensuring that communities that are subject to bush fire risk are safe and as prepared as possible.

It's important that residents have a clear understanding of the challenges and complexities in this area and understand how they are being addressed.

Managing Bush Fire risk is a shared responsibility.

The Andrews Government works closely with local government, partner agencies and private landowners to reduce bushfire risk across the entire state.

One of the major challenges faced in this is many of the high risk areas are situated on private land, which requires a collective effort to address.

In terms of analysing bushfire risk, the Warrandyte electorate for instance comprises 86 per cent private land, the remaining 13.4 per cent is public land (1202ha) with the total footprint being 8999ha.

In the Warrandyte area 66 hectares of fuel break and roadside slashing is conducted annually and 10 planned burns have been undertaken in the last five years.

Due to the linear nature of a lot of the crown land along the river in Warrandyte, fuel reduction burning isn't the most effective treatment, particularly in the riparian vegetation along the river.

Therefore, the vast majority of fuel management undertaken in Warrandyte is by mechanical fuel treatment, with 167 hectares of public land subject to an annual slashing program.

This is a combination of roadside slashing to maintain safe access and egress, fuel break maintenance and broad area slashing.

Bushfire Management Strategy

A new Bushfire Management Strategy was developed with direct input from a Stakeholder Advisory Group which included staff from Local Councils and local community representatives.

The new strategy takes a broader view of risk beyond just public land and identify areas of high risk across both public and private land.

In these high-risk areas, fire agencies can work with landowners to reduce risk across the landscape.

Risk modelling from the new strategy is being drawn on by Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic), the

CFA and local government to inform fuel reduction activities, engagement and education.

Fuel management

Fuel reduction activities in the last five years reflect the overall risk reduction strategy being implemented on public land to reduce bushfire risk.

Mechanical treatment is the primary fuel reduction activity in this environment and burning is a complementary treatment that is applied in targeted locations.

Whilst private land is not in DELWP/FFMVic's remit for fuel reduction, however FFMVic do support CFA to undertake fuel management on private property.

The government initiative Safer Together has provided a great (funded) initiative to work with communities.

Community Fire Safety

Fuel management is complemented by our approach to bushfire suppression. FFMVic has strong connections with CFA and FRV to ensure rapid first attack and suppression of fires should they occur.

This integrated response applies to fires on both public and private land.

There will be additional Project Fire Fighters based at Parks Victoria depots this summer, in addition to permanent field staff, to undertake fire management and respond to fires.

FFMVic has strong links to the community and regularly participates in fire awareness events alongside CFA and local government.

We have worked with the community to develop strategic bushfire management planning frameworks that:

- Identify values to be protected from bushfire
- assesses bushfire risk to those values, and
- set out strategies to manage this risk.

If you would like more information about planned burns in your area, our joint fuel management program or how we manage our bushfire risk, visit: www.ffm.vic.gov.au/bushfirefuel-and-risk-management/planned-burning-in-Victoria

To see what the Victorian Auditor General's audit of our program found, visit: www.audit.vic.gov.au/report/reducing-bushfire-risks

Planning a holiday to a bushfire risk area?

Before you leave

- Download the VicEmergency app, bookmark emergency.vic.gov.au, and save the VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226 – into your mobile phone.
- Make sure your mobile phone has a fully charged battery.
- Check the Fire Danger Rating for your destination on the Emergency Victoria website as you may not have phone reception across regional Victoria.

While you're away

- Listen to local radio for warnings and advice while you're on the road. The Emergency Victoria website has a full list of emergency broadcasters.
- Stay informed by visiting the Emergency Victoria website, checking the VicEmergency app, calling the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226, following VicEmergency on Twitter (@vicemergency) and Facebook, talking to locals, visiting an accredited visitor information centre or by listening to an emergency broadcaster.
- Check if a Total Fire Ban has been declared for the area you are visiting. On a Total Fire Ban day, campfires are not allowed. Only gas and electric barbecues are allowed if you follow the regulations. For more information about Total Fire Bans, visit the CFA website.
- On Severe or Extreme Fire Danger Rating days, it's safer to travel to cities and towns. Never travel into a high-risk bushfire area where a Code Red Fire Danger Rating has been forecast.
- Be aware of grassfires when you're travelling. Grassfire can move at speeds of up to 25 km/hr and jump highways.

HEALTH



Australian Institute for Infectious Disease

The Andrews Government will establish an Australian Institute for Infectious Disease in the heart of Melbourne's renowned Parkville biomedical precinct to lead the fight against future pandemics.

The Victorian Budget 2020/21 includes an investment of \$155 million towards the \$550 million institute, with the University of Melbourne and its partners contributing a further \$150 million and the remaining funds to be sought from the Commonwealth Government.

Our contribution includes an immediate allocation of \$5 million to complete a business case for the facility, which will combine the strengths of some of the world's leading research institutes. The business case is due for completion in mid-2021 and construction of the Institute would create 350 jobs.

Once operational, the Institute will provide a massive boost to the biomedical

sector and could support up to 5,000 jobs, including up to 850 jobs at the Institute itself.

The Institute will create the largest centre of expertise in the Indo-Pacific region and will establish Victoria as a global leader in understanding infectious disease – accelerating research into the prevention of future pandemics and rapidly developing treatments.

The facility will include next-generation laboratories and high-containment facilities that will help researchers improve our understanding of infectious diseases, with a robotic biobank facility that will ensure international best practice for specimen storage in large-scale clinical trials.

Victoria's medical research institutes already employ more than 4,800 people. The state's wider medical research sector supports more than 30,000 jobs across institutes, universities and industry.

Women's Health Services

Announced in April 2020, twelve women's health services across the state will share in \$3 million over the next two years to continue their work in preventing family violence.

This funding will ensure these services can build on their vital work to deliver prevention of family violence training, advice and support to organisations in their local areas, including local government and health services.

This investment includes \$600,000 from our recent \$59.4 million mental health package to help meet demand as Victorians reach out for help with stress and isolation during coronavirus. It's also in addition to the \$40.2 million package for crisis accommodation and specialist services for people suffering or at risk of family violence.

Women's Health East based in Doncaster received \$250,000 additional funding over two years.



Nurse to patient ratios

In 2019, the Andrews Government introduced landmark legislation to guarantee minimum numbers of nurses and midwives to care for Victorian patients.

In June 2020, further improvements to nurse to patient ratios were implemented that will see an extra 500 nurses and midwives employed in Victorian hospitals and deliver better care to Victorians.

With the amendments to the Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to

Patient Ratios) Act the Government has completed what was started last year with the introduction of Nurse to Patient ratios which also added a further 600 nurses and midwives to our public health sector workforce.

The Andrews Government is investing more than \$64 million over five years to support these changes. This is in addition to the Andrews Government's \$50 million Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development Fund.

New Ambulance Stations

The Andrews Government has committed \$181.8 million since 2015 to the Ambulance Victoria development program.

This program aims to upgrade and rebuild ambulance stations to provide better working conditions for paramedics and ensure lifesaving emergency care is available for all Victorians.

That's why we're upgrading and building new ambulance stations across Victoria. Modern, advanced and well-located ambulance stations mean Victorians can receive the best lifesaving emergency care, now – and into the future.

See details below of new Ambulance Stations have been built or are being built in the Eastern Metropolitan Region:

- Eltham Ambulance Branch, at Montmorency, State seat of Eltham
- Doncaster Ambulance Branch, at Templestowe, State seat of Bulleen
- Mount Waverley Ambulance Branch, at Mount Waverley, State seat of Mount Waverley.



MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health support

The Victorian Budget 2020/21 provides for \$868.6 million to ensure Victorians have the mental health support they need as we get on with fixing a broken system.

This includes funding the rollout of the interim recommendations from the Royal Commission into Mental Health, including \$492 million to deliver 120 mental health beds in Geelong, Epping, Sunshine and Melbourne. This is an addition to the 24 Hospital in the Home beds announced earlier in 2020 bringing the total to 144 beds. An additional \$18.9 million is provided for 35 acute treatments beds for public mental health patients in private health services.

The Budget invests \$21.4 million to support the statewide expansion of the Hospital Outreach Post-Suicidal Engagement (HOPE) service, with individual, intensive and one-on-one support for Victorians as they rebuild their lives. Completion of the statewide rollout will deliver services in Albury-Wodonga, Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Broadmeadows, Clayton, Epping, Mildura, Parkville, Shepparton and Warrnambool, as well as services in Heidelberg and Box Hill in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

As we begin the work to rebuild our system, learning from the lived experiences of Victorians is vital. It's why \$2.2 million will help design the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, a new centre dedicated to bringing together the experts on our mental health system – researchers, academics and those who've experienced it firsthand.

A further \$16 million will help those same Victorians use their own very real and personal experience to support and champion for others in need – with new training positions, education and opportunities for employment. This includes \$7.3 million for a service designed and delivered by people with lived experience.

The Budget also includes \$8.7 million to establish a residential mental health service, specifically designed and delivered by those with lived experience. This service will deliver short-term care and support in a residential community setting, designed as a true alternative to acute hospital-based care.



Housing for priority applicants

Many priority applicants currently on the Victorian Housing Register are living with a mental illness. Having access to stable housing is an essential in both preventing, and recovering, from mental health issues.

It's a massive \$5.3 billion plan to construct more than 12,000 new homes across the state creating around 10,000 jobs to kickstart our economic recovery. Of these new homes, 2,000 will be for Victorians living with mental illness, reflecting our commitment to mental health and fixing a broken system.

This initiative will ensure that Victorians living with a mental illness can secure a place to call home.

The Budget includes additional training opportunities to support students and job seekers looking to pursue a career in the mental health sector. It includes \$1.9 million for allied health, nursing and medical undergraduates to work part-time in community mental health settings while completing their studies. A further \$3.1 million will support experienced general nurses to retrain as mental health nurses; and \$7.7 million for specialist training roles in child and adolescent psychiatry to address the shortage of trained psychiatrists in these roles, including in regional areas.

A further \$7.7 million in funding is provided to begin to address workforce shortages in the mental health sector, to support future expansion of the workforce. This includes funding to increase the annual number of junior medical officer psychiatrist rotations, graduate nurses and postgraduate mental health nurse scholarships.

The Budget also delivers \$20 million towards upgrading state-owned facilities across Victoria. The Budget will also deliver an extra 19,000 hours for community mental health support.

Supporting the mental health of our young people will remain critical as we begin our recovery, with this year's Budget investing \$47.8 million dedicated to early intervention support for young people – recognising that sometimes the most important help is the earliest help, as well as \$7 million to support critical research into youth mental health and operations at the Orygen centre.

Other key Budget investments include:

- \$19.4 million to support mental health clinicians at the Victorian Fixed Threat Assessment Centre and deliver specialised services to meet the needs of people referred by the Centre
- \$4.4 million to improve culturally appropriate support for Aboriginal Victorians
- \$3.9 million for providing mental health and wellbeing support for asylum seekers
- \$152 million to support and provide mental health services in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Sonja meeting with School Principals and the Department of Education discussing the rollout of mental health support for students in the Eastern Metro Region in October 2020.

Mental health support for Victorian Government Secondary School students

In recognition of the increased mental health challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, the roll-out of our Mental Health Practitioners in secondary schools initiative has been brought forward to be implemented by the end of 2021.

Locally, this means the following schools in the Eastern Metropolitan Region will receive funding:

- Croydon Community School - from Term 1 2021;
- Melba College- Senior Campus - from Term 1 2021;
- Yarra Hills Secondary College - Mooroolbark Campus - from Term 1 2021;
- Doncaster Secondary College - from Term 3 2021;
- East Doncaster Secondary College - from Term 3 2021;
- Templestowe College - from Term 3 2021;
- Warrandyte High School - from Term 3 2021.

Mental health practitioners offer counselling and early intervention services, and act as coordinating support for students with complex needs, linking them with broader allied community and health services.

All Victorian government school students, whether they are learning remotely or attending school on-site, have been able to access mental health and wellbeing support during the pandemic.

Secondary school students can access counselling via a voice call or video conference through the headspace counselling partnership or via their school-based mental health practitioner.

This builds on the \$65.5 million investment in student health and wellbeing initiatives in schools, including the Victorian Anti-Bullying and Mental Health Initiative, the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support program, as well as increased investment in allied health and nursing services.

The initiative is being implemented via an area-based rollout. Attached to this bulletin is a list of school campuses and their roll out timeline.

For more information on Mental Health Practitioners in government secondary schools, please visit: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/mentalhealth/Pages/mental-health-practitioners-secondary.aspx>

All government secondary schools will receive between one and five days a week of support from a mental health practitioner depending on its size and requirements.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

HOUSING SUPPORT

Public Housing

In November, 2020 the Andrews Government announced the biggest public housing renewal program in the history of Victoria with over \$5.3 billion to build 12,000 new homes right across Victoria.

This investment will create over 10,000 jobs every year for the next four years, providing work for builders, plasterers, plumbers, electricians, concreters, designers and more. There'll also be a gender equity plan to help us encourage women to work in construction. And we'll create 600 new jobs with the \$498million worth of work we have on our books now and into the future for maintenance and refurbishment to existing housing stock.

Apprentices, trainees and cadets will comprise up to 10% of all hours worked on large projects such as this one. The Andrews Government also has social procurement measures in place to help target employment for indigenous Victorians, social housing tenants, people who have experienced homelessness, migrants and refugees.

Our Housing Big Build will help to inject over \$6.7 billion into the Victorian economy.

This announcement will:

- Secure and long-term accommodation for thousands of families.
- Rebuilding over 1,000 existing public housing properties.
- 2,000 new homes will go directly to Victorians living with a mental illness.
- Almost 3,000 rental homes will be built to help low and middle income families move closer to where they work at an affordable price.
- Every home built will have a seven star energy rating.
- It'll increase our housing supply by 10 per cent.

Residents who live in public housing in Heidelberg West and Maroondah also benefit from this plan.

To find out more about our big housing build, visit: <https://www.vic.gov.au/homes-victoria>



COVID19 - Support for Renters

Premier Daniel Andrews announced a \$500 million package aimed at giving certainty to residential and commercial tenants and landlords, while they struggle with the unprecedented economic disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

To encourage landlords to do the right thing by their tenants, the Government will provide \$420 million in land tax relief. If a landlord provides tenants impacted by coronavirus with rent relief, they will be eligible for a 25 per cent discount on their land tax, while any remaining land tax can be deferred until March 2021.

A new Coronavirus Relief Deputy Commissioner will be established at the

State Revenue Office to manage these land tax relief claims.

Businesses are eligible for these measures if they have an annual turnover under \$50 million per year and have experienced more than a 30 per cent reduction in turnover due to coronavirus.

The Andrews Government will also create an \$80 million rental assistance fund for renters facing hardship due to coronavirus. To be eligible, renters will need to have registered their revised agreement with Consumer Affairs Victoria or gone through mediation, have less than \$5,000 in savings and still be paying at least 30 per cent of their income in rent.

Crisis Accommodation

Support for Victorians fleeing from family violence with more funding for crisis accommodation

In April this year, the Andrews Government invested an additional \$40.2 million in crisis accommodation and specialist family violence services to keep women and children safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

For some in our community, home is already an unsafe place. Sudden unemployment, extended periods of isolation and the family at home together, can contribute to a heightened risk of family violence.

For assistance with housing related issues please visit: www.housing.vic.gov.au/



MPs supporting the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. (from left) Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Mount Waverley, Paul Hamer MP, State Member for Box Hill, Premier the Hon Daniel Andrews MP, Vicki Ward MP, State Member for Eltham, Sonja Terpstra MP, State Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region, Dustin Halse MP, State Member for Ringwood.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

BUDGET 2020: ELECTORATE KEY STATS

<p>BAYSWATER \$19.763 Million</p> <p>Parks Infrastructure funds for Boronia revitalisation site</p> <p>Schools • Bayswater Secondary College \$12.433 million • Boronia West Primary \$4.330 million • Heathmont College \$2.5 million Infrastructure planning acceleration fund \$500,000</p> <p>Roads Upgrade to Mountain Hwy & Albert Ave intersection Boronia</p>	<p>CROYDON \$10.740 Million</p> <p>Schools • Ruskin Park Primary \$9.56 million Infrastructure planning acceleration fund \$1.18 million</p>		
<p>ELTHAM \$16.8 Million</p> <p>Health • One of Ten community hospitals to be funded • 24 hour operations for Diamond Creek Ambulance</p> <p>Schools • Greenhills Primary \$6.8 million • Diamond Valley Special Developmental School \$10 million</p>	<p>FOREST HILL \$23.990 Million</p> <p>Schools • Burwood East Primary \$8.03 million • Vermont Secondary College \$5.85 million • Vermont South Special School \$10.11 million</p>		<p>MT WAVERLEY \$20.372 Million</p> <p>Schools • Mount Waverley Secondary college \$7.157 million • Syndall South Primary \$4.43 million • Glenallen School \$7.99 million Infrastructure planning acceleration fund \$795,000</p>
<p>BOX HILL \$12.42 Million</p> <p>Schools • Box Hill North Primary \$3.42 million • Blackburn High \$9 million</p>	<p>Roads • Upgrade to Ryans & Wattleree intersection • Upgrade to Ryans & Wallowa intersection</p> <p>Other Improved bus to St Helena Secondary College</p>		<p>RINGWOOD \$22.14 Million</p> <p>Schools • Norwood Secondary \$7.4 million • Ringwood Secondary \$14.75 million</p>
<p>BULLEEN \$23.330 Million</p> <p>Parks • Yarra Valley Parklands - Banksia • Birrarung & Westerfold Parks</p> <p>Schools • Templestowe Heights Primary \$11.73 million • Bulleen Heights School \$9.15 million Infrastructure planning acceleration fund \$1.45 million</p> <p>Other Skills and Job centre - North-East Link</p>	<p>FERNTREE GULLY \$36.97 Million</p> <p>Sport Redevelop & expand State Basketball Centre at Wantirna Sth \$22 million</p> <p>Health Funding for Angliss Hospital site</p> <p>Schools • Fairhills High \$8.07 million</p> <p>Other Knox Innovation, Opportunity & Sustainability Centre \$6.9 million</p>		<p>IVANHOE \$12.39 Million</p> <p>Schools • Banyule Primary \$12.39 million Funding to support school communities in West Heidelberg</p> <p>Other 130 new dwellings at Tarakan Estate West Heidelberg</p>
<p>WARRANDYTE \$10 Million</p> <p>Schools • Heatherwood School \$10 million</p>			

LOCAL COMMUNITIES: SPORT AND MULTICULTURAL GROUPS

Sporting Clubs support

Sporting Clubs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region have been well supported by the Andrews Government investment in community sport. Whether its grants for shade, facilities upgrades or COVID19 support – many clubs including basketball, tennis, netball, squash, cricket, football, soccer, aeromodelling and swimming clubs have benefited.

Here is a snapshot of clubs in the Eastern Metropolitan Region who have benefited from support from the Andrews Government:

- State seat of Bulleen \$52,500
- State seat of Croydon \$47,490
- State seat of Warrandyte \$58,500



Support for Multicultural groups

Multicultural groups in the Eastern Metropolitan Region have been well supported by the Andrews Government's investment in culturally and linguistically diverse community groups.

The pandemic has shown us just how important our multicultural community groups are to the people of Victoria, especially those who do not speak English as their primary language.

Prior to and during the COVID19 pandemic, multicultural groups have been eligible for and receiving support to promote health and safety messages, upgrade facilities, keep operations running, and to ensure members of Victoria's multicultural communities were supported.

In Bulleen, Croydon and Warrandyte, more than \$133,000 was awarded to multicultural community groups in 2020.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

LOCAL LEGENDS

Shirley Whitaker – Local tennis legend



Earlier this year, I spent a lovely afternoon celebrating International Women's Day 2020 with an afternoon tea on the lawn at Parliament House.

Attending with me was Shirley Whitaker. Shirley is the world tennis No.1 in the 85-and-over age group and an Eastern Metro Region local who plays at her local tennis club in Doncaster when she's not taking on international competitors!

A wonderful ambassador for women's participation in sport and testament to the fact that you can play any sport any time at any age.

BJ Quilters Group – Quilting Legends

It was a real pleasure and a privilege to visit BJ Quilters Group in Ringwood in July 2019.

The group has been going for 12 years. When one of their founding members, Brenda, lost her own battle with breast cancer in 2012, the group made it their mission to support cancer patients going through their own cancer battles. The group, BJ Quilters, is named in Brenda's honour.

An extremely talented, experienced and passionate group of women, who meet in Ringwood once a month, dedicated to quilting. Quilters come from all over the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne and beyond who donate their time to make quilts, information and shopping bags for donation to cancer patients at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. They churn out 25-60 bags/quilts per month depending on demand. That's some serious quilting!



Sonja Terpstra.

MP Eastern Metro

2020 Snapshot

During the COVID19 pandemic my office undertook outreach work to senior citizens in our region.

We delivered 170 seniors care packs to homes across the Eastern Metro region and made 697 outbound phone calls to check on seniors' and vulnerable community members' welfare during COVID19.

During the year, we also received over 12,700 emails and 133 messages over social media. We responded to over 120 unique constituent inquires and wrote over 500 letters/emails.

The issues you wrote to us about the most, were:

- Omnibus Bill
- State of Emergency
- School Chaplaincy
- Duck Shooting
- Brumbies

We also launched SonjaTerpstraMP.com.au

You can use the website to get in touch with me, stay up to date on local news and announcements, and to subscribe to our email newsletter.



/SonjaTerpstraMP



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