

The Eastern Metro Bugle

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

2021 WINTER EDITION

CREATING JOBS AND CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY IN THE EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGION



The Andrews Labor Government is creating jobs and caring for people in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

The Victorian Budget 2021/22 will support an average of 38,000 jobs every year over the next four years, while also investing in the care, services and infrastructure our community needs.

With this Budget, we're creating jobs and caring for Victorians.

Education

We are upgrading 52 Victorian schools in this year's Budget, including:

- Birralee Primary School, with \$4.16 million to replace relocatable buildings with a new permanent building;
- Croydon Primary School, which will receive a \$1.35 million upgrade and modernisation to the art room and the toilet block; and
- Warrandyte High School, with \$3.54 million to upgrade and modernise the school's Art and Craft building and undertake landscaping works.

Not only will this give our students new learning spaces, it'll create good jobs for Victorians. Across the state, our investment in more and better schools is expected to support 3,500 jobs. \$20 million is provided to continue the Minor Capital Works Fund which provides the opportunity for schools to seek funding for minor capital projects that are a priority for their school.

Mental Health support for Schools

Recognising the key role of schools in supporting the wellbeing of our students, this Budget also invests in a new School Mental Health Fund. This investment will allow schools to choose and implement mental health and wellbeing programs that best meet the needs of their students.

The Mental Health in Primary Schools pilot will also be expanded to include 90 government schools and 10 non-government schools.

\$20.5 million in funding will be provided for Tech Schools which are building students' STEM skills and connecting them to the jobs of the future. This initiative will expand on-site and virtual delivery capabilities of existing Tech Schools and pilot a mobile Tech School delivery model for students in remote areas of Gippsland.

\$15 million is provided to improve access to school facilities for students with disabilities and additional needs. Facility modifications may include providing ramps and handrails, alterations to toilet and shower facilities and adjustments for students with vision or hearing impairments.

\$10 million is also provided for the Inclusive Schools Fund to continue to provide school infrastructure such as playgrounds, outdoor sensory areas and quiet re-engagement spaces.

Sport

Our local sporting clubs are the heart and soul of our community. The Budget is backing their future, delivering better pavilions, changerooms, grounds and courts so all Victorians can get active. This includes up to \$290,000 towards the installation of drainage, irrigation and drought tolerant grasses at Town Park Soccer Field, Croydon.

Health

This Budget will also allocate \$1.2 billion towards our public hospitals, which includes a community hospital in Eltham, planning for the expansion of the adult Emergency Department at Maroondah Hospital, and building a new emergency department zone dedicated to children at Maroondah Hospital. The paediatric emergency department alone will create 300 Victorian jobs at the peak of construction.

The State Budget also provided funding to 12 women's health services across Victoria to meet growing demand for gender responsive healthcare, including prevention of family violence support services, women's mental health and sexual and reproductive health services. This includes Women's Health East, which addresses the social, cultural, economic, political and environmental factors impacting on the health, safety and wellbeing of women.

Our mental health system is broken. But with this Budget we're delivering a landmark investment that will transform how care is offered in our state.

Mental Health

This Budget also includes a once in a generation investment to build our mental health system from the ground up. \$3.8 billion will transform the way mental health support is offered in Victoria, with early intervention, a dedicated stream of care for our kids, and the recruitment of thousands of new workers.

An investment of \$954 million will deliver 22 reformed area mental health and wellbeing services to replace current services. These services will have more capacity to treat and support Victorians experiencing severe and complex mental health challenges, in their own communities.

Young Victorians are at the heart of our reform, with \$842 million in mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people. This investment will see two separate streams of care created – one devoted to infants and children and one devoted to young people. This investment will deliver more early

intervention, more intensive support for those who need acute care, and more help for families.

This Budget invests \$141 million to deliver 5 new Youth Prevention and Recovery Care (YPARC) units across Victoria, including one in the North Eastern Metropolitan region. This investment will deliver sub-acute care, with support tailored to the needs of our young people.

Jobs

Not only are we delivering the mental health system Victoria needs – we're also supporting around 3,000 new jobs. From doctors to nurses, support staff to peer workers, this investment is creating new opportunities for thousands of Victorians. To train and recruit this critical workforce, we're also funding new scholarships, job placements and continuing our Free TAFE courses.

Multicultural Community

We're investing \$8 million to continue the multicultural seniors grants to assist these groups provide immediate assistance for multicultural seniors to continue engaging with their local communities, which will help reduce social isolation, communicate health advice and engage with recovery strategies.

In addition there will be \$1.1 million to expand the Multicultural Festivals and Events Programs and \$4.25 million for multicultural community infrastructure grants for community organisations to continue to provide vital work they do in supporting vulnerable members of the Victorian community.

Pictured above: From left to right: Vicki Ward MP, State Member for Eltham, Gayle Tierney, Minister for Skills and Training, Sonja Terpstra MP, State Labor Member for the Eastern Metropolitan Region, Colin Brooks MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Member for Bundoora.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

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LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

North East link Project Update



Works on the North East Link are ahead of schedule, and a preferred contractor has been chosen to complete the tunnelling work.

North East Link will connect the M80 Ring Road to an upgraded Eastern Freeway, slashing travel times by up to 35 minutes, taking 15,000 trucks off local roads.

It will link key growth areas in the north and south-east, providing an efficient connection for up to 135,000 vehicles each day, and allowing travel from Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs to the airport without stopping at a single traffic light.

A big focus is on creating local jobs for local people, with more than 10,000 jobs on the project and 10 per cent of total work hours to be done by apprentices, trainees or cadets as part of the Government's Local Jobs First Policy.

Spark has been selected as the preferred bidder to deliver the tunnelling package. Spark comprises WeBuild, GS Engineering and Construction, CPB Contractors, China Construction Oceania, Ventia, Capella Capital, John Laing Investments, DIF and Pacific Partnerships.

To find out more about the project and any local disruptions, visit: <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/north-east-link-project#>

Mini tunnel boring machines on the move

Works on the North East Link project are continuing to power ahead, with multiple sites well and truly underway on the major road project.

Three mini tunnel boring machines have begun work to re-route the sewer system and relocate underground cabling to make room for the expansion of the Eastern Freeway between Bulleen and Balwyn North.

I was pleased to surprise the kids at Templestowe Heights Primary School and announce the new name for one of the mini TBMs that was chosen by students from Templestowe Heights Primary School. The students chose the name 'Valerie' meaning 'strength' and 'power'. Valerie will need all that, as she tunnels her way underground to complete the new sewer alignment.

I was so impressed by the creative contributions of the students at this excellent primary school. Such creativity, thought and exploration of the content to come up with a name for our mini TBMs that reflect the amazing construction work that will help make the North East Link a reality.



Sonja with the kids at Templestowe Heights Primary School. Winners of the 'name the TBM' competition run by North East Link.

Infrastructure projects providing thousands of jobs for Victorians

The Andrews Labor Government is making it easier for Victorians to find work on some of the state's biggest infrastructure projects, with the launch of the new North East Link Skills and Jobs Centre.

I joined minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney, Colin Brooks MP for Bundoora, and Vicki Ward MP for Eltham to officially open the centre at Watsonia, which is a one-stop-shop to connect locals to the 10,000 jobs that are available on the North East Link project, creating a pipeline of skilled workers to help build Victoria's future.

At least 10 per cent of the construction hours on these projects will be completed by apprentices and trainees, strengthening pathways from the classroom to the workforce. Early works on North East Link have already provided job opportunities to 64 apprentices, trainees and cadets who have worked more than 70,000 hours.

The Skills and Jobs Centre has been launched in partnership with Apprenticeships Victoria, which coordinates and oversees all aspects of the delivery of apprenticeships in areas like engineering and construction trades, traffic management, conservation land management and administration, and forms a key part of the Labor Government's unprecedented investment in the training and skills sector.

The centre will also support industry, contractors, locals, jobseekers, and students, connecting them with employment opportunities, skills development, and social value initiatives and providing opportunities to develop and expand.

Jobseekers can explore their options at the North East Link Skills and Jobs Centre between 10am – 5pm on weekdays at 17 Watsonia Rd, Watsonia.

Bulleen Park and Ride ahead of schedule

Bulleen Park & Ride will be open four years earlier than planned, ready for people to use, before Doncaster Park & Ride is closed for upgrades.

Designs for the Park & Ride have been approved and a builder has been appointed. Bulleen Park and ride will be a premium bus station along the future Eastern Freeway busway, with 370 car parks, making it easier for people to use the fast, frequent and reliable bus services to and from the city.

Buses that use the Eastern Freeway are already among the busiest in Melbourne. North East Link will allow buses to travel uninterrupted up to 100km/h along the dedicated busway cutting commute times by up to 30 per cent.

The park and ride will be located on the east side of Thompsons Road and will double the number of car parking spaces for rapid freeway bus services.

The new Park and Ride will include 5,000 square metres of landscaped green roof, pick-up/drop-off parking bays, myki machines and toilets, Parkiteer cycling cages, and walking and cycling paths connecting with Koonung Creek Trail and Thompsons Road.

Bulleen Park & Ride will open late 2022, with North East Link and the dedicated busway opening in late 2027.

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

BREAKING NEWS: Coolstore Rd Croydon level crossing to be removed!



At the end of July, Premier Daniel Andrews announced another 10 dangerous and congested level crossings to be removed by 2025, bringing the total to 85 level crossings gone for good.

This includes Coolstore Rd in Croydon, as well as the remaining crossings on the Lilydale line, making the Lilydale line level crossing free, allowing more trains to run on the network, more often, without frustrating boom gate delays.

The announcement included crossings being removed along the Lilydale, Belgrave, Pakenham, Cranbourne, Frankston, Sunbury and Mernda lines, allowing for improved safety, reducing congestion and creating 4000 new jobs.

Crossings will be removed at Coolstore Rd Croydon, Dublin Rd Ringwood East, Cave Hill Rd Lilydale and Bedford Rd Ringwood, as well as 5 new/upgraded train stations, including at Croydon and Ringwood East.

For more information on the crossing removals, visit <https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/media/news/10-more-level-crossings-to-go-by-2025>

Level crossing removal in Mooroolbark to be completed before Christmas

Works are ahead of schedule for the removal of level crossings at Lilydale and Mooroolbark Stations.

Prefabricated station buildings have been made offsite which allows the construction of the rail bridges and the stations to occur simultaneously, cutting disruptions and speeding up build time.

The brand-new Mooroolbark and Lilydale stations will open on Monday 25 October.

Construction crews will be working 24/7 in the final 45 days to construct the rail bridges over Manchester Road and Maroondah Highway and build the new Mooroolbark and Lilydale stations.

To enable this major construction blitz, buses will replace trains between Ringwood and Lilydale from 8.30pm Friday 10 September to Sunday 24 October.

Mooroolbark Station remains closed while we build the new station and there will be changes to car parking at both Mooroolbark and Lilydale.

The Mooroolbark multi-deck car park will be complete in mid 2022. The car park will double the number of spaces for commuters at Mooroolbark Station to 900.

The 36 semi-trailer loads of station modules are being made in Australia, supporting 340 Australian jobs as part of the project. A total of 92 beams are being manufactured by NVC Precast located in Kilmore to build the new rail bridges.

The project is part of major upgrades along the Belgrave and Lilydale lines that have already seen level crossings removed in Blackburn, Bayswater and Mitcham. A total of eight level crossings will be removed along both lines, paving the way for more frequent trains.

To find out more visit: <https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/projects/manchester-road-mooroolbark>

To follow the progress of the level crossing removal and the build of the new station, check out the Mooroolbark Level Crossing Updates Facebook Group. There's a great collection of photos and videos from locals keeping track of the project.



Improving road safety on Fitzsimons Lane

Works are underway at Fitzsimons Lane in Templestowe, to improve road safety and traffic flow through the busy river crossing.

The Fitzsimons Lane Upgrade includes:

- new traffic lights at the Main Road and Leane Drive intersection
- traffic lights to replace roundabouts at the Fitzsimons Lane and Main Road intersection and Fitzsimons Lane and Porter Street intersection
- an upgraded signalised intersection at Williamsons Road and Foote Street
- opening bus lanes to all vehicle use between Porter and Foote Streets
- relocation of the River Peel (aka 'Apple Peel') structure
- new walking and cycling paths
- safety barriers at key locations.

The upgrade reduces congestion in peak periods to provide more reliable travel times, improves safety and makes walking and cycling around the community safer.

As a result of these upgrades, there have been a number of disruptions to local road users, including the relocation of bus stops temporarily until works are completed.

To find out more about the project and any upcoming disruptions, visit <https://roadprojects.vic.gov.au/projects/fitzsimons-lane-upgrade>



ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

EDUCATION

Upgrading our Schools brick by brick

The Victorian Government is investing \$1.6 billion from the 2021/22 budget into our public schools to ensure our kids have the bright futures they deserve.

Not only will this massive investment ensure great local schools, it will also create more than 3,500 new jobs in construction and associated industries, including more than 2,900 jobs in metropolitan Melbourne and around 615 jobs in regional Victoria.

Warrandyte High School will be receiving \$3.54 million to upgrade and modernise the school's Art and Craft building and undertake landscaping works. This will be particularly important to the school which is in a high bushfire risk area and will allow them to implement improvements for safer evacuations if required.

Croydon Primary School will use \$1.35 million to upgrade and modernise the school, including the toilet block and art room, which are in need of an upgrade, and will provide staff and students with modern facilities.

Birralee Primary School will spend \$4.16 million to replace relocatable buildings with a new permanent building, ensuring their students have accessible and updated facilities available to them.

In the past seven years, the Labor Government has invested more than \$10.9 billion in building new schools, more than 1,700 school upgrades – creating around 13,500 jobs in construction and associated industries.

The Labor Government is building the Education State so that every Victorian gets the opportunity for a great education and every community has access to a great school.



Warrandyte High School



Croydon Primary School



Birralee Primary School

Croydon Community School Build – Update

I got to dust off my pink, steel capped boots to visit to the site of the new Croydon Community School for the sod turn with my friend and colleague Tim Richardson MP.

It was a real pleasure to see the students and teachers attend along with one of the most dedicated educators I have met, Bronwyn the school's Principal.

This project serves as a shining example of how collaboration between students, staff, architects and builders can achieve great results. This school will be purpose built for the specific needs of these students coming together with innovative design, functionality and new fit for purposes construction - I can't wait to see it come to fruition.

It's been a long, long journey - but we have arrived at the new Croydon Community School, which will be ready to kick off by Term 3 2022!



Sonja Terpstra MP attending on site with Tim Richardson MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Schools, Principal Bronwyn and students attending the sod turn on the site for the rebuild of Croydon Community School.



ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

EDUCATION

Putting the safety of our students first in Croydon

We've helped to improve pedestrian safety for school children in Croydon by introducing two new school speed zones and electronic speed limit signs.

The speed limit on Mount Dandenong Road will be reduced from 70km/h to 40km/h between Beaufort Road and Currong Grove during drop-off and pick-up times, making it safer for those using this supervised crossing during peak school times.

And there is now electronic signage for the 40km/h speed zone along Croydon Road, stretching from Croydon Primary School up to the future site of the Croydon Community School. The electronic speed limit sign will remind drivers they are entering the school zone near the two schools and need to slow down to 40km/h.

This program is part of the Australian and Victorian Government's \$97.2 million investment in partnership with the Transport Accident Commission to deliver the Targeted Road Safety Works program to make our roads safer, create jobs and support economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Drropping off a bag of books to Melba Secondary College School Library.

Donating books to our school libraries

Our public schools do an incredible job in delivering some of the highest quality education programs in the world.

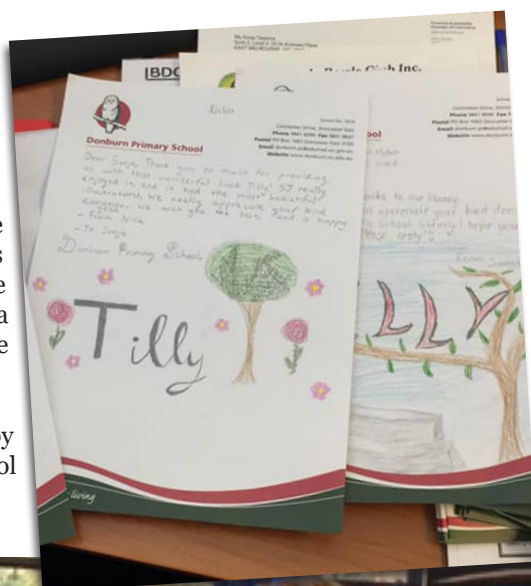
And given the importance of reading, each year, I make book donations to school libraries across the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

This year, schools could select 5 book titles of their choosing to make a welcome addition to their school library collection.

I was pleased to be able to drop off some of the books personally, (COVID restrictions permitting) and have a chat with some of the teachers and library staff about how they get their students interested in reading.

And I was so pleased to have received a large collection of thank you cards and letters from students at Donburn Primary School, thanking me for the donation of the book 'Tilly' to their library. Such a wonderfully, thoughtful and kind gesture from these gorgeous schools students. Thank you so much kids!

I hope all current and future school students, will enjoy the additional book titles I have donated to their school libraries for many years to come.



Students at Croydon Community School enjoying the new books for their Library.

Planned maintenance upgrading our schools

Doncaster Primary School, Templestowe Heights Primary School, Croydon Hills Primary School, Anderson's Creek Primary School and Warrandyte High School are among more than 500 schools across the state getting essential maintenance and bushfire-ready works off the ground, thanks to a boost by the Andrews Labor Government.

282 government schools will share in \$12.48 million in Term 2 funding for projects under the Planned Maintenance Program (PMP). The program ensures schools can undertake essential work to grounds and classrooms such as fixing roofs and windows, painting, resurfacing floors and replacing windows, as well as external landscaping works like pathways and lighting.

In addition, over 300 government schools will share in funding from the \$9.15 million Bushfire Preparedness (Vegetation) Program for 2021-22.

Schools to receive funds are among those identified as being at risk and listed on the Bushfire at Risk Register (BARR), and are required to undertake vegetation works on a regular basis to mitigate the risk of harm to the school's community and buildings in the event of a bushfire.

Vocational Education in Schools Reform Open for Community Feedback

Victorians are being encouraged to have their say on major reforms of school-based vocational education, including what units students are going to do as part of their certificate and on what the certificates will be called.

The Andrews Labor Government wants every Victorian student's senior secondary experience to be a positive, enjoyable, and rewarding one. That's why we are reforming senior secondary schooling - to build the aspirations and skills of young people in Victoria, set them up for future careers, and meet the needs of the modern economy.

The reforms will see the integration of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) into the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). This will give Victorian students high-quality, practical skills that delivers a pathway to Victoria's most in-demand jobs.

A new foundation certificate will be established from 2023 to support students in all settings to successfully transition to entry level VET or employment after finishing school, particularly students with a disability and additional needs.

The Labor Government is keen for community feedback on how to best support all students to complete a two-year certificate, the impact of mandating a minimum number of units, and ensuring forms of assessment will best support student learning.

The Government is keen to hear from students, parents, caregivers, schools, TAFEs, universities and other service providers, peak bodies, industry, employers and the wider community through the Engage Victoria website at engage.vic.gov.au/have-your-say-senior-secondary-pathways-reform

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

HEALTH & AGED CARE



Hospitals getting a much-needed upgrade

The Victorian Budget 2021/22 will deliver more than \$1.2 billion to upgrade and build more hospitals so our health services can deliver the highest quality of care for more Victorians.

This includes funds for the delivery of the Labor Government's election commitment, with more than \$556 million to build and expand 10 community hospitals in Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Pakenham, Phillip Island, Sunbury, Torquay, Mernda, Eltham, Point Cook and the inner south of Melbourne.

A dedicated children's emergency department will be constructed at Maroondah Hospital. The project will reconfigure or expand the emergency

department to ensure children receive care in a dedicated and appropriate environment.

This is part of an overall budget package worth \$99.7 million to ensure our youngest Victorians continue to get the very best care.

In addition, funding has been allocated for planning and a capital business case preparation for an adult emergency department upgrade at Maroondah Hospital.

Hospitals across Victoria will be able to upgrade their engineering infrastructure and medical equipment with \$85 million.

New home for Chinese Aged residents coming to Templestowe

A site in Lower Templestowe will be home to ageing members of Melbourne's Chinese community, with the unveiling of a site for a new not for profit Chinese aged care facility at 227-229 Manningham Rd.

The project delivers on the Labor Government's \$21.75 million election commitment to deliver three multicultural land acquisition projects – including one for a Chinese aged care facility in metropolitan Melbourne.

Manningham is one of the Melbourne's top three municipalities for people aged over 75 born in China, along with Monash and Whitehorse – making it easy

for residents to stay connected to the communities they know and love.

The site is located just 150 metres from a bus stop and 800 metres from the Macedon Square shopping precinct, providing essential links to community facilities.

Research shows that those suffering from dementia often revert to their mother tongue – and specific multicultural aged care facilities can better care for residents with staff onsite that speak that same language.

Other than English, Mandarin is the most spoken language at home in Victoria, with more than 191,700 speakers, while 78,000 Victorians speak Cantonese at home.

This announcement recognises the contribution that elderly Chinese Victorians make to our state and is part of the Labor Government's long-term plans to support the development of culturally appropriate aged care services across Victoria.

Delivering a Victorian Institute of Infectious Disease

The Andrews Labor Government has reaffirmed its commitment to create a \$650 million Australian Institute for Infectious Diseases (AIID) in the heart of Melbourne's renowned Parkville biomedical precinct.

Building on \$155 million in funding announced last year, the Labor Government will deliver up to an additional \$245 million to get the project off the ground and build the Institute in the heart of the Parkville biomedical precinct.

The Institute will be the largest centre of expertise in the Southern Hemisphere region and will supercharge the ongoing efforts of the world-leading researchers at Victoria's universities and medical research institutes.

It will also accelerate research into the prevention of future pandemics and rapidly developing treatments.

The investment adds to the \$50 million the Government has put towards building mRNA vaccine manufacturing capability in Melbourne – bolstering the state's capacity for rapid development of coronavirus vaccines.

Creating a Coronavirus bio bank

The Andrews Labor Government has announced \$5 million over four years for the establishment of a Victorian COVID-19 Vaccine Biobank. The Biobank will collect and store samples from people vaccinated against COVID-19 for use in research.

This grant supports our commitment to health and medical research and understanding the long-term impacts of COVID-19. Funding was allocated from the \$16.5 million COVID-19 Research Budget announced in the 2020-21 Victorian Budget.

Mother and Babies Engaging and Living Safely (MABELS) program

Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges Local Governments will receive approximately \$297,000 each per annum over three years to expand the Mother and Babies Engaging and Living Safely (MABELS) program.

The funding will support sustainability of services provided by Eastern Community Legal Centre through its Health Justice partnership, the MABELS Project, which provides legal assistance to mothers and their children through partnerships with Maternal and Child Health services.



From left: Ms Vivienne Nguyen AM, Chair, Victorian Multicultural Commission, Luke, Dr Judy Tang, Commissioner Victorian Multicultural Commission and Sonja Terpstra MP, State Labor Member for the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

Victoria leading the way on new vaccine manufacturing

The Victorian Government will invest in new critical manufacturing technology and research to provide certainty of supply of new vaccines and lifesaving treatments in Australia.

As part of this, a new body had been announced, charged with building the state's mRNA manufacturing capability.

mRNA Victoria will lead mRNA manufacturing in the state and deliver on the Andrews Labor Government's \$50 million investment in securing local supply, through partnerships with our world-class Victorian universities, leading researchers, and Australian and international manufacturing companies.

Victoria is ideally placed to lead in mRNA manufacturing and the production of mRNA vaccines and therapeutics, and the Victorian Government will work closely with the Commonwealth and world-leading experts from Monash University, the University of Melbourne, The Doherty Institute and other leading research institutes to develop the first mRNA manufacturing capability in the Southern Hemisphere.

mRNA vaccines are a promising alternative to traditional vaccines because of their high efficacy, capacity for rapid development, low-cost manufacture, and safe administration. This has been highlighted by the success of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna which are manufactured in Europe and the United States.

Developing mRNA manufacturing capability locally in Victoria would provide vaccine security, ensuring manufacturing can be contracted locally to avoid global supply chain issues and creating a more robust defence against future pandemics.

The creation of the new body solidifies the Government's commitment to driving innovation and research, building on the establishment of the \$2 billion Breakthrough Victoria Fund, the \$60 million Victorian Start-up Capital Fund and the \$25 million Venture Debt Fund.

The Labor Government will continue to work collaboratively with the Federal Government given its recently announced investment in end-to-end mRNA manufacturing in Australia.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

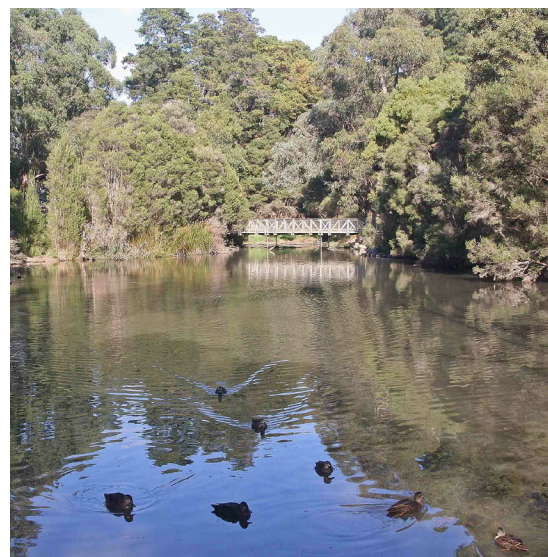
ENVIRONMENT

Parks Revitalisation for the Eastern Metro region

Suburban parks and reserves across Melbourne will be given new life as part of the Victorian Government's \$10 million Parks Revitalisation Grants Program.



McAlpin Reserve in Ringwood North will receive \$300,000 to update the playspace and passive recreation area.



Yarrunga Reserve in Croydon Hills is going to get an upgrade to the multi-sports courts and add a new BMX and jump track with their \$300,000.

These benefits of upgrading these parks will be enjoyed for many people for years to come.



Warrandyte River Reserve will be getting \$300,000 for a major playspace upgrade and expansion.



And Montgomery Reserve in Doncaster East will be getting \$60,000 to upgrade the playspace and install new picnic facilities.

4 bin recycling coming soon

Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio announced \$127 million in funding to help support all 79 Victorian councils roll out our new four bin recycling system, which includes a new purple bin for separate glass recycling.

This funding will help councils to buy new bins, improve drop-off facilities, deliver education campaigns and ensure that they have the infrastructure in place to transition to the new state-wide waste and recycling system.

Councils will share in more than \$86 million to deliver the new four bin services with standardised bin-lid colours, making it easier for Victorians to recycle. An additional \$40.9 million will support councils, businesses and communities maximise recycling, creating new jobs and supporting local manufacturing. The recycling sector creates 9.2 jobs for every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled, compared to 2.8 jobs for the same volume sent to landfill.

This funding will make sure our regional communities, in particular, are ready for these reforms, with improved drop off facilities at resource recovery centres to collect food organics, garden organics and glass.

This is all part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$515 million investment to deliver the biggest

transformation and reform of Victoria's waste and recycling system in our states history.

For more information visit: <https://www.vic.gov.au/transforming-recycling-victoria>



Zero Emission Bus Network by 2025

The Andrews Labor Government is taking action to make Victoria's public transport fleet cleaner and more sustainable than ever, with all new bus purchases for the state network to be zero emissions from 2025.

Achieving no emissions across the networks 4,000-strong contracted bus fleet is critical to Victoria meeting its legislated commitment of zero net emissions by 2050, and expressions of interest have today opened for a three-year trial to explore zero emissions bus technologies - the first step in the move to a clean bus fleet.

Electric Vehicle Fast-chargers



Our Destination Charging Across Victoria program is now open, providing \$5 million in grants to help businesses, councils and community organisations build public EV fast-chargers in key locations across Victoria.

Destination chargers - found at hotels, restaurants, shopping centres and other key tourist destinations - give EV owners the confidence that they can top up on charge when they need to, reducing 'range anxiety'. The infrastructure is a great drawcard for our towns and cities, with EV drivers planning their trips around where they can access charging.

This is part of our broader plan to encourage adoption of Zero Emissions Vehicles (ZEVs), helping to meet our target of 50% of all new light vehicle sales to be ZEV by 2030, and ensuring a timely transition to net-zero emissions by 2050.

Victorian Hydrogen Hub

The \$10 million Victorian Hydrogen Hub (VH2) will be a major national precinct to test, trial and demonstrate new technologies including clean energy vehicles and hydrogen storage containers, as well as providing over 300 local jobs.

It will position Victoria as the leader in hydrogen education in Australia, providing opportunities to students, researchers and industry while also being a place where the community can learn about hydrogen as a sustainable energy source.

The project was funded through the \$350m Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund - which is supporting universities and boosting the state's productivity and economy as it recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

Pocket Parks and Dog Parks

The Victorian Government announced another 13 pocket parks and five dog parks to be built around Melbourne as part of Round Two of the \$154 million Suburban Park Program.

The new dog parks, allocated up to \$275,000, will be created in Essendon West, Balwyn North, Elwood, Mitcham and Ringwood North.

Each new pocket park is funded up to \$1.3 million and spread across new and established neighbourhoods in St Albans, Sunshine North, Footscray, Prahran, Oakleigh South, Frankston, Dandenong, Notting Hill, North Melbourne, Moonee Ponds, Montmorency, Eltham and Glenroy.

These parks are in addition to the 15 pocket parks and nine dog parks announced in May last year through Round One - which are currently all underway and on track to be delivered from March onwards.

It also adds to the 17 dog parks we are delivering through the Building Works package - of which three have already been delivered (Mill Park, Kilmore, Pakenham), with the remainder on track to be opened by the end of the year.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

DOMESTIC & FAMILY VOILENCE

The Orange Door is coming to Outer Eastern Melbourne

The Andrews Labor Government is ensuring families across Melbourne's outer east have access to help and support for family violence and child wellbeing, with a new Orange Door network site being chosen in Croydon.

The new primary site will be supported by access points along with outposted and outreach services to ensure residents across the Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges local government areas have the support they need, closer to home.

The \$448 million Orange Door network has helped more than 140,000 Victorian's since first opening in 2018 including more than 55,000 children – bringing together workers from specialist family violence, child and family, Aboriginal and men's services.

The Orange Door network is currently operating in eight regions across the state, including Goulburn, Central Highlands, Loddon, Barwon, Inner Gippsland, Northeast Melbourne, Bayside Peninsula, and Mallee. The remaining nine areas will be open by the end of next year.

The Australian-first Orange Door initiative is part of the Labor Government's record more than \$3 billion investment to end gendered violence in Victoria following the Royal Commission into Family Violence – more than the Commonwealth and all the states and territories combined.

More information is available at orangedoor.vic.gov.au.



ENERGY

Household water bills set to drop

Good news! Water bills set to fall across Victoria in year ahead

Most Victorian households will enjoy a drop in water bills for the year ahead, with bills to fall by \$33 on average in Melbourne and \$7 in regional Victoria.

The Essential Services Commission has confirmed the prices to apply from 1 July for the state's 15 water businesses providing urban water and sewerage services.

The Andrews Labor Government has made it very clear to its water corporations that affordable prices are very important for households across the State and water corps should continue to strive to deliver this.

Water bills vary depending on a number of factors including water usage and changes in borrowing costs.

In Melbourne, annual household bills for Yarra Valley Water customers will fall by \$36 on average, and by \$17 for customers of South East Water.

How to save \$250 on your energy bills

The Andrews Government is reducing the cost of energy for Victorians doing it tough, with a one-off \$250 payment to help with their energy bills, known as the Power Saving Bonus.

The bonus is available to any households with a Victorian electricity account who holds a pensioner concession card or receives JobSeeker, Austudy, Abstudy or Youth Allowance.

It will be available for 12 months and provide immediate financial relief to more than 900,000 eligible Victorian households.

The bonus is available through the Victorian Energy Compare website – compare.energy.vic.gov.au – or by calling 1800 000 832.

Follow the instructions on the right to apply.

If you have any issues with the application process, please contact my office on 03 9803 0592 and one of my staff will be able to assist you.

New Specialist Family Violence Court coming to Ringwood

The Andrews Labor Government is boosting funding to vital family violence court programs and support services – ensuring more women and their families feel safe and get the help they need, wherever they are.

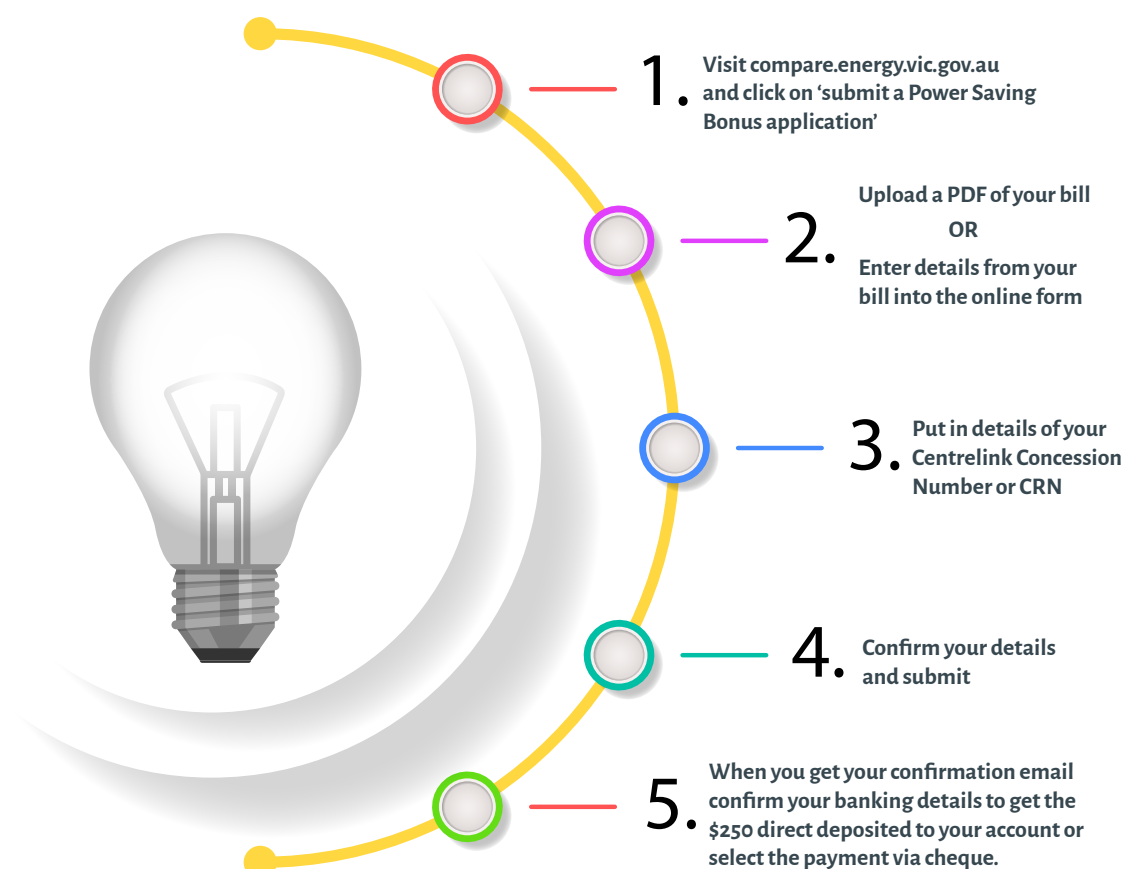
The Victorian Budget 2021/22 will invest more than \$78 million to roll out more dedicated Specialist Family Violence Courts across the state, as well as expand and embed family violence support programs, legal services and training across the justice system.

This includes over \$77 million to establish Specialist Family Violence Courts at Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Geelong, Latrobe Valley, Melbourne, Ringwood and Sunshine – meaning more Victorians who are experiencing family violence can access tailored services, from specially trained court staff, in safer environments.

Specialist Family Violence Courts were a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence – designed to make attending court a less confronting experience for victim-survivors, with separate entrances and exits, safe waiting areas and dedicated spaces for children.

All headquarter Magistrates' Courts will have the functions of the Family Violence Court Division, with a specialist family violence Magistrate – better equipping courts to deal with family violence matters and support victim-survivors.

Perpetrators accountability will be strengthened, with the court-mandated counselling program expanded to eight new locations and additional funding for perpetrator intervention programs – such as men's behaviour change programs – to ensure offenders face up to their actions and seek help to change.



ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

SPORT

Investing in Our Local Sporting Communities

The 2021/22 Victorian State Budget will deliver funding to support the delivery of new and upgraded community sport and recreation infrastructure, including \$17 million for the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and \$10 million for the Female Friendly Facilities Fund, ensuring that women and girls can access appropriate community sporting facilities.

This includes \$480,000 for Deep Creek Reserve, home to the Doncaster Dragons Baseball team. The funding will provide an updated pavilion with female friendly change rooms, updated social rooms, new kitchen, more secure on-site storage as well as public amenities.

Also to receive funding is the Elizabeth Ridge Reserve, which will utilize \$133,500 for lighting upgrades as part of the Yarra Ranges Council's master plan for the park to establish sporting facilities within the park for local teams to be able to use.

Funding will also support the delivery of strategically identified projects, such as large-scale or regionally significant sporting infrastructure. Sport specific facilities will also be delivered to assist the elite and sports development programs of state sporting associations.

Cutting the Ribbon at the new FIFA Grade Soccer Pitch at Veneto Club, Bulleen

Back in April earlier this year, I had the privilege of cutting the ribbon for the new soccer pitch at the Veneto Club in Bulleen at their Sagra San Marco Festival.

The upgraded soccer field includes a new synthetic pitch, pitch lighting, behind goal boundary fencing and new club change rooms to accommodate more teams and officials and was made possible thanks to an upgrade via the North East Link Authority.



Pictured: Sonja with Duncan Elliott, CEO North East Link, Veneto Club President Louis Crema, Eugene Brazzale (Vice President), Frank Freschi (Committee Member), Andrew Conlon Mayor of Manningham City Council and Councillors.



Pictured: Sonja at Proclamation Park with Dustin Halse MP for Ringwood, Ros Spence MP, Minister for Community Sport, Mayor, Maroondah City Council, Nora Lamont, councillors from Maroondah City Council and club officials for the sod turn for the new club room upgrade.

Kicking off works on 3 great sporting facilities

It was a privilege to host Minister for Sport Ros Spence MP for 3 sod turns in a single afternoon on some fantastic sporting infrastructure projects supported by the Andrews Labor Government in partnership with Maroondah City Council.

Croydon City Arrows Soccer Club will be the beneficiaries of a new purpose built facility and new grounds for soccer at Dorset Road Reserve in Croydon.

We were joined by Dustin Halse MP for the last two projects – a fantastic upgrade to club rooms and female friendly facilities at Jubilee Oval in Ringwood; and a brand new club room facility at Proclamation Park in Ringwood where baseball, cricket and little Aths are hosted. Such an impressive legacy at this great club that boast Cathy Freeman and Kyle Vander-Kuyp as former members.

I can't wait to see these projects get started and I look forward to a return visit to see the new facilities once they are completed.



Pictured: Sonja at Jubilee Oval with Dustin Halse MP for Ringwood, Ros Spence MP, Minister for Community Sport, Nora Lamont, Mayor of Maroondah City Council and Councillors.

Lighting Upgrades for Timber Ridge Reserve

The Andrews Labor Government will contribute \$153,678 to deliver the \$307,356 installation of a new floodlight system for Timber Ridge Reserve Sporting Field through the latest round of the World Game Facilities Fund.

That's half of the cost and will cover two full size pitches and a small side pitch!

I'm looking forward to seeing this important project take shape, which will be a huge boost for Manningham United Blues FC.

Town Park Soccer pitch upgrade

Croydon's Town Park Soccer pitch will soon be getting an upgrade from the Local Sport Infrastructure Fund as part of the 're-imagining your creek' project by Melbourne Water, aimed at improving the liveability and sustainability of waterways and their catchments.

The Andrews Labor Government will contribute \$290,000 to the project (matched by Maroondah Council), to deliver installation of drainage, irrigation, and drought tolerant grass.

This project will see benefits for the many residents who use the parkland on a daily basis as well as the Maroondah United FC, Croydon City Soccer Club and Eastern United Soccer Club in the winter and Croydon Little Athletics Club 49 in summer.

Works will commence in December for completion around July 2022.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

YOUR LOCAL

Thank you to our incredible emergency service workers

The recent storms have shown us just how incredibly important our emergency service workers are to our community.

With thousands of calls for aid, and hundreds of families without power during the storms, our amazing SES volunteers were able to provide fast and effective support to residents and businesses in need.

I paid a quick visit to SES Maroondah Unit and SES Manningham Unit not long after the storms to receive an update

on how the SES units respond to the many calls for assistance that were received during the storms.

A huge debt of gratitude goes to our SES volunteers who work tirelessly to help in times of crisis. I'm sure you'll join with me in thanking them for their efforts.

If you or someone you know has been impacted by the storms and is in need of support, please contact the Storm and Flood Recovery Support hotline on 1800 560 760.



- ✓ Access to a Recovery Support Worker
- ✓ Mental health & wellbeing support
- ✓ Financial counselling support
- ✓ Information on available payments



STORM AND FLOOD
RECOVERY SUPPORT
HOTLINE

1800 560 760



Pictured: Sonja attending the Manningham SES Depot (left) and the Maroondah SES Depot (right) to thank our brave SES volunteers for their hard work and dedication to keeping Victorians safe after the recent storms in June 2021.

Major boost for emergency services in Eastern Metro Region

The Andrews Labor Government has invested \$224,931 in emergency services in the Eastern Metropolitan Region to provide an essential vehicle and minor facility improvements for local volunteers.

The Warrandyte Country Fire Authority (CFA), and Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES) Manningham and Maroondah Units are receiving funding to help protect their local community.

These projects are amongst 240 grants sharing in more than \$14 million in funding under the government's 2020-21 Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP).

The Warrandyte CFA are receiving funds to improve their turnout room and security system, Maroondah VICSES have been awarded funds for vehicle and appliance upgrades, and the Manningham VICSES are now able to expand their vehicle fleet with \$150,000 going towards a truck for the branch.

Under the program, the Victorian Government matches every \$1 paid by volunteer groups with a \$2 co-contribution up to \$150,000 per project. This brings the total investment in these projects to \$366,096.

The annual grants program gives volunteer emergency service groups the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$150,000 to purchase equipment including vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft and trailers, and for minor improvements including refurbishments and amenities, such as kitchens and change rooms.

For more information about the VESEP, visit the Emergency Management Victoria website at emv.vic.gov.au.

Emergency Numbers

For Flood or storm emergency, call the SES on 132 500.

If your emergency is life threatening, call 000.

QUIZ: LOCAL FAME

How good is your local knowledge about our local, home grown talent that have called the suburbs in the Eastern Metro Region home?

1. Can you name the Wimbledon men's singles winner who attended high school in Donvale?
2. Which popular actress and comedian, famous for her role in Kath & Kim, grew up in Croydon?
3. With 3 olympic gold medals, sixteen national championship titles and two World Champion wins in rowing, which female rower attended Templestowe Heights Primary School?
4. Which Blue Heeler and Gold Logie winner attended Ringwood High School (now Ringwood Secondary College)?
5. Who is the Milgate Primary School and East Doncaster Secondary College alumni known for their roles in 'Love Child', 'Underbelly: the golden mile' and 'Packed to the Rafters'?
6. Do you know the name of the member of K-Pop group 'Blackpink' who grew up in Bulleen?
7. Which popular Aussie rock band from the 1970s has its roots in the Warrandyte/Ringwood area?
8. Can you name the artist who made the Eastern suburbs their home while drawing AFL Premiership posters from 1954 until 2008?
9. What is the name of the popular Blues/Rock band that makes Warrandyte their home?
10. Which Paralympic swimmer attended Melba Secondary College?

ANSWERS: 1. Pat Cash 2. Magda Szubanski 3. Kim Brennan 4. John Wood 5. Ryan Corr 6. Roseanne (Rose) Park 7. Skyhooks 8. William Ellis Green (WEG) 9. Teskey Brothers 10. Matthew Haanappel

ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

YOUR LOCAL

Official opening of the Milking Shed aka ‘The Doll’s House’

It was fabulous to be back at Heide Museum of Modern Art for the official opening of the Milking Shed aka ‘The Doll’s House’.

The restoration was made possible thanks to the Victorian Government’s Heritage Grant.

Heide has such fantastic history as a bohemian melting pot, extending from being an important and enduring Wurundjeri gathering place to its pivotal role in the birth of modern Australian art as the home of art benefactors John and Sunday Reed.

Heide has three separate gallery buildings, including the Victorian Heritage-listed ‘Heide I’ and ‘Heide II’ houses. These sites track the history of Heide as an institution from domestic residence to museum of art. If these walls could talk there’d be some very interesting stories to tell!

I was pleased to be able to visit a week earlier with Danny Pearson MP, Minister for Creative Industries to see the great works on display, and hear about how the Victorian Government’s grants in the past 12 months helped the Museum survive and continue to showcase our local history and art.



From left: Tim Sligo, Executive Director Heide, Lesley Harding, Artistic Director Heidi, Danny Pearson, Minister for Creative Industries and Sonja Terpstra MP for Eastern Metro visit Heide Museum of Modern Art in Bulleen, in April 2021.



Heathmont Bollards Art Project

If you’re in or around Heathmont, get down to the shops and check out the local art installations on the safety bollards that was completed thanks to the Heathmont History Group.

The project aims to promote local artists, and provide locals with a more bright and colourful shopping strip.

I was pleased to contribute some art to the project, and to have a cuppa and catch up with Gerry from the Heathmont Historical Society at the Food Coffee Friends Cafe in Heathmont.

I heard about the Society’s plans for their upcoming projects and received a newly released edition of Busch’s Weir, telling the history of the weir that was a private weir on Dandenong Creek during the 1930s – late 1960s.

The bollards will be published in a book of works by the historical group, with info about the artists and their work, cementing them as a part of Heathmont’s expanding history.



Pictured: Gerry Robinson from Heathmont Historical Society, with Sonja Terpstra MP at Heathmont Shops.



Sonja with the local talent enjoying the Mooroolbark Festival earlier this year.

Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival 2021

My team and I had a great time down at the Mooroolbark Festival back in March, getting out to chat with locals, try out some local food trucks, and enjoy the variety of entertainment that was on show.

It was so great to be back out and about, meeting with constituents and getting to answer some of your questions about the things that matter to you and your local community.

I look forward to getting out again at more festivals in the coming months.



ELECTION COMMITMENTS AND FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE EASTERN METRO REGION.

ELECTORATE UPDATE

State electorate redistribution draft released

The Victorian Electoral Commission is supporting the Electoral Boundaries Commission in their review of state electorate boundaries. A proposed draft redistribution has been released, and final boundaries will be released in October.

Under the proposed redistribution, a number of changes will occur for electorates in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

The proposed regional map for 'North-Eastern Metropolitan Region' (pictured right) will include the seat of Bundoora and also the newly renamed seat of Morang.

There are also changes to the electoral boundaries to a number of electorates within the Eastern Metropolitan Region:

Bayswater will shift south, and pick up all of Wantirna, parts of Wantirna South and Ferntree Gully, and lose Heathmont, Bayswater North, Kilsyth South and parts of The Basin.

Box Hill will lose sections of Surrey Hills and Nunawading, and pick up Box Hill South and Blackburn South.

Bulleen will pick up small parts of Doncaster East, moving the boundary to include areas north of George St in Doncaster East, and North of Reynolds Rd, west of the Mullum Mullum creek.

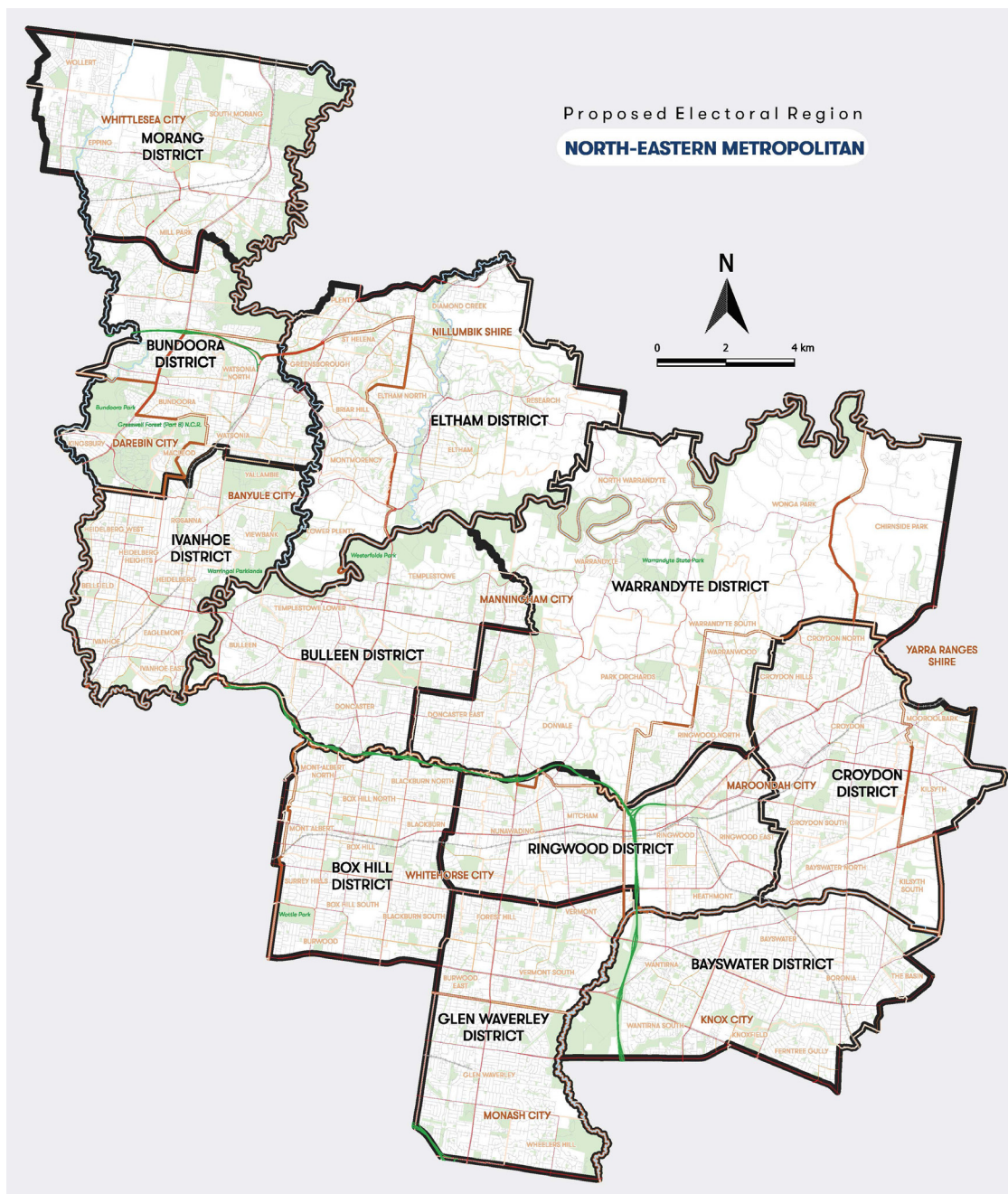
Croydon will lose part of Warranwood, but pick up sections of Croydon South, Bayswater North and Kilsyth South.

Forest Hill and Mount Waverley will merge to make the new electorate of Glen Waverley, with many outer suburbs of those electorates being shifted into their neighbouring electorates.

Ringwood will pick up Heathmont and parts of Forest Hill and Blackburn, while losing part of Ringwood North.

Warrandyte will pick up parts of Ringwood North, Warranwood, and also a large part of Chirnside Park.

To find out more about the redistribution and the process for re-drawing the electoral boundaries, visit <https://www.ebc.vic.gov.au/CurrentRedivision/ProposedBoundaries.html>



Have you received some political material in your letter box that make claims that you are not sure about?

If you'd like to know more, or verify the information, visit my new fact check page.

www.SonjaTerpstraMP.com.au/fact-check

We will fact check claims made by the opposition, whether state or federal and update this page regularly. If you have some claims you'd like us to check, you can let us know by emailing us at sonja.terpstra@parliament.vic.gov.au



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