

# Growing Suburbs Fund 2020-21

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



## Whittlesea City Council

Whittlesea City Council is located about 20 km north of the Melbourne Central Business District. The southern parts of the city are established urban areas and current residential developments are extending towards the north of the municipality.

Whittlesea City Council is home to an ethnically-diverse community, with more than half of the residents from non-English speaking backgrounds. In 2018, the population of Whittlesea City Council grew 3.5 per cent compared with the national average of 1.6 per cent. The population is projected to grow by 63.2 percent from around 223,300 in 2018, to about 364,500 in 2036.<sup>1</sup>

## Carrington Children's Centre outdoor learning and playspace upgrade

**62 Carrington Boulevard, Lalor 3075**

The Growing Suburbs Fund is partnering with the Whittlesea City Council to rebuild the children's centre's outdoor learning and playspace making it inclusive for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and those requiring additional support.

Focusing on natural play to invite and compel children to interact and create meaning out of their surroundings while encouraging different sensory experiences in a safe environment.

The project will include a design incorporating:

- Shaded nature play with native trees and vegetation
- Double bay swing sets
- Sand pits
- Sequential play/learning areas
- Low and flat play towers with wide slides
- Path networks with an array of surface treatments
- Small veggie garden
- Stimulating textures along surfaces, both on the ground plane and on vertical elements.
- Minor water play
- Stepping stones / balance stones
- A small inground trampoline
- Enclosed quiet spaces with minimal stimuli
- Climbing and stretching structures.

<sup>1</sup> Victoria in Future, 2019

The Centre will provide families with children with special needs the opportunity to develop social support networks and peer support.

**Expected date of commencement:**

November 2020

**Expected date of completion:** April 2021

**Total Project Cost:** \$300,000

**Growing Suburbs Fund:** \$150,000

**Other contributions:**

- Whittlesea City Council \$150,000

**The other project in Whittlesea City Council to receive funding from the Growing Suburbs Fund 2020-21 is:**

- Rochdale Square Neighbourhood Centre Revitalisation (\$362,500)
- Mernda Social Support Services Facility (\$1,240,000)
- Mill Park Library Public Surrounds Upgrade (\$450,000)
- Community Energy Efficiency Program (\$250,000)



Authorised by the Hon Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Local Government and Suburban Development

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