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.

Yarra Ranges Shire Council

Yarra Ranges Shire Council is located in Melbourne’s outer east between 30 and 110 km from Melbourne’s Central Business District. It covers an area of 2,470 km. Around 70 per cent of the Council’s population live in the urban areas, which represent approximately three per cent of its landmass to the west of the municipality. The remaining population is distributed throughout rural areas.

Yarra Ranges Shire Council is part of the interface council area and recorded a growth rate of 0.8 per cent in 2018. The population is projected to grow from 158,200 in 2018 to about 188,800 or 16.2 per cent by 2036.

BioMass to Energy Plant – Coldstream Transfer Station
200 Leonard Road Coldstream 3770

The Growing Suburbs Fund will partner with Yarra Ranges Shire Council to deliver an innovative model that generates biochar and renewable energy from woody green waste.

This project will see the installation of a new facility capable of producing 870 tonnes of biochar per year at the Coldstream Recycling and Waste Transfer Station.

The project will have significant environmental benefits, improving the region air quality, minimising wildfires and benefitting the local agricultural sustainability.

It is expected that the relocation of dry fuel from residential properties and industries to a pyrolysis plant at a transfer station will contribute to controlling bushfire risk and improve air quality in the region.

Expected date of commencement: February 2021
Expected date of completion: January 2022
Total Project Cost: $1,000,000
Growing Suburbs Fund: $500,000
Other contributions:
- Yarra Ranges Shire Council $500,000

The other project in Yarra Ranges Shire Council to receive funding from the Growing Suburbs Fund 2020-21 is:
- Kimberley Recreation Reserve Sporting Pavilion Redevelopment ($1,850,000)
- Upwey Skate Park ($150,000)

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1 Victoria in Future, 2019
Authorised by the Hon Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Local Government and Suburban Development

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