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 2036.¹

¹ Victoria in the Future, 2019

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 communities by bringing forward local infrastructure projects that will make a big difference in the day-to-day lives of outer suburban families.

**MCLEANS ROAD KINDERGARTEN UPGRADE**

151 McLeans Road, Bundoora, 3083

**Background:** The Growing Suburbs Fund will assist Whittlesea City Council to expand the kindergarten space to meet rapid population growth in the municipality.

The project will include:

- new double unit kindergarten room
- a multi-purpose planning and consulting room
- community foyer space
- other ancillary spaces (staff, kitchen etc…)
- provision of an outdoor play areas and connections from the kindergarten to Norris Bank Reserve.

The project will allow the kindergarten to complement the existing suite of programs at the centre; further extend educational opportunities to include early childhood for local families and enhance smoother transitions into primary education.

The inclusion of a new multi-purpose planning and consulting room and community space will enable the provision of child related activities, programs and parent groups which happens in other council kindergartens.

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¹ Victoria in the Future, 2019
Figure 1: Existing Kindergarten frontage
(Whittlesea City Council)

Expected date of commencement: October 2020
Expected date of completion: October 2021

Total Project Cost: $4,500,000
Growing Suburbs Fund: $500,000
Other contributions:

Whittlesea City Council $3,000,000
Department of Education and Training – Children’s Capital Fund $1,000,000

Other projects in the Whittlesea City Council to receive funding from the 2019-20 Growing Suburbs Fund are:

- Quarry Hills Regional Parkland ($2,500,000)
- Whittlesea Public Gardens Revitalisation ($2,000,000)
- Whittlesea Community Skate Park Activation ($375,000)
- Lalor Streetscape Upgrade ($1,500,000)

Whittlesea City Council received a total of $6,875,000 million for five projects under the Growing Suburbs Fund 2019-2020.

Growing Suburbs Fund contributes to a mix of infrastructure projects that have a direct benefit to communities living in the outer suburbs.

You can find out about other Growing Suburbs Fund Projects at localgovernment.vic.gov.au/gsf
For more information regarding these projects contact Local Infrastructure, DELWP.
Email: gsf@delwp.vic.gov.au or phone: 9948 8536