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.

The Cardinia Shire Council is located on Melbourne’s south-east fringe and is about 55 km from the Melbourne Central Business District. The population in Cardinia has been growing steadily and in 2017, it recorded a five per cent growth rate, surpassing the national average of 1.6 per cent. The population is projected to grow from 102,000 in 2017 to 185,387 in 2036. The largest increment in age structure in the next 10 years is forecasted to be 51 per cent of those under working age.

HILLS HUB - EMERALD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Corner Belgrave – Gembrook Rd and Beaconsfield – Emerald Rd, Emerald VIC 4720

Project Description: The Growing Suburbs Fund will help Cardinia Shire Council construct the new Hills Hub Community Centre in Emerald. The project will enhance the provision of community activities and establish a permanent long-term base for the Emerald U3A, Emerald Men’s shed, 3MDR Community Radio station and a large cohort of current community groups.

The new community centre will also cater for a range of existing and emerging local needs such as: skills development, training and employment creation.

The new two-storey building will include:

- A foyer, reception and administrative spaces
- Kitchen
- Accessible toilet facilities
- Rehearsal and recording spaces
- Training space
- Performing arts space
- A purpose-designed space for the Men’s Shed
- Enhanced space for 3MDR Community Radio
- Car parking.

Expected completion: December 2019

Total Project Cost: $8,130,870

Growing Suburbs Fund: $1,500,000

Other Contribution:

- Commonwealth Government – Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities - National Stronger Regions Fund ($1,500,000)
- Eastern Dandenong Ranges Group and Dandenong Ranges Community Bank Group ($250,000)
- Cardinia Shire Council ($4,880,870)

Other projects in Cardinia Shire Council to receive funding from the 2017-18 Growing Suburbs Fund:

- Cardinia Cultural Centre Redevelopment ($3,000,000)
- James Bathe Recreation Reserve ($500,000)

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

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