Yarra Ranges Shire Council is located in Melbourne’s outer east between 30 and 110 km from the Central Business District. It covers an area of 2,470 km$^2$. 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. The municipality is home to significant natural reserves and boasts popular tourist areas such as the Dandenong Ranges and the Upper Yarra Valley.

Yarra Ranges Shire Council is part of the interface council area and recorded a growth rate of 1.1 per cent in 2017. The population is forecasted to grow from 157,000 in 2017 to about 170,000, or 8 per cent, by 2031.

YARRA VALLEY TRAIL
Lilydale to Yarra Glen

Background: The Growing Suburbs Fund will partner with Yarra Ranges Council to deliver Stage One of the Yarra Valley Trail. The 11.5 km section of the trail will link Lilydale to Yarra Glen by creating a safe, all ages, accessible walking and cycling trail for the benefit of Yarra Ranges communities. The Yarra Valley Trail will join up with the Warburton Rail Trail and intersect with several visitor destinations.

Connecting the Yarra Valley and Upper Yarra will result in social and economic benefits to businesses and communities along the route and will lead to better health and wellbeing outcomes for the community.

Expected date of commencement: September 2019
Expected date of completion: July 2022
Total Project Cost: $5,000,000
Growing Suburbs Fund: $2,500,000
Other contributions: Yarra Ranges Shire Council $2,500,000

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Other projects in Yarra Ranges Shire Council to receive funding from the 2018/19 Growing Suburbs Fund are:

- Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (GSF $3,000,000)
- The Ridgewalk (GSF: $2,000,000)
- Esther Park Synthetic Soccer Pitches (GSF: $1,250,000)

Yarra Ranges Shire Council received a total of $8.75 million for four projects under the Growing Suburbs Fund 2018 – 2019.

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