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.

Cowes Cultural and Community Centre
89-91 Thompson Avenue Cowes 3922

The Growing Suburbs Fund will assist Bass Coast Shire Council to develop the Cowes Community and Cultural Centre (CCCC). The CCCC will incorporate a library, theatre, gallery and café spaces as well as a new open space in the centre of Cowes.

The CCCC will be a dynamic & interactive space that will bring together the cultural & social aspirations of the community.

Expected date of commencement: September 2020
Expected date of completion: February 2022
Total Project Cost: $19,000,000
Growing Suburbs Fund: $2,500,000
Other contributions:
- Bass Coast Shire Council $14,500,000
- Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme $10,000,000

Bass Coast Shire, located approximately 140km from Melbourne CBD, is a rural, residential and holiday area. The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 860 square kilometres, including substantial coastal areas. The major towns are Wonthaggi, Cowes, Inverloch, San Remo and Grantville, with numerous smaller townships.

Known as one of Victoria’s peri-urban councils, the current population of 36,320 is expected to grow to 48,145 by 2036.¹

¹ Victoria in Future, 2019