

Growing Suburbs Fund 2021-22

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.

Whittlesea City Council



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.

Whittlesea City Council is part of the interface council area and recorded a growth rate of 2.7% in 2019-20.¹ The population is projected to grow from 236,539 in 2020 to about 364,453 or 54.1% per cent by 2036.²

Victoria's population has witnessed a considerable slow-down in growth due to COVID and a pause in overseas migration. This is mostly felt in the inner/middle suburbs of Melbourne but is still evident in outer suburbs.

¹ ABS Regional Population Growth, March 2022

² Victoria in Future, 2019

Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre Customer Experience upgrade

35 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang 3752

The Growing Suburbs Fund will assist Whittlesea City Council in upgrading the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre.

The Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre Customer Experience Upgrade Project will improve indoor comfort levels of the building, provide better accessibility to the community and ensure all building services deliver on current service standards.

The project will deliver:

- Acoustic rectification works including the installation of a suspended ceiling in the Woodstock Theatre
- Lift services upgrades and
- Heating, ventilation and cooling enhancement works including the replacement of the air conditioning chiller, the replacement of HVAC controls and interface, and replacement of minor HVAC system components.

Expected date of commencement: June 2022

Expected date of completion: November 2023

Total Project Cost: \$1,000,000

Growing Suburbs Fund: \$225,000

Other contributions:

- Whittlesea City Council: \$775,000

The other projects in Whittlesea City Council to receive funding from the Growing Suburbs Fund 2021-22 are:

- Worchester Park Bushfire Regeneration (\$275,000)
- South Morang Precinct Improvements (\$425,000)

- Patterson Drive Community Centre (\$2,000,000)
- Huskisson Reserve Pedestrian and Cycling Access (\$325,000)
- Community Energy Transition Program (\$250,000)



Figure 1: Site layout

You can find out about other Growing Suburbs Fund projects at <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/grants/growin-g-suburbs-fund>

For more information regarding these projects contact the GSF team at gsf@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Hon Shaun Leane MP, Minister for Local Government and Suburban Development

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