

Presentation to the Annual Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Inquiry

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Department
of Transport
and Planning



Thriving suburbs are critical to our State's future

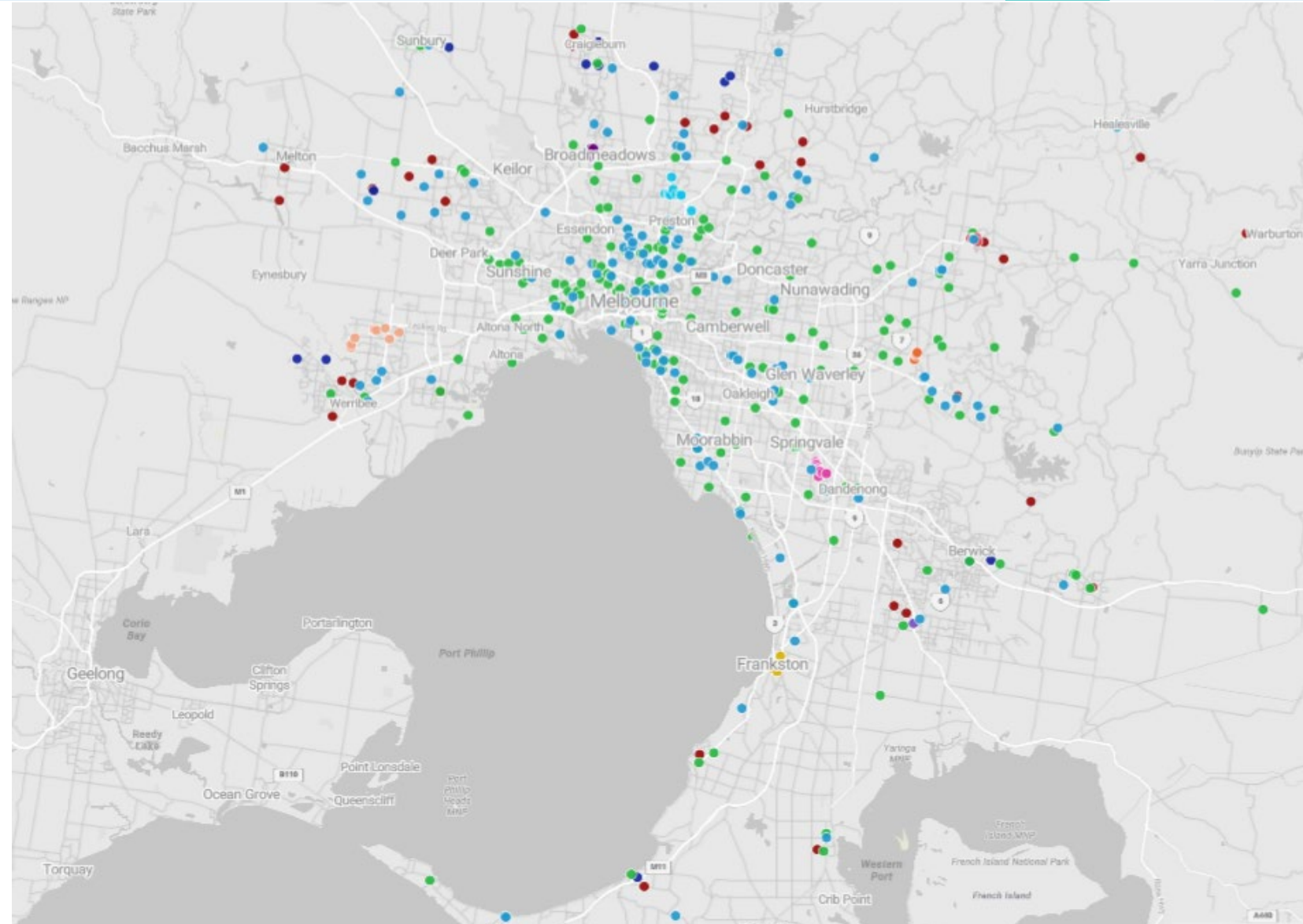
- Melbourne's suburbs are home to over 5 million people and growing.
- The Housing Statement emphasises the need to build more homes and increase housing density in Melbourne's inner and middle suburbs.
- It also recognises that many people will continue to choose to live in our growth areas and these places will remain an important part of our city's future over the coming decades.
- The Suburbs Portfolio has a critical role to play in ensuring that all Melburnians, regardless of where they live, have access to jobs, transport, services, affordable homes and good connectivity.



Investment snapshot: 2022 -2024

In the last two years, the Suburbs portfolio has invested in 487 projects across Melbourne

- 22/23 Growing Suburbs Fund
- 23/24 Growing Suburbs Fund
- Boronia Board
- Broadmeadows Board
- Cranbourne Public Hall 2023-2024
- Frankston Board
- Lilydale Board
- Living Local Fund (Community Grant)
- Living Local Fund (Suburban Grant)
- Melton Board
- Noble Park Board
- Reservoir Board
- Tarneit Board



Growing Suburbs Fund

- The 2024/25 Victorian State Budget has allocated \$5 million to continue the Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) for a 10th year.
- The GSF supports the delivery of priority projects that meet the needs of growing communities.



Ongoing projects

Nearly 250 projects will be delivered over the next 12 months:

- 113 existing Growing Suburbs Fund projects, including 14 new projects awarded through the 2023/24 round of funding
- 61 projects supported through the Living Local Fund
- 56 projects across the eight Suburban Revitalization Boards
- 10 projects through the Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund

This is in addition to new projects funded through the Tiny Towns Fund and the next round of the GSF.



Insights from the Suburbs Portfolio

- Modest, targeted investments have made a big difference to the vibrancy of local communities across Melbourne
- Place -based approaches ensure local, lived experience is considered, which improves outcomes and strengthens social connectedness
- Engaged and empowered community champions are an important ingredient for success
- Increasing the size and density of our city while maintaining liveability presents a huge challenge for us all
- Collaboration across all levels of government, between government agencies, and between government and the community, is essential to building thriving communities



Future direction for the Suburbs Portfolio

- As Melbourne continues to grow, the Suburbs Portfolio has an important role to play in continuing to engage with suburban communities to deliver positive outcomes.
- We will build on the insights and relationships developed by the Office for Suburban Development to help deliver the Housing Statement and a new plan for Victoria.
- This will include reshaping the Suburbs Portfolio to:
 - Leverage our digital twin technology to understand the strengths of Melbourne's suburbs, gaps in liveability, and the interventions that will make the biggest difference.
 - Coordinate effort and investment in place.
 - Continue to deliver impactful, place-based programs in partnership with local councils and community.



Engaging with communities

- Talking to community about what makes a thriving and liveable suburb will be critical in achieving our goals
- The current plan for Victoria consultation is one of the largest community consultation exercises undertaken by Government, complemented by other avenues for engagement
- Thriving and liveable suburbs and towns is one of the four pillars of the new plan for Victoria
- The Suburbs Portfolio will continue to play an important role in listening to communities, and helping to create the liveable, thriving communities where we all want to live.



In Summary



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