

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Committee:	Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Inquiry:	Budget Estimates 2024/25
Hearing date:	22 May 2024
Witness:	Minister Sonya Kilkeny
Committee Member:	Mrs Bev McArthur
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Question:

“In 2022–23 under the Growing Suburbs Fund around 50 projects were funded; in this financial year only 14 were funded. Given funding has been reduced in this program by 50 per cent, how many programs do you anticipate will be funded in 2025 under this program?”

Answer:

As outlined on page 140 of the 2024-25 Department Performance Statement, the target number of projects that assist Melbourne’s 7 growth councils to build community facilities is 5, based on the average funding allocation per project in previous years of the program.

The number of projects that are ultimately funded will depend on the nature of applications from councils that meet the parameters of the Growing Suburbs Fund program guidelines.

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Question:

“Could you provide the cost of each (Metropolitan Partnership) project, its research activity and its completion date – that they did do?”

Answer:

Over the life of the program, the Metropolitan Partnerships have commissioned 65 projects funded by the Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund (MPDF). The table below lists all funded projects undertaken since the MPDF program began in 2018.

Project	Outcome	Completion	Amount
Innovative Community Transport Solutions	This project reviewed opportunities for innovative private and community transport models to improve access to employment hubs, community, health and social services. The project delivered a review of existing local private and community transport projects and worked with local stakeholders and community members, and developed place-based solutions to address transport disadvantage impacting on community connectivity.	2020	\$110,000
Youth led Service Design	This project used a co-design process to design a seamless access to integrated health and social services with an initial focus on a service hub for young people, particularly those with mental health issues.	2020	\$20,000
Inner South East Regional Framework	This project developed the Inner South-east Framework that builds the capability of the region by leveraging the strategic actions in each Priority Outcome Area. The Framework	2020	\$110,000

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	established a common understanding and shared vision for a liveable, equitable and agile region.		
The Promise of Social Procurement in the West	This project engaged with key stakeholders including local governments, major transport authorities, private organisations and social enterprises to investigate a more integrated and effective Western regional response to social procurement. It included recommendations to the Partnership on how to better deliver a place-based approach to social procurement in the West.	2020	\$80,000
Chatty Cafe Scheme Expansion	This project built on the learning and impact of the Bayside Chatty Café scheme by expansion into the Glen Eira, Stonnington and Boroondara LGAs. Having demonstrated the scheme's effectiveness in recovery and community resilience, Bayside developed the capacity of other councils to integrate the scheme with council services and programs.	2023	\$200,000
Fast-Tracking Neighbourhood Batteries across Cities of Yarra, Port Phillip, Melbourne	The Neighbourhood Battery project identified the local potential and feasibility of neighbourhood batteries. It proactively engaged and empowered local communities to participate in neighbourhood battery projects and developed a tool kit for community champions.	2024	\$390,000
Addressing Food Security and Building Social Cohesion across Inner Metro	This project identified and documented options and recommendations for practical, long-term sustainable coordination of food relief activities.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$330,000
Mental Health Resilience - Empowering Melbourne's East (Be Your Best You)	A series of online and short films for boosting mental health literacy and improving the capacity of consumers to better navigate the service system. The short films will be co-designed with people who have lived experience, including young people.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$180,000
Preventing Homelessness in Women over 55	This action research project built the evidence base for preventive approaches that help keep women over the age of 55 safe from homelessness. It	2024	\$180,000

Project	Outcome	Completion	Amount
	explored the lived experience of women over 55, service gaps and priority interventions for the region.		
Health Innovation & Care Economy - Towards a Regional Investment Strategy	The project is developing a Regional Investment Strategy, aimed at positioning the east to capitalise on current and future growth in the care economy and health innovation sectors. The strategy will leverage existing regional strengths, capitalise on emerging investment opportunities, future-proof against regional vulnerabilities and support projected workforce and skills needs.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$180,000
Indigenous Arts Trail	The Indigenous Arts Trail project created an online map for an Indigenous Arts Trail in the eastern region. The project provided Aboriginal artists with an opportunity to create new art works.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$180,000
Placemaking in Port Phillip	The project delivered precinct-based placemaking and business development activities, focusing on opportunities for creative industry support and precinct governance in selected locations. Outcomes delivered included activating public spaces in activity centres to promote social connectivity and the local economy and developing precinct-based place-making and business development activities, promoting creative industries, facilitating marketing and business development.	2021	\$95,000
Multicultural Digital Inclusion Program	The Multicultural Digital Inclusion program delivered individualised digital literacy training designed to provide digital inclusion for people from CALD communities and other vulnerable community members. Across 5 sites in the Inner Metro region, it included mentoring and supportive community peer leaders.	2021	\$70,000
Yarra City Council - Precinct Based Placemaking and Business Development Project	This project delivered 3 activities within 3 different activity centres in City of Yarra and activated public spaces and promote social connectivity and the local economy. Outcomes included developing precinct-based place-making	2021	\$115,000

Project	Outcome	Completion	Amount
	and business development activities, promoting creative industries and facilitating marketing and business development.		
Jobs and Training Pathways in the Southern Region	The program delivered an employment pathway pilot program that responded to social and economic impacts of COVID-19 specific to the region focusing on supporting young people, CALD communities and women. Outcomes included 200 referrals of jobseekers to upskilling and job opportunities within target industries and secured 53 employment outcomes for jobseekers for target cohorts cross-cultural competency programs for employer/employees.	2021	\$250,000
Opening the doors to employment for young people in Melbourne's North	To address the high levels of youth unemployment in Melbourne's North post COVID, this integrated project included a future workforce map; scaled up a vocational mentoring program; and a youth co-designed pathway supporting young people wanting to enter a career in the creative industries, and seed funding opportunities for young people to be directly involved in creative/arts focused entrepreneur project/s.	2022	\$250,000
Boosting Coworking	In support of COVID recovery, workers were offered the opportunity to experience coworking in their local area. Rebate-able services were offered. Training was provided to Eastern Region Councils to enable pop-up co-working facilities in local government venues.	2022	\$75,000
Outer Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network - Eastern Youth Outcomes	This project facilitated Youth and industry forums to improve employment outcomes for the Eastern regions' young people. Fifty young people were supported into local jobs.	2023	\$75,000
MPDF 20/21 - Yarra Ranges Tourism - Tourism Enterprise Scholarship Program	Supporting the recovery of the tourism industry, industry skill shortages and jobs for young people, this program piloted an innovative scholarship program with rotated work placements, vocational training, and mentoring.	2022	\$110,000

Project	Outcome	Completion	Amount
Elders Cultural Wellbeing Project	Aboriginal elders across metro-Melbourne were engaged in yarning circles to understand and work towards addressing social isolation, loneliness and cultural wellbeing. The circles identified the assistance needed and a package of resources were delivered to community members in their homes.	2022	\$250,000
Supporting Mental Health for Diverse Communities in the Western Region	This project supported Refugee and Asylum Seeker communities in north west Melbourne to improve their mental health and wellbeing through delivery of interventions, co-designed with them to respond to their priorities and needs. Bi-cultural workers from refugee like backgrounds were engaged in capacity building to further their understanding of mental health promotion.	2022	\$82,234
Inclusive Transport Project	This initiative supported a project from the short-list within the MPDF Western Integrated Transport Framework Stage 2 (WITF2) project report. The project aimed to introduce a program of DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance upgrades across rail stations in the West (ranked 6th in the WITF2 prioritisation framework), aligning with the Department of Transport's planned investment pipeline for the western region.	2022	\$100,000
Jobs and training pathways for young people in the Western Region	The project supported labour market outcomes for young people in areas of highest need in the region by working with buyers, suppliers, employers, education institutions and job services to create pathways to local jobs.	2022	\$100,000
The Chatty Cafe Scheme	The Chatty Café Scheme aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness by creating opportunities for people to connect across up to 150 participating local hospitality and community centres in Bayside. Guidelines, were developed to enable the Chatty Café scheme to be rolled out across Victoria.	2022	\$135,000
MPDF 20/21 - City of Boroondara - Bare to Beautiful Boroondara	The Bare to Beautiful Program supported economic recovery of Boroondara's retail precincts by	2022	\$50,000

Project	Outcome	Completion	Amount
	activating vacant shopfronts with temporary floral decals designed by local artists, helping to retain and attract new tenants; improve visitation and ambience of retail precincts.		
Digital Marketing Literacy Program	Digital Literacy Masterclass Workshops were delivered to over 80 local businesses across the Inner South-East region to support their digital strategy development needs. This training enabled them to reach new audiences and supported local economic recovery.	2021	\$60,000
Renew Chapel	This project worked with the community and property owners to repurpose vacant properties along Chapel Street and revitalise the precinct by supporting local creatives and start-ups to trial their ideas and enhance opportunities for economic development.	2021	\$80,000
AfterCARE After-schools Connection and Re-Engagement	The project gathered research across the northern region of Melbourne to better understand the issues of disengagement from school for young people and children. It delivered a community-based afterschool program for disadvantaged and CALD communities that created social connections and cohesion and support mental and physical wellbeing as well as enhancing connections to school and supporting academic achievement.	2023	\$190,000
Community-Wide Electric Vehicle Transition Plan	The project developed a Community-Wide Electric Vehicle Transition Plan for Melbourne's North with a focus on the role of Local Government in supporting the transition. It explored cost-effective electric vehicle transition options in the short to longer term and considered policy gaps, charging infrastructure and community access, awareness and engagement opportunities.	2023	\$100,000
Building Creative Industry Pathways	This project focussed on building and strengthening the ecosystem of creative industry organisations and artists to support young people transition from school, study or employment, addressing the compounding issues of	2023	\$180,000

Project	Outcome	Completion	Amount
	youth underemployment and mental health in the North.		
Health Navigators: Creating a new workforce of bicultural health navigators	This project deployed a small team of bicultural health navigators to support people who were having difficulty navigating, understanding and accessing services, which was negatively impacting management and treatment outcomes.	2023	\$150,000
Melbourne's North Investment Attraction Strategy	The project identified the actions needed to ensure that Melbourne's north can plan investment attraction activities strategically to maximise the regions recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The project included a Strategic Review including internal and external analysis of northern metropolitan Melbourne and a global external analysis; and an Action Plan that provides a list of practical, achievable tasks that will improve the regions investment attraction success rate.	2023	\$150,000
Supporting and Advancing Metropolitan Aboriginal Communities	This metropolitan-wide project provides an evidence base on needs and aspirations that support and advance Aboriginal community-led projects, increase access to services and enable direct advice and advocacy to government. The project has also delivered two on-the-ground projects identified from the research and priorities identified in the first stage.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$720,000
MPDF 22/23 - ArcBlue - Winning Work - Capacity Building SMEs in Melbourne's West	This project has increased the capacity of local small and medium-sized enterprises in Melbourne's West to win work generating from infrastructure and construction projects by improving understanding of the barriers for SMEs in becoming procurement ready, developing a digital hub with resources for SMEs, and delivering tailored workshops and group training sessions.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$250,000
Opportunities to Irrigate Open Spaces with Alternative Water Sources	In collaboration with local councils across the GWW service area, the project identified opportunities to irrigate public open space with alternative water and prioritise these	2024	\$190,000

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	opportunities through consideration of catchment characteristics and heat vulnerability. It contributes towards achieving multiple strategic outcomes and associated targets in the Greater Metropolitan Melbourne Catchment Scale Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plans endorsed by the IWM Forum partners.		
Maternal Child Health Workforce Project- Western Metropolitan Region	The project provides an understanding of the current MCH workforce in the Western Metropolitan Partnership, identifies issues and barriers to the effectiveness of the current workforce, and identifies opportunities to address these in future workforce planning and examine the potential to integrate MCH and early childhood development services.	2023	\$80,000
Moonee Valley Trees Education Campaign	Moonee Valley City Council undertook a Trees Education Campaign, informed by the Greening the West objectives. The Campaign included an educational and behaviour-change element, educating residents of the western suburbs about the benefit of trees for their community and gaining access to low-cost or free trees.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$154,175
Health Support for CALD Seniors - Western Metropolitan Region	This project provided coaching training to three bi-cultural individuals to provide culturally appropriate facilitated coaching sessions to 30 seniors from Spanish and Filipino backgrounds.	2024	\$100,000
Readiness For Scaling Project Changing Perceptions in Employment	This project has undertaken work to systematically understand the factors relevant for scaling interventions in the public administration context; and applied that knowledge to a new version of the previously successful Changing Perceptions in Employment (CPIE) pilot.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$370,000
Southern Metropolitan Regional Needs and Investment Framework	This project has developed an investment framework for the Southern region to inform government and non-government investment decisions in the region. It has reviewed current evidence	2024	\$350,000

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	and existing work; conducted an assessment of current and future needs; and considered opportunities and constraints to inform a set of shared priorities for the region.		
Best Practice models, Approaches, Standards, Lessons for Delivery of Common Ground projects in Inner Melbourne	This project developed a practice guide informed by best practice models, approaches, standards and lessons from international and national Common Ground facilities, including the current experience of current/emerging investigation by local government of proposed Common Ground facilities in the region.	2021	\$122,400
Jobs and Growth Resilience and Recovery - Commercial and Creative Industries	This project investigated opportunities for Commercial Enterprise and Creative Industries Case Studies for Jobs Growth, Resilience and Recovery in the Inner Metropolitan Region, including an Initial Assessment of Economic Recovery Opportunities in response to COVID-19.		\$80,000
Integrated Regional Transport Strategy to address transport connectivity	The project delivered a Regional Transport Strategy document for the North, including identification of key priorities and building the associated case for these priorities.	2020	\$165,000
Integrated Transport Project	This project developed a potential program of projects for local/small scale transport investments in the west that will have a regional impact on the transport network and further leverage the value of the Big Build projects.	2020	\$130,000
Regional Alliance for Social Inclusion	The Inner South-east Metropolitan Partnership built collaborations to address experiences of social isolation and loneliness and established the Regional Alliance for Social Inclusion. The Alliance promotes collaboration within the region by expanding a network across service providers and community to facilitate regular contact and information sharing, and the trialling and evaluation of pilots.	2021	\$55,000
Development of an Integrated regional Transport Strategy to address Transport Connectivity	This project developed an integrated transport framework for the Southern Metropolitan Partnership region. This project developed a clear understanding of the community	2022	\$165,000

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	transport service state of play in the Southern region and used this information to develop a model that more effectively integrates and coordinates existing services with bespoke public transport services.		
Upgrade of Gardiners Creek Trail Dunlop Street Crossing	This project is an upgrade of the Gardiner Creek (KooyongKoot) Trail crossing of Dunlop Street to improve pedestrian and cyclist movement, safety and accessibility including widened shared path approaches, widened and raised crossing, relocated signals and new bike lanterns, and advanced cycling priority.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$200,000
Cooking Up Connections Program Expansion	Cooking Up Connections is a meal sharing and community strengthening program that tackles social isolation amongst older people and strengthens intergenerational connections within communities. The project builds on the City of Boroondara's existing Cooking Up Connections program - known locally as Boroondara Cooks - to develop localised versions of the program across Bayside and Glen Eira councils. The program improves food options for older people and provides a flexible approach for people wanting to volunteer their time and skills in their local community.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$120,000
South Road and Nepean Highway Bicycle Improvement Projects	The purpose of this project is to investigate bicycle infrastructure improvements along South Road between Esplanade and Dingley Bypass and connection to Moorabbin Railway Station from Hampton East and Moorabbin.	Will be completed by 30/6/24	\$200,000
Integrated care and services in the Outer East	This project explored the impact of service fragmentation in the Yarra Ranges Shire. It developed service maps and identified gaps for targeted cohorts, which have been shared with the Department of Health and informed service design.	2021	\$85,000
Jobs for Youth	The project investigated the overlap, duplication and gaps of existing training and employment services available for	2019	\$80,000

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	young people in the Eastern region. Outcomes include identifying more efficient and collaborative models for resourcing and delivering employment and training programs and services.		
Investigate and develop planning mechanism which enables Affordable Housing in Inner Metro Region	This project defined a methodology to measure affordable housing needs within the Inner Metro Partnership region and assessed the regional capacity to accommodate current and projected housing demands.	2019	\$50,000
Design of youth engagement tool to support improved access to mental health services for young people	The project identified the challenges young people face in accessing mental health services in the Inner Metro Region. The project codesigned a set of tools with young people and provided recommendations on ways that young people can seek support.	2019	\$35,000
Tackling issues of affordability within Enterprise Precincts	The project explored the implications of workspace affordability on the establishment and the growth of enterprises.	2019	\$50,000
Movement and Place Gateway Program	The project identified short, medium- and long-term requirements of urban regional gateways between different precincts and municipalities across the Inner-metro region.	2019	\$30,000
Developing a strategy for vibrant local economies in the Inner South East	The project provided an overview of economic profiling of local retail/commercial precincts, assess against the Enterprise Precincts Framework, and provided a summary performance for each precinct. This work was an input to the development of a regional economic development strategy.	2019	\$40,000
Social Isolation and Loneliness	The project captured lived experience of people experiencing social isolation and loneliness in the Inner South-east region. It developed journey maps illustrating the cause of loneliness, enablers and barriers of select community groups and demographics, and asset-based maps outlining current services used, delivery duplication and gaps. The findings and outcomes of this project informed the design of Covid programs, such as the 'Let's Stay	2019	\$40,000

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	Connected' program that sought to reduce social isolation.		
Integrated transport framework for Inner South East Metro	This project reviewed and consolidated relevant local government and other regional transport plans and strategies and identified priorities and gaps, with consideration of user needs for the movement of people and goods. It also mapped transport networks and highlighted current transport priorities.	2019	\$25,000
Investigation of social policy settings for affordable housing in the region	The project developed a regional profile of supply and demand of affordable housing in the Inner South-east region, with a focus on affordable housing for key workers (e.g. Nurses, Teachers, and Emergency workers).	2019	\$20,000
MPDF 18/19 - Regional Sustainability strategy	The project consolidated existing local government strategies that support sustainability and identified gaps, challenges, and opportunities for the Inner South-east region.	2019	\$25,000
Update of Northern Horizons regional development and investment strategy	The project updated the Northern Horizon strategy to reflect the infrastructure and service requirements for the Northern region. Northern Horizons is a key strategy that is used to inform the work of the Northern Region including advocacy to the Federal Government.	2019	\$85,000
Building resilience in new Communities	The project investigated possible changes to planning mechanisms to prevent rapid growth and uneven distribution of electronic gaming machines in the Northern growth area councils. The project reviewed how current processes and controls have been used and provided advice to government to minimise harm.	2019	\$80,000
Regional Social Isolation Profile and Community Asset mapping	This project explored the impact of gaps in transport connectivity and barriers to accessing employment, education, and services across the region. It reviewed the impact that these critical infrastructure services have on family and community connections and social isolation in the southern region. The	2020	\$165,000

Project	Outcome	Completion	Amount
	project developed a community asset map, made recommendations to address gaps in public transport, and a cost benefit analysis of options for reducing social isolation.		
Western Metropolitan Integrated Transport Framework	This project reviewed and consolidated relevant local government and regional transport plans and strategies, identifying priorities and gaps, with consideration of user needs for the movement of people and goods. It provided a map of current transport networks, highlighting updated transport priorities.	2019	\$70,000
Action Plan for Youth Inclusion in the Western Metro region	This project reviewed and consolidated local government youth engagement and inclusion strategies and developed a consolidated youth regional youth inclusion strategy. Codesigning with young people to develop a Youth Inclusion and Action plan to keep young people engaged in education and training, work, and the community.	2019	\$30,000