

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee  
**2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearing**

Minister for Local Government



25/05/2015

Department of  
Environment, Land,  
Water & Planning



# Victorian Government priorities

Victoria's local government sector manages approximately \$73 billion of community assets and spends over \$7 billion each year on the provision of services.

The Victorian Government is committed to working cooperatively with Victoria's 79 councils to ensure all Victorians enjoy responsive and accountable local government services.

In particular, the Andrews Government will focus on:

- improving integrity and good governance;
- improving capacity and performance; and
- delivering for all Victorian communities.



# Inherited challenges

- An outdated Act which no longer provides clear guidance to the sector
- Councillor conduct and governance issues
- Electoral reform
- Cost of living pressures arising from local council rates
- Freeze on Commonwealth financial assistance grants to councils
- Infrastructure challenges for interface councils
- A need for more meaningful and accountable reporting
- Councils' capacity and capability to respond to emergency events
- Sunbury out of Hume process

# Responding to the challenges

- Review of the Local Government Act - modernise the relationship between State and local government in Victoria
- Improvements to council governance and conduct arrangements
- Appointment of the ESC to design a Fair Go Rating System
- Investment in new infrastructure for interface councils
- Refining and implementing the first mandatory performance and reporting system for local government in Australia
- Support to assist councils to respond to emergency events
- Appointment of transition auditors to make recommendations on the separation of Sunbury from Hume



# 2015-16 Budget initiatives

## **Review of the *Local Government Act 1989***

\$1 million to remove outdated provisions, improve compliance and modernise the relationship between the Government and councils

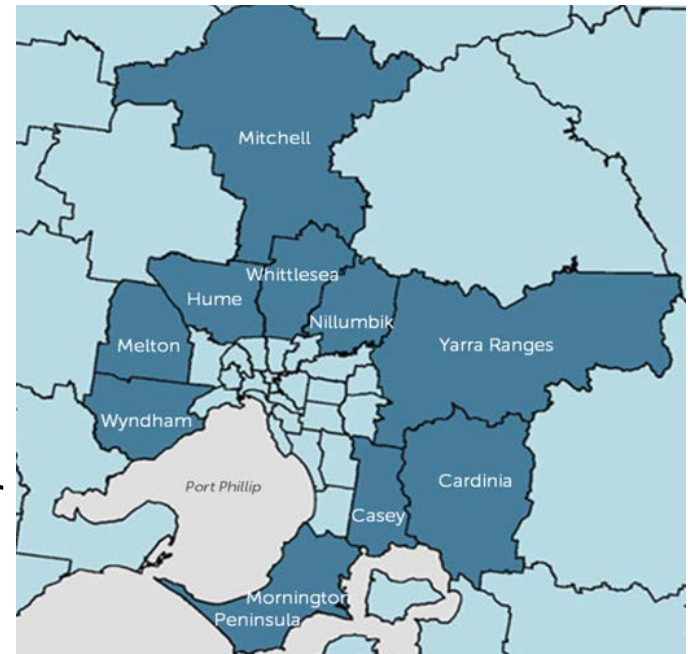
## **Interface Councils Infrastructure Fund**

\$50 million to support councils and communities in outer suburban areas to deliver improved local infrastructure

## **Roadside Weeds and Pests program**

\$5.2 million over two years to assist rural and regional councils to manage weeds and pest animals on roadsides

**Melbourne's ten interface councils:**





# 2015-16 Budget initiatives

## **Supporting Victoria's public libraries**

\$5.4 million to provide upgraded library facilities and purchase books for the Premiers' Reading Challenge in addition to the record \$40.5 million in recurrent library funding provided by the Victorian Government to councils, regional library corporations and Vision Australia

## **Emergency Management Capability**

\$1.6 million over 5 years to establish and support networks of local government emergency management officers

## **Endeavour Hills Community Precinct**

\$50,000 to City of Casey for the planning stage of the Endeavour Hills Community Precinct

