

# The Hon Shaun Leane MP

## Minister for Local Government

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
MINISTER FOR SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER FOR VETERANS

18 December 2020

# Local Government Sector

## Engagement & Delivery



79 local councils in Victoria



50,000+ Victorians employed by local councils



100+ different services delivered to Victorian communities



\$3.4b to be spent by councils this year on capital works



\$9.5b to be spent this year by councils on services and infrastructure

## Grants Programs



Growing Suburbs Fund



Public Libraries Program



Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme



Roadside Weeds and Pests



Victorian Local Government Grants Commission



Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program

# Key budget initiatives

## GROWING SUBURBS FUND

The 2020/21 Budget is supporting high growth councils deliver critical local infrastructure

➤ The Growing Suburbs fund will support Melbourne's interface and peri urban councils to delivery critical local infrastructure that supports local economic participation and recovery.

➤ Program is designed to respond quickly to pressures being experienced by these communities.

➤ Funding will provide increased capacity for councils to respond to changing community needs and demands.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES EXPANSION PROGRAM

The 2020/21 Budget recognises the vital roles of public libraries

➤ The Public Libraries Expansion Program supports public libraries in the critical role they play across all Victorian communities.

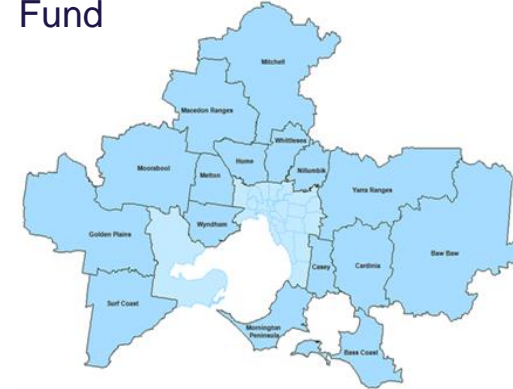
➤ Funding will deliver significant improvements in Victoria's public library infrastructure, services and programs.

➤ Lifts the Victorian Government investment in public libraries in 2020-21 to a record \$56.9 million.



**\$75.2 million in 2020-21**

➤ Government is providing additional \$50.2 million to expand the Growing Suburb Fund



**\$13.35 million over two years**

➤ Includes \$10 million for the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program in 2020-21 to support capital projects across Victoria that deliver community benefits and create jobs in both the construction and operating phases.

## Key budget initiatives

### COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS SCHEME

The 2020/21 Budget is supporting delivery of community infrastructure

➤ The Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme supports the delivery of community infrastructure by providing Victorian councils with access to low-interest, subsidised loans.

➤ Additional \$100 million in low-interest, subsidised loans to be made available to councils to support vital community infrastructure projects across Victoria.



**\$22.5 million over 15 years**

➤ Funding will support a second round of the Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme.

➤ Will support recovery from COVID-19 through the accelerated delivery of capital works projects

### WOMEN BUILDING SURVEYORS

The 2020/21 Budget is supporting women in new career opportunities.

➤ New initiative to give women the opportunity to undertake training to become building surveyors in local government.

➤ Will support women to commence a new career or transition their career to become a fully qualified municipal building surveyor.

➤ Will address a shortage of municipal building surveyors in Victoria.



**\$6.3 million over two years**

➤ Program will support 40 councils with funding of \$75,000 per year over the life of the program.

## Key budget initiatives

### MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY RESOURCING PROGRAM

The 2020/21 Budget is supporting councils in emergency management responsibilities

➤ Councils play a critical role in emergency management, supporting their communities before, during and after emergency events.

➤ Program provides financial support to assist councils to undertake their emergency management responsibilities.



**Additional \$1.0 million in 2020-21 (total of \$5.6 million)**

➤ Program supports 64 rural, regional and outer metropolitan councils to plan, prepare and deliver activities that assist their communities in an emergency.

### ROADSIDE WEEDS AND PESTS

The 2020/21 Budget is protecting Victoria's agricultural industry

➤ The Roadside Weeds and Pests Program will support eligible councils to undertake roadside weed and pest control work.

➤ Funding for the 56 regional, rural and interface councils with responsibility for maintaining rural local roads.



**\$2.79 million in 2020-21**

➤ Funding is for control planning and activities to prevent the establishment and spread of weeds and pests.

➤ The funding will be provided to eligible councils through an allocation based on each eligible council's relative length of local roads.

# Local Government 2020 achievements



## COVID RESPONSE AND SUPPORT TO COUNCILS

The Victorian Government has **supported councils** by providing funding including

- a \$75.2 million extension for the **Growing Suburb Fund**
- \$208.9 million for the **Working for Victoria program**, which has generated **4,677** local government jobs in communities across Victoria
- **37 shovel-ready projects** with a combined project value of \$277 million through the \$2.7 billion **Building Works Package**
- a \$29.5 million **Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package**, and
- \$3.8 million for the **Rural Councils Information Technology Support Program**.

LGV is providing **proactive advice** and **assistance** to councils to support the vital work they are doing in their communities.



## SAFE AND SECURE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

These were the **largest government elections** in Victoria, with

- 298 separate elections for 76 of Victoria's 79 councils
- Over 4 million voters enrolled and 2,186 candidates participating to elect 622 councillors.
- The voter participation rate for the 2020 elections was 83.6 per cent, a **significant increase** on the 73.2 per cent participation rate in the 2016 elections.

Victoria is now **leading the nation** with the **highest number of elected female councillors**

- In 2020, 272 women were **elected** to council,
- In 2020, 854 women **nominated** for council across Victoria
- 1075 women **undertook Local Government Candidate training** in 2020.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2020 IMPLEMENTATION

- The Local Government Act 2020 is the **most ambitious reform** to the local government sector in over 30 years.
- The new Act provides a **contemporary and accessible** legislative framework underpinned by a **principle based** framework.
- The new Act will **improve local government democracy, accountability** and **service delivery** for all Victorians.