

Victorian Budget 2022/23



Putting Patients First

SUBURBAN

Budget Information Paper



The Secretary
Department of Treasury and Finance
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria, 3002
Australia
Tel: +61 3 9651 5111
Fax: +61 3 9651 2062
Website: budget.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Victorian Government
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne, 3002

Printed by Southern Impact, Mount Waverley

This publication makes reference to the
2022/23 Budget paper set which includes:
Budget Paper No. 1 – Treasurer’s Speech
Budget Paper No. 2 – Strategy and Outlook
Budget Paper No. 3 – Service Delivery
Budget Paper No. 4 – State Capital Program
Budget Paper No. 5 – Statement of Finances
(incorporating Quarterly Financial Report No. 3)

© State of Victoria 2022
(Department of Treasury and Finance)



You are free to re-use this work under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence, provided you credit the State of Victoria (Department of Treasury and Finance) as author, indicate if changes were made and comply with the other licence terms. The licence does not apply to any branding, including Government logos.

Copyright queries may be directed to IPpolicy@dtf.vic.gov.au.

ISSN 2206-3501 (print)
ISSN 2206-351X (online)
Published May 2022

Supporting Victorian suburbs

VICTORIAN SUBURBS ARE BUZZING AGAIN

Across our suburbs, restaurants and cafes are busy, shopping strips are bustling, and Victorians are doing the things they missed out on during the pandemic.

And the proof that we're bouncing back is in the numbers.

Today, there are almost as many Victorians in work as there have ever been.

The investments we've made in projects big and small – from level crossing removals to suburban parks – have laid the foundation for thousands of jobs that have kept our economy growing.

And our strong action to protect the health of all Victorians during the pandemic has helped shield our state from the very worst of this once-in-a-century event.

However, it's no secret that our hospitals and our healthcare workers are stretched.

And now, as Victorians get back to receiving care and treatment that was delayed by the pandemic, our health system is facing more pressure than ever.

That's why, in this year's Budget, we're putting patients first – with a Pandemic Repair Plan for more staff, better hospitals and first-class care.

We're building new hospitals, hiring more workers and making sure our nurses and doctors have all the equipment they need to do what they do best – look after all of us.

With this Budget, we're giving Victorians the confidence that we will continue to invest in health services they can count on, close to home.

We're also building and upgrading schools, with a focus on special schools, because kids with special needs should have exactly the same opportunities as every other student in Victoria.

Every investment, every dollar spent, supports jobs, backs businesses and strengthens our families and our suburbs.

We're building big and delivering for all Victorians.

We're building new hospitals, hiring more workers and making sure our nurses and doctors have all the equipment they need to do what they do best – look after all of us

Suburban investment



STATEWIDE

- \$4.2 billion to support our ongoing pandemic response, including \$522 million to support our hospitals to treat COVID-19; \$1.1 billion to purchase and distribute free rapid antigen tests to schools, hospitals and Victorians with disability; \$284 million for PPE; \$258 million to protect and vaccinate Victorians against COVID-19; and \$110 million for COVID-19 care pathways and to continue our 28 general practitioner respiratory clinics
- \$1.8 billion for school infrastructure, including upgrades to 65 schools including 36 special schools, building 13 new schools, additional stages at four more schools, and expanding capacity at two schools to meet enrolment demand
- \$1.5 billion for COVID Catch-up to enable record levels of surgical capacity
- \$1 billion in low-interest loans and government guarantees for social and affordable housing
- More than \$900 million for the new 24-hour public Melton Hospital in Melbourne's west
- \$780 million in 2022/23 to undertake road maintenance works across the metropolitan and regional road network
- \$698 million for Better at Home
- \$383 million to switch on the Big Build, prepare for Metro Tunnel operations, and provide train timetable service upgrades across the state
- \$372 million for our mental health workforce
- \$342 million to recruit an extra 502 police and 50 Protective Services Officers over the next two years
- \$263 million to continue to deliver Victoria's 2021-2030 Road Safety Strategy and first three-year action plan
- \$250 million for the Power Saving Bonus to help households save on their energy bills
- \$246 million to help our creative industries bounce back even stronger than before
- \$246 million to fund the *Sick Pay Guarantee pilot*, to support casual or insecure workers in select industries that don't provide sick or carer's pay
- \$215 million to give frontline police officers and protective services officers equipment to keep Victorians safe
- \$158 million for accessibility and safety upgrades at various train stations and tram stops
- \$151 million to prepare for Victoria's nation-leading treaty process
- \$135 million to provide vital support to Victorians with disability who aren't eligible for the NDIS
- \$131 million to continue four-year-old kindergarten services, including important support for rural and small services and continued help for disadvantaged children to access kindergarten
- \$131 million for extra literacy and numeracy support for students who need it most, including tailored support for students in middle years
- \$126 million in road upgrades in metropolitan Melbourne
- \$124 million to put more paramedics on the road and improve ambulance performance
- \$111 million to support Victoria's visitor and events economy, to attract more tourists and promote Victoria to the world
- \$109 million to improve Victoria's suburban and regional bus services and bus stops



Arts



Clean energy



Education



Emergency services



Environment and parkland



Health



Justice



Mental health



Public transport



Regional investment



Roads



Sport and recreation



Strong communities

Pandemic Repair Plan

The pandemic has put unprecedented pressure on health systems right across Australia and around the world – and that is being felt in Victorian suburbs too.

Delayed medical care has meant longer recovery time. Putting off seeing the doctor has meant that some Victorians have missed an early diagnosis.

And our healthcare workers have struggled as their coworkers have had to miss a shift when they or a loved one were sick.

It's no secret the last two years have really knocked our health system around.

When we came to government, we put an end to the war on our paramedics, and we took ambulance response times from the worst in our history to the best.

We did it by working alongside our nurses, doctors and paramedics – with a clear plan to get it done.

Now – just like we did before – we'll ease the pressure on our hospitals and healthcare workers by putting patients first with our Pandemic Repair Plan for more staff, better hospitals and first-class care.

This Budget invests more than \$12 billion across the health system to provide:

- Record levels of surgical capacity across the state, to give Victorians the specialist care they need before they end up in the emergency department
- \$1.3 billion to continue to deliver mental health reform, building on previous record investments
- \$698 million for the Better at Home program to continue the delivery of healthcare through the use of home-delivered and virtual care, so more people can be treated at home
- Training and hiring up to 7 000 new healthcare workers, including 5 000 nurses.

BUILDING NEW SUBURBAN HOSPITAL CAPACITY

Growing suburbs need more services to keep up – that's why we're investing more than \$900 million in the new Melton Hospital in Melbourne's West.

The new Melton Hospital will include a 24-hour emergency department, over 100 medical and surgical beds, an intensive care unit, maternity and neonatal services, mental health services, operating theatres and outpatient care.

Werribee and Casey hospitals will get expanded emergency departments, with \$236 million in upgrades.

And we're investing to upgrade and replace infrastructure and equipment for hospitals too, with:

- \$35 million for the Medical Equipment Replacement Program for items like CT scanners, digital X-ray units and ultrasounds
- \$25 million for the Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Fund for a range of upgrades like refurbishment of consultation rooms or wards
- \$20 million for the Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program for items like ageing generators, emergency lighting or nurse call systems.



SUPPORTING OUR HEALTH WORKERS

We're backing our healthcare workers with improved training, better resources and more hands on deck.

We're delivering 1 125 new Registered Undergraduate Nursing Positions a year over the next two years. We will also improve training for nurses and midwives by reviewing clinical placements, and roll out nursing and midwifery pilot programs.

This Budget funds \$9.7 million for an additional 75 Registered Undergraduate Student of Midwifery positions, to help recruit and train our future healthcare workforce and to boost our flexible maternity staffing pool.

We're also expanding the Nursing and Midwifery Health Program to provide one-on-one psychological support for up to 600 additional nurses and midwives every year.

And we're boosting the Safer Care Victoria Healthcare Worker Wellbeing Centre program to support staff and manage stress.

IMPROVING OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The pandemic has tested our emergency departments. They've had to handle a sharp increase in critical patients.

They've had to manage workforce disruptions when staff get sick, as well as rolling out COVIDSafe practices, which – while important – complicated and slowed down care.

That's why we are supporting an expansion of key emergency department services in the suburbs.

And across Australia, demand for emergency services is at an all-time high, with Triple Zero call-takers and dispatchers dealing with unprecedented call volumes.

But every Victorian should have the confidence that when they call for emergency care, there will be someone who comes to help.

That's why this Budget invests in practical measures to hire more staff, cut wait times and get Victorians the help they need, when they need it most.

This Budget invests in practical and immediate measures to cut wait times, expand emergency departments and get Victorians the help they need, when they need it most



To relieve pressure on our emergency response systems:

- We're investing \$333 million to add nearly 400 new staff to increase call-taking and dispatch capacity for Triple Zero services, including ambulances, and training more operators to allocate calls across the state
- We're expanding emergency department capacity at Casey Hospital and Werribee Mercy Hospital with \$236 million to at least double their current capacity to get patients the care they need sooner
- Ambulance Victoria will recruit 90 more paramedics, with a \$124 million investment to put more ambos on the road and ease the strain on our state's emergency departments
- This includes \$99 million to enhance our fleet management system and improve rostering and support functions at Ambulance Victoria to meet the growing demand for ambulance services
- This includes \$12 million for Ambulance Victoria to establish a second mobile stroke unit in Melbourne's south-east, so that stroke victims can get the urgent care they need without delay.

COVID CATCH-UP

Elective surgery transforms and saves lives. But wait lists have grown due to treatment and care deferred during the pandemic.

That's why we're investing \$1.5 billion to enable record levels of surgical capacity, providing 40 000 extra surgeries in the next year, building up to a total of 240 000 surgeries annually by 2024.

This Budget provides funding for health, including for more nurses, doctors, paramedics, health services and new and improved health infrastructure, so all Victorians have access to high-quality healthcare, closer to home:

- More emergency department staff and hard-to-access and costly therapies, such as the CAR T-cell therapy to treat certain adult lymphomas
- Expanding home-delivered and virtual care, so even more people can be treated at home
- Supporting community-based healthcare services to deliver services to people who have deferred care. This includes the integration of general practitioners to work in 20 registered community health services.



MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

Rebuilding Victoria's mental health system from the ground up won't happen overnight.

But the Andrews Labor Government is getting on with the job and taking the next big steps in this generational reform.

And that's exactly what this Budget does.

In the *2020/21 Budget*, we invested \$869 million to lay the foundation for a new mental health system, and provided extra support throughout the pandemic. This means our suburbs will get more mental health community care.

This was followed by a record investment of \$3.8 billion in last year's Budget for these nation-leading and life-saving mental health reforms.

And now this Budget builds on those previous investments with \$1.3 billion to progress the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

This includes priority reforms such as:

- \$218 million for 82 beds in Victoria's mental health system
- \$62 million for upgrade works at mental health facilities, creating dedicated, safe spaces to enable gender-based separation
- \$54 million to deliver treatment, care and support for people with a co-occurring mental illness and substance use or addiction in all Adult and Youth Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services
- \$10 million for the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Facilities Renewal Fund to refurbish and reconfigure acute and community based mental health facilities to deliver the best recovery-oriented services for Victorians
- \$5 million to plan the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

This Budget builds on those previous investments with \$1.3 billion to progress the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

Community mental health services

Having local support is so important in improving mental health outcomes, which is why we're investing in Victoria's community mental health services.

That means bringing together locals who know their communities best and can develop new solutions to improve and build community resilience, social connection and inclusion.

There is an extra \$9.1 million to establish Social Inclusion Action groups in 10 local government areas to build on the success of local community mental health groups in these areas.

We know the earlier we reach someone struggling with their mental health – the better. This Budget provides a \$21 million package to support suicide prevention initiatives, including aftercare services and an 18-month pilot of a statewide peer call-back service for families, carers and supporters of people experiencing suicidal behaviour.

We are also investing \$20 million to support broader approaches to eating disorder care and support, such as an uplift to 15 dedicated beds for Victorians with an eating disorder, funding a statewide eating disorder strategy and expanding investment in existing programs.

Victoria's mental health workforce

Building a new mental health system requires a lot of people.

So, we're investing a record \$372 million in developing our mental health workforce – supporting training for the existing workforce and additional jobs where they're needed most, on top of the 580 extra places we have already delivered.

That's training for more than 1 500 mental health workers, including more than 100 psychiatrists, 300 psychologists and 400 mental health nurses, so they can give the very best care.

And it will also help deliver the training they need to give the very best care.

**We're bringing
together locals
who know their
communities
best to develop
local solutions for
mental health**



SUPPORTING OLDER VICTORIANS

We all deserve to be looked after in our later years.

In this Budget, we're investing to ensure that Victorians are treated with respect as they age.

We're continuing to provide important funding to the Elder Abuse Prevention Network, to raise awareness of elder abuse and help prevent it from occurring in the first place.

We're also continuing our financial counselling services to prevent financial abuse.

Key investments delivered in this Budget include:

- \$3 million for a range of initiatives to support social recovery programs for older Victorians and carers, including continuation of the reimagined Victorian Seniors Festival, COVIDSafe live performances in aged care facilities and tailored employment support for carers
- \$2.9 million to continue the Elder Abuse Prevention Network, addressing family violence for older Victorians and stopping it from happening.

Building a world-class education system

Every Victorian family, wherever they live, deserves a good quality school.

Over the past eight years, we've invested over \$12.8 billion into new schools and better classrooms.

We've funded doctors in schools, put mental health professionals on campus and provided free breakfast for kids who go without it.

We're giving our youngest Victorians the best foundation possible, delivering universal three-year-old kinder across the state.

And we're investing to transform VCE and VCAL to help students graduate into a great job and a rewarding future.

Because we're building the Education State. For every Victorian child.

READY FOR SCHOOL

Children in our suburbs across the state now have access to five hours of funded three-year-old kindergarten each week, scaling up to 15 hours by 2029 – meaning the next generation of young Victorians will have an extra year of learning, playing and making friends.

Not only that, but the \$5 billion investment over the decade will help thousands of families to access kindergarten programs at low or no cost.

This Budget builds on that investment, with \$15 million for Kinder Kits containing books and other resources for kids starting three-year-old kinder in 2023 and 2024 – so their learning can continue when they're at home.

This Budget also invests \$131 million to continue four-year-old kindergarten services. And it helps improve access and support for Victorian families, including:

- \$19 million for the LOOKOUT program, which supports children in out-of-home care to access kindergarten and transition to school, and to support vulnerable children and their families with an experienced and qualified facilitator through the Access to Early Learning program
- \$17 million to assist children with significant disability or complex needs to participate in kindergarten through the Kindergarten Inclusion Support program
- \$12 million to make kindergarten facilities and activities more accessible for children with disability, including funding new ramps and sensory equipment
- \$5.5 million to continue the Early Childhood Language Program to deliver learning in another language in kindergartens, along with further professional support and training for teachers
- \$4 million to provide targeted outreach support for children and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, so that they aren't held back from learning and families are fully supported and included in their child's development
- \$2.2 million to provide free or low-cost kindergarten for vulnerable children, including children holding a humanitarian or refugee visa.





SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS

Kids get the best start in life when they have individual attention and support.

And the best way to make sure that happens is by backing our teachers.

We heard from teachers that if they have more time to prepare lessons, plan, and mark work, their teaching will improve – that's why this Budget will invest \$779 million to recruit around 1900 teachers. That means more time for each teacher to prepare and focus on each student and their needs.

A further investment of \$173 million will help grow the supply of teachers.

This includes:

- \$104 million to upgrade school software so students, staff and administrators can connect better and faster
- \$33 million to expand employment-based teacher education degrees, in partnership with industry organisations
- \$14 million to expand the teacher financial incentives program and extend international teacher incentives and supports
- \$10 million to continue the Secondary Mathematics and Science Initiative including to train 50 mathematics and 25 science out-of-field teachers in priority curriculum areas.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

We want to set every student up for success. This Budget invests in the tools we need to give young Victorians a great education and an even brighter future.

Key initiatives include:

- \$131 million for extra literacy and numeracy support for students who need it most, including individualised support to help those in the middle years catch up
- \$37 million to continue the Student Excellence Program, supporting high-ability students to reach their full potential through more challenging study and opportunities
- \$24 million to support the English as an additional language program, giving students who don't speak English at home more support at school, so they don't fall behind
- \$21 million for the Active Schools program, which helps introduce a whole-school approach to physical activity
- \$17 million to extend the Primary Mathematics and Science Specialists initiative to train an extra 100 government primary school teachers as mathematics specialists.

IMPROVING SECONDARY PATHWAYS

We want our kids to be all they can.

With the new VCE Vocational Major and Victorian Pathways Certificate replacing VCAL, we're creating a single VCE certificate. This will make it easier for kids to get a range of skills – both academic and vocational.

It's the biggest transformation of Victoria's senior secondary system for decades – and this Budget invests \$277 million to deliver it.

Investments include:

- \$88 million to boost the teaching workforce and support schools to hire more vocational teachers and support staff, to help students access vocational and applied learning
- \$86 million to introduce an expanded offering of vocational and applied learning pathways and certificates to ensure that every senior secondary student has access to quality vocational and applied learning, no matter where they go to school
- \$69 million to expand the Head Start school-based apprenticeship and traineeship model to support students to complete their senior secondary certificate while progressing towards a qualification
- \$34 million to deliver professional learning for government school teachers to implement the new curriculum and support for non-school senior secondary providers to transition to the new framework.

**This Budget
invests in the
tools we need
to give young
Victorians a
great education**

MAJOR UPGRADES FOR CLASSROOMS AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS

By investing in our schools, we're investing in our kids – and kids with additional needs should have the same opportunities as every other student in Victoria.

That's why we're building and upgrading schools around the state, to ensure our kids have the learning environment they need to succeed.

We're helping make our schools even more inclusive for students with disability and additional needs, with a \$326 million investment to upgrade another 36 special schools, including 22 in suburbs across Melbourne.

That means since the Andrews Labor Government took office eight years ago, every single special school in Victoria has received funding for a major upgrade.

This Budget will build another 13 schools across our state, bringing the total number of new schools to 75 since 2019.

This Budget brings our total investment in improving and building new schools to more than \$12.8 billion over the past eight years.

This includes \$1.8 billion to build new schools and upgrade existing schools, to help meet the needs of local families.

This investment doesn't just deliver great schools – it's also helping support additional jobs in construction and related industries across the state.

Key school improvements include:

- \$581 million in metropolitan Melbourne to build 13 brand-new local schools and additional stages at four new and recently opened schools
- \$167 million to upgrade 22 metropolitan schools, in addition to upgrades at 22 metropolitan special schools
- Acquiring land for future new schools in the municipalities of Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Whittlesea and Wyndham
- \$42 million to improve learning conditions through the Minor Capital Works Fund.

Metro schools



NEW METRO SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

The following new schools (interim names listed below) will be constructed:

- Aintree Secondary School
- Aintree Specialist School
- Alexander Boulevard Primary School
- Black Forest East Primary School
- Brookfield Primary School
- Lockerbie Central Primary School
- Lollypop Creek Secondary School
- Lollypop Creek Specialist School
- Merrifield South Primary School
- Officer Brunt Road Primary School
- Riverdale Secondary School
- Tarneit North Primary School
- Truganina North Primary School

The following schools will build additional stages:

- Aintree Primary School
- Aitken Hill Primary School
- Gaayip-Yagila Primary School
- Truganina North Secondary School (Interim Name)

METRO SCHOOL UPGRADES

- Banyan Fields Primary School
- Bentleigh Secondary College
- Bittern Primary School
- Bundoora Secondary College
- Coldstream Primary School
- Diggers Rest Primary School
- Doreen Primary School
- Hawthorn West Primary School
- Kingston Heath Primary School
- Laburnum Primary School
- Merri Creek Primary School
- Moonee Ponds West Primary School
- Mordialloc Beach Primary School
- Mount Pleasant Road Nunawading Primary School
- Pascoe Vale Primary School
- Reservoir High School
- Sandringham East Primary School
- St Albans Heights Primary School
- The Patch Primary School
- Wantirna College
- Westgarth Primary School
- Yarra Primary School

METRO LAND ACQUISITION FOR NEW SCHOOLS

- Cardinia
- Casey
- Hume
- Melton
- Whittlesea
- Wyndham

METRO SPECIAL SCHOOL UPGRADES

- Ashwood School
- Aurora School
- Berendale School and Katandra School (merger)
- Broadmeadows Special Developmental School
- Burwood East Special Developmental School
- Croydon Special Developmental School
- Dandenong Valley Special Developmental School
- Eastern Ranges School
- Glenroy Specialist School
- Hume Valley School
- Jennings Street School
- Merriang Special Developmental School
- Montague Continuing Education Centre
- Mornington Special Developmental School
- Naranga School
- Northern School for Autism
- Officer Specialist School
- Peninsula Specialist College
- Springvale Park Special Developmental School
- Waratah Special Developmental School
- Warringa Park School – Warringa Crescent & Bethany Road Campuses
- Western Autistic School

SCHOOL UPGRADES: GROWTH FOR 2025

- Kambrya College
- Staughton College



New school – construction



School upgrade



School upgrade (growth for 2025)



Special school upgrade

Supporting jobs and growth in the suburbs

The Andrews Labor Government is building local, buying local and hiring local.

By supporting the businesses and workers in the suburbs who drive our economy every day, we're making sure more Victorians can build the future they deserve.

Since November 2014, our economy has generated 560 000 new jobs, including nearly 480 000 jobs in metropolitan Melbourne.

When the pandemic hit our shores, we responded with record investment to protect Victorian lives and livelihoods. We had a plan to create 400 000 jobs by 2025, with a target to deliver half of them by 2022.

Today, Victoria has already far exceeded our goal – with employment rising by 280 000 since September 2020. We are well on track to reach our target of 400 000 by 2025.

We now want to do even more to support local business, local economies and local communities – and in doing so, support thousands of jobs.

Since the pandemic began, the Andrews Labor Government has allocated more than \$13 billion of business support, keeping Victorians in jobs.

From building schools and hospitals, to roads and rail, we're getting on with the projects that Victoria needs – and putting Victorians to work on them.

Since 2014 our infrastructure agenda has supported, or will support, more than 191 000 jobs. This includes 14 000 jobs supported by new infrastructure projects announced in this Budget.

We're also investing in the services Victorians need, and the Victorians we need to deliver them.

Whether that's a job in our mental health workforce or supporting children and families, we're creating thousands of jobs for Victorians doing work that matters.

With this Budget, we're creating more opportunities than ever before.

We're investing in the industries that create jobs – and giving more Victorians a chance to achieve the things they want in life.

COST OF LIVING

We know that Victorians are paying too much for their energy bills – that's why we're stepping in to help families get the best deal. We're giving a once-off \$250 payment for all Victorian households that use the Victorian Energy Compare (VEC) website – the Victorian Government's independent price comparator website – to search for the cheapest electricity deal. Typically, households can save \$330 on energy bills annually by using the website and switching their retailer or plan – meaning that Victorians can save up to \$580 through this initiative.

This is on top of targeted programs to support Victorians with:

- Children starting three-year-old kinder receiving a Kinder Kit to help parents support their children's early learning
- Free 30-day public transport travel passes to students experiencing crisis to ensure they can continue to travel to school and support services
- Additional rebates to be provided by Solar Victoria to eligible households, including renters, to install battery storage systems and solar panels on their homes
- The VCAL reforms will save many Victorian families up to \$1 000 by cutting out-of-pocket costs, with students no longer having to pay for essential learning materials for VET studies.



SUPPORTING OUR GROWING SUBURBS

Our suburbs are growing every day.

We're building more schools and delivering more health services – but we know communities are more than these vital services alone.

That's why this Budget continues to invest in the suburbs, extending the \$50 million Growing Suburbs Fund.

The Fund will provide grants to build and upgrade community centres, arts and cultural spaces, parks and reserves, and sport and recreation facilities – so families in our suburbs get the local infrastructure they deserve.

This Budget also provides:

- \$46 million for grants to upgrade local sporting grounds in Melbourne, such as building change rooms for women's teams
- \$15 million for the Living Local Fund and local community grants to deliver projects such as new playgrounds, community gardens and upgrades to community centres across metropolitan Melbourne
- \$9.7 million to revitalise streetscapes and public spaces in Boronia, Broadmeadows, Frankston, Lilydale, Melton, Noble Park, Reservoir and Tarneit.

This Budget also delivers \$24 million to improve the public spaces that make our suburbs great places to live including:

- Upgrades to Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve and Jells Park sports fields
- Building a dog park at Gowanbrae
- Energy efficiency infrastructure upgrades at Albert Park Reserve
- Planning and improvements to community spaces and facilities at Farm Vigano, Patterson River Launching Way and the Patterson River National Water Sports Centre
- Works at Werribee Park Mansion.

GROWING JOBS IN THE SUBURBS

The Victorian Industry Fund prioritises areas that are strategically important to Victoria's economic recovery, generating new investment and jobs for Victorians. The \$120 million fund will also support the advancement of domestic manufacturing, in addition to other high priority sectors for the state. This includes:

- A new \$40 million Victorian Industry Investment Fund to provide grants to support rapidly growing businesses, including supply chains that underpin economic resilience
- A further \$40 million will be provided for targeted financial incentives to attract business investment into Victoria, in line with the Victorian Government's International Investment Strategy
- We're also delivering \$20 million for an equity investment pilot fund that will attract young, highly innovative companies looking to grow in areas that align with Victoria's priority strengths, such as medical technology, creating more jobs right across our state.

**This Budget
will invest an
additional
\$120 million to
attract businesses
to Victoria and
support Victorian
businesses to
expand**



ROCKING THE SUBURBS

Our creative arts and tourism industries are the heartbeat of Melbourne.

Our suburbs are home to theatres, galleries and band rooms that have always had the power to bring people together – and that’s never been more important to Victorians.

Local artists have done it tough, but we’re backing our arts and tourism industry so all Victorians can enjoy their extraordinary talent.

Support for local creative industries

We’re working with local government to support jobs in the arts while making our suburbs more vibrant places to live. This Budget invests \$6 million to create affordable creative spaces for artists and turn community spaces into hubs for creativity.

The Go West Festivals Fund will commission stage shows to take the arts sector in our western suburbs to a whole new level, supporting jobs for artists from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

These investments will ensure Victoria continues to grow some of the best talent in the world and that Victorians continue to enjoy their ideas, creativity and performances.

The arts venues in our suburbs have a special place in the hearts of local communities. Whether you’re watching a local production or a touring band, every venue has its own identity, shaped by the Victorians who bring these places to life every day.

With this Budget, we’re ensuring that these local institutions can be enjoyed for generations to come. Over \$11 million of grants will fund repairs, restoration and planning at some of the best theatres and galleries in Melbourne, while creating local jobs in the construction and trades sector.

This includes grants for Theatre Works and the National Theatre in St Kilda and planning for the Tarneit Performing Arts Centre, Footscray Community Arts Centre, and the Dandenong Arts Precinct.

A further \$3 million in funding will also help deliver local community events across Greater Melbourne. This will bring communities in our suburbs together while supporting local business and jobs.

Getting Victorians home sooner and safer

We're getting on with delivering the projects that create jobs and make life easier for Victorians.

We're slashing congestion by removing level crossings, adding more train services, building the Metro Tunnel and connecting our suburbs with the Suburban Rail Loop.

And while we're delivering those big projects, we're upgrading our roads and public transport routes, too.

SUBURBAN ROADS

Whether it's the work commute or the school drop off, Victorians in our suburbs rely on our roads every day.

With this Budget, we're delivering a significant new upgrade for the northern suburbs by investing \$213 million for the first stage of the Mickleham Road upgrade.

The project will deliver bus priority lanes at intersections, to help cut travel times for every commuter.

Keeping Victorians in our suburbs safe on our roads means investing in the essential and routine maintenance that keeps our roads reliable.

Which is why the Andrews Labor Government is spending \$780 million in 2022/23 on road maintenance works across the metropolitan and regional road network.

We're also investing \$126 million in road upgrades across metropolitan Melbourne, including intersection upgrades to install traffic lights, planning and development work, and other road improvements.

This includes:

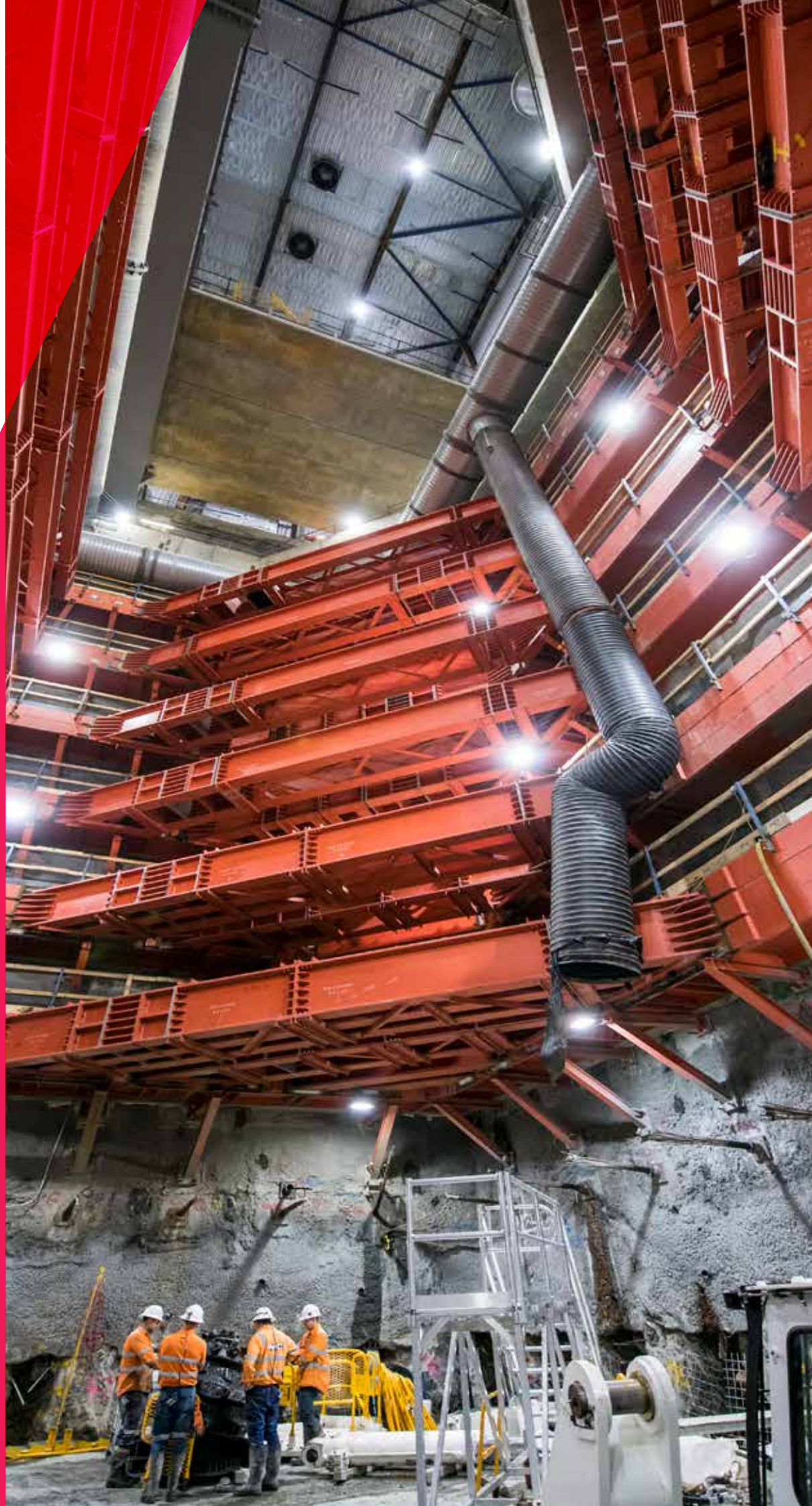
- New traffic lights at Derrimut-Hopkins Road and Boundary Road in Tarneit, Burwood Highway and McMahons Road in Ferntree Gully, and South Gippsland Highway and Clyde-Five Ways Road in Clyde
- Canterbury Road improvements from Waterloo Street to Sunset Drive in Heathmont
- Upgraded signals at McIntyre Road and Phoenix Street in Sunshine North
- Work to support the Melton Highway duplication
- Ryan Road sealing and improving access and connection to public transport in Pakenham East.

SWITCHING ON THE BIG BUILD

We're investing \$383 million to operate new transport infrastructure delivered as part of the Big Build, including level crossing removals, rail extensions, train station upgrades and road upgrades.

Train timetable service upgrades are being introduced across both metropolitan and regional rail networks following the completion of major projects including the Cranbourne Line Upgrade, Wyndham Vale corridor upgrades, and the Pakenham level crossing removals.

This funding also includes preparing for day one of the Metro Tunnel, including recruitment and training of train drivers and other critical staff, maintenance of new assets and the development of wayfinding and customer information.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT THAT WORKS FOR THE SUBURBS

Since 2014, we have invested \$47 billion to keep our metropolitan public transport moving – and with this Budget, we'll keep building a public transport system that Victorians in our suburbs can rely on.

Our Government is investing a further \$265 million to upgrade trams and purchase new trains, built right here in Victoria, and supporting hundreds of jobs in local manufacturing.

This Budget will deliver improved and more accessible bus services for communities right around Victoria, including:

- Service changes and operating funding for the Bulleen Park and Ride which will open in 2022 as part of the North East Link Busway
- A first phase roll-out of wheelchair restraint systems on metropolitan buses
- Network changes to deliver Flexiride services in Greensborough and St Helena
- Network changes in Heatherton to complement Suburban Rail Loop works
- A high-frequency weekday shuttle bus between the Donnybrook and Craigieburn Stations as well as upgrades to the Craigieburn Station Bus Interchange
- New services for communities in Sunbury and Diggers Rest
- Expansion of bus routes in Cranbourne West and Narre Warren
- Improvements to bus routes and services between Box Hill, Oakleigh and Southland
- Development funding for the Footscray Station Bus Interchange
- Accessibility and amenity upgrades at up to 80 bus stops across the state
- New and uplifted school services across Victoria targeted towards growth areas.

Train stations will also be upgraded along the Dandenong and Mernda lines as well as Glen Waverley and Jacana, with investment to improve signage, shelters, boarding ramps and bicycle facilities.

LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROGRAM

By 2025, the Andrews Labor Government will have removed 85 dangerous and congested level crossings – getting rid of boom gates that have slowed down Victorians for decades.

The 10 most recent sites announced in July last year will create jobs for 2 100 people and another 1 900 workers will support the manufacturing supply chain. The 10 new sites are:

- Warrigal Road, Mentone
- Parkers Road, Parkdale
- Keon Parade, Keon Park
- Bedford Road, Ringwood
- Dublin Road, Ringwood East
- Coolstore Road, Croydon
- Webb Street, Narre Warren
- Station Street, Beaconsfield
- Brunt Road, Beaconsfield
- Calder Park Drive, Calder Park.

We're also building five new stations at:

- Croydon
- Keon Park
- Narre Warren
- Parkdale
- Ringwood East.



UPGRADING CYCLING AND WALKING FACILITIES

This Budget helps Victorians to jump on a bike and get active in their suburbs, with initiatives such as:

- Development funding for upgraded cycling facilities along the Capital City Trail and Merri Creek Trail
- Improved bicycle parking facilities at train stations around the state
- New pedestrian infrastructure at Elgar Road, Mont Albert; Gaffney Street, Pascoe Vale; and East Boundary Road, Bentleigh East
- Delivery and construction of a new shared-use path between Greensborough and Montmorency.

We're slashing congestion by removing level crossings, adding more train services, building the Metro Tunnel and connecting our suburbs with the Suburban Rail Loop

A fairer Victoria

Every Victorian deserves a fair go.

That's why it's so important we keep investing in the opportunities that support a fairer and more equal future for every Victorian.

Together, we're building a fairer, stronger, more equal Victoria with this Budget.

EQUALITY

Our Government always has, and always will back equality, so this Budget will provide:

- \$7.4 million to deliver annual statewide events that give all Victorians the opportunity to celebrate LGBTIQ+ communities. This includes funding for another four years of the Melbourne Pride festival
- \$7.3 million to strengthen the health, wellbeing and social and economic outcomes of LGBTIQ+ Victorians. And now that the Victorian Pride Centre is fully operational, we're continuing to invest in the services and programs that it supports, including a specialist LGBTIQ+ legal service and the Trans and Gender Diverse Community Health Program. These services will better support LGBTIQ+ Victorians with specialists care and advice from workers and professionals who understand their community and their needs.

DISABILITY

To build a fairer state, we need to ensure that every Victorian has the ability and independence to find a job and access the services that support their success.

An investment of \$15 million in the State Disability Plan will help make our community and facilities more inclusive and accessible for everyone.

This includes \$2.5 million in grants for local communities to improve accessibility at community centres and spaces in our suburbs.

FIRST PEOPLES

The Andrews Labor Government has always understood the importance of supporting Aboriginal communities, their rich history and the role they play in making Victoria what it is today.

We're continuing to support our nation-leading treaty process with an investment of \$151 million.

Other initiatives include:

- \$5.8 million for educational programs in schools that boost understanding of self-determination for Victorian Aboriginal communities
- \$2.8 million for a Certificate IV in Teaching a First Nation's Language to help increase the number of Aboriginal language teachers in Victorian classrooms
- \$947 000 to deliver Aboriginal community events that foster greater public awareness of Victorian Aboriginal culture and history.



COMMUNITIES

Better living

Every Victorian deserves to live, work and raise a family in a great community. And community sport plays an important part in the lives of so many families and communities.

It brings people together, gets young people active and healthy – and most importantly, it's lots of fun.

This Budget provides another \$88 million for local sport and recreation, including a Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, Female Friendly Facilities Fund, and the Country Football and Netball Program.

The Local Sports Infrastructure Fund is a competitive grant program that provides funding for indoor stadiums, aquatic facilities, lighting, community facilities and planning

- The Female Friendly Facilities Fund provides grant funding to make infrastructure more female friendly and more family orientated
- The Country Football and Netball Program provides funding to upgrade and develop football and netball facilities in rural, regional and outer metropolitan locations.

Celebrating our diversity

Victoria is home to many communities and faiths.

Each of which hold their own special customs, traditions and cultures – and Victoria is all the better off for it.

That's why this Budget invests in our multicultural communities, to celebrate what makes our state great and promote better opportunities for every community. This includes:

- \$6.7 million including legal support for asylum seekers and temporary visa holders so they can get the assistance they need as they manage their settlement in Victoria
- \$6.4 million to build and upgrade community facilities and places of worship, through projects such as new car parks, kitchens and meeting spaces
- \$4.4 million to support young members of Victoria's African communities with targeted education support programs like homework clubs and community liaison officers in schools to support families with their child's learning
- \$3.7 million to support multicultural communities with tailored and translated messaging and programs to support COVIDSafe behaviours, such as vaccine uptake and testing
- \$1.1 million to give multicultural communities the chance to celebrate the holidays, festivals and events that are most important to them – and their loved ones.

Helping young Victorians

When we invest in young people – we invest in Victoria's future. So we're giving every young Victorian the best opportunities and the best chance to succeed.

- \$1.8 million to support initiatives that help young people at risk of disengagement. This includes the Empower Youth program, which provides early intervention and case management to support vulnerable young Victorians

- \$1.3 million to subsidise 2 000 young people to get the accreditation they need to get jobs in the sports and recreation sector, such as swimming instructors
- \$581 000 to strengthen the Koorie Youth Council partnership with government in the design and delivery of initiatives affecting Aboriginal young people, consistent with Victoria's commitment to Aboriginal self-determination.

PROTECTING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTS

Our state's environment underpins our health and prosperity.

In this Budget, the Andrews Labor Government will keep protecting our environment. We're providing \$57 million in projects that support more efficient use of our water supply, including investment in a master plan for Kooyongkoot (Gardiner's Creek) to improve creek health and local amenity.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Andrews Labor Government will deliver more police with more resources and more of the fit-for-purpose modern stations they need to keep protecting Victorians.

This Budget delivers an additional 502 police and 50 Protective Services Officers (PSOs) over the next two years to meet the growing needs of the state, building on the 3 135 new police officers already on our streets thanks to the Andrews Labor Government's record funding for Victoria Police.

Funding of \$342 million is provided for additional police and PSOs to meet Victoria's policing requirements over the next two years while we assess our state's changed needs post-pandemic.

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format please email information@dtf.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 9651 5111.

This document is also available in PDF and Word format at dtf.vic.gov.au

Victorian Budget

2022/23

Suburban

budget.vic.gov.au



Treasury
and Finance