

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA



Ordinary Meeting of Council

To be held at the

Civic Centre

511 Burwood Highway

Wantirna South

On

Monday 23 September 2019 at 7:00 pm

13 Supplementary Items

13.1 Community Investment Plan

SUMMARY: Acting Manager Communications (Gerard Scholten)

The Knox Community Investment Plan outlines Council's advocacy priorities to our political leaders and the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Community Investment Plan as at Attachment 1.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Knox Community Investment Plan builds on Council's successful advocacy by outlining its priorities in the 2020-21 financial year and beyond.

The Community Investment Plan aligns with the Knox Advocacy Framework endorsed by Council in June 2019.

2. DISCUSSION

Advocacy, in the local government context, is an activity or series of activities designed to obtain public and/or government support (usually funding) for services, programs and infrastructure which are beyond the remit of Council to fund. This is particularly important in the financially constrained rate capping environment.

The objective of the Community Investment Plan is to influence decision makers and enhance community support and confidence in Council.

Council is advocating to the Victorian Government for key infrastructure projects, policy reform and co-funding for 19 areas across 6 key themes:

- Transport Solutions
- Enhancing Our Natural Environment
- Enhancing Our Built Environment
- Sport and Leisure Participation
- Community Wellbeing
- Supporting Local Employment

3. CONSULTATION

Councillors and Council officers have been consulted regarding the development of the Community Investment Plan.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY ISSUES

The Community Investment Plan supports:

- Achievement of Goal 1 of the Council and Community Plan 2017-2021 “We value our natural environment” by mobilising the community to support Government policies and initiatives which protect and enhance Knox’ natural environment.

5. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The Community Investment Plan supports:

- Connecting the community and businesses to support a healthy and vibrant local economy and marketing the community as an attractive destination to live, work, play and invest.
- Council’s advocacy activities designed to secure support and funding for local infrastructure projects.
- Connect Knox residents with employment opportunities

6. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Community Investment Plan supports:

- Enhancing the community’s awareness of Council services and role supporting disadvantaged people and groups within the community.
- Council’s activities designed to mobilise the community and other community service groups or policy change to support a broad range of social issues.

7. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

Goal 2 - We have housing to meet our changing needs

Strategy 2.3 - Support the delivery of a range of housing that addresses housing and living affordability needs

Goal 3 - We can move around easily

Strategy 3.1 - Enable improved transport choices supported by integrated and sustainable transport systems and infrastructure

Strategy 3.2 - Improve bike and footpath connectivity, including identifying gaps between existing bike routes, footpaths and key places

Goal 4 - We are safe and secure

Strategy 4.1 - Encourage and support the community to take responsibility for their own safety, and the safety of others

Goal 5 - We have a strong regional economy, local employment and learning opportunities

Strategy 5.1 - Attract new investment to Knox and support the development of existing local businesses, with particular focus on Advanced Manufacturing, Health, Ageing and Business Service sectors

Strategy 5.3 - Promote and improve infrastructure and technology within the municipality and enhance strategic employment places for business

Goal 6 - We are healthy, happy and well

Strategy 6.2 - Support the community to enable positive physical and mental health

Goal 8 - We have confidence in decision making

Strategy 8.1 - Build, strengthen and promote good governance practices across government and community organisations

Strategy 8.2 - Enable the community to participate in a wide range of engagement activities

8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Under section 80c of the Local Government Act 1989 officers providing advice to Council must disclose any interests, including the type of interest.

Officer Responsible – (Michael Fromberg, Manager Corporate Services) - In providing this advice as the Officer Responsible, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

Author – (Gerard Scholten, Acting Manager Communications and Customer Service) - In providing this advice as the Author, I have no disclosable interests in this report.

9. CONCLUSION

The Community Investment Plan builds on Council’s strong advocacy efforts by clearly outlining advocacy priorities to improve the liveability of Knox by securing outcomes for the community beyond the sole remit of Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

There are no items of a confidential nature in this report.

Report Prepared By: Acting Manager Communications, Gerard Scholten

Report Authorised By: Director, Corporate Services, Michael Fromberg

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Knox City Council Community Investment Plan [13.1.1 - 44 pages]



Community Investment Plan





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Mayor's Message

Knox is a great place to live, work and learn but continued hard work and collaboration between Council and the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments is needed to maintain our status as one of Melbourne's most liveable regions.

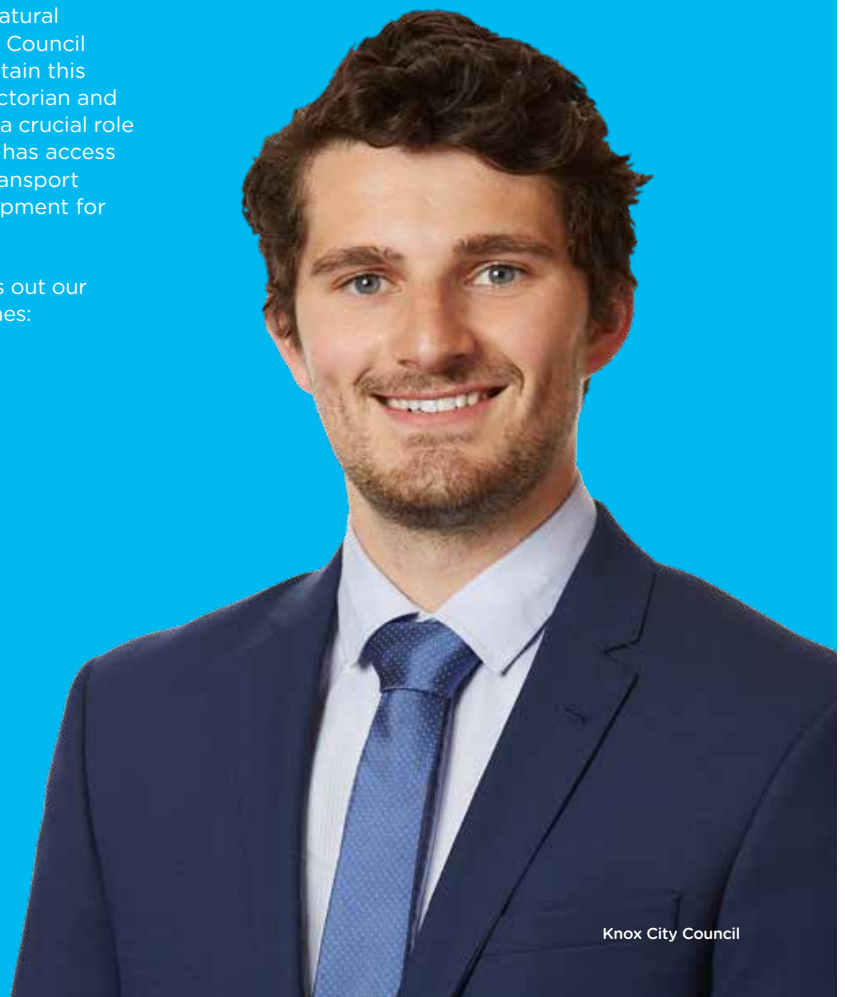
Nestled at the foot of the Dandenong Ranges, Knox offers a unique balance between urban living with access to employment, transport and services and access to the jewel in Melbourne's natural heritage crown, the Dandenong Ranges. Council has worked with the community to maintain this balance, but we can't do it alone. The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments both have a crucial role to play in ensuring the Knox community has access to jobs, sport and leisure facilities and transport links while balancing appropriate development for our growing community.

The 2019 Community Investment Plan lays out our community's priorities under six key themes:

1. Transport Solutions
2. Enhancing Our Natural Environment
3. Enhancing Our Built Environment
4. Sport and Leisure Participation
5. Community Wellbeing
6. Supporting Local Employment

Knox is one of the most car dependent communities in Melbourne with more than three quarters of its working population leaving the municipality for work. Apprentices and later-year professionals alike, all struggle to move around the City due to a lack of public transport, impacting our commercial growth opportunities. In light of this, Council and the community are seeking commitments to key road, rail and bus projects.

Preserving our natural environment in one of the world's fastest growing regions has never been more important. Support from the Victorian Government for Council's Lewis Park Masterplan and the restoration of Blind Creek is needed to protect Knox's green heart for generations to come.



The people of Knox love their sport and are participating in organised activities at unprecedented levels. Women and girls, in particular, are embracing opportunities to play football, soccer, netball and cricket but our ageing facilities are struggling to keep up with demand.

Fairpark Reserve Pavilion is a prime example of game changing sporting infrastructure which, with State Government investment, will allow Council to create a state of the art facility for a variety of sporting and community groups.

Until now, access to elite sport could only be found by travelling outside the municipality. The Knox Regional Netball Centre is the largest netball centre in this state, and serves as a central meeting place for the netball community. Approximately 6,000 people visit the centre each week but this can rise to 10,000 during competition finals and special events. Growth in participation in netball is being limited by the number of indoor courts at the facility and Council is seeking support to build an additional two indoor courts.

Council's innovative Adaptable Building program has proven to be a cost effective, adaptable solution to the exponential growth of women and girls participation in sport. Government support is sought to continue this program into the future to ensure every one is able to participate in sport.

While many within the Knox Community are thriving, there are still families who are struggling to find support for stable housing, gambling addiction and homelessness. Council is seeking help from State and Commonwealth Governments to meet the growing demand for affordable housing in our suburbs, with an estimated shortfall of almost 500 homes.

Leadership is required to limit the impact of gambling addictions and specifically pokies, which see Knox residents lose a staggering \$200,000 every day. Similarly, support for an improved mental health system is required and Council looks forward to the Victorian Government implementing and funding recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Council, on behalf of our community, has a strong desire to continue to deliver vital services and infrastructure in partnership with the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. We share an unwavering commitment to building a better community and we look forward to cementing that relationship in 2020.

Councillor Jake Keogh
Mayor, Knox City Council

—

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments both have a crucial role to play in ensuring Knox retains its standard of living, through access to jobs, sport and leisure facilities and transport links while balancing appropriate development which will support our growing community.

Changes across our community

SPORT



Knox Basketball Incorporated is the **largest basketball association** in the southern hemisphere.

50% increase in female participation in Australian basketball is expected by 2020.



Netball registrations between 2017 and 2018 grew by **5.8%**.

9,400+ females currently play organised sport in Knox.

16 → 103

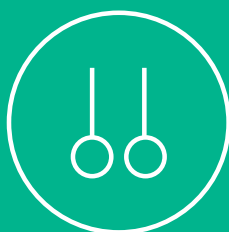
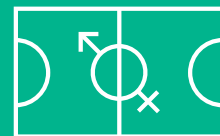
Forecast increase in number of female football and soccer teams in Knox from **16** in 2016 to **103** by 2021.

Soccer players in Victoria increased by **20%** in two years to 2016.



45% increase in participation expected for Knox Regional Football Centre in next five years.

Football Federation of Victoria aiming for **50/50** female to male participation by 2023.



Gymnastics participation in Victoria expected to **double** in next **10 years**.



Women and girls in cricket increased by **68.4%** in 2017-18. Participation in cricket grew by **16.8%**.



Overall, AFL registrations increased by **21.3%** in 2017-18.



Women and girls AFL registration up by **8.4%** in 2017-18. In 2018, female registrations were **18.6%** of total AFL registrations.

TRANSPORT



Many travel within and through Knox so better public transport is vital for their needs.

Workers cannot easily get to their jobs and **95,000+** students find it harder to reach courses because of transport gaps in the Eastern corridor.



FINANCIAL STRESS, POVERTY

An estimated **14,300** Knox residents live in poverty. There are people living in every suburb of Knox that do not have enough available income⁴ to afford life's necessities. There are people in every suburb of Knox living below the poverty line of **\$353.45 per week** (age and household size adjusted), after housing costs.

In 2016, Knox's median family income of **\$1820 per week** dropped below the metropolitan figure (\$1826 per week) for the first time in 20 years. Median personal income of **\$664 per week** also slipped below Melbourne's figure of **\$673** for the first time in two decades.⁵

HOMELESSNESS

On Census night in 2016, an estimated **365** people were homeless in Knox. This is a **48% increase** since 2011 and represents the largest number of homeless people in Melbourne's outer East.³



SOCIAL HOUSING

Currently (2018) there is a shortfall of **420** social housing dwellings in Knox. The deficit will grow to **860** dwellings by 2036 in the absence of any intervention to increase the supply of social and affordable housing. It's estimated that over **40 new** social housing dwellings will be needed each year to meet Knox's current and future low cost housing needs by 2036.²



MENTAL HEALTH

Reported prevalence of mental and behavioural conditions and high psychological distress levels in Knox have increased over the last decade. **One in eight** residents in Knox (about 19,000 people in 2011/12) had a mental and behavioural condition⁷; and **one in nine** adults (about 14,000 adults in 2014/15), suffered from high psychological distress, a key risk factor for depression and anxiety disorders.⁸

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence rates remain too high. Knox had the highest rate of family violence of suburbs in Melbourne's outer east over the five years to 2017-18 (averaging **1,018** reported incidents per 100,000 residents compared with 936/100,000 in Maroondah and 970 in Yarra Ranges).⁶

² Source: KCC 'Minimum supply of social housing, Knox (2016-2036)

³ Source: Knox, Yarra Ranges, Maroondah, Whitehorse, Manningham

⁴ After housing costs - rent, mortgage payments, rates - are taken into account.

⁵ Source: ABS Census, 2016

⁶ Source: Crime Statistics Agency

⁷ Includes anxiety, depression, substance use disorders

⁸ Source: Source; PHIDU modelled estimates based on ABS National Health Survey



Sport & leisure participation



More than ever, Knox needs strong investment in community sport infrastructure.

The delivery of combined health, social, and economic benefits cannot be achieved without a commitment to build and renew multipurpose facilities and sports precincts. The broad social, health and economic benefits that stem from building sport infrastructure cannot be replicated by participation alone. To meet the intergenerational needs of the community now and into the future, we need to invest now.

Thousands of women and girls want to compete in sport within Knox, but this incredible demand continues

to outstrip facility capacity. Over 900 girls alone within Knox want to compete in Gymnastics. Growth in Football, Cricket and Netball has also resulted in substantial waiting lists for young people wanting to enter many other sports. They often face inflexible game schedules due to lack of available facilities.

Importantly, community members do not need to be active sport participants to derive value and benefit from community sport infrastructure. These facilities draw communities together by providing a gathering place for a broad range of events, celebrations and meetings.

Fairpark multi-purpose community facility

Many of the sports facilities within Knox now fall short of community expectations, with outdated sports infrastructure having a very real effect on current and future sporting resources. Fairpark Reserve is a prime example of this.

Fairpark Football Club, Fairpark Netball Club and Johnson Cricket Club have outgrown the existing dated facilities and investment is required to enable them to continue to grow. Our Fairpark Reserve proposal is also an exciting intergenerational opportunity with U3A joining our clubs as a tenant in the new facility. U3A currently operate from a dated and small facility within the Reserve. In a new facility they will be able to significantly increase the number of classes offered, for which there is strong demand. Grassroots sport is vital in fostering healthy, active communities and these upgrades will provide a better experience for all local sportspeople. The proposed Fairpark facility will host football, cricket and netball clubs, as well as Knox U3A.

WHAT WE NEED

Council is seeking a \$2m contribution from the State Government. Council will match this funding.



Project status

The project is in the detailed planning phase. Council gratefully acknowledges a \$3m commitment from the Federal Government.

Grassroots sport is vital in fostering healthy, active communities and these upgrades will provide a better experience for all local sportspeople.

Adaptable facilities

More than 9,400 women and girls currently participate in organised sport within Knox. It's only going to grow, with an expected jump in female football and soccer teams from 16 in 2016 to 103 in 2021.

To help mitigate the costs of upgrading all facilities, Council is responding to the demand through an innovative 'Modular Buildings Program'. It utilises adaptable designs to create cost-effective, flexible spaces on local sporting grounds. Modular designs are an innovative solution to creating more female-friendly change rooms and amenities, and provide larger social spaces, improved access, natural lighting, and more storage. Modular buildings are cost effective, versatile and easily reproducible.

With a diverse and growing range of sporting interests within the community, Knox requires the development of multi-purpose facilities for all residents, particularly its youth and female constituents.

Modular buildings can be easily constructed and cover a wide range of applications. These versatile structures will be used across the municipality, providing a cost-effective solution to address the needs of the community, and importantly, break down barriers to participation in sport, especially for women and girls. Modular Buildings are intended at the following sites:



- GILBERT PARK (full pavilion) Knoxfield
- KINGS PARK (secondary changerooms) Upper Ferntree Gully
- PARKRIDGE RESERVE (secondary changerooms) Rowville
- EGAN LEE RESERVE (secondary changerooms) Knoxfield
- MILPERA PAVILION (full pavilion) Wantirna
- LEWIS PARK PAVILION (secondary changerooms) Wantirna South

TOTAL INDICATIVE COSTING - \$7.8m

“Council’s Modular Facilities at Batterham Reserve and Knox Gardens Reserve has been a game changer for our clubs.

It’s made it easier for us to accommodate the increasing number of women and girls coming to the game to ensure they don’t miss out.

The program means we can provide high quality facilities with little delay and lower cost.

Thanks to the new modular facilities we were able to host the 2019 Boys and Girls Finals, which brought big crowds and an amazing atmosphere which the boys and girls will never forget.”

Troy Swainston,
Eastern Football League CEO



Community benefits

Inclusion

Council's trial of modular (adaptable) building spaces is all about providing the best possible facilities for everyone to use—no matter what their ability, age or gender.

Health and wellbeing

The buildings aim to give people the best chance to participate in a sport, helping them to be more productive, healthier and happier.

Jobs

Council estimates the construction of modular buildings will create 20-30 jobs over the three years of the initial program and generate significantly more if a wider regional rollout gets the green light.

More than 9,400 women and girls currently participate in organised sport within Knox.

Project status

Two modular buildings were recently completed for Batterham Reserve and Knox Gardens, at a cost of \$1.36m. Two more modular buildings are set for delivery in October 2019 for Colchester Reserve and Wally Tew Reserve at cost of approximately \$2.6m. These buildings have expanded scopes with Colchester Reserve being delivered with four changeroom facilities and Wally Tew including a public toilet module for community use.

The estimated cost of our 2019-20 program is \$2.65m for modular facilities at Seebeck Reserve in Rowville and Lakesfield Reserve in Lysterfield. An additional \$1.7m will be required for further developments in 2020-21.



WHAT WE NEED

Funding support from State and Federal governments to speed up the delivery of projects critical to meeting local fast-growing sporting demands, especially to support increasing female participation.

Netball facilities



Netball is the most popular female team sport across Australia, with the eastern region of Melbourne following a similar trend. Based on population estimates, Melbourne's east is likely to generate over 1800 new netball players in the coming years.

Despite boasting the State's largest netball facility, the Knox Regional Netball Centre needs to expand further if it is to continue to meet demand. Having only two indoor courts alongside 18 outdoor surfaces is a challenging situation in light of participation numbers climbing across the region. Rapid interest and growth in sport require adaptability. Our facilities cannot currently accommodate community needs.

Indoor courts and opportunities for additional peak-time use are limited, with availability restricted to Wednesday and Thursday evenings after 10pm only.

We need more high-quality facilities to meet community expectation.

The Draft Knox Regional Netball Feasibility Study recommends the expansion and redevelopment of the Knox Regional Netball Centre from two to four indoor courts. The new facilities will not only meet the current and future needs of netball locally but help service other sports as well as local schools.

WHAT WE NEED

Council is seeking a \$2m contribution from the State Government. Council will match this funding.

High use

- 6,000 people visit Knox Regional Netball Centre per week; reached in excess of 10,000 people during finals and special events
- used for 232 hours of competition per week (144 court-hours outdoor and 88 court-hours indoor)

Community organisation growth

- major stakeholder of Knox Regional Netball Centre is Mountain District Netball Association—one of the largest netball associations in the eastern suburbs. Currently at 2,000 members, the Association is continuing to grow, attracting new members

Young players

- Netball Victoria indicated participation in local region is stronger than in most other regions
- outdoor courts accommodate approximately 5,000 primary school students each year who participate in interschool sport competitions
- will enable the Centre to accommodate the expansion of the Eastern Football League's Netball Competition which has 581 players (up 17% from the previous season).

Project status

The project is at detailed planning stage. We gratefully acknowledge the Federal Government contribution of \$4m.



Transport solutions



Knox is a thriving and growing community, home to over 165,000 residents and provides employment for more than 67,000 people.

Incorporating the Scoresby-Rowville-Knoxfield employment hub and the southern part of the Bayswater Business Precinct, Knox is recognised as a location for significant industrial activity servicing Melbourne's east.

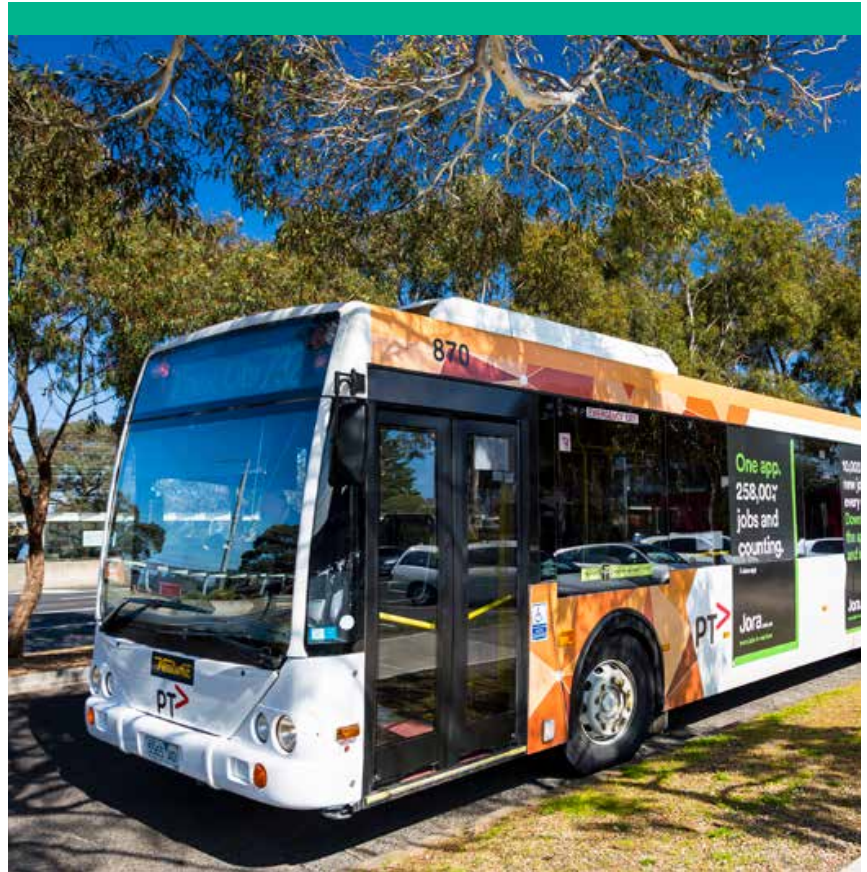
Workers in Knox require a series of transport strategies to keep our city connected, liveable and prosperous into the future. These strategies set the vision for our city, supporting economic, social and environmental outcomes for current and future generations to come.

Public transport

Public transport is essential to travel in and around Knox. As the area continues to grow, Knox will need to accommodate more people, jobs and resources within its community.

Commuters in Knox and throughout Melbourne's east are overly reliant on cars due to limited public transport options within the area. We have an opportunity to support economic growth and champion the area to become an employer of choice.

Our wish is to deliver a next generation public transport system for Knox that connects more people with jobs, education, health, business, retail and entertainment precinct, and help the Victorian Government achieve its aim of establishing 20-minute neighbourhoods. This includes encouraging people to consider travel modes other than the private vehicle such as walking, cycling and public transport use.



Community benefits

Economic

Knox and neighbouring Monash make up an industry, education and retail powerhouse that generates over \$32.2b for the State and national economies, with strong aspirations for future growth. A priority transport system in Knox will stimulate economic growth in these sectors.

Jobs

Employment hubs like Bayswater Business Precinct, Scoresby-Rowville-Knoxfield Employment Hub - incorporating Caribbean Park, Knox Central, Wantirna Health Precinct, Monash Employment Cluster and Dandenong South - will be stimulated by more effective public transport.

Education

Students at Monash, Deakin and Swinburne University (Wantirna campus), as well as TAFE colleges generate strong demand for an efficient transport commute. Developing more networks that directly connect these precincts better serve Melbourne's outer eastern region.

LOCAL INSIGHT



Operating from the east of Melbourne's industrial heartland, Bayswater, Catten Industries is an Australian-owned business specialising in precision sheet metal manufacturing.

Established in 1994, this thriving family business is owned and operated by Ian and Latinka Cubitt. Over the years they have grown their business substantially and currently employ over 30 staff at their Jersey Road factory.

Managing Director, Ian Cubitt has observed that the lack of public transport options in the area has made work travel unviable for many of his employees commuting to work. "A light rail connection between Dandenong and Bayswater would be highly beneficial to the area. This support would provide better access for our business, as well as help all people across Melbourne travel to the area more efficiently."

Cubitt continues to share the view that the limited public transport in the area directly impacts business productivity, and creates significant challenges for all workers, in particular young apprentices who are starting out in their careers. "It puts them offside. They're trying to do the right thing, but they just can't get to work on time. It's not their fault. Most have cars, but some don't. For those that don't have options, they can't get to work - we just don't have the public transport support to get them to work and this needs to change."

"A light rail connection between Dandenong and Bayswater would be highly beneficial to the area."



Rowville Rail



WHAT WE NEED

The State Government to deliver a fast, reliable and frequent rail line along Wellington Road to Rowville in one stage.

Rowville rail will benefit Knox residents and neighbouring municipalities by providing direct access to a rail network through a transport corridor that extends from Huntingdale through to Rowville.

Delivering a Rowville rail solution will supply much needed infrastructure to the region. In combination with the Knox tram project, terminating at the Upper Ferntree Gully train station (total distance: 13 kms), Rowville rail will supply much-needed infrastructure, support labour growth, and provide transit options for residents travelling through a dedicated east-west public transport corridor in Melbourne's east.

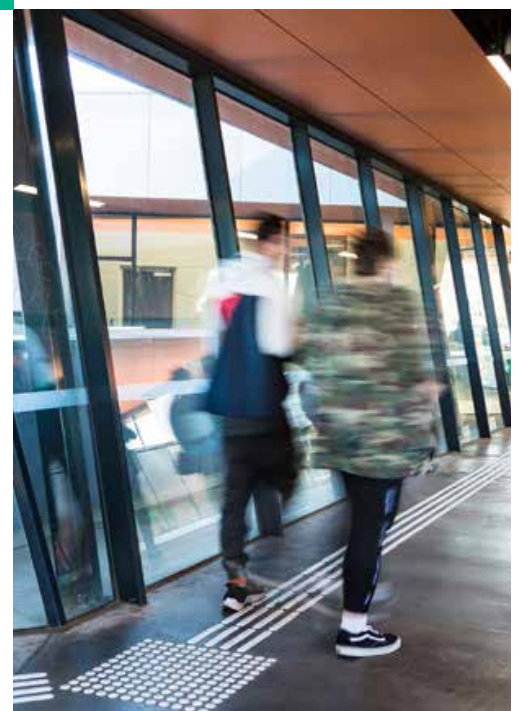
Investing in Rowville rail will provide access to high speed, frequent and reliable public transport network; boost the economic and social prosperity of the area, and ease road congestion.

Community benefits

Knox City Council supports the provision of a modern rail service for residents. Council's economic impact study (undertaken by SGS Economics and Planning) estimated that the Rowville rail line could support up to 5,600 jobs in Victoria during its construction; and an additional annual output (direct and value-added) from the Victorian economy of about \$970 million by 2046.

Project status

We gratefully acknowledge the State Government's \$3m commitment towards dedicated planning works for Rowville Rail, and the Federal Government for its \$475m funding commitment to establish a rail link to Rowville.



Knox Tram

Lack of connectivity between employment zones is leading to an over-reliance on cars as the primary mode of transportation within Knox.

Access to employment and education is challenging for those without a car, particularly young people seeking their first employment opportunity or apprenticeship, forcing many to leave the municipality. A direct tram service to Knox Central, Swinburne University (Wantirna South campus), the Ferntree Gully and Knoxfield employment precinct and connection to the Suburban Rail Loop will help ease this pressure. The Number 75 tram terminates at Vermont South, limiting access for residents in Knox. Although the Knox transit link was provided as a shuttle between Knox Central and Vermont South, the bus and tram services are not well scheduled, with people required to interchange again on to another service if they wish to travel further.

New generation public transport systems support equity, access and inclusion, residential and economic growth. A tram solution will unlock opportunities for the whole community. Apprentices will be able to access job opportunities in the region, and businesses will have better access to local workers. The tram extension will extend from the existing terminus at Vermont South and service the wider Knox community before connecting with the heavy rail line at Upper Ferntree Gully. Delivery of the proposed suburban rail loop to Deakin University will provide a great opportunity to directly link Knox residents with the wider public transport system when connected with the extension of Tram Route 75.

An extension of the Knox tram would include:

- priority signalling at key intersections using Intelligent Transport Systems
- effective interchanges with rail and existing SmartBus services.
- quality station/stop infrastructure along the route
- reinforcement of Burwood Hwy as an economic growth corridor.

Community benefits

The Burwood Hwy corridor is experiencing unprecedented growth. The extension of Tram Route 75, will provide economic certainty to the private sector. With north-south links such as the proposed suburban rail loop and SmartBus solutions on both Springvale and Stud Rd, it is an opportunity to complete the east-west connections. Extending the 75-route tram into Knox will be a catalyst for high growth projects such as the Knox Central activity centre, the Wantirna Health Precinct and boost continued investment in the Bayswater Business Precinct.



WHAT WE NEED

For the State Government to undertake a feasibility study to evaluate an extension of Tram Route 75 to Knox. The study required to progress the evaluation of route options and the cost to deliver the project, incorporating connection with the Suburban Rail Loop.



Enhanced bus connections

Knox is currently serviced by 21 bus services, including two night buses.

Based on a recent survey completed by around the Bayswater Business Precinct and Caribbean Business Park, there is a strong desire to use public transport however there are either no services available or the service is infrequent and unreliable. The community requires more flexible, alternative forms of transport to keep up with

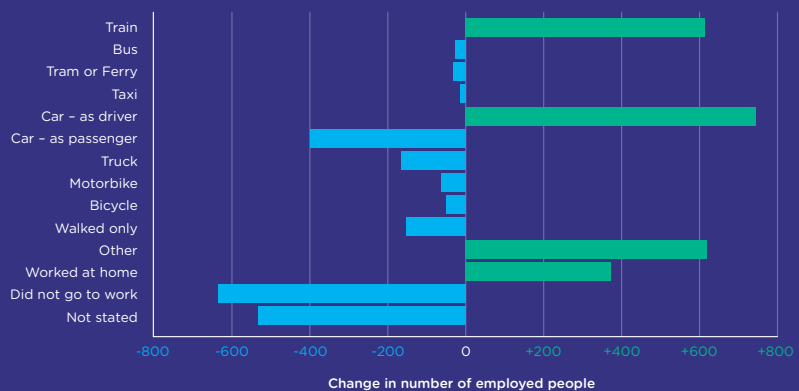
demand. Freeing up road space for the daily commute is a critical requirement of the community. Council proposes a series of enhancements to the bus network to improve access to key land uses such as economic precincts, education hubs and health precincts. With a strong advance manufacturing industry based in Knox and an economy that contributes \$10b to the Victorian economy, we are seeking better route connectivity, more frequent and reliable services that run

for longer hours of the day to better support the needs of our businesses and customers. Key employment hubs in Knox include the Bayswater Business Precinct, Caribbean Gardens, Rowville-Scoresby-Knoxfield precinct, Knox Central, Burwood Highway East Corridor and the Wantirna Health Precinct. Improving connections to these hubs would reinvigorate economic growth and increase employment opportunities for Melbourne's east.

Change in method of travel to work, 2011 to 2016

City of Knox - Total employed persons

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011 and 2016 (Usual residence data) Compiled and presented in profile by .id, the population experts.



Knox has a strong employment sector with strengths in the following industries:

Manufacturing

- 35.1% of Knox's industry contributes \$7,741 million to the economy
- Employs 10,976 people (16.6% of employees in Knox)

Construction

- 13.5% of Knox's industry contributes \$2,980m to the economy

Wholesale Trade

- 10.0% of Knox's industry contributes \$2,196m to the economy

Retail Trade

- Employs 8,091 people (12.2% of employees in Knox)

Health Care and Social Assistance

- Employs 8,037 people (12.1% of employees in Knox)

Our ageing population is another major structural change creating transport challenges as mobility declines. Public transport is vital in providing an essential link to friends, family, services and the wider community. It helps community members maintain independence and quality of life. Effective alternatives to cars are important to help older people remain mobile.



WHAT WE NEED

As development density in our suburbs grows, Governments must ensure that our public transport network can keep up with the associated population spike, but also provide alternative forms of transport that uses less road space to minimise the need for future road upgrades. To provide a viable alternative option, Council is advocating for the Victorian Government to:

1. Improve the span of hours and frequency of all bus services to at least meet the minimum level of service.
2. Establish a new route to improve employee access to key industrial/commercial hubs in the Scoresby, Knoxfield and Rowville Precinct.
3. Establish a new route between Bayswater Station to Stud Park, via Henderson Road, utilising the new bridge.
4. Trial a Bayswater shuttle service to reduce 2-5km trips between the activity centre and the surrounding residential area/Bayswater Business Precinct.

Dorset Road Extension



Improved links between employment clusters to the north and south of Knox and surrounding municipalities will enhance connections through Knox.

An extension of Dorset Road will have a significant impact on the region's economic development.

Improved links between employment clusters to the north and south of Knox and surrounding municipalities will enhance connections through Knox, with commuters and freight traffic using roads instead of local streets - a better option that increases the liveability and sense of safety within the local community.

Extend Dorset Road between Burwood Highway and Lysterfield Road to enhance productivity and efficiency in key industrial hubs that need an economic boost in the region.

Project status

Dorset Road extension has been reserved for over 30 years. Council has advocated for its construction for a decade. The project is in the detailed planning phase. Knox City Council gratefully acknowledges the \$80m budgeted funding commitment by the Federal Government.





Community benefits

- Improved connectivity through north-south arterial road connection that provides important links between key employment clusters in the Casey-Cardinia corridors towards the Bayswater Business Precinct for freight and commuters.
- Reduced impact of traffic on local roads, which is currently detrimental to residents
- Reducing the volume of traffic along secondary routes Glenfern Road and Brenock Park Drive will improve safety for students of the nearby St Joseph's College.
- There is currently minimal north-south road connections in Rowville. The connections would improve links to Bayswater Business Precinct as well as the employment clusters in Knoxfield, Ferntree Gully and Rowville and encourage people to use the arterial roads rather than local residential streets.

The Dorset Road extension, between Burwood Highway and Lysterfield Road is a critical piece of much-needed infrastructure in Knox. Once complete, it will significantly improve the north-south arterial road connections in Melbourne's east.

Congestion has a negative impact on productivity with motorists stuck in traffic to access work, leisure and home commutes. Without timely construction of the Dorset Road extension, residents will continue to see an increase in road accidents, traffic noise and loss of amenity.

“Our customers, suppliers and couriers face traffic congestion on a daily basis. To us, time is money. All businesses within the region want growth - these delays reduce efficiency and productivity.

We need traffic solutions for our City. Buses and rail links - a real public transport solution that works for Knox.”

Trish Chapallaz,
Director, Solar 4 RVs

WHAT WE NEED

Council is seeking that the State will proactively engage with the project and taking on board the contribution from the Federal Government, initiate the pre-design, design, procurement and delivery of this project - which includes provision for the balance of required project funds.

Proposed Public Transport Network

EMPLOYMENT

Key industry and employment hubs in and around Knox are inadequately serviced by public transport, in some cases stunting potential growth. These include:

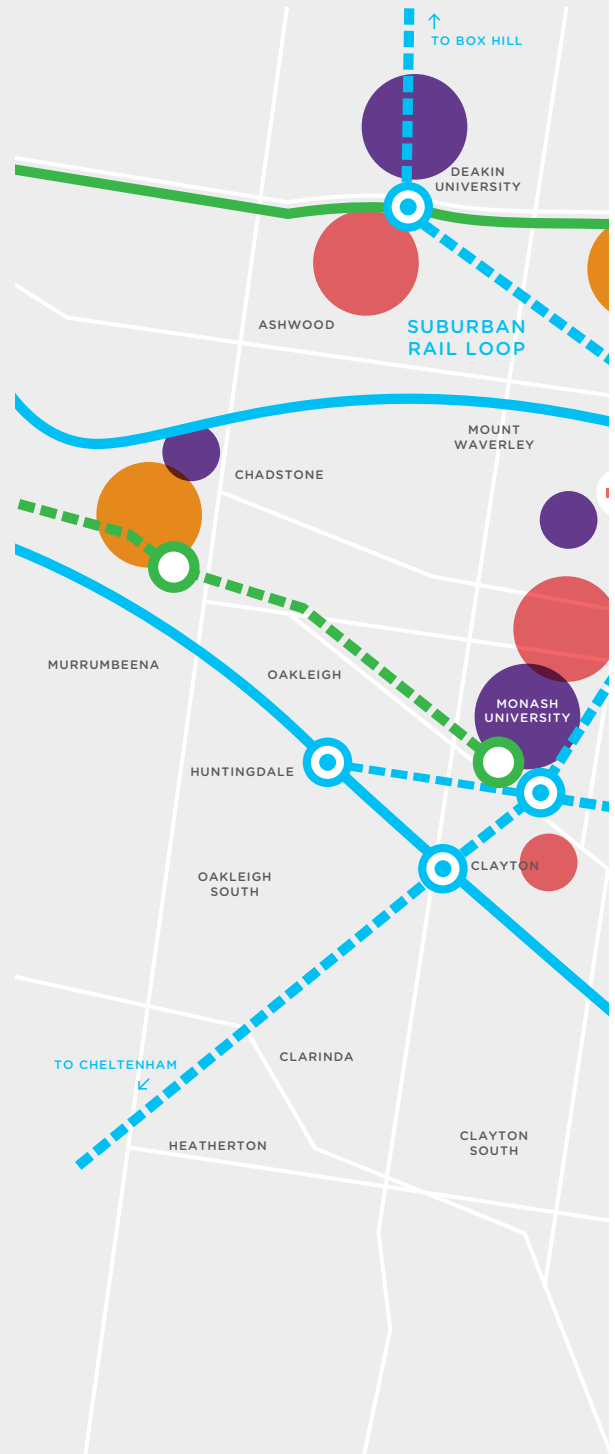
- **Scoresby Rowville Employment Hub**
15.8k jobs, \$6.3b per annum.
- **Bayswater Business Precinct**
30k jobs, \$13.2b per annum.
- **Caribbean Business Park**
4k jobs, estimated potential 20k jobs
- **Monash Employment Cluster**
38k jobs, \$14.3b per annum.

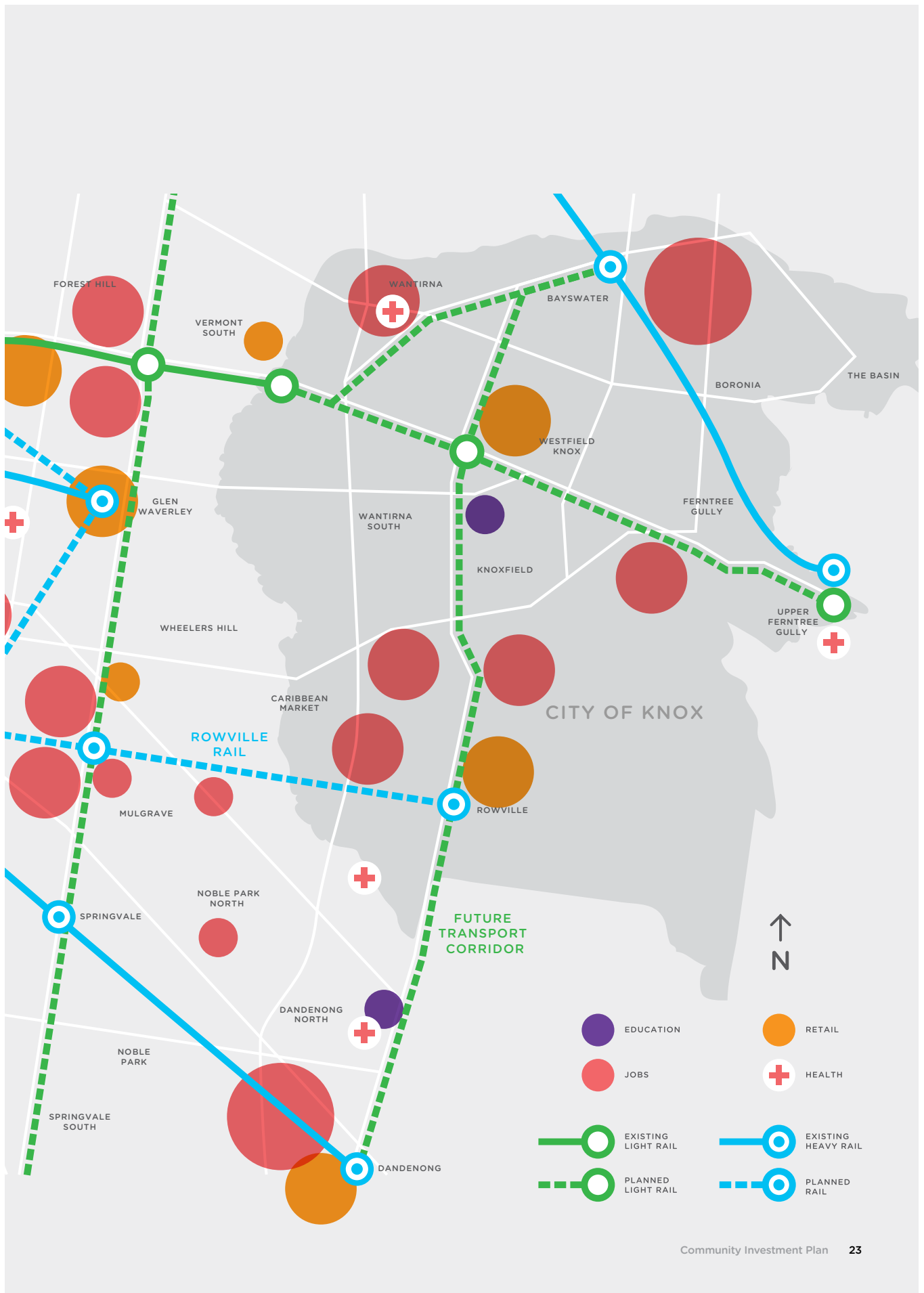
EDUCATION

Over 95,000 university and TAFE students across Melbourne’s east travel to and from Deakin University’s Burwood campus, Monash University’s Clayton and Caulfield campuses, Swinburne University and the various TAFEs in the region. Many also travel through Knox to educational clusters in inner Melbourne. Currently no effective public transport service exists to cater for any of these needs.

RETAIL

Knox Westfield shopping centre is poorly serviced by public transport because the tram line along Burwood Highway currently stops at Vermont. A network approach will ultimately link customers with Chadstone, The Glen, Westfield Knox, Brandon Park, Burwood One, Vermont South and Dandenong Plaza.





Henderson Road Traffic Signals Project

The two arterial road intersections at either end of Henderson Road will be connected for the first time by a bridge which is currently under construction.

Upon completion of the bridge, Henderson Road will experience a larger volume of vehicle traffic as a result of increased congestion in the area. A recent traffic study commissioned by Council has recommended upgrading works to accommodate the increasing traffic congestion in the area.

This two-part project improves the intersection at each end of Henderson Road, the intersections of Henderson Road/Kelletts Road and Henderson Road/Ferntree Gully Road, in preparation for increased traffic, easing congestion, drive-time, and improving safety.



WHAT WE NEED

In line with the State Government’s road safety vision Towards Zero, Council is calling on the State Government to progress the design and delivery of these funded safety projects.

Once completed, the Henderson Road bridge is expected to significantly increase the number of right turning vehicles out on Henderson Road onto Kelletts Road.

Community benefits

Currently, Knox is working with the Federal Government to construct the Henderson Road bridge in Rowville. Once completed, the Henderson Road bridge is expected to increase the number of right turning vehicles out on Henderson Road onto Kelletts Road, far above the capacity of the signalised intersection. Given the heavy traffic on Kelletts Road this is likely to result in driver frustration and taking smaller gaps, increasing the likelihood of accidents.

Project status

Construction of the Henderson Road bridge has been undertaken. We gratefully acknowledge the Federal Government’s funding of \$4m for works at the Kelletts Road intersection and \$5m for the Ferntree Gully Road intersection.

Our natural environment



The Knox City Council maintains more than 700 hectares of open space on behalf of our community. Nestled at the foot of the Dandenong Ranges, we are a community with a strong sense of place and an undeniable connection to our unique natural heritage.

Our 'green' environment attracts thousands of new residents each year. We enjoy the energy and activity that exists within our outdoor lifestyle. Knox is passionate about its natural environment with many community groups working with Council doing great work to manage, conserve and protect our natural habitats, land, wetlands and the species around us.

Our commitment to protect and enhance our natural environment is strong, but we can't do it alone. We need to ensure our open spaces are cleaner, appropriate to scale and

adequately lit. Knox residents want to do their bit to protect and enhance the local environment for them and the future generations to follow.

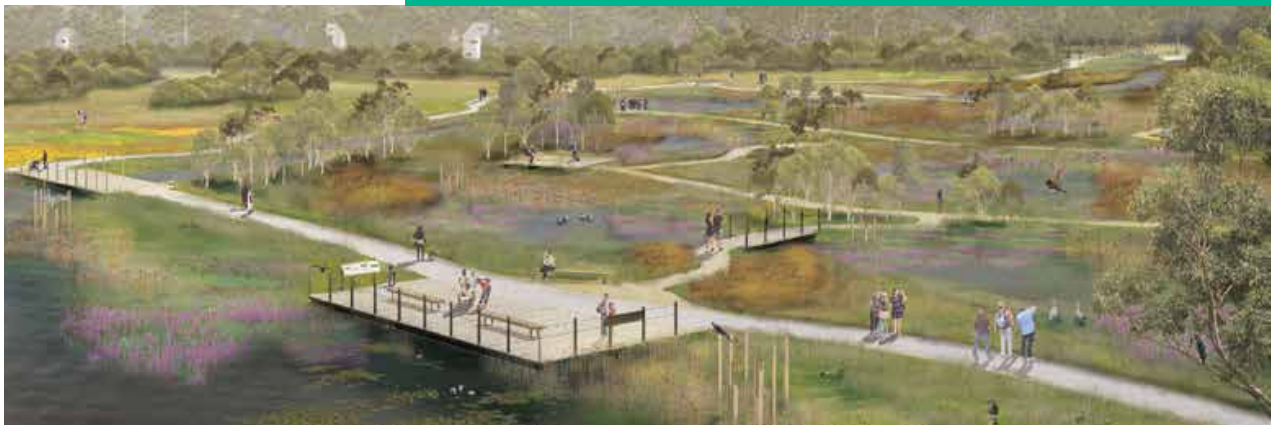
Council seeks to protect and preserve the diversity of our open spaces - leafy streets, safe and friendly neighbourhoods, our parks and gardens and the many opportunities to enjoy leisure, recreation, cultural and social activities. Open spaces play an important role in our residents' wellbeing providing places for exercise, quiet reflection, children's play and organised sport.

To maintain the liveability of our suburbs, access to open spaces and recreation facilities, we're asking for strong, continued investment for our community - the environment belongs to us all.

Lewis Park Masterplan

Lewis Park is a critical investment asset that will provide significant generational benefits for the community for years to come. At 40 hectares, Lewis Park stands as the 'greenest' landmark open space project proposed within the region, unprecedented within high-density urban communities.

The project aims to enhance the lives of all current and future residents by providing access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.



A closer look

The parkland provides the opportunity to connect with:

- 53,260 surrounding residents from Wantirna South, Boronia and Knoxfield (2019 population). Expected population to be 61,284 by 2041
- Between 300-500 cyclist and pedestrians per day using Blind Creek Trail
- 14,000,000 annual customers visitors to Westfield Shopping Centre (adjacent to the parklands)
- 50+ Community garden members.

To complement the planned future growth in population within Knox, Lewis Park is proposed alongside the open space within the Blind Creek corridor.

The benefits provided by urban green space also contributes to other sustainable development goals, including:

- Urban environments that lift our spirits and improve our happiness and wellbeing
- Ensuring healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- Combining flood protection with water restoration to sustainably enhance and manage our waterways
- Strengthening the habitat values of the park — providing for endemic threatened species
- Improving cycle, running and walking connections as sustainable modes of transport

- Creating tactile connections with nature and expand community gardens, providing social connectedness, informal education and cultural learnings across a range of people
- An estimate for the implementation and delivery of all works in the Lewis Park Masterplan, including the Blind Creek Daylighting project are projected to cost in excess of \$24m.



The development of Lewis Park aims to create the ‘green heart’ of Knox - an expansive space complete with lush vegetation, tree canopies and parks. As our community changes, the need to improve our open spaces becomes more important to ensure our precious environmental assets are available for future generations.

WHAT WE NEED

The total estimated cost of delivery of the Lewis Park Masterplan and the Daylighting of Blind Creek to Knox Westfield is \$24m.

Council is calling on the State Government to fully fund Melbourne Water the expected \$10m to daylight Blind Creek by 2024. Council will fund the \$14m to deliver the Lewis Park Masterplan.

The project aims to enhance the lives of all current and future residents by providing access to safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces.

Blind Creek Restoration / Daylighting

Melbourne Water and Knox City Council are working together to restore the natural beauty of Blind Creek. These works are part of upgrades taking place on the creek east of Scoresby Road, bringing the creek flow above ground to restore biodiversity and creating an experience for residents and visitors to enjoy where they can interact with nature.

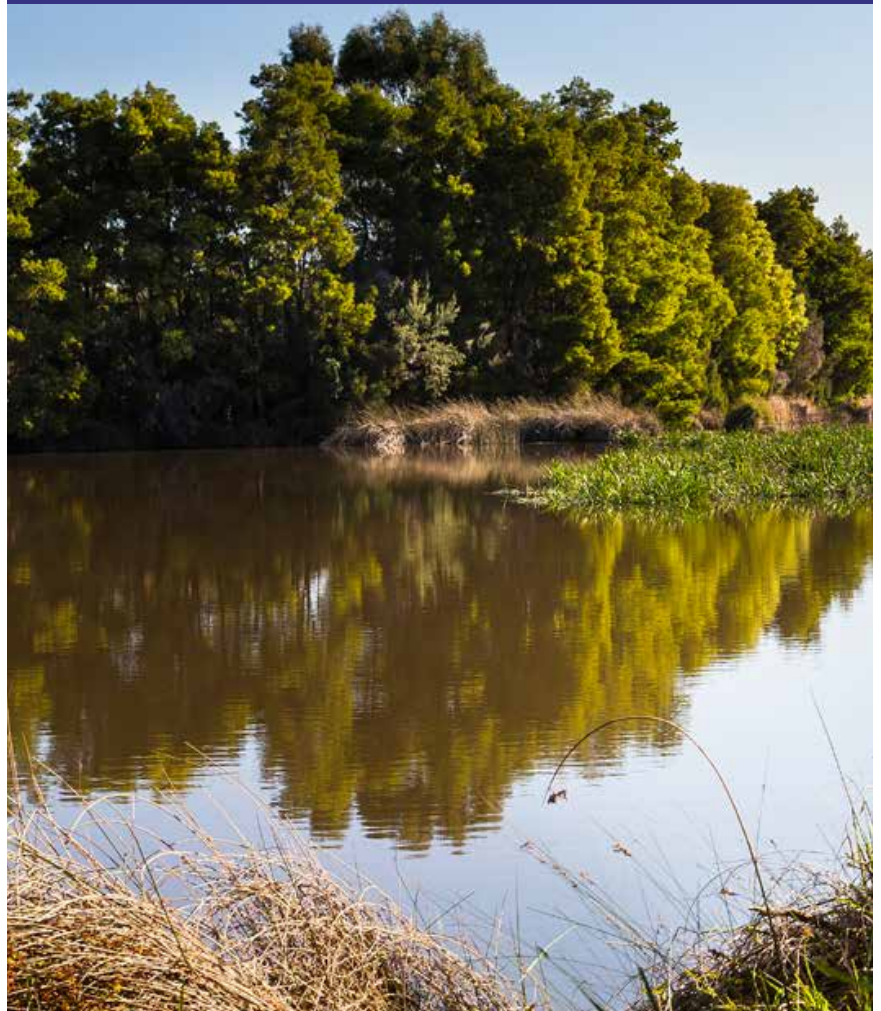
Through thoughtful planning, this initiative increases social connection and perceptions of safety throughout the community, providing opportunities for recreation, physical activity, with the supplementary benefit of increasing property values.

The Melbourne Water Healthy Waterway Strategy outlines the role the Water Management Authority plays in managing waterways to ensure the value to the community is protected. The restoration of Blind Creek is a critical element of the Healthy Waterways Strategy vision and the Lewis Park Masterplan.

Through thoughtful planning, this initiative increases social connection and perceptions of safety throughout the community.

BENEFITS OF DAYLIGHTING INCLUDE:

- Creating wetlands to filter and support local birds and frogs to create a biodiversity hot spot within the urban environment.
- Using water to support other landscape functions, such as remnant vegetation and shading, play and inquiry.
- Harvesting and re-using excess water in the park and enable Lewis Park to become a net exporter of recycled water.



Dog parks

More than one in three residents within Knox own a dog. As more people choose to live in apartments or units without a backyard, dog parks provide a place where residents can get outdoors, socialise and exercise their pets.

Council has endorsed three sites for future off lead areas – dog parks at Wantirna Reserve, Wantirna, Emerson Place Reserve, Wantirna South and Llewellyn Reserve, Rowville. To guide our strategy, Council is developing a plan for the design and delivery of fenced dog parks for the future.

Research shows that pets can help their owners ‘improve mental and physical health, reduce the effects of stress, and facilitate social interaction between people and build a sense of community’ Australian Companion Animal Council, 2010; Petcare Information and Advisory Service, 2012.

We recognise that growing open, green and connected communities create happy, healthy spaces for our canine companions. Fenced dog parks also provide a place for dogs to be exercised off-lead; a place for the promotion of responsible dog ownership as well as providing an outlet for dog owners to socialise.

Dogs were born to lead active, social lives. Most pet owners consider their pets as a ‘member of the household’.



WHAT WE NEED

Funding support to deliver dog parks at Wantirna Reserve, Emerson Place Reserve and Llewellyn Reserve.

Estimated total project cost is \$600k.

Project status

Funding of \$60k has been allocated as part of Council Capital Works Program (this financial year for the design of all 3 sites). The delivery of each dog park will follow in the subsequent financial years.



Our built environment



The Boronia Renewal Strategy represents the most significant opportunity to revitalise the central heart of Boronia in a generation. Through more than a dozen community engagement initiatives, residents spoke clearly of their desire for a vibrant activity centre, where transport links, employment and leisure experiences come together in a safe and thriving hub.

Key among the community's preference is the renewal of the economic heart of Boronia. A thriving and successful

local business community supports Boronia's social and economic wellbeing by attracting more visitors to an area that, in turn, creates new jobs and recreational opportunities.

Close by, the Bayswater Business Precinct is made up of 4,800 businesses, employs over 30,000 people and generates \$13b in revenue each year. No employment or industrial hub in Melbourne's east generates this level of economic output per worker employed within a precinct.

Boronia Train Station Renewal Project

Boronia Train Station was opened in 1998. As a transit hub, the Train Station does not provide a high level of amenity and there are poor perceptions of safety.

Adjoining the Boronia Train Station, the multi-deck commuter car parking structure is poorly maintained, with low levels of lighting creating a dark environment and an accompanying lack of safety.

The Planning and Design Framework will set a very clear direction for the future redevelopment of the Boronia Train Station Renewal Precinct. It will attract further private investment in the precinct, and have flow on economic benefits such as new jobs and expansion of existing businesses etc.

The Boronia Train Station and the surrounding area form the nucleus of the Boronia Activity Centre. Council has drafted the Boronia Renewal Strategy 2019 to maximise the Activity Centre's renewal potential. This document sets out Council's vision and includes a range of actions. The Boronia Train Station Renewal Project is one of Council's 'big move' projects to renew the Activity Centre.

Once redeveloped, the Boronia Train Station Precinct will include better pedestrian connections, a new civic space forecourt, more restaurants and activation, and an improved intermodal public transport interchange.



WHAT WE NEED

Council is seeking \$250k for the Planning and Design Framework for the Boronia Train Station Renewal Precinct. This will enable a design which has greater cohesion with the existing building and an enhancement to current administration spaces.

Project Status

Council has previously sought \$200,000 for planning and design work for the Boronia Train Station Renewal Project. Council gratefully acknowledges \$90,000 from the Victorian Government's Streamlining for Growth fund.

Council gratefully acknowledges the Federal Government's commitment for a new multi-storey car parking for Boronia Station. This is a catalyst project for positive change in the Boronia Activity Centre.

Community Benefits

Redevelopment of the Boronia Train Station Precinct has the potential to:

- Provide additional dwellings (potentially 200-250 apartments).
- Provide accessible, safe and green civic spaces, as well as complimentary retail and food and drinks premises, for commuters and visitors.
- Increase public transport usage.
- Provide space for community infrastructure, such as a multi-purpose community facility.

Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy



Businesses within the Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP) have been operating for over 20-30 years.

The precinct spans three municipalities (Yarra Ranges, Knox and Maroondah). The main issues affecting the sustainability and growth of businesses in the Precinct are limited digital connectivity, the challenge of improving road infrastructure and limited access to public transport. The Precinct also has an opportunity to improve levels of investment attraction and its overall profile within the community.

The Bayswater Business Precinct contains 4,800 businesses, employs over 30,000 people and generates \$13b in revenue each year. No employment or industrial hub in Melbourne's east generates this level of economic output per worker employed within a precinct. Without intervention, the number of businesses could decline and employment could be impacted.

The BBP is a precinct of regional significance. The BBP Transformation Strategy will guide generational change in delivering economic prosperity for the Eastern region.

A coordinated strategic direction is needed across the three Councils to achieve a sustainable and successful Precinct. There are four strategic areas that need attention in this Precinct:

- Setting the future direction through the Transformation Strategy
- Improving capability and competitiveness
- Generating precinct investment
- Investing and developing partnerships and governance.

Community benefits

The Transformation Strategy will review and identify capital works projects, actions, initiatives and interventions that improve the following:

- Mobility and access.
- Digital infrastructure and connectivity.
- Built form and land use.

Project status

In relation to the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy, Knox City Council, together with Maroondah City Council and Yarra Ranges Shire Council, applied for funding under the most recent round of the Streamlining for Growth fund, however our application was unsuccessful.



The main issues affecting the sustainability and growth of businesses in the precinct are limited digital connectivity, the challenge of improving road infrastructure and limited access to public transport.

WHAT WE NEED

Council is seeking \$250,000 for the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy. This will set a coordinated strategic direction for this precinct within the Eastern region.



Community wellbeing



Knox should be a place where people can connect, participate and access local resources in order to make healthy, sustainable life choices.

Good social health starts in our community. We believe in fair access to all – those that live, work, study and play in the municipality all deserve the same access to health and wellbeing services.

Gambling law reform



Council has a long-standing commitment to reduce the harms of gambling and recognises the cost to our community is not just financial loss, but also has devastating impacts on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and businesses.

In Knox, losses from Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) alone equate to more than \$200,000 a day. Local government has legislative requirements to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of the community. This includes seeking to protect communities from the risks and harms associated with gambling in Australia.

In Knox, losses from Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) alone equate to more than \$200,000 a day.

WHAT WE NEED

To amend gambling legislation to help reduce gambling addiction including \$1 maximum bets and enforce a mandatory 6-hour break between 2am and 8am in hotels and clubs.

Knox recognises ready access to poker machines is a serious local issue. Our community is experiencing unacceptable levels of harm through associated issues of gambling. Mental health issues and family violence frequently occur in combination with gambling addiction. Children and their families often bear the brunt of the aftermath, needing to source secure accommodation and access emergency support services. A proportion of the Knox population is facing socioeconomic disadvantage, with high levels of rental evictions and mortgage delinquency, as well as growing levels of family violence.

The Knox City Council is committed to protecting our community from the risks and harms associated with gambling addiction. Knox City Council is a member of the National Alliance for Gambling Reform, calling on the Victorian Government to make legislative changes to gambling, to reduce ready access to poker machines, resulting in harm minimisation initiatives that help counter poker machine addiction.

We are committed to continue engaging with our community by taking positive ownership of the issue, decreasing stigma and encouraging participation in gambling-free community spaces. Reducing gambling addiction will improve the Knox community by fostering social cohesion, community wellbeing and positive participation in the community.

Social and affordable housing

Knox has a total population around 165,000 residents. While most live in safe, stable homes, not everyone has access to secure housing. We require strong investment to provide affordable housing options within the City.

We are a community that cares about its people and looks after its vulnerable members. There is significant shortfall in affordable housing in Knox for people living on very low to moderate incomes. Over the long term Knox will need at least 860 more social housing dwellings to address the accommodation shortfall for residents.

We will also need to increase the minimum supply of social housing in Knox to at least 860 dwellings by 2036, so that our most vulnerable have somewhere to live that is affordable, safe and secure. An adequate supply of social housing enables individuals and families to feel secure and close to their friends, families, schools and communities.



WHAT WE NEED

Amend the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to introduce mandatory inclusionary zoning at a rate of at least 5% per development on State Government and private land.

Increased funding to support the delivery of a minimum of 11,420 new social housing dwellings in the EMR by 2036.

The State Government to introduce legislation to enable councils to mandate developer contributions for social and/or affordable housing when Council or private party undertakes studies that lead to planning scheme amendments or land rezoning, e.g. changing the land use from industrial/commercial to residential and/or mixed-use zones.

Access to social housing enables people to participate in the paid workforce, stabilise their budgets and actively function in our community, including purchasing food, clothing, health care, educational services, transport and other life essentials.

- There is an immediate shortfall of 420 social housing dwellings in Knox. A minimum supply of 860 dwellings is needed by 2036 to meet minimum requirements for low to moderate income families.
- Currently, 19.8% (4,538) of the 22,885 households in Knox with a mortgage are in financial stress and spending more than 30% of their household income on mortgage repayments.

Homelessness

Access to safe, secure and affordable housing is a basic human right underpinning the economic and social wellbeing of all Australians.

Victoria's annual Rental Affordability Snapshot has found households on welfare payments has worsened over the last 12 months and are struggling to find affordable housing. In metropolitan Melbourne, only 0.6% of properties were suitable for households on income support payments, while

only one in four were suitable for households on the minimum wage.

Several suburbs in Knox's north unenviably holds top-ten status for the highest number of households in Melbourne experiencing financial stress and above average mortgage default rates.



The homeless headcount increased in almost every suburb in Knox between 2011 and 2016. Contrary to popular belief, many people who experience homelessness aren't rough sleepers (living on the streets). Rough sleeping only makes up around 7% of homelessness while the remainder is 'hidden homelessness', that is, people sleeping in cars, rooming houses, couch surfing, or staying in other temporary types of accommodation.

860 more social housing dwellings in Knox by 2036. This is the required minimum to meet current demand - those people living on incomes in the lowest 10% income range who cannot afford to rent privately or do not own their own home. (Knox Council Social and Affordable Housing Plan).

- Homelessness in Australia has increased 13.7% in five years
- Homelessness in people aged 12-24 has increased by 9.9% in five years
- Every day, Australian homelessness services have to turn away 250 people
- There has been a 28% increase in Australians aged 55+ experiencing homelessness.
- 20% of Australia's homeless population live in Victoria
- Homelessness in Victoria experienced by women is up 8.3% in five years
- Over 24,000 Victorians will be homeless tonight, including families with children, young people, older people, single adults and people with disabilities

WHAT WE NEED

State Government support to increase funding to outreach Homelessness services, including a fully funded and localised homelessness outreach rapid response service to assist people in a timely manner.

Preventative health funding



Preventable, non-communicable conditions like obesity and cigarette addiction continue to rise. Health Promotion initiatives provided in our catchment are offered by external agencies which can miss pockets of our community.

In 2010, chronic diseases accounted for approximately 85% of the total burden of disease and injuries accounted for 10% in Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2014). Around one-third of the total burden of disease and injury is potentially avoidable (Jardine et al. 2010). Although these common risk factors are preventable, the common problem is inadequate and discontinued funding of preventative health.

In 2010, chronic diseases accounted for approximately 85% of the total burden of disease and injuries accounted for 10% in Australia.

WHAT WE NEED

Commitment to long term funding to execute preventative health programs that tackle common risk factors including poor diet, physical inactivity, smoking, alcohol and drug misuse and obesity. Ongoing funding provides delivery of local solutions for prevention of obesity. This investment creates healthy environments, will lead to improved levels of health in the community.

Mental health

WHAT WE NEED

Establish state-wide Mental Health Lived Experience Committee to advise the Victorian Government on mental health policy, strategy and initiatives.

- Re-funding Mental Health Community Support Services for people with mental health issues who are ineligible or unable to access services. Increase funding for specialist mental health services.
- Develop a centralised referral service for people experiencing mental ill health and crisis.
- Provide clinical support for transition of patients from psychiatric hospital to housing support.
- Implement recommendations by the Royal Commission into mental health.



Over three million Australians live with mental health challenges each year. The mental health system is under pressure, with vulnerable people unable to access timely, appropriate mental health care.

Youth mental health remains a growing issue in the community. Adolescence is a time of rapid physical, emotional, cognitive and social development. Care must be taken to guide and support young people to remain safe and engaged. Without the right support available, issues such as social disengagement and extreme risk taking behaviours can occur. According to the Youth Beyond Blue website, the following mental health issues affect young people:

- One in six young Australians is currently experiencing an anxiety condition
- One in four young Australians currently has a mental health condition

- Suicide is the biggest killer of young Australians and accounts for the deaths of more young people than car accidents

The Victorian government has committed to implementing all the recommendations from the Royal Commission. It is hoped the recommendations will provide a mental health service system that provides accessible, affordable, appropriate care and clinical support.

Urgent intervention is required to ensure the immediate safety and future wellbeing of Victorians experiencing mental health. To progress with recommendations and system reform, it is imperative that government investment, commitment and funding is secured as a priority.

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office tabled a report 'Access to Mental Health Services' in March 2019. The report's aim was to determine if people with a mental illness have access to adequate treatment and support services. The report found that DHHS were not able to improve the capacity of the mental health care sector in Victoria.

The State Government's decision to conduct a Royal Commission into Mental Health is a welcome relief for people suffering mental illness, their families and the greater community. It is anticipated that outcomes will serve as a catalyst for positive change. Recommendations by the Royal Commission will be in a draft report October 2019, with final recommendations to be published in November 2020.

Enhancing our libraries

With further investment, libraries can play an even greater role in growing the state's economy, creating jobs, and delivering important social reform across every community in Victoria.

We seek support to build library facilities through the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program (LLIP), a program that enables Victorian councils to deliver new or renewed library infrastructure to strengthen community and encourage opportunities for community participation.

With demand for library services outpacing population growth, it is critical to ensure libraries are equipped to support surging patronage in Knox. Increasing investment in operational costs, infrastructure and specialist programs through the funding figure of \$82,000 would enable Knox public libraries to operate more effectively and meet the needs of its growing community.

This funding supports the provision of increased opening hours, better services, improved connections, support and more programs. The figure of \$82,000 has been calculated by taking the underfunding for Knox of 0.48c (\$6.56 - \$6.08) per capita in 2018/19 and applying the formula in the diagram below.

Indexation of this funding is also important to ensure our libraries can continue to respond to our communities changing needs.

With demand for library services outpacing population growth, it is critical to ensure libraries are equipped to support surging patronage in Knox.

Underfunding × Population × CPI 2019/20 × CPI 2020/21

(where CPI is based on the State Government CPI Projections in its 2019/20 Budget Papers); viz

0.48c × 164,000 × 102% × 102.25% = \$82,000 (rounded)



More people than ever are using Knox public libraries:



700,000
annual visits

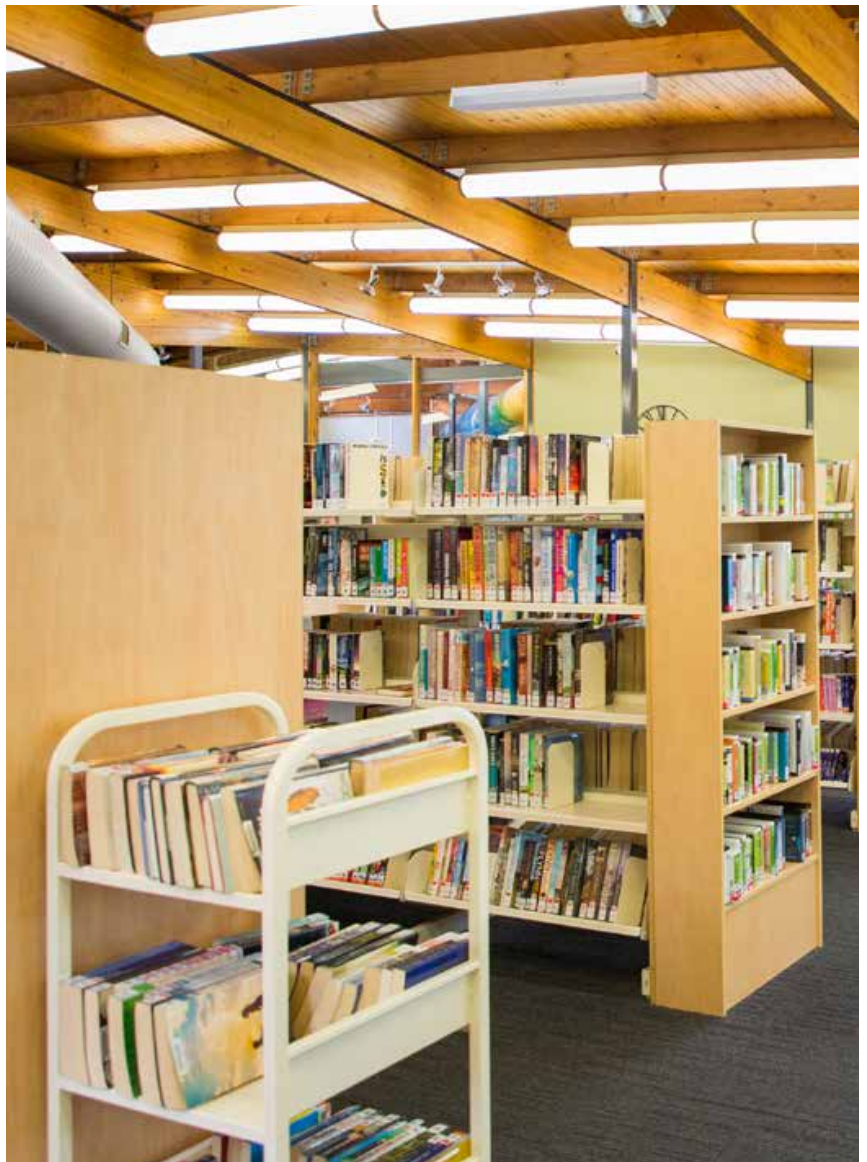
the equivalent of over four visits for every Knox resident.

The total amount of operational funding for all public library services was:



\$43.6m
for 2018/19

Despite modest increases, per capita operational funding from the State Government in Victoria has declined in recent years, from \$6.79 in 2015 to \$6.56 in 2018. The decline in operational funding per capita from the State Government is worse in the case of Knox City Council at only \$6.08 per capita for 2018/19.



WHAT WE NEED

- Restore Knox City Council's funding to the average per capita with an injection of \$82,000 for 2020/2021.
- Increase the funding for all public libraries by indexation of recurrent funding that reflects both state population growth and CPI which would ensure public library funding can grow with demand.
- Increase funding to the Living Libraries fund.



Supporting our local economy



Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC)

Established in 2008, this unique partnership between community, education and industry has successfully supported skills development for young people in Knox.

Funding has not been renewed for KIOSC, the State Government's 'foundational' tech school for science, technology, engineering and mathematics learning programs focussed on future industry needs. Without this essential support, the initiative will disappear from the curriculum and our secondary schools, and local industries will suffer severely. Without ongoing funding, Knox is at risk of losing a vital high-tech learning centre that facilitates essential training and employment outcomes for our local students and business communities.

Ensure ongoing funding so KIOSC continues to be a key part of the training and pathway landscape for Knox students, continuing to support the ongoing needs of business for a skilled local workforce.



WHAT WE NEED

For the State Government to recognise KIOSC as the first of 11 tech schools and continue providing \$1m a year to keep this program operating. Reinstate funding for a program that has given over 6,000 students pathways into high tech employment and addresses skill shortages in our region.

Community benefits

Education

KIOSC is a program which inspires and empowers today's students to develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours that will equip them for future careers. It emphasises practical learning experiences through a range of programs that provide a window into the world of work, linking broad pathways in science, maths, technology, social sciences and humanities to an integrated hands-on curriculum.

Inclusion

KIOSC is a vital part of the education and training landscape in Knox. So far it has provided more than 6,000 Knox secondary school students (half of whom are female) with exposure to the diverse range of key industries and jobs.

Economy and Jobs

KIOSC plays an integral role in preparing our region's young people for productive careers in the key industries in Knox, including advanced manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical services, medical technology, health care and social assistance.

It is critical to continue partnerships with local Knox businesses to provide input into the curriculum at KIOSC to address local skill shortages and succeed an aging workforce in careers such as engineering and design.

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KNOX

your city



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