



2021/2022

Advocacy Report

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Advocacy at Wyndham City

Wyndham City has had a strong advocacy and intergovernmental relations agenda for many years and has continually refined and reviewed its approach to reflect the governments of the day, the political landscape and the needs of the community.

This work has occurred in a variety of ways including but not limited to public campaigns, formal submissions, meetings with Ministers, their advisors, local MP, candidates in elections and maintaining ongoing relationships with key government departments.

Councillors and senior officers are also representatives on a range of alliances, associations, committees and working groups and hold many important stakeholder relationships.

Over the past decade Wyndham has consistently ranked among the top growing municipalities in Australia. This rapid growth has put pressure on existing services and infrastructure and there are many gaps affecting our community that we cannot solve alone. We are largely reliant on other levels of government to fund and provide the services and infrastructure our community needs.

Our growing population, the complex political landscape, and existing shortfall in infrastructure and services reinforces the need for a continued strategic approach that is agile, streamlined and embedded in best practice principles. These include:

- **Transparency:** We are open and transparent about our strategic priorities and how we pursue them.
- **Evidence-based:** We conduct and source comprehensive research to inform our understanding of issues affecting our community.
- **Solutions-focused:** Effective advocacy is not simply about community problems. We focus on bringing solutions to politicians and other key decision-makers.
- **Equity of access:** We believe all citizens should have equal access to high-quality community services and infrastructure.

- **Partnerships and collaboration:** We seek common ground and foster relationships that will deliver positive change. Messaging should centre on opportunities for further collaboration and future improvements.
- **Government alignment:** We will attract funding by positioning Wyndham as a delivery partner of projects that are aligned to the stated priorities of the Federal and State Governments.
- **Government reward/recognition:** We will recognise State and Federal government investment in Wyndham by welcoming announcements of decisions that benefit residents.

Our advocacy is also underpinned by our **Advocacy Strategy, [Securing Wyndham's Future](#)**, an online strategy that is progressively updated. It is a comprehensive list of over 70 items that relate to the services and infrastructure Wyndham needs to support its population growth, economic prosperity and livability. There are eight categories in [Securing Wyndham's Future](#), which include: public transport and roads; early childhood and family services; primary and secondary education; health, support and inclusion; environment and sustainability; arts, culture, sport and recreation; economic development and industry; and urban development and financial sustainability.

The Council's strategic approach to advocacy has resulted in outstanding advocacy outcomes and the increase in community satisfaction in Council's representation, lobbying and advocacy performance. Council will continue to advocate strongly for the community, ensuring all levels of government continue to provide support and funding aimed at improving our community's services, programs and infrastructure.

Introduction

Wyndham has a highly diverse population, with around half of our population born overseas. We value our identity as a multicultural community and the rich cultural, linguistic and faith diversity that our community brings. Our multiculturalism is one of the reasons why we have such a dynamic and energetic community.

Wyndham also has endless economic opportunities. As the link between Melbourne and Geelong, the two largest cities in Victoria and on the national rail network, it makes Wyndham an area of great economic significance that extends beyond its own region, impacting the rest of the state. The diverse economic and social opportunities in our region are some of the many reasons people are relocating to Wyndham.

Not only is Wyndham one of the largest local government areas by population but also one of Australia's fastest growing municipalities, with our population expected to surpass 500,000 by 2040 – a significant increase from our current population of 316,000.

Our community needs a range of services and infrastructure and there are many gaps that Council cannot solve alone. Council is mostly reliant on the State and Federal Government to fund and provide the infrastructure and services our community needs.

In addition to the existing service and infrastructure gaps, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to have a significant impact on Wyndham – on our families, schools, sporting clubs, arts and culture community and businesses. As a result, the need to engage and partner with all levels of government was even stronger during 2020-21.

The types of engagement undertaken included meetings with community members, meetings with political stakeholders including Members of Parliament, correspondence with State and Federal Ministers, discussions with senior level department officers, advocacy campaigns, and State and Federal pre-budget submissions.

In 2021-22, through our engagements with internal and external networks, Council has been advocating on a range of issues including improvements to our infrastructure and services and funding towards social and economic initiatives.

Council continues to lead advocacy campaigns including the schools4wyndham, which has been calling for Wyndham's fair share of school funding.

Guided by the *Securing Wyndham's Future* advocacy strategy, Council has continued to advocate strongly for our community to ensure Wyndham thrives as we transition into the recovery phase of the pandemic.

We thank the community, the Federal and State Government, our local Members of Parliament and local organisations for their contribution to our region and for advocating for better outcomes in Melbourne's west.





Schools4Wyndham Campaigns

Wyndham's schools are under increasing pressure to accommodate a growing number of students. Wyndham City's [schools4wyndham](#) campaign has been advocating for schools to be built in the areas they are needed most since 2017.

The campaign has called on the State Government to provide Wyndham's growth areas with a fair share of the 100 new schools the state government committed to build by 2026.

Campaign activities for the schools4wyndham campaign during the 2021-22 year included:

- Coordinating an online petition call for the State Government to fund additional schools in Wyndham.
 - The petition and Schools4wyndham was promoted at a series of popup session at local shopping centres and the Children's picnic at Werribee Mansion.
 - The petition was signed by more than 600 local residents.
- Continuing to grow community support for the campaign online by maintaining a regular presence on Facebook, with campaign videos highlighting the needs of Wyndham's growing suburbs and campaign updates from the Mayor.
- Advocating to local MPs for the construction of schools and school upgrades as part of the State Government's COVID-19 economic stimulus package.
- Ongoing discussions with the Victorian School Building Authority on the State Government's plans and

presentations of Wyndham's analysis of the school needs of our community, including plans for specialist schools and mainstream schools.

- Pre-budget briefings to local MPs on Wyndham's most urgently needed schools in their electorates.
- Advocacy to ensure that planned non-government school sites are used for schools and not other purposes, including correspondence with the Victorian Education Minister, James Merlino, the Planning Minister, Richard Wynne, and local MPs.
- Updates on the campaign website on what schools Wyndham needs and when, promoted to local online audiences through Google Ads.
- Email updates to campaign subscribers recruited from the campaign website.
- An online survey of residents' concerns regarding school availability.
- Advertisements at Village Cinema Werribee providing campaign exposure around Wyndham.

The campaign successfully brought wider attention to the issue of a shortage of schools in Wyndham. Community promotions were reduced from previous years due to COVID-19 restrictions on face-to-face activities, however the online audience grew by 20 per cent compared to the previous year and social media campaigns reached 35 per cent of Wyndham's population.

Wyndham City Led Advocacy Campaigns

Maternal Health Services

The delivery of Maternal and Child Health services has become increasingly challenging through 2022. This is partially due to staff shortages, the high cost of delivering services and funding of new facilities.

Wyndham City Council has written to local MPs, and relevant Ministers raising these issues and seeking additional support for the delivery of services. This includes increased funding and the inclusion of Maternal And child health facilities in new school development that include kindergartens.

Wyndham is partnering with Melton City Council on these advocacy efforts, to ensure the experiences and needs of service providers and community in outer growth Councils in Melbourne's west are heard by the State Government.

Federal Election Priorities

In the lead up to the Federal Election in May 2022, Wyndham City actively engaged with candidates on all sides of politics and the community to advocate for increased funding for local services.

Wyndham City Council is split across two Federal Electorates, Lalor which includes Werribee, Manor Lakes, Hoppers Crossing and Tarneit. The Seat of Gellibrand includes parts of Point Cook and Truganina.

In the lead up to the election the Mayor and CEO met with candidates from the Australian Labor Party (ALP), the Liberal Party and the Greens. A copy of [Wyndham City's election priorities](#) was provided to other candidates.

State Election Priorities

In the lead up to the November 2022 State Election, the Mayor and CEO are meeting with declared candidates across the political spectrum to talk about our City's needs, and the opportunities to partner with our peers at a State level to ensure the opportunities and challenges that come with a growing population can be met.

A full copy of the [State Election priorities](#) is being provided to all candidates.

I Love Kinder

Since 2017, Wyndham City has led the *I Love Kinder* campaign, with a goal of securing ongoing funding from the Federal Government to ensure equitable access to 15 hours of four-year-old kindergarten per week. As part of the National Partnership Agreement between the State and Federal Governments, the States funded 10 hours per week, while the Federal Government covered the cost of the remaining five.

The campaign, which many Councils across Australia had joined, lobbied MPs and Ministers via social media, letters, and had a dedicated website.

Funding was announced in 2021–22 Budget and locks in Federal funding for preschool to the end of 2025. The funding will ensure the delivery of 15 hours of preschool.

Activate East Werribee – 60,000 Jobs for the West

In line with a Council Meeting on June 7, a campaign has been established calling on all major parties and candidates at the State Election to commit to the activation of the East Werribee Employment Precinct. The activation of this precinct is Council's number one advocacy priority in the lead up to November's state election as we are committed to seeing the site used for job creation and economic activity, not just for housing.

This campaign is now under way, with a range of actions including a social media campaign, the establishment of a dedicated website, pop up stalls at shopping centres to engage the community, and other events.





Engagement

CEO meetings with Members of Parliament

Wyndham City Council actively engaged with multiple stakeholders in advocating for improved services and infrastructure to for the community. Through 2021-22 Wyndham City Council meet with Ministers, local MPs and members of the opposition to discuss and highlight the issues and priorities within Wyndham.

MP meetings		
8/08/2021	Tim Pallas MP	Member for Werribee Treasurer
8/08/2021	Sarah Connolly MP	Member for Tarneit
10/08/2021	Jill Hennessy MP	Member for Altona
16/08/2021	Tim Watts MP	Federal Member for Gellibrand
16/08/2021	Joanne Ryan MP	Federal Member for Lalor
7/09/2021	Sarah Connolly MP	Member for Tarneit
12/10/2021	Jill Hennessy MP	Member for Altona
13/10/2021	Sarah Connolly MP	Member for Tarneit
19/10/2021	Melissa Horne MP	Minister for Ports and Freight
29/10/2021	Tim Pallas MP	Member for Werribee Treasurer
8/11/2021	Natalie Hutchins MP	Minister for Corrections Minister for Youth Justice Minister for Victim Support Minister for Crime Prevention
7/02/2022	Nick Staikos MP	Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer
15/02/2022	Martin Pakula MP	Minister for Industry Support and Recovery Minister for Trade Minister for Business Precincts Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Minister for Racing
16/02/2022	Tim Pallas MP	Member for Werribee Treasurer

MP meetings		
21/02/2022	Paul Fletcher MP	Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Art
28/02/2022	Richard Wynne MP	Minister for Planning
1/03/2022	Sarah Connolly MP	Member for Tarneit
22/04/2022	Matthew Bach MP	Shadow Minister for Transport Infrastructure
26/04/2022	Sarah Connolly MP	Member for Tarneit
9/05/2022	Matthew Guy	Leader of Victorian Opposition
12/05/2022	Nick Staikos MP	Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer
12/05/2022	Tim Pallas MP	Member for Werribee Treasurer
12/05/2022	Stephen Dimopoulos MP	Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health
16/05/2022	Andrew Giles MP	Shadow Minister for Cities and Urban Infrastructure Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs Shadow Minister Assisting for Immigration and Citizenship
6/06/2022	Sarah Connolly MP	Member for Tarneit
10/06/2022	Tim Pallas MP	Member for Werribee Treasurer
27/06/2022	Tim Watts MP	Federal Member for Gellibrand Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs

CEO Meetings with other organisations and key stakeholders

Key Stakeholders	
19/08/2021	Suburban Rail Loop
31/08/2021	Committee for Wyndham Board
3/09/2021	WoMEDA
9/09/2021	CEO Nillumbik Shire Council
10/09/2021	LMS Energy
16/09/2021	Stuart Moseley- Victorian Planning Authority
23/09/2021	CEO & Deputy CEO Melbourne City Council
11/10/2021	Dennis Family Homes
21/10/2021	Visy Recycling
4/11/2021	Werribee Football Club President and CEO
5/11/2021	State Manager Australia Post
8/11/2021	Dennis Family Homes
11/11/2021	Inspector Darren Bentley, Victoria Police
16/11/2021	Superintendent Westgate Divisional Commander Victoria Police
16/11/2021	NWMCD Steering Committee
18/11/2021	CEO Werribee Zoo
18/11/2021	Netflow Western Roads Upgrade
23/11/2021	Shaun Leane (Opening of Dianella CC and Tarneit Revitalisation Program at Penrose CC)
23/11/2021	Tarneit Revitalisation Board Meeting
2/12/2021	Wyndham Business Networking Evening
6/12/2021	CEO Werribee Racecourse
6/12/2021	Dr Joe Garra, Chris Pavlidis, Nick Dalios, Brian Ahmed (Werribee South)
6/12/2021	Dr Graeme Mein, John Price and Lance Prichard (K-Road Cliffs)
6/12/2021	Wyndham Harbour

Key Stakeholders	
13/12/2021	Werribee Chamber of Commerce
14/12/2021	NGAA Executive Officer
17/12/2021	CEO CityWide and CEO City of Melbourne
20/12/2021	Pacific National
23/12/2021	NWMCD Meeting
11/01/2022	NWMCD Meeting
11/01/2022	AEC
17/01/2022	U-Vet Hospital
18/01/2022	WoMEDA
18/01/2022	WEstjustice
2/02/2022	CEO Geelong
2/02/2022	Deakin University
2/02/2022	CEO The Gordon
8/02/2022	AEC
8/02/2022	Yarraville Sun Theatre
10/02/2022	Werribee Football Club
10/02/2022	Werribee Cricket Club
11/02/2022	Western Regions CEO Meeting
21/02/2022	CEO Avalon Airport
22/02/2022	NatureWest
7/03/2022	Cedar Woods
10/03/2022	Western Region Bi-Annual Forum
15/03/2022	Urbis
23/03/2022	DJPR
24/03/2022	Werribee Centrals FC

Key Stakeholders	
24/03/2022	Mercy Health
11/04/2022	Werribee Districts Football Club President and Committee members
13/04/2022	CEO Rail Projects Victoria
14/04/2022	Ravi Gaddipati (Liberal Candidate for Lalor)
19/04/2022	CEO- Quantin Binnah CC
29/04/2022	Western Regions CEO Meeting
9/05/2022	NatureWest
16/05/2022	Deputy Vice-Chancellor External Relations and Partnerships, Victoria University
18/05/2022	Director Zoos Victoria
23/05/2022	Quantan Binnah
23/05/2022	Western Chances
25/05/2022	Dennis Family
25/05/2022	DJPR & VPA
30/05/2022	Les Twentyman
31/05/2022	Werribee Football Club
6/06/2022	Cherry Street Youth Justice Centre
14/06/2022	CEO, Southern Rural Water
28/06/2022	CSIRO
28/06/2022	OC1 Committee Wyndham Harbour
28/06/2022	Freshselect
29/06/2022	Curtin University
30/06/2022	Western Melbourne Group and Western United FC

Further to this, Council Officers and the Mayor continue to meet with all candidates seeking election in electorates within Wyndham ahead of the November election to ensure the service and infrastructure needs of Wyndham residents are met with commitments.

Externally appointed committees

MAV COMMITTEE NAME	COUNCILLOR
Gender Equality Advisory Committee	Cr. Jennie Barrera
MAV Delegate	Cr. Sahana Ramesh
National Growth Area Alliance Strategic Committee	Cr. Peter Maynard
Tarneit Suburban Revitalisation Board	Mayor – Cr Peter Maynard

Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) committees

MAV COMMITTEE NAME	TYPE OF COMMITTEE	COUNCILLOR
MAV Substitute (Deputy) Delegate	External Unincorporated Committee	Cr. Heather Marcus
MAV Emergency Management Committee	External Unincorporated Committee	Cr. Susan McIntyre
MAV Human Services Committee	External Unincorporated Committee	Cr. Adele Hegedich
MAV Professional Development Reference Group	External Unincorporated Committee	Cr. Sahana Ramesh

Other internal/External committees/Organisations

COMMITTEE/ORGANISATION NAME	TYPE OF COMMITTEE	COUNCILLOR
Audit & Risk Management Committee	Internal Advisory Committee Mayor and two Councillors	Mayor – Cr. Peter Maynard Cr. Sahana Ramesh Cr. Susan McIntyre
Association of Bayside Municipalities	External Unincorporated Association	Cr. Robert Szatkowski
Alliance for Gambling Reform	External Unincorporated	Cr. Jennie Barrera
CEOs Performance and Remuneration Review	Internal Advisory Committee	Mayor – Cr Peter Maynard Cr. Mia Shaw Cr. Jennie Barrera Cr. Jasmine Hill
Interface Councils Group Forum	External Unincorporated Association	Mayor – Cr Peter Maynard
Lawrie Emmins Motocross Community Reference Group	Internal Advisory Committee	Cr. Peter Maynard
Metropolitan Transport Forum	External Unincorporated Committee	Mayor – Cr. Peter Maynard
Metropolitan Waste Resource & Recovery Group	External Unincorporated Committee	Cr. Robert Szatkowski
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee	Internal Advisory Committee	Cr. Susan McIntyre
Public Art & Collections Expert Advisory Panel	Internal Advisory Committee	Cr. Marcel Mahfoud
RDF (Wests Road) and Waste Management Community Reference Group	Internal Advisory Committee	Cr. Heather Marcus
Reconciliation Advisory Committee	Internal Advisory Committee	Cr. Peter Maynard
Reserve Working Groups	Internal Advisory Committee	All (respective) Ward Councillors
Roadsafe Westgate Community Road Safety Council	External Incorporated Company	Cr. Susan McIntyre
Social and Economic Inclusion Taskforce	Internal Advisory Committee	Cr. Jennie Barrera
VU Sporting Complex Committee of Management	Internal Advisory Committee	Cr. Peter Maynard

COMMITTEE/ORGANISATION NAME	TYPE OF COMMITTEE	COUNCILLOR
Werribee City Centre Safety Committee	Internal Advisory Committee	Cr. Susan McIntyre
Werribee River Association Inc	External Incorporated Association	Cr. Robert Szatkowski
Werribee South Green Wedge Steering Committee	Internal Advisory Committee	Cr. Heather Marcus (Chair) Cr Peter Maynard Cr Mia Shaw Cr Jasmine Hill (Cr Susan McIntyre-Alternate)
Western Melbourne Tourism Committee	External Unincorporated Committee	Cr Heather Marcus
Western Transport Alliance	External Unincorporated Committee	Mayor – Cr. Peter Maynard
Western Treatment Plant Biodiversity Conservation Advisory Committee	External Unincorporated Committee	Cr. Robert Szatkowski
Wyndham Community Grants Program Evaluation Panel	Internal Advisory Committee	Mayor – Cr. Peter Maynard Cr. Josh Gilligan Cr. Mia Shaw Cr. Jasmine Hill Cr. Heather Marcus Cr. Marcel Mahfoud

Delegated committee

COMMITTEE NAME	TYPE OF COMMITTEE	COUNCILLOR
Planning Committee	Delegated Committee	All Councillors
LeadWest Committee	Joint Delegated Committee	Cr. Peter Maynard Cr. Susan McIntyre (Proxy)



Collaboration

LeadWest

Wyndham City actively participated in LeadWest in 2021-22.

LeadWest is an advisory committee to the five councils in Melbourne's West, being the Cities of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton and Wyndham. The primary role of LeadWest is to provide a forum for the development of a consolidated view and advocacy to secure sustainable economic development and maximise community benefits in Melbourne's West.

Lead West is currently chaired by Wyndham City Mayor Cr Peter Maynard. Wyndham City Council CEO Stephen Wall is also a committee member.

West of Melbourne Economic Development Alliance (WoMEDA)

Wyndham City Council actively worked with WOMEDA on the development of the Werribee Precinct: A vibrant satellite city for Melbourne. The report released in July 2021.

The West of Melbourne Economic Development Alliance (WoMEDA) was established with an independent board and the support of Victoria University. The primary objective is to influence new economic development opportunities and create more local jobs in the West of Melbourne. Wyndham City Council CEO Stephen Wall is the Deputy Chair of WoMEDA.

Municipal Association of Victoria - MAV

The Municipal Association of Victoria 2021 Conference was postponed due to COVID-19 until 2022

Wyndham City Council submitted four motions to the 2022 MAV Conference. The motions focused on Integrated Transport Planning, Support for Critical social planning and infrastructure and planning for future school provision were all passed with 98 per cent support.

Of the 86 Motions moved that aligned with MAV strategic priorities, 42 were consolidated. The remaining 44 motions, including three from Wyndham were debated as standalone motions. Wyndham supported all motions put before the conference.

Australian Local Government Association – ALGA

The ALGA national Conference was held in June 2022 in Canberra. The Mayor Peter Maynard, the CEO Stephen Wall as well as Councillors Robert Szatkowski and Jennie Barrera represented Wyndham at the conference.

Wyndham City Council submitted two motions to the conference.

Motion 68: *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to provide additional funding for tree planting to:*

1. Increase tree canopy cover;
2. Reduce the impacts of a changing climate; and
3. Improve biodiversity and create habitat for native fauna.

Motion 76: *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to increase needs-based funding for the construction of and upgrades to community, arts and culture and sports infrastructure.*

These motions were part of a group that were passed en bloc by the Assembly at the end of the debate on motions on Tuesday, 21 June, and will now be considered by the ALGA Board at their next meeting on 28 July, alongside all other carried NGA motions. The ALGA Board is comprised of two representatives from every local government jurisdiction.

National Growth Areas Alliance

Wyndham City is a proud member of the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA), a peak body that advocates to the Federal Government for a stronger focus on the needs of Australia's fast-growing outer suburbs.

Council works with the Alliance to ensure Wyndham City's challenges and opportunities are represented at a national level and participates in events such as the annual Symposium. Wyndham City Council Mayor Cr Peter Maynard and CEO Stephen Wall are both members of the NGAA advisory council.

Interface Councils

Interface Councils is another peak body, representing the ten local Councils in Melbourne's outer suburbs, with a key goal of advocating for better services and infrastructure for residents.

Wyndham City is a member of the group, participating in Interface-led delegations and contributing towards research and publications led by the peak body.

Locally Led Pandemic Response

Pandemic Recovery Office (PRO)

Council's Pandemic Recovery Office continued its efforts through 2021-22 to ensure a localised response and recovery through the COVID-19 pandemic in Wyndham, with advocacy and strong partnerships with State Government health agencies and community stakeholders at the forefront of this work.

These strong partnerships and advocacy efforts ensured the establishment of fixed vaccinations sites at Council facilities, at the Civic Centre, Eagle Stadium, and Werribee West Family Centre to provide equitable and easy access to COVID-19 vaccinations. Eagle Stadium delivered 84,934 vaccinations while the Werribee drive-through site administered 42,850 doses.

A series of pop ups vaccination clinics were also held in partnership with Western Health and the Department of Health, as well as community groups, with a focus on culturally and linguistically diverse communities at venues familiar to residents, including soccer pavilions, mosques and churches.

This work also led to Wyndham City being a partner of a pilot project that saw Rapid Antigen Tests distributed to culturally and linguistically diverse groups across Wyndham in partnership with Western Health and community groups. Much like the work with vaccinations, this project ensured more vulnerable cohorts of the community had access to testing.

PRO also advocated to relevant State Government agencies on the provision of fixed PCR testing sites to meet community demand and supported and facilitated the establishment of these sites.

Community groups

In 2021-22 and in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Wyndham City Council coordinated a local response in partnership with MiCare, Wyndham Community and Education Centre, The Huddle, Centre for Multicultural Youth, AMES Australia and IPC Health. The response is funded by the Victoria Government and centred on the engagement of a bicultural workforce that held relationships with a broad range of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse groups in Wyndham and could act to bridge the gap between government information and cultural awareness and understanding. The aspects of this response included:

- Engaging more than 20 bicultural workers who focused direct messaging to communities from South Sudan (Dinka, Luo, Nuer), Myanmar, Karen, Karenni, Thai, Pakistani, Iran, Indian, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Philippines New Zealand, Pacifica, Chin, Congolese, Sri Lankan, Arabic, Tongan, Maori and Cook Islands. Bicultural workers met together on a fortnightly basis with Council facilitating conversations about the information that needed to be distributed.

- The continual update of language specific pages on Council's website to allow people to navigate COVID-19 information in their preferred language. Languages include traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Karen, Korean, Hindi, Punjabi, Italian, Nuer, Vietnamese, Telugu, and Arabic.
- Engaging community, religious and other influential grassroots leaders. A series of community forums were held to bring together community leaders and community members so that issues could be identified in real time.
- Communicating effectively with community members using multiple touchpoints and partnering with stakeholders across government and the community to assist with dissemination of information to the broader community and the development of a co-designed communications and engagement strategy.
- 61 places of worship and the Interfaith Network WhatsApp group of 27 faith leaders who distributed this information with their community members
- Promoting information sessions for CALD business leaders through these networks as well as through the Werribee City Centre eNewsletter.
- Supporting community to record videos, posted to social media to deliver easy to understand in-language information about COVID Vaccination and how to use the QR Check in Services Australia App: An example of some of these videos is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gnJaTP8ceU and here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=x842Zw5CUDs>

On average, the bicultural workers reached over 158 CALD community groups in Wyndham every month through their engagement and communication. Delivering in-language information direct to business owners, community leaders and community members in a culturally appropriate way.

Arts & Culture

In 2021-22 Council officers have been convening an Arts Program Growth Areas meeting between Cardinia Shire Council, Casey City Council, Hume City Council, Melton City Council, City of Whittlesea and Wyndham City Council. The group are preparing to submit proposals to the Federal Government's new cultural policy to amplify the needs of Growth Areas in relation to access issues

Submissions

State and Federal budget 2022-23

Wyndham City provided its priorities to the State and Federal Governments. These submissions focused on new infrastructure investment, enhanced employment services, new primary and secondary school facilities, upgrades to roads and public transport infrastructure, funding for active transport pathways, and greater support for Wyndham's housing services associations.

In the lead up to the State and Federal Budgets Wyndham City Council meet with the local MPs and members of the Government to highlight the challenges. The submissions were accompanied with social media posts highlighting the communities needs and Wyndham City's priorities.

Federal Budget 2022-23

OPPORTUNITY / PRIORITY	FUNDING REQUESTED
Activate east Werribee and unlock the Werribee national employment and innovation cluster	\$50m
Wyndham Westlink	\$120m
Outer metropolitan ring transport corridor	Release of existing \$62m funding from the Federal Budget 2021-22 (alongside the Western Intermodal Freight Terminal)
Western intermodal freight terminal	Release of existing \$62m funding from the Federal Budget 2021-22 (alongside the Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor)
North and west Melbourne city deal	Agree and deliver a North West Melbourne City Deal
Growth and jobs – Geelong fast rail and other major rail projects	Include improved rail connections between Geelong and Wyndham, including a stop in Wyndham, as part of the existing \$2b investment in Geelong Fast Rail
Opportunity Wyndham- local jobs for local people	\$1m over 3 years
Sports infrastructure	\$25m
Finance for growth areas	\$13.6m

State Budget 2022-23

OPPORTUNITY / PRIORITY	FUNDING REQUESTED
Activate East Werribee	Investment to activate East Werribee and create 60,000 jobs
Western Intermodal Freight Terminal	Ongoing support
School provision	Additional funding for government schools and upgrades to existing schools
Wyndham Westlink	\$120m
Integrating Geelong fast rail and other major rail projects	Include improved rail connections between Geelong and Wyndham, including a stop in Wyndham, as part of the existing \$2b investment in Geelong Fast Rail
Western rail plan	Additional funding for increased rail capacity and new railway stations (Sayers Rd station prioritised) on Wyndham Vale line
Better buses	\$1m over 3 years
Better connected neighbourhoods	\$12m
Community and sports infrastructure	\$35m
Finance for growth areas	Increase funding for growth areas



National Anti-Racism Framework

Wyndham City supported and made an Officer led submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) in response to a proposed National Anti-Racism Framework. The submission supported the AHRC to call on the Australian Government to embrace implementation of a National Anti-Racism Framework as this is a great opportunity in building racial equality in these somewhat uncertain times, when we are still to understand the impacts of the ongoing pandemic. The submission was also in line with the *Wyndham Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, a Community of Possibilities* and underpinned by the Victoria University report, *All in this Together: A community-led response to racism for the City of Wyndham 2021*.

The proposed Framework is guided by the following 8 principles:

1. Acknowledge and recognise Australia's Indigenous peoples, celebrate their cultures and histories, and champion their rights.
2. Acknowledge and recognise Australia's British and migrant heritage, and the complex nature of the cultural diversity of modern Australia.
3. Reflect Australia's commitment to democracy, the rule of law and upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms.
4. Acknowledge the fundamental importance of the right to non-discrimination in Australia.
5. Protect and promote the right of equality before the law and equal opportunity to enjoy all areas of life.
6. Recognise intersectional experiences of racial discrimination.
7. Racism and racial discrimination cause significant harm to individuals, communities, and Australian society.
8. Racism takes many forms (e.g. individual, vilification / abuse, institutional or systemic) and is experienced and impacts on people in different ways.

The submission covered the following areas:

- Racism and Mental Wellbeing
- Building Racial Equality
- Labour Market and Productivity
- National Bill of Rights

Draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032

In February 2022, Council supported the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) submission to the Draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (National Plan) to replace the existing *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022* when it ends in mid-2022.

The submission supported the aims of the draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (the draft National Plan) to reduce and ultimately end violence against women and children, along with the broad approach and focus of the National Pillars and Foundation Principles. Both the MAV and VCOSS responses stressed that in order for the National Plan to be effective, it must include specific commitments and actions from the Federal Government. Greater clarity is also needed on how the National Plan will provide support to other levels of government and sector stakeholders to deliver on actions. This is a position supported by Council.



Melbourne's Future Planning Framework – Western Metro Land Use Framework Plan

The Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) invited comment on the Draft Metropolitan Land Use Framework Plans (LUF) prepared for each of the six metropolitan regions of Melbourne established under Melbourne's metropolitan Strategy – Plan Melbourne 2017-2050.



Metropolitan Melbourne Regions – Plan Melbourne 2017-2050

The City of Wyndham forms part of the Western Metro Region which also includes the cities of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton and Moonee Valley. The Western Metro LUF will provide a means of aligning Plan Melbourne's 9 guiding principles, 7 outcomes, 32 directions and 90 associated policies at a regional and local level. It also creates a stronger opportunity for the State and the Western Metro Region to work more collaboratively on the challenges of managing population growth, jobs, housing, infrastructure, and major transport improvements all within the broader aims of making the Western Metro Region more liveable, sustainable and resilient and Melbourne a global city of opportunity and choice.

Wyndham City's submission to DELWP identified a number of areas where the Framework Plan can be improved, strengthened and better aligned with the aspirations of the Wyndham and Western Metro Region communities. These actions include:

1. Whole of government delivery of the Werribee National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC).
2. Focus attention on the establishment of 'missing middle' elements (employment, diverse housing, transport) necessary to support urban city hearts and create 20-minute neighbourhoods.
3. Mitigation of non-sequential development and resolution of current lags in infrastructure delivery in greenfield growth areas.
4. Determination of the staging for the proposed Outer Metropolitan Ring Road and Rail Transport Corridor (OMR) and associated Western Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT).
5. Acceleration of the distribution and establishment of tree canopy cover to improve the sustainability and resilience of the Western Metro Region.
6. Acceleration of the creation of the Western Grasslands Reserve as a National Park.
7. 'Putting the plan into action' requires a better governance model with clear accountability and responsibility for delivery of outcomes sought through the WMLUFP.
8. A re-framing of the geography of the western metropolitan region.
9. Updating of the Western Metro 2050 Plan and associated key WMLUFP Maps to include identified missing elements.

The WMLUFP is currently awaiting finalisation and approval by the Minister for Planning.

Transport:

- Provided input into the MAV's development of the transport advocacy campaign 'Locals know what locals need'
- Provided Victoria Walks with Wyndham's State pre-budget submission priority paths, in support of their election campaign to encourage walking and improve the walking environment

Sustainability:

- Supported in principal and made recommendations on State Gov – Gas Substitution Roadmap
- Advocated to numerous members of parliament for reform of the planning system to address climate change, including local member Tim Pallas

Place Making & Activation

In late 2021, the Victorian State Government's Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) called for potential projects from local governments, which might form the basis of a partnership with the Suburban Revitalisation program. Wyndham City Council's Placemaking & Activation Team submitted a response, proposing place-making enhancements at five small Wyndham activity centres, which could be progressed with Victorian Government support. The package would help these small activity centres to flourish and strengthen Wyndham's 20-minute neighbourhoods. In late 2021 Council wrote to local member and Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas, to advise him of Council's submission. Council is currently awaiting a response from the DJPR, as they assess the proposals they have received.

Council was successful in receiving a further 12 months of funding for the Tarneit Revitalisation Project. That project is delivering significant place making, urban enhancement and business development support in Tarneit.



Advocacy Achievements

Western Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT)

The 2022-23 Federal Budget committed \$740m for the development of the WIFT. This is half of the estimated cost to develop the WIFT and is reliant on the Victorian Government to fund the remaining. The 2022-23 Budget the Victorian Government committed \$6.1m to progress planning and development activities for the WIFT and its associated rail connection to the interstate rail freight network via the Outer Metropolitan Ring Southern corridor.

Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor

The 2022-23 Federal Budget allocated \$920m to link the WIFT to the National Rail network south of Werribee.

WestLink

The Federal Labor Party committed \$57m to Westlink during the 2022 election campaign, while the State budget committed \$10.28m for early works. On 4 September 2022, The State Government committed \$114 million for the construction of Westlink stage 1. This funding will enable works to begin in early 2023.

East Werribee Employment Precinct

The State Budget committed \$2.8m to facilitate development in the Werribee National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC) with the funding going towards the development of the East Werribee Roadmap and a fast-track review of the Precinct Structure Plan Council Officers continue to work with colleagues at the Victorian Planning Authority and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on this work.

Schools

In 2022/23 State Budget the Victorian Government committed to building six new schools in Wyndham. These include:

- Black Forest East Primary School (Interim Name), opening in 2024
- Tarneit North Primary School (Interim Name), opening in 2024
- Truganina North Primary School (Interim Name), opening in 2024
- Riverdale Secondary School (Interim Name), opening in 2024
- Lollypop Creek Secondary School (Interim Name), opening in 2024
- Lollypop Creek Specialist School (Interim Name), opening in 2024

The budget also allocated funding for an additional stage at Truganina North Secondary School (Interim Name), land acquisition for Riverdale North Primary School (interim name) and a \$14.7m upgrade at Warringa Park School.

Better Public Transport

The Victorian Government allocated \$250m in the 2022-23 budget for 12 new VLocity trains. This is expected to enable one morning and two afternoon peak weekday services on the Wyndham Vale Line. This combined with extended trains (from 6 to 9 carriages) is estimated to increase passenger capacity by 50%.

A new on-demand bus service to Tarneit North will start in late 2022. FlexiRide services do not have a fixed route. Passengers will be able to book a seat via the FlexiRide app or phone, be directed to their closest bus stop – either a physical or appropriate alternative location – and be picked up and transported to dedicated hubs.

Werribee Mercy

The 2021-22 State budget allocated \$110 million to expanding the emergency department at Werribee Mercy Hospital. The expansion is expected to increase treatment spaces from 33 to 67 including four resuscitation bays, 16 short stay beds, 36 emergency care cubicles and a behavioural assessment room. The expansion will enable the hospital to treat an additional 25,000 patients per year.

Community Infrastructure and open space

In the leadup to the 2022 Federal elections the Labor Party committed to funding a Community battery for Manor Lakes to be delivered in conjunction with Council and \$20,000 for a toy library for Wyndham Vale.

Growing Suburb Fund projects

In 2021-22, three projects in Wyndham City received funding through the growing suburbs fund. This includes;

- Manor Lakes North Family Centre \$1,000,000
- Black Forest Road South Community Centre \$1,300,000
- Truganina Community Centre \$4,000,000

The State Budget also allocated an additional \$50 million for the Growing Suburbs Fund to continue building health and wellbeing hubs, new parks, and community centres in our growing suburban and peri-urban communities.

Tarneit Civic Hub and Performing Arts Facility

In November 2021 Community Planning advocated to local member, Sarah Connolly, for funding towards the proposed Tarneit (Main Town Centre) Civic Precinct which is earmarked to include kindergarten, maternal child health, community spaces and performing arts centre. Council was successful in securing \$500,000 through the 2022-23 State Budget process towards planning the \$30-\$40m facility. A business case will be prepared over the next 12 months.

Sport and Recreation

Wyndham City has fostered a strong partnership with Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV). We have strongly advocated for improved consideration of Wyndham projects as part of SRV's grant programs. In particular, greenfield projects have typically been poorly supported, as there has been a preference to provide grants to projects located in established sites with established participation bases.

This advocacy saw in excess of \$5m in grants awarded in 2021-22 including a combination of greenfield projects and existing sites.

Opportunity Wyndham

Since the establishment of the Social and Economic Inclusion Framework in 2020 and through the growth of Opportunity Wyndham, 1,355 residents have taken part in education and career building activities, 136 people facing barriers to employment were placed into jobs, 1,158 employment opportunities have been broadcast to employment service providers and 165 businesses have been engaged in inclusive employment activities.

In 2021-22 the Opportunity Wyndham commenced Year 1 of 4-year funding through the Victorian Government and continues to grow. The network now consists of representatives from Wise Employment, Job Prospects, Victoria University, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Youth Projects, The Huddle, The Gordon TAFE, AMES Australia, and Wyndham Community and Education Centre.

Empowering Communities

In November 2021, Wyndham City Council was successful in a grant application for \$700,000 to fund the development of a community partnership to design and deliver a crime prevention initiative. The grant program sets out key stages and activities through which Wyndham City Council will develop a community partnership and deliver a crime prevention initiative. These include the establishment of an action group, the hosting of five localised community safety forums across Wyndham, community consultation development, delivery and measurement of a community initiative.

The Empowering Communities grants is part of the Victorian Government's Building Safer Communities Program which includes grants and a series of community forums across Victoria.





FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information or to receive a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact:

WYNDHAM CITY COUNCIL

45 Princes Highway, Werribee, VIC 3030

Phone: 1300 023 411

Translating and Interpreting services: 13 14 50

 mail@wyndham.vic.gov.au

 www.wyndham.vic.gov.au

 www.facebook.com/wyndhamcitycouncil

 www.twitter.com/wyndhamcouncil

