



WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL

Partnership Opportunities

Spring 2023



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City of Whitehorse

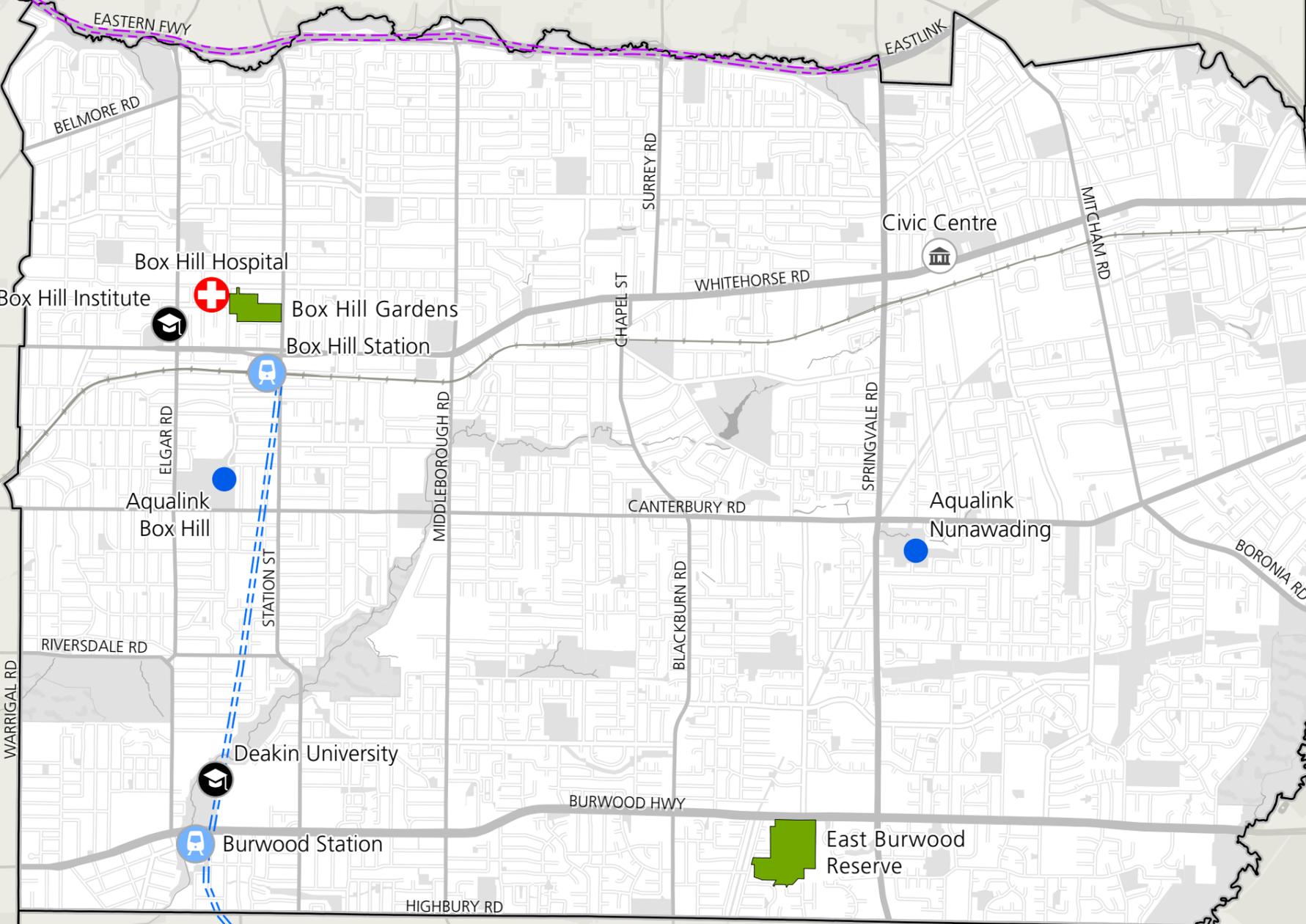
MANNINGHAM

MAROONDAH

BOROONDARA

ACROSS WHITEHORSE

- North East Link
- Suburban Rail Loop



Monash University Clayton (4km) ↓

Glen Waverley





Whitehorse Council welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with all levels of governments to deliver great outcomes for Whitehorse & beyond.

Whitehorse City Council is home to centres for vocational and higher education, as well as significant healthcare facilities. Our community is comprised of highly skilled individuals, reflecting our exceptional workforce. China and India are our two largest source countries for migrants, and skilled business and employers of migrants. Our city embraces a strong entrepreneurial spirit, particularly evident in the bustling Metro Activity Centre in Box Hill, which holds the promise of becoming a thriving second CBD for Melbourne. The Suburban Rail Loop, including planned stations in Burwood and Box Hill, along with the North East Link, could contribute to this vision by creating an employment, business, and community hub that benefits a swathe of

Melbourne's east region, with excellent connections to Frankston in the south and the Ring Road in the north.

However, these developments come with certain risks. These projects will intrude upon open spaces equivalent to the size of x15 MCGs (Melbourne Cricket Ground) in the years to come. With the Suburban Rail Loop, Level Crossing Removals, and North East Link all being managed by different corporations, there is a danger that Box Hill falls victim to a series of disjointed projects instead of a truly integrated transport hub that facilitates movement across Melbourne's east. If, for instance, the Box Hill Bus Interchange continues to be

neglected, the train lines fail to connect efficiently, or the tram line is disregarded, Box Hill's potential will not be realised.

Whitehorse City Council has an ambitious capital works program. Through responsible stewardship, Council has entirely funded The Round, our outstanding new performing arts centre. However, we have numerous community facilities that were constructed between the 1950s and 1970s now reaching the end of their use. Kindergartens and libraries, community halls, indoor sports facilities, and leisure centres all require renewal or careful consideration for their future.

Whitehorse is eager to engage in creative and constructive partnerships with the Federal and Victorian Governments, as well as neighbouring local government authorities (LGAs). We strongly advocate for comprehensive climate action, financial support and assistance for businesses, councils, and communities. We aspire to think big and pursue projects that yield benefits beyond our municipal boundaries. We have projects ready for collaboration and opportunities to engage on a larger scale.

Skills and qualifications:

- 10.1% of Whitehorse residents are enrolled in higher education, compared to 8.3% across Greater Melbourne
- 41.7% of Whitehorse residents are degree qualified or higher, compared to 32.8% across Greater Melbourne

Education:

- Deakin University, Burwood
- Box Hill Institute
- 4km from Monash University, Clayton
- Many private VET sector education providers

Health:

- Box Hill Hospital (Eastern Health)
- Peter James Rehab (Eastern Health)
- Epworth Hospital Box Hill
- Health precinct in Box Hill



Community Building

Whitehorse SES Facility

Whitehorse SES is one of the biggest and busiest units in Victoria with around 80 highly trained and dedicated volunteer members, serving all of Whitehorse and approximately one third of the City of Boroondara.

Since 1996, the Whitehorse SES has operated out of a sub-standard portable building at Council's Operations Centre, which was only ever intended to be a temporary facility. The garage provided is not suitable for the modern fleet of SES vehicles.

An upgrade is overdue. SES volunteers deserve facilities befitting their expert training and dedication to our community. Either the current facilities need to be upgraded as a suitable shared use facility, or a new standalone facility be developed that is consistent with the precedent set with other metropolitan SES unit facilities.

Estimated cost – subject to further investigation – \$10 million depending on site.



Libraries

Public libraries are invaluable assets that promote education and inclusivity. There are several libraries within Whitehorse City Council and surrounding municipalities, but with the decline in funding for public libraries, libraries need help to meet community demand. These hubs of learning and social engagement foster a sense of community and provide safe spaces for dialogue. In the digital age, libraries have adapted, but sustaining these crucial services requires increased funding. Investing in public libraries means investing in the future of our communities, and empowering individuals with knowledge and critical thinking skills.

Council calls on the Victorian Government to:

- ensure adequate funding is provided to public libraries to support service delivery.



Creative Performing Arts Programming

The Round

The Round is Whitehorse City Council’s brand new state-of-the-art performing arts venue and represents considerable opportunities for the performing arts in Melbourne’s East. Additional funds would allow the development of new programs in The Round’s annual offering, to reach new audiences, support local artists and increase diversity/representation in the arts.

Asian-Australian Program

Whitehorse City Council has significant Chinese and Indian populations, with more than 30 per cent of the overall population being comprised of these cultural groups. Funding would allow The Round to bring Asian artists and arts companies from interstate to present works, to offer residency programs for local Asian artists and arts companies and to develop ongoing relationships major Asian arts festivals. This program would focus on increasing Asian-Australian representation in the arts, attracting Asian-Australian audiences to the theatre, supporting local Asian-Australian artists and forging relationships with the Asian community.

Funding opportunity: up to \$100k

Contemporary Music Program

The innovative design of The Round’s SoundShell indoor/outdoor stage allows for increased security, weather protection and technical infrastructure in a picturesque and unique outdoor venue. Funding would allow The Round to program a series of four high-profile contemporary music artists in the outdoor SoundShell and to attract new audiences to the venue and to experience live art. This program would focus on attracting a younger and more diverse audience to experience live performing arts with the intention of building an ongoing relationship as well as supporting the live-music industry in its continued recovery post-COVID-19.

Funding opportunity: up to \$80k

These initiatives would culturally enrich the community, improve social cohesion and wellbeing and create jobs locally and for the broader arts sector.



Whitehorse Live Music Initiative

Council research has identified a lack of live music venues in the City of Whitehorse. As a result residents highly value the access to live and diverse music experiences provided by Whitehorse’s annual Festival Season and programming at The Round (formerly the Whitehorse Centre).

The Whitehorse Festival Season is an annual series of free, family-friendly arts and cultural events delivered in parks and public spaces across Whitehorse. The addition of the Soundshell space in The Round provides a new venue for large scale outdoor music programming in a uniquely weatherproof setting.

We are seeking investment to:

- Further develop local contemporary music audiences by offering four ticketed concerts by high-profile music artists in The Round Soundshell.
- Increase free opportunities to access live contemporary music by expanding the line-up of artists at Whitehorse Festival Season events.

This initiative will improve access for those living in Melbourne’s eastern suburbs to engage with contemporary Australian music and Victoria’s diverse live music scene. These events will:

- Provide employment for professional music artists during this ongoing period of COVID recovery.
- Increase social cohesion by bringing the community together to experience live music.
- Grow contemporary music audiences in Melbourne’s east, with a particularly focus on engaging young adults and culturally diverse audiences.
- Build sustainable youth audiences to support ongoing contemporary music programming at The Round.

Funding Opportunity: \$220,000+ per annum



Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct—Big Shed Project.

“The Big Shed” project (at concept stage) is a proposed purpose-built HUB/facility for multiple community-based activity groups, a new home for the Men’s Shed Nunawading and Repair Café (hosted by healthAbility). healthAbility is a Not-for-profit organisation working to address the root causes of vulnerability and prevent diseases while promoting lifelong health outcomes and empowering people in the community to live their best lives.

A refurbished heritage property, Strathdon House and Orchard Precinct includes the last remaining apple orchard in Whitehorse, a kitchen garden, packing shed (education and event space) and ongoing education, healthy living and sustainability programs.

The Big Shed will build on this ethos by providing opportunities for positive ageing, intergenerational connection and practising sustainability. Responding to the growing concerns regarding mental health, social isolation and loneliness, the Big Shed provides a safe and inclusive space for community members to connect, access support services, and engage in activities that promote their overall well-being.

Funding is required to undertake feasibility and design work, construction and operations.

Funding opportunity: up to \$2 million (including construction)



Outdoor Sports

Outdoor sport facilities in Whitehorse are at or over capacity. Demand will increase as our population grows, and as participation of girls and women is supported to grow.

Our sports field capacity is almost fully utilised. Some areas are oversubscribed including Mitcham, Blackburn, Nunawading, Vermont and Vermont South.

In Whitehorse, there are more than 12,000 seasonal sport participants vying for the use of 53 seasonally allocated sports fields and 28 seasonally allocated sporting pavilions. There has also been huge growth in female participation in sport.

Since 2015 there has been a **226% increase** in women & girls' cricket, football & soccer teams

Allocation requests for other sports has also increased including rugby (43%), Ultimate Frisbee (50%) and hockey (18%).

The use of our existing sports fields is impacted by factors including ground condition, grass type, irrigation and drainage, weather conditions, type of use and intensity of use. Open space is also significantly impacted by the North East Link (NEL), and Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) major transport projects.

Council recognises climate-adapted liveability programs and facilities in urban areas contribute to protecting community health and wellbeing.

Council seeks partnerships to increase outdoor sport capacity. We invite conversations from schools, other councils, the private sector and especially the Victorian and Commonwealth governments on ways we can partner to increase capacity.

Opportunities already identified include:

Additional facilities

- Develop Davy Lane Reserve in Forest Hill into a sporting reserve for senior and junior sport. Early probable cost: up to \$20 million

Increase capacity at existing facilities

- Sports field floodlighting at existing floodlit and non-floodlit ovals can provide additional training and competition opportunities in winter.
- Synthetic surfaces can double or triple the capacity of existing ovals as without deteriorating like natural turf.
- Better playing surfaces allow more training and match play and reduces the risk of injuries
- Redevelop sporting pavilions to provide facilities that cater, in particular for women and juniors and which complement increasing the capacity of existing outdoor sport facilities.

Indoor Sports

Whitehorse needs additional sports facilities to meet existing demand and future participation for an increasingly diverse population, playing more indoor sports than previously.

Insufficient capacity

Council's Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study (ISFFS)¹ analysed the demand for indoor sports. It sets a strategic direction to address the requirements of indoor sports and facilities across the municipality.

Our population is forecast to increase by about 25 per cent to 207,424 people by 2036, which is likely to mean an additional 4000 people seeking local facilities to play indoor sport.

Schools have also identified that additional public (and school) indoor sport courts are needed to serve schools.

There is inadequate capacity in existing facilities to allow any sports to grow at peak times or to accommodate additional indoor sports.

Most indoor sports facilities have constraints in meeting current sporting requirements, largely due to the age of assets and changing sporting codes. Court size and roof height is a major issue in most of the older facilities, especially schools.

Sports, such as netball, are constrained mostly by facility design issues, whereas growth in table tennis and gymnastics are constrained by a lack of dedicated facilities.

Partnerships

Council will need the assistance of partners to achieve the required number of indoor sports courts. This may include financial contributions, shared use and expansion of existing facilities or other creative solutions.

¹ <https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/about-council/have-your-say/community-consultation-and-engagement/ISFFS>

Council is always interested in exploring partnership opportunities with other levels of government to increase community facilities.

Please contact Council to discuss the suitability of any indoor sports facility projects or partnerships for Council co-investment that benefit our growing community.

Council is seeking partnerships to increase indoor sport capacity in our city through:

Upgrading existing Council facilities

Proposed development sites identified in the ISFFS are:

- Aqualink in Box Hill
- Nunawading Basketball Centre in East Burwood
- Nunawading Gymnastic and Sports Club at Walker Park in Nunawading.

Projects subject to community consultation process

New facility in Box Hill Central

- Explore opportunities for a multi-use community facility to include table tennis in central Box Hill.

Partnerships with education providers

- Partner with primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary education providers to redevelop or upgrade facilities in exchange for community and sporting group access.

Other partnerships

- Council is open to and actively pursuing conversations with other councils, private sector and community organisations to explore opportunities to increase indoor sport capacity for our community.

Preferred site	Aqualink Box Hill	Nunawading Basketball Centre	Nunawading Gymnastics
June 2022 Early probable cost	\$16.1m	\$100m	\$9m

Sport and Recreation Facilities

Mirrabooka Reserve BLACKBURN SOUTH

Precinct development upgrades including sports field surface improvements, sports field lighting and pedestrian access improvements.

Status: Concept Design stage

Commitment: Federal Government \$2 million & State Government \$3 million (Pavillion upgrade).

Project cost: \$15 million

Funding opportunity: up to \$10 million

Koonung Park Redevelopment BLACKBURN NORTH

Redevelop the pavilion, sports fields and install a new electronic scoreboard.

If funded, could commence: 2023/24

Status: Project identified

Project cost: \$10 million

Funding opportunity: up to \$10 million

Sparks Reserve West Sports Field Upgrade BOX HILL

Install artificial grass to accommodate significantly more soccer activity. The reserve is heavily used by National Premier League club Box Hill United with training activity alone exceeding recommended turf capacity benchmark levels. Synthetic turf can carry two to three times as much activity.

Status: Design scheduled for 2022/23

Project cost: \$5 million

Funding opportunity: up to \$5 million

Hagenauer Reserve Redevelopment BOX HILL NORTH

Upgrade the synthetic track surface, upgrade entry and terracing, an additional pole vault facility and new spectator shelters. If funded, could commence: 2023/24

Status: Design Stage

Commitment: \$400k (State Gov)

Project cost: \$1.56 million – includes \$750K for athletics track

Funding opportunity: up to \$1.16 million

Davy Lane Reserve FOREST HILL

Develop Davy Lane Reserve into a sporting reserve for senior and junior sport. Early probable cost:

\$15 million If funded, could commence: from 2022/23 construction staged to 2024/25

Status: Concept plan developed and community engagement undertaken

Funding opportunity: up to \$20 million

Redevelopment of Aqualink Nunawading FOREST HILL

This much-loved and well used facility is ageing and due for renewal. The 50 metre pool is approaching end of useful life.

Status: Initial scoping

Funding opportunity: up to \$150 million

Mahoneys Reserve Pavilion FOREST HILL

The pavilion is ageing and doesn't meet the latest accessibility standards a redeveloped pavilion will cater for cricket, soccer and other tenants of the Mahoneys Reserve as well as cultural clubs and community groups.

Project cost: \$12 million

Status: Project identified

Funding: \$4.563 million (proposed council funding)

Funding opportunity: \$7.437 million

East Burwood Reserve South Pavilion EAST BURWOOD

The South Pavilion is ageing and doesn't meet the latest accessibility standards. A redeveloped pavilion will cater for cricket, football and other tenants of the East Burwood Reserve as well as cultural clubs and community groups.

Project cost: \$12 million

Proposed Council funding: \$5.318 million

Funding opportunity: \$6.682 million

East Burwood Reserve EAST BURWOOD

Comprehensive masterplan for the redevelopment of this large site. Currently hosting cricket, tennis, football, athletics, velodrome, basketball, cultural clubs and community halls with ageing and inaccessible facilities.

Funding opportunity: numerous

East Burwood Reserve Bill Sewart Athletics Track & Pavilion EAST BURWOOD

The Bill Sewart Athletics Track and Pavilion exhibit aging infrastructure, with the track last undergoing resurfacing in 2012 and the pavilion being constructed in 1984. The entire athletics precinct currently fails to meet accessibility standards. In order to address these shortcomings, a comprehensive redevelopment plan has been proposed, encompassing the pavilion and athletics track and formalisation of a soccer field. A redeveloped facility will be able to accommodate a substantial user base, including an estimated annual total of 80,000 school students, the Nunawading Triathlon Club, Box Hill United Soccer Club, Chinese Legends Soccer Club, and other community groups, such as the relocated Whitehorse Club.

Status: Project identified

Project cost: \$7 million

Funding opportunity: up to \$7 million

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is a pressing issue affecting many families, households, and individuals across Victoria, including those within the municipality. Whitehorse City Council is an active member of the Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance (EAHA), which aims to address the issue by ensuring disadvantaged people in the region can access safe, secure, and affordable housing.

Unfortunately, the demand for affordable housing outstrips the supply, putting those who rely on social and affordable housing at the most significant risk. Structural barriers that contribute to the current supply shortage need to be addressed by government action, which is urgently required.

Access to affordable housing is fundamental to health and wellbeing, and all communities deserve to meet this essential requirement. Unfortunately, in the City of Whitehorse, housing costs have significantly increased relative to incomes, making affordable rental and home ownership options increasingly out of reach for current and future residents.

It is estimated that there is currently a shortfall of 2570 affordable houses in the municipality, which is projected to increase to 3740 by 2041 if no action is to be taken. To meet this growing need, 190 additional affordable houses will be required annually by 2041.

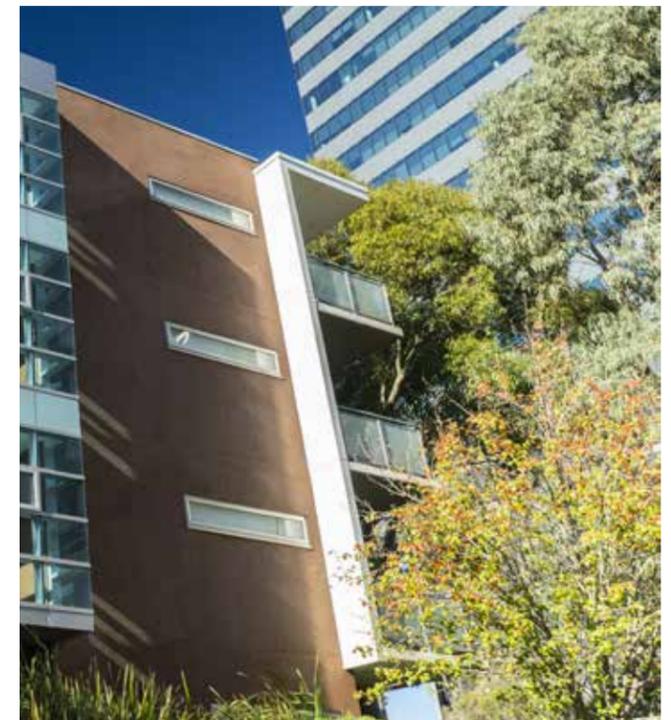
Whitehorse City Council recognises the severity of the affordable housing crisis and is committed to working with the EAHA and the government to find solutions to the problem.

Council recognises enhanced thermal comfort and energy efficiency in social housing and coordinate inter-jurisdictional heatwave response policies will further protect vulnerable households.

By addressing the issue of affordable housing, the City of Whitehorse can create a more equitable and inclusive community where everyone has access to safe, secure, and affordable housing.

Recommendations:

- Deliver a minimum of 11,700 new affordable homes in Melbourne's Eastern Region by 2032 backed by predictable funding streams.
- Work with EAHA to create a register of appropriate public land and develop affordable housing on priority sites.
- All levels of government to work together to increase the supply of affordable private rentals.





Parks and Open Spaces

A new park in Ellingworth Parade and Harrow Street

BOX HILL

Create 3,500m² of open space

There is an opportunity to create a new open space for community members to meet, play and connect, whilst also enhancing our local environment.

The space will be created by the transformation of an existing asphalt car park and will add open space to meet community needs.

Council is seeking funding for construction of this new open space.

Project cost: \$3.8m

Funding opportunity: \$3.8 million



Walking, Cycling and Public Transport

Council is committed to ensuring our community, and those who travel through the municipality, have access to transport options that are sustainable, convenient, accessible, safe, and enhance the liveability of our city.

Safe, sustainable and active modes of transport have many health, environmental and community benefits. Council actively supports the ongoing transition to zero emissions transport, expressing interest in participating in the statewide EV charging network, funding active transport infrastructure, and enhancing public transport investment for better integration and accessibility in growth areas. Our Whitehorse Integrated Transport Strategy 2011 encourages increased use of sustainable transport modes, including walking, cycling and public transport.

The strategy's four strategic objectives are to:

- encourage walking
- maintain and improve the cycling network
- encourage an increased shift toward public transport
- provide safe and efficient movement of vehicles.

We believe partnerships are vital to move towards more sustainable transport. Council is seeking to work with the Victorian and Commonwealth governments on projects to encourage walking and cycling as modes of transport, including:

- Creating a walking and cycling bridge over the Belgrave/Lilydale rail line to connect Nelson Road and Thurston Street, Box Hill.
- Nunawading-Syndal Pipe Track shared user path on the Melbourne Water pipe track reserve.
- Reviewing traffic signals to give better priority to pedestrians and public transport at key locations in Box Hill.
Status: Assessment and review required.
- Ensuring an integrated and coordinated approach between the Suburban Rail Loop Authority, Level Crossing Removal Project and Department of Transport to improve transport infrastructure in Whitehorse, including the Box Hill Transit Interchange, Box Hill Train Station and the Box Hill to Hawthorn Strategic Cycling Corridor
Status: Long term vision and project coordination required.



Major Infrastructure projects and their impacts

North East Link, Suburban Rail Loop and the Mont Albert Road Level Crossing Removal projects are major, city shaping works that will leave long and important legacies in Whitehorse. A coordinated approach is essential to unlock the benefits of these 'Big Build' projects while minimising disruptions and negative impacts to the local community now and into the future.

Local Economy - disruption

Ongoing construction, road and footpath closures have a significant impact on local traders and businesses. Council would like to see clearly documented strategies very early in project planning that outline how the Victorian Government will provide support to meet the needs of individual businesses.

Loss of open space

Major state infrastructure projects across Whitehorse will temporarily or permanently disrupt approximately 300,000m², or approximately 15 MCGs, of open space. Council seeks a collaborative approach between all Victorian Government agencies in order to coordinate project outcomes, timelines, processes, impacts and disruptions across these projects.

Vegetation

Cumulatively, North East Link, Suburban Rail Loop and the Mont Albert Road Level Crossing Removal projects will potentially impact around 5000 trees in Whitehorse. Council is supportive of the commitment to replace more trees than are removed, but notes it will take a generation for these trees to mature into canopy trees and as such, vegetation removal should be minimised to the greatest extent possible.

Parking

The Whitehorse community regularly raises concerns in relation to car parking – not enough car parking, (including parking for people with a disability and electric charging spaces), that may result in overflow into local streets. The need for parking needs to be balanced with investment in public and active transport and included in integrated transport models.

Council is seeking to minimise the disruption and impact these projects have on the community – both now and into the future.

Suburban Rail Loop

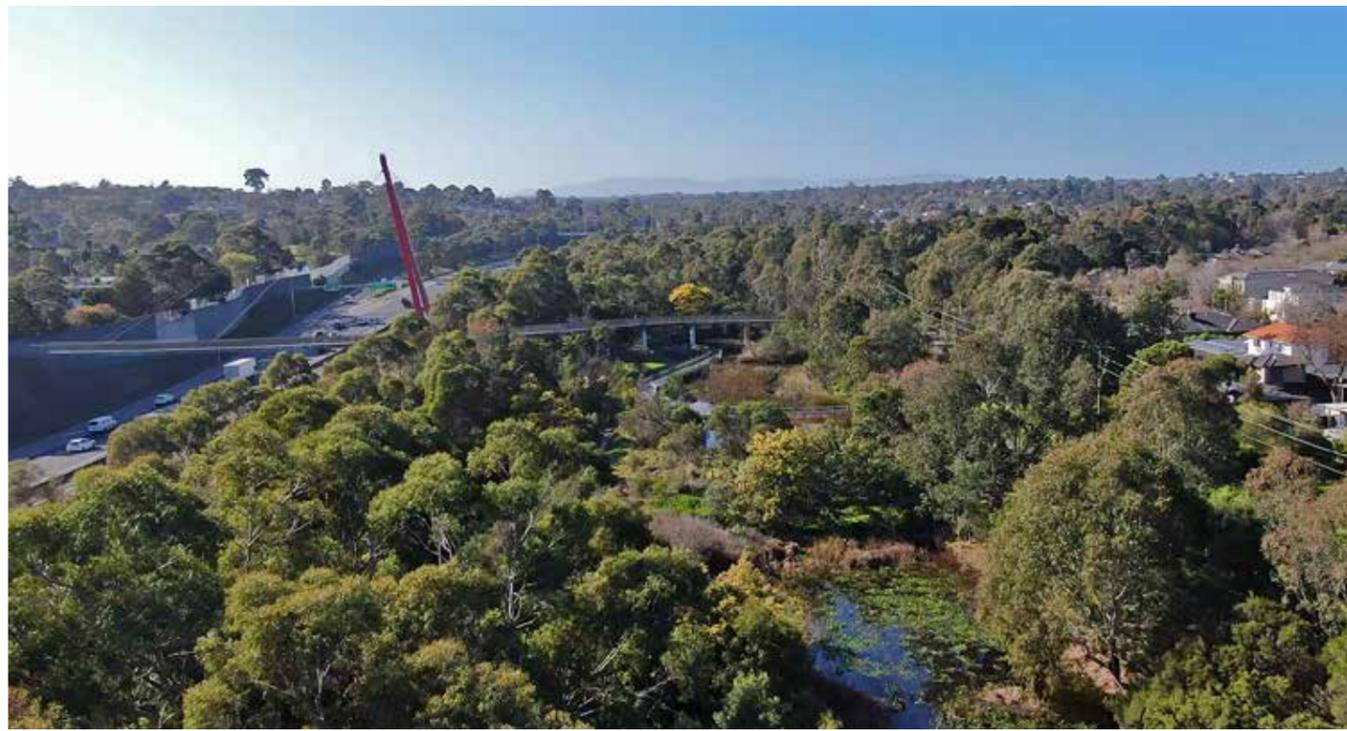
Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) has the potential to change how we move around metropolitan Melbourne and influence where we work, learn and live. Whitehorse City Council looks forward to the improved transport options that this project will bring. A project of this size, complexity and ambition will involve significant disruption, particularly during the lengthy construction phase, in order to achieve the long term benefits. While being generally supportive of the project, Whitehorse City Council wishes to work with the Victorian Government on three key issues:

1. Create a genuinely integrated transport hub in Box Hill, where existing transport infrastructure is improved and connected with new SRL infrastructure.
2. Avoid and minimise the social, amenity and environmental impacts on the Whitehorse community, particularly those close to the new Box Hill and Burwood stations.
3. Maximise the look, feel and usability of the SRL infrastructure and the areas surrounding the stations.

Council calls upon the Victorian Government to include the following elements:

- Redevelop the dysfunctional and unsafe bus interchange that is currently above the Box Hill Central shopping centre.

- Protect residents and businesses from noise, vibration, poor air quality, loss of amenity and open space impacts of the project.
- Retain as many heritage buildings and structures as possible.
- Minimise the space and time impacts of construction works on Box Hill Gardens.
- Return Sinnott Street Reserve in Burwood to Council after construction is complete.
- Ensure the SRL east-west cycling path within the Whitehorse Road median connects to the Box Hill to Hawthorn Strategic Cycling Corridor, via Nelson Road, Hopetoun Parade and Thurston Street.
- Plan and deliver infrastructure within the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre (MAC) in accordance with the vision contained in the draft Box Hill Structure Plan and Urban Design Framework.
- Plan and deliver infrastructure beyond the Box Hill MAC and near the Burwood station that complements the Whitehorse Housing Strategy, Neighbourhood Character Study and Residential Corridors Built Form Study.
- Continue the proposed naturalisation of Gardiners Creek through to Highbury Road, Burwood.
- Design the project to ensure the tree retention is maximised to the greatest extent.



North East Link

North East Link (NEL) will have significant impacts on those who live, work, study or visit Whitehorse. Council wants to work with the Victorian Government to ensure the project meets transport objectives while respecting the local needs of the community.

Council calls for the NEL designs to incorporate a smaller footprint for the Eastern Freeway than previously suggested. Council would like to see this significant infrastructure project align closer with Whitehorse local WSUD priorities, expand blue/green infrastructure, and enhance vegetation protection. This has a range of benefits for the Whitehorse community including:

- Minimising the environmental impact on Koonung Creek.
- Retaining mature vegetation.
- Better amenity for adjacent residents by not installing unsightly noise walls close to their back fences.
- Reduced visual, noise and air amenity impacts to residents and users of adjacent sporting and open space facilities.

To improve community outcomes in Whitehorse, Council also calls on the Victorian Government to:

- Address the congestion and deteriorated function the NEL is predicted to cause on arterial

and local roads, particularly (but not limited to) Elgar Road, Station Street, Middleborough Road, Surrey/Blackburn Roads.

- Upgrade bus services and infrastructure along the Eastern Freeway to function as part of a Bus Rapid Transit system from the CBD to Mitcham.
- Design the project to ensure the tree retention is maximised as well as noise and air quality impacts are minimised to the greatest extent.
- Improve degraded sections of Koonung Creek to enhance the ecological, habitat and aesthetic value.
- Upgrade the Koonung Creek Trail including:
 - » Make walking and cycling more comfortable by resurfacing the path and installing additional lighting, toilets, drinking fountains, seating and shelter.
 - » Improve wayfinding and signage along the entire trail.
 - » Upgrade the existing underpass to ensure they are aesthetically pleasing and safe for users to want to enter.
 - » Grade separate the trail on the south side of the Eastern Freeway at Middleborough Road, Surrey Road and Springvale Road.
 - » Improve the trail's connectivity on the east side of Middleborough Road.
 - » Develop a walking and cycling link from the trail to Bushy Creek.

Local Economy and City Planning

Planning Reform

In recent years, the Victorian Government has implemented a series of changes to the planning system in Victoria. These changes have been made without involving local councils or the community. These changes are noteworthy because they strip away the following elements:

- council's role as the Responsible Authority
- planning permit requirements
- public consultation
- consultation with local government
- third-party appeal rights of residents.

The participation of the community is vital to establish a transparent planning system that enhances the amenity of local neighbourhoods. Consequently, extensive community consultation must form an integral part of significant planning decisions.

Precinct Investment Plans

We are actively pursuing a comprehensive, transparent, and long-term commitment to economic planning investment in Whitehorse, including Box Hill and Burwood. These areas possess the potential to become National Employment and Innovation Clusters (NEICs), which would signify their importance as nationally significant hubs for employment and business activity. Accomplishing this feat necessitates the provision of appropriate support, such as implementing a "Precinct Investment Plan."

Council calls on the Victorian Government to:

- **Consult with local governments and communities before planning reform decisions are made.**
- **Ensure appropriate time is provided to local governments and communities for the opportunity to provide feedback, on key planning reforms.**

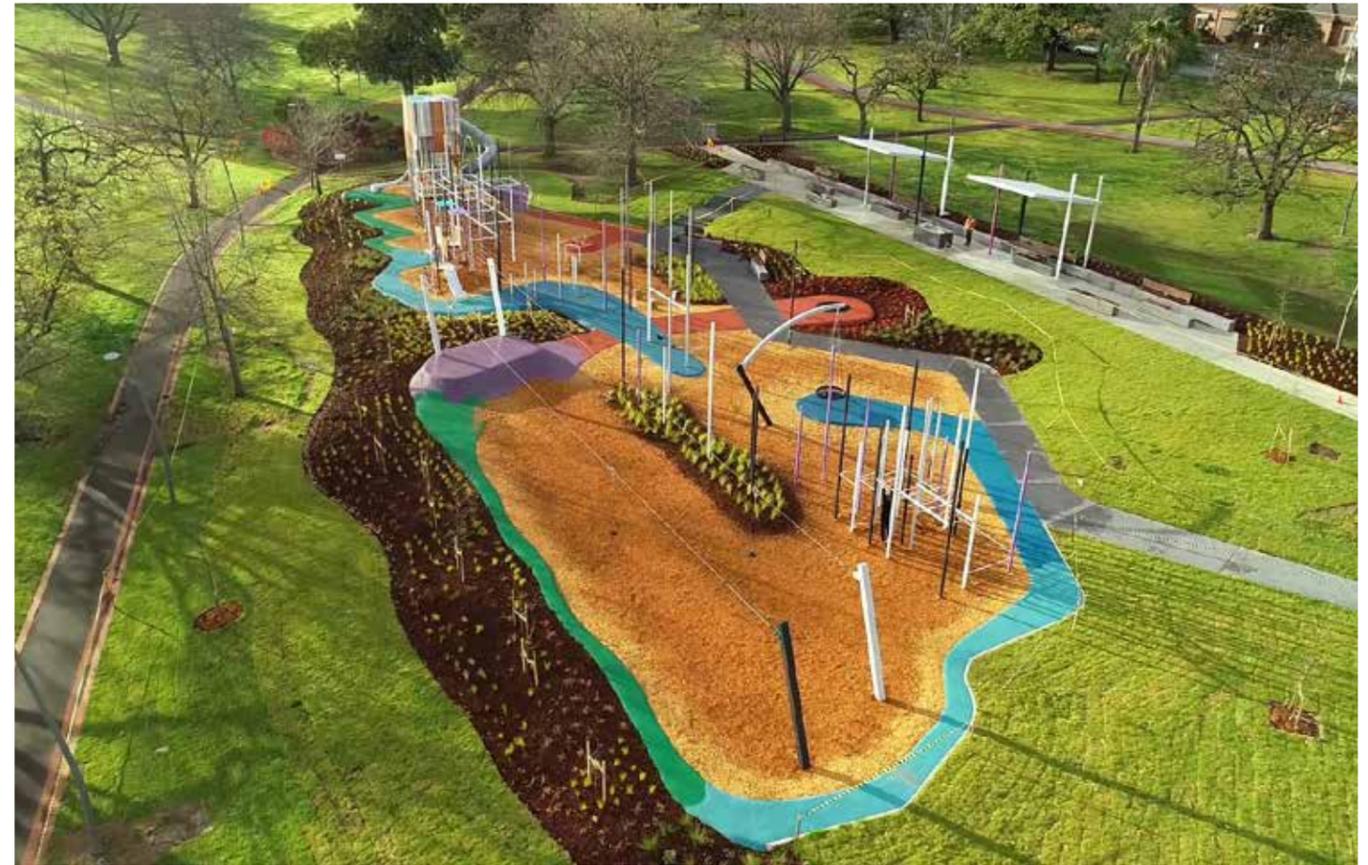


Sustainable Planning

Council has a commitment to increasing tree canopy cover, for the many benefits it brings. We have committed to increasing tree canopy across Whitehorse from around 18 per cent to 30 per cent by 2050 in line with targets set in the Victorian Government's Living Melbourne strategy. Most of the canopy trees in Whitehorse are protected by a temporary overlay that the Minister has extended several times while Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) completes a review of vegetation overlays in the Victoria Planning Provisions.

Whitehorse is supportive of a consistent, statewide approach to tree protection and would support the certainty that a permanent overlay would provide. Whitehorse City Council has concerns about the impact on the Urban Canopy of the Bushfire Prone Area and urge the Minister to take a more refined approach to bushfire management where there is valued canopy which may pose a lower risk or even provide a degree of protection and resilience as climate changes.

Council advocates for explicit mandates addressing climate change within the Victorian Planning System and requests meaningful consultation.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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Email: customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Social Media: Connect with Whitehorse City Council

