

Southern Metropolitan Partnership

REPORT BACK 2019





Southern Metropolitan Partnership Report Back 2019

The Victorian Government proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal community and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely.

We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us.

We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

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Creating a better connected and more prosperous region

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

The Southern Metropolitan region is one of Melbourne's largest and most diverse communities. With over 1 million people, it has the largest population of the six Metropolitan Regions. It covers a vast area, down from the Bayside suburbs to the southern tip of the Mornington Peninsula, and out to the rapidly growing suburbs of Pakenham and Officer.

Melbourne's south includes both established communities with great access to jobs, services and infrastructure, as well as significant growth areas where communities require investment to support their expanding populations. A key challenge for the region is to ensure that as the South grows, it continues to develop and meet the needs of its residents. Getting the community involved in developing future priorities is a great place to start.

That is why the Government has established the Metropolitan Partnerships, to ensure our suburbs remain great places to live as we continue to grow.

Each year the Partnership submits its independent advice to government on what it sees as the top priorities for jobs, services and infrastructure across the region. Before submitting the advice, the Partnership engages with the community to understand what is most important to the people who live, work, study and visit the region.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Southern Partnership and the community for their hard work in developing this advice. I am looking forward to working with the Southern Metropolitan Partnerships on a range of issues, including how we can build a better connected and more prosperous region.



A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marlene'.

The Hon Marlene Kairouz MP
Minister for
Suburban Development
Minister for Consumer Affairs,
Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Delivering for the Southern Region

The Victorian Budget 2019–20 is delivering key funding outcomes across the Southern Metropolitan Region, with metropolitan and state-wide investments.



Education

\$1.4 billion

Keep building, upgrading and modernising schools across Victoria.

\$231 million

Training and skills to keep transforming the sector by strengthening training quality, building more world-class facilities, growing Victoria's pool of skills workers, and expanding Free TAFE for Priority Courses.



Environment

\$154 million

6,500+ hectares of parkland with new walking and bike trails right across our suburbs, providing a place for local families to relax and switch off.

\$545 million

Expand Solar Homes and put the power back in the hands of Victorians, as part of a \$1.3 billion investment state-wide.



Aboriginal affairs

\$30.4 million

Phase two of the treaty and self-determination process for Aboriginal Victorians, which aligns with the Partnership's advocacy to the Victorian Government for continued work on Treaty and cultural recognition for Victoria.



Road and rail

\$3.4 billion

Transform the suburban train network, delivering a massive upgrade to the Sunbury Line, Stage Two of the Hurstbridge Line and duplicating the Cranbourne Line.

\$681 million

Melbourne Airport Rail Link.

\$6.6 billion

Remove another 25 of Melbourne's most dangerous and congested level crossings, bringing our total commitment to 75 level crossings gone for good by 2025.

\$300 million

Commence planning and consultation for the Suburban Rail Loop



Health

\$3.8 billion

A \$3.8 billion plan to build modern hospitals across the state

\$321.9 million

Begin the roll-out of free dental for students at our government schools, state-wide.

\$214 million

Ensure new parents have the support they need, with nine new parenting centres, extended sleep assistance and new baby bundles.

\$173 million

Make sure Victorians are getting the mental health help that they need.

\$64.4 million

Support stronger patient ratios and deliver an extra 542 nurses and midwives in our hospitals.

Introduction

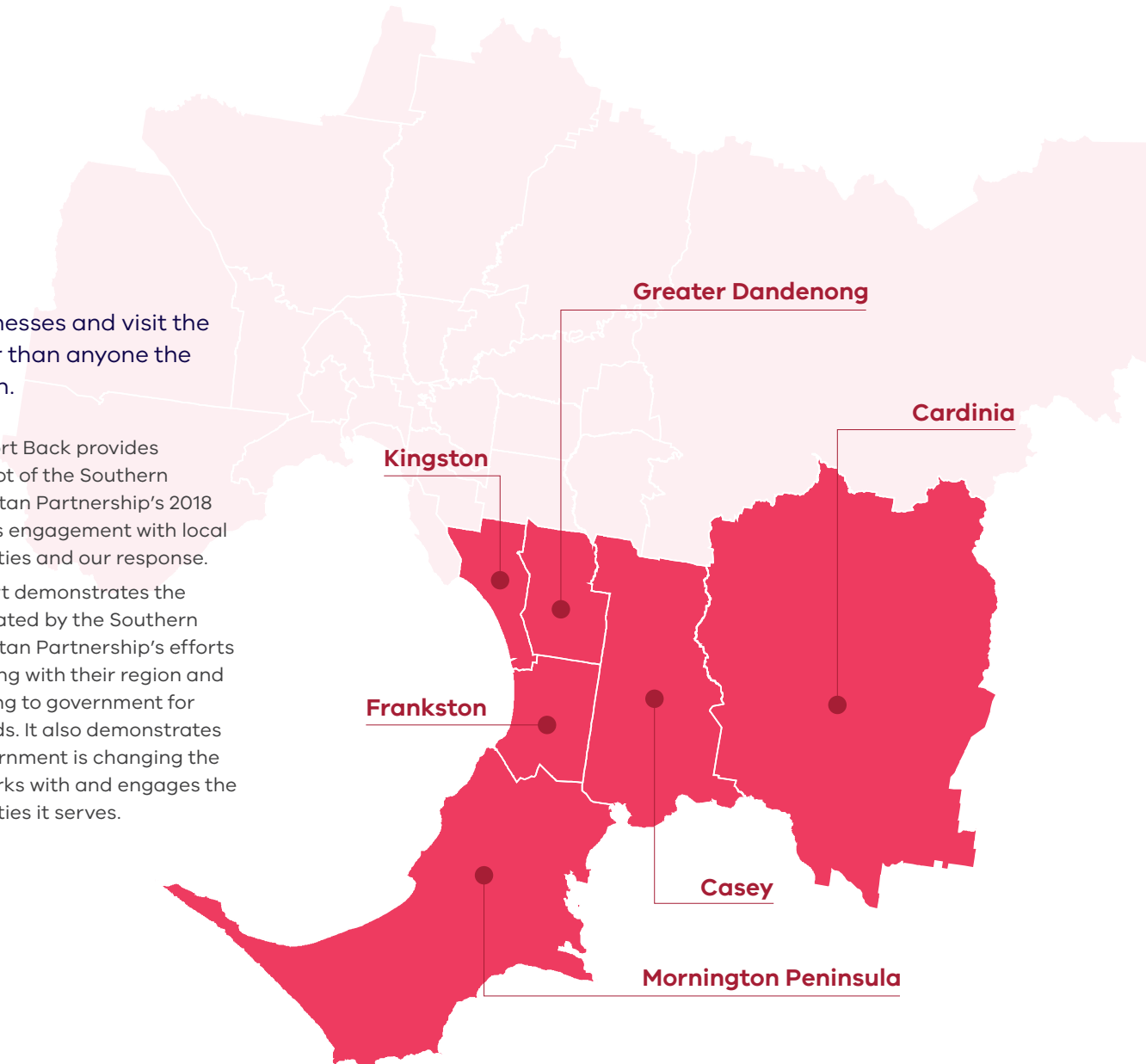
The people who live, work, study, own businesses and visit the Southern Metropolitan Region know better than anyone the opportunities and challenges for the region.

The Government established the Metropolitan Partnerships to provide independent advice on priorities to address growth and maintain our city's renowned liveability.

The Partnerships provide a way for communities to engage directly with state and local government, and advise the top priorities and opportunities for jobs, services and infrastructure.

This Report Back provides a snapshot of the Southern Metropolitan Partnership's 2018 advice, its engagement with local communities and our response.

The report demonstrates the value created by the Southern Metropolitan Partnership's efforts in engaging with their region and advocating to government for their needs. It also demonstrates how government is changing the way it works with and engages the communities it serves.



Metropolitan Partnerships – communities at the centre

The Metropolitan Partnerships model was established to create opportunities for the community to influence decisions and shape the future of their own communities. The Partnerships facilitate annual planning and community engagement activities each year, before submitting formal advice to the Government through the Minister for Suburban Development.

Phase 1

Metropolitan Partnership meetings and engagement

Throughout the year Metropolitan Partnership work with their communities to identify opportunities for driving improved social, economic and environmental outcomes. They liaise with regional stakeholders, government departments and agencies, regional leadership groups and engage directly with communities.

Phase 2

Metropolitan Partnership annual community engagement

Each year, each Metropolitan Partnership engages with the community to explore, test and refine priorities for the region. This engagement informs the Partnership's annual advice to government. In 2018, each Metropolitan Partnership heard from the community through an Assembly held in the region and attended by government representatives.

Phase 3

Metropolitan Partnership advice to government

In October/November, Metropolitan Partnerships submit their annual advice to government on regional outcomes and priority initiatives for the coming year.

Phase 4

Government's coordinated response

The Minister for Suburban Development works with portfolio Ministers to respond to the Metropolitan Partnership advice. This can include responding via:

- existing programs and services
- supporting further investigation of issues using Metropolitan Partnerships Development Funds
- new initiatives funded as part of the annual State Budget process.

The Southern Metropolitan Partnership

The Southern Metropolitan Partnership is half-way through its four-year term facilitating community engagement and shaping advice to the Victorian Government about the issues that matter to you – the people who live, work, study, visit and run businesses in the region. The Partnership includes up to nine community and business representatives, the CEOs of each local council in the region and a senior executive representing the Victorian Government. SEE APPENDIX 1.

The Partnership's 2018 engagement shaped its formal advice to government. This engagement included contributing to the metropolitan-wide Youth Forum on 7 May 2018 to bring youth voices from the South to the table, and hosting an annual assembly bringing together community and business leaders, councillors, and Members of Parliament on 1 August 2018.

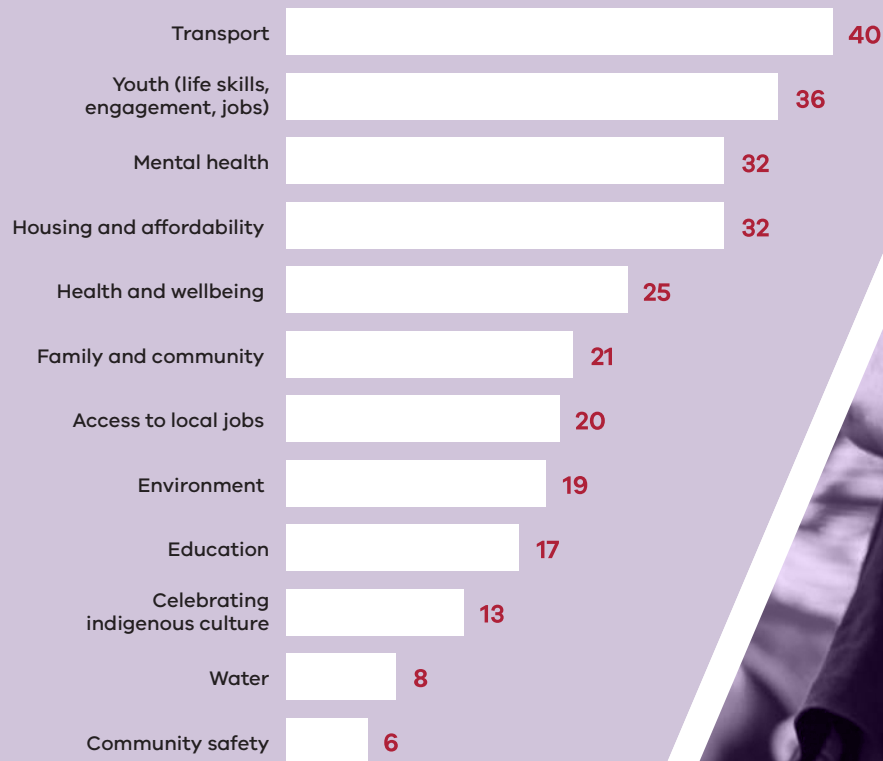
The top three priorities identified by the Assembly were: transport connectivity and frequency, life skills and youth engagement, housing and affordability, and mental health. The top three priorities of the young leaders and students from the South who attended the Youth Forum were: mental health, life skills and housing.

Housing affordability was an issue raised at the Assembly and the Youth Forum. Transport access, frequency and connectivity was raised consistently. Access to jobs and skills was considered very important in the region, with the need for greater support for vulnerable workers to attain the appropriate skills, training and employment.

The community also identified celebration of indigenous culture and sense of place as an important aspect of cultural recognition.

The Southern Metropolitan Partnership's vision is to: *'holistically address the needs of the community and to leverage opportunities to enable well-planned, efficient and connected jobs, services and infrastructure growth in the Southern region, to benefit current and future generations, with a focus on our most vulnerable community members'*.

Top priorities from the Southern Assembly



The Southern Metropolitan Partnership's advice

The Southern Metropolitan Partnership's advice to the Government for 2018 focused on:

1 Housing

Providing greater access to affordable housing options across the Southern region

2 Transport

Improving access to employment, education, services and recreation across the region with higher frequency public transport and greater connectivity and integration of services

3 Education and youth engagement

Increasing engagement and retention in education for pre-school-aged children and support for mental health at secondary schools

4 Jobs and skills

Improving education and training opportunities and pathways to employment for young people in the region, including students at risk of disengaging from school

5 Water

Increasing broad-scale uptake of fit-for-purpose recycled water across the region

We received the Partnership's second round of advice in September 2018, and we're responding in various ways, through: existing programs and services; support for further investigation of issues using Metropolitan Partnerships Development Funds; and new initiatives funded in the Victorian Budget 2019–20.



Housing

The Southern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is for greater access to affordable housing options across the region



What you said

“Increase housing diversity to ensure housing is accessible and affordable for current and future community members.” ASSEMBLY

“Housing is not affordable for young people as they are generally only in entry-level employment.” YOUTH FORUM

“Developer contributions to affordable housing – make it enforceable through planning regulations.” ASSEMBLY

“There are limited housing options for young females.” YOUTH FORUM

What we've heard




The Partnership's advice focuses on providing increased access to affordable housing options, increasing the housing mix to satisfy the needs of current and future users in the region.

The ability to secure and maintain suitable housing is an issue of concern across the Southern region. Access to housing has an impact on access to transport, employment and education with flow-on effects to mental health.

Housing emerged as a priority at the community Assembly and was also raised as a source of frustration at the Youth Forum. Participants felt there was a lack of housing diversity in the region. Assembly and Youth Forum participants expressed concern about unaffordable rents, lack of funding for housing infrastructure, and a lack of diversity in housing.

The issue is intertwined with access to jobs. Assembly participants suggested creating local employment pathways to support financial security. They also suggested rental and mortgage assistance, and contributions from developers for affordable housing enforced by planning regulations.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT
 <p>Youth Foyers – conduct a scoping exercise while the evaluation of the current youth accommodation approach nears completion. Sites to be explored could include Chisholm, Frankston, Mornington and Peninsula</p>	<p>The Department of Health and Human Services will consider connection to employment, education and training for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness as part of its work program to improve the homelessness system.</p> <p>A Victorian Homelessness Advisory Committee has been established to provide advice on opportunities for improving the homelessness system.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</p>
 <p>Provide a regional funding increase for the Housing Establishment Fund to build the capacity of assistance to address increased rental pressures</p>	<p>The Housing Establishment Fund is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and supports measures to assist people into private rental housing. The Department also notes the recent investment in the Private Rental Assistance Program to assist people into that housing.</p> <p>Consumer Affairs Victoria supports the Housing Establishment Fund initiative and will consider ways to promote the program across its Tenancy Assistance and Advocacy Program and Financial Counselling Program.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</p>
 <p>Pilot a housing model on two sites in Frankston currently being utilised for level crossing removals – Skye Road Frankston and a local government depot in Frankston</p>	<p>The Department of Health and Human Services supports the growth of social and affordable housing and notes that Frankston City Council (among other local governments) received funding through the Government's Social Housing Investment Program to help drive the planning and development of social housing in their local area.</p> <p>The Government has introduced recent changes which include providing a definition of affordable housing in the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> and creating enabling mechanisms such as voluntary housing agreements. Because of the changes, Responsible Authorities (in most cases local councils) can now enter into voluntary agreements with landowners to include affordable housing which may include social housing in new developments.</p>	<p>1-4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</p>





Transport

The Southern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is for the region's most vulnerable people to have local transport access to the full range of health and social services that they need

What you said

- “Traffic congestion ... is a cost to business.”** BUSINESS FORUM
- “Encourage cycling as a transport option by maintaining cycle paths, provide dedicated cycle lanes and improve drivers’ attitudes towards cyclists.”** YOUTH FORUM
- “Provide bike racks on buses.”** ASSEMBLY
- “Buses are a preferable, reliable, comfortable and a safe public transport option.”** ASSEMBLY
- “Increase public transport access everywhere, not just on main roads.”** YOUTH FORUM
- “Extend the bus network’s operation hours.”** ASSEMBLY
- “Increase the frequency of bus services for more direct and regular services.”** ASSEMBLY
- “Install bicycle storage spaces at public transport nodes.”** ASSEMBLY
- “Better road infrastructure to accommodate bus networks.”** ASSEMBLY
- “Embrace innovative forms of public transport, for example, on – demand bus services.”** YOUTH FORUM

What we’ve heard

The Partnership’s advice focuses on improvements to public transport connections cross the region to help people access jobs and services, especially in the Mornington Peninsula Shire and the City of Greater Dandenong.

Public transport infrastructure supports economic growth and liveability, providing workers and residents with access to jobs, education, shops, services, and recreation. Inadequate public transport limits growth, impacting on the community and business.

On the Mornington Peninsula, two out of three Major Activity Centres rely on bus service and have no train services. Many commuters rely on the 788 bus services which already carries over half a million passengers per year. There is also only one morning bus that travels at school time to service student passengers.

The Southern Metropolitan Region is Australia’s largest manufacturing zone, employing tens of thousands of people and contributing significantly to the national economy. The Partnership believes transport is an issue, particularly in Dandenong South, a National Employment Cluster. The industry precinct has a high concentration of shift workers. The Partnership cites a 2017 business survey in which 64 per cent of employers believed a better bus service would influence an increase in employing apprentices, case and shift workers, while 40 per cent believed it would increase employment of full-time workers.

The South East Integrated Transport Group has developed the South East Transport Strategy to identify gaps and opportunities in services across the region. The Partnership has endorsed the strategy and believes it provides a solid base for action by government.

Public transport – access and frequency – was a source of frustration for participants at the Youth Forum and the community Assembly.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



Portsea to Frankston Bus Service Upgrade: increase the frequency of the 788 bus service on the Mornington Peninsula and add an express service to the route



Provide new shuttle bus services to the Dandenong South Industry Precinct as part of a Dandenong Demand Responsive Service, in addition to Route 890



ADVOCACY take the opportunity to review bus routes throughout the Southern region with Transport for Victoria and increase investment in the bus network to ensure services adequately meet the needs of residents to enhance economic participation and social inclusion

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Government is providing more buses, more often, to more areas with better connections to train services and key nodes. In the Victorian Budget 2019–20, the government committed \$50.1 million for improved bus service across Melbourne. The Department of Transport will review Southern region bus routes as part of any future network planning review.

TIMEFRAME
+ LEAD DEPT

1–4 YEARS

DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORT



Education and youth engagement

The Southern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is for increased engagement and retention in education for pre-school-aged children and support for mental health at secondary schools

What you said

- “We need to create environments where all people feel welcome.” ASSEMBLY
- “We need greater engagement by services with local communities. Provide affordable English classes for refugees and newly-arrived migrants.” ASSEMBLY
- “Building resilience for young people in schools, improving mental health literacy and making mental health first aid more accessible ... success would be lower rates of self-harm and higher rates of educational attainment and social inclusion.” ASSEMBLY
- “I would like to see investment in initiatives that promote social inclusion and community strengthening ... we need to invest in activities that build social capital and close the gap in inequality.” ASSEMBLY
- “Young people need to be engaged, they have expertise, they have their own lived experiences.” REPORT BACK TO ASSEMBLY FROM YOUTH FORUM
- “What frustrates me? Lack of funded support systems for struggling youth, for example, school drop-outs, and homeless youth.” YOUTH FORUM
- “We need to tackle the enormous mental health crisis affecting people of all ages in our community.” ASSEMBLY
- “Support the partnership between young people and youth mental health services.” ASSEMBLY

What we've heard

The Partnership's advice focuses on increasing pre-school enrolment and attendance of recently-arrived communities, improving access and outcomes for mental health for students in secondary schools, and identifying ways to achieve better mental health outcomes for children and young people.

There is a link between attendance at pre-school and school retention and completion rates. Anecdotal evidence indicates that recently-arrived communities are not accessing pre-school programs and health services at the same rate as established communities. It is possible they are not aware of the services or of the importance of pre-school program to children for their later success.

Poor mental health is a barrier to school engagement and learning. The Partnership believes there is evidence of a high level of need in the Casey South area, which has few locally-based support and treatment services. There are limited resources available to schools to support students with mental health needs in the region.

Mental health was the highest priority for the students and young leaders from the region who attended the Youth Forum – followed by life skills at school, and affordable housing for young people. Youth participants identified the need for more mental health services and greater awareness of mental health issues, services in the community and schools, better qualified counsellors, adolescent-friendly services and more youth centres.

Community Assembly participants placed a high priority on mental health and housing affordability. They supported the role of schools in improving mental health outcomes, stronger mental health programs, and funding for mental health first aid programs across the community. Assembly participants also identified the need to address early literacy and overall language and numeracy skills in the region particularly for recently-arrived communities.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



Introduce an Early Literacy Outreach Program to target primary and secondary settlement areas within the region and engage newly-arrived migrants to promote education opportunities and increase kinder enrolment rates

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Victorian Government is targeting early years education by investing \$881.6 million to provide all three-year-old children with access to two years of funded kindergarten programs delivered by an early childhood teacher. In addition, the 2019–20 Budget included \$214 million to ensure new parents have the support they need, with seven new parenting centres, extended sleep assistance and new baby bundles.

The 2019–20 Budget and previous budgets (2017–18 and 2018–19) include funding of almost \$160 million over the next four years for School Readiness Funding (SRF). The funding will be available to all funded kindergarten services by 2021 and available for two years of kindergarten in line with the roll-out of Three-year-old Kindergarten. This needs-based funding aims to address educational disadvantage, with kindergarten services spending a majority of their funding on priority areas of communications (language development); wellbeing (social and emotional); and access and inclusion.

Work is also progressing to support the increased participation of culturally and linguistically diverse children in kindergarten and other early years' services through School Readiness Funding and other initiatives such as the Early Years Compact. The Department of Education and Training will undertake work to review and better leverage existing funded programs (including SRF), services and initiatives to better engage specific cultural groups in early years services.

TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT

1-4 YEARS

DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION
AND TRAINING



Support a Mental Health in Schools Program to assist young people, teachers and parents to continually identify better and earlier intervention and support. The proposed demonstration site for this project is Casey South area

The Department of Education and Training is implementing mental health support in schools through the Victorian Anti-Bullying and Mental Health initiative (VABMHI). This includes face to face headspace counselling, school capacity building and psychological support for the Student Support Services workforce.

The Department considers that the scope of the current VABMHI initiative will sufficiently address the need identified in this initiative, particularly through dedicated access to the Dandenong and Narre Warren headspace centres and capacity building for schools in the Casey area.

Finally, the first roll-out of the \$51.2 million Mental Health Professionals in Schools initiative commenced in August 2019, with all Victorian government secondary schools having a mental health professional by 2022. The roll-out commenced in the Bayside Peninsula, which includes a number of schools in the Southern region, and Barwon Areas, with further staging of the roll-out currently under consideration. In this context, the Victorian Budget 2019–20 provided an additional \$3 million for essential refurbishments at school campuses to ensure that students receive new mental health services in appropriate private and therapeutic settings.

12 MONTHS

DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION
AND TRAINING



Jobs and skills

The Southern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is for better education and training opportunities and pathways to employment for young people in the region, including students at risk of disengaging from school

What you said

“The education system should incorporate life skills training to teach young people how to manage life after school independently.” YOUTH FORUM

“Equip young people with the appropriate skills to enter the workforce.” ASSEMBLY

“Promote diverse subjects – put more thought into developing curriculum, and move the focus away from purely STEM subjects.” YOUTH FORUM

“Improve pathways from schooling to work environments.” ASSEMBLY

“Facilitate career guidance programs for young people.” ASSEMBLY

“Prejudice and discrimination limit people’s ability to work.” ASSEMBLY

“Improve employment opportunities.” YOUTH FORUM

“Overseas qualifications and experiences are not recognised in Australia.” ASSEMBLY

What we’ve heard

The Partnership’s advice focuses on linking young people and other community members to real pathways to jobs and training opportunities.

According to the Partnership’s advice, the total number of apprentices and trainees in Victoria declined from more than 106,000 in 2010 to less than 57,000 in 2017. Despite the trend, employers in sectors such as engineering, bricklaying and glazing report difficulty in attracting apprentices, and employers generally report difficulty in attracting quality candidates for apprenticeships. At the same time, youth unemployment remains high and groups such as newly-arrived migrants have difficulty getting jobs.

All these issues have an impact on the large Southern region manufacturing sector and in other industries in the region. There are also high levels of disadvantage and youth unemployment, and high concentrations of newly-arrived migrant communities.

Attaining life skills was a high priority for the region’s young representatives at the Youth Forum. They want to be equipped with the skills to manage life after school as independent adults – understanding how to complete tax returns, for example – and they want better pathways from education to work. They want to know what to expect from vocational education and training programs. Participants at the Assembly discussed increasing apprenticeship and training opportunities, and teaching life skills at school. They want to see stronger collaboration with industry to support jobs for young people, and investment in key jobs and training programs to address the region’s employment needs. They want to see more diverse recruitment programs and inclusive workplaces.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT
 <p>Develop a Southern Metropolitan Jobs and Skills Plan involving the Partnership and South-east Melbourne Group of Councils and businesses, with a focus on manufacturing, tourism and agriculture</p>	<p>The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions supports the development of a jobs and skills framework for the Southern Metropolitan Region. This work could be further explored by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and the Department of Education and Training as a Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund initiative. The draft Jobs and Skills Framework for the West has been developed in collaboration with the Western local government authorities, the Western Metropolitan Partnership and Victoria University and could inform development of the approach for the Southern region.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, PRECINCTS AND REGIONS</p>
 <p>Support a demonstration project – Boot Camp Employment and Life Skills Program which will run a short-term preparatory program to develop employment skills for prospective employees seeking apprenticeships or traineeships</p>	<p>The Government supports a range of initiatives to develop employment skills for those seeking apprenticeships or traineeships. Funding has been allocated to a number of projects related to this theme, including ICT apprenticeships, Health Care and Social Assistance, Apprentice and Trainee Boot Camp and the creation of more opportunities for women, as well as Learn and Earn Projects. These programs are in addition to those offered by TAFE and Head Start apprenticeships and traineeships.</p>	<p>1-4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING</p>
 <p>Support development of career videos, which promote employment and training opportunities for young people in the Southern Region by providing funding for development, design and promotion of employment opportunities available in the region</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Training will work with the Office of the Victorian Skills Commissioner to further develop this initiative. Activities will be undertaken in conjunction with the Secondary Reform, Transition and Priority Cohorts Division.</p> <p>The Southern region will also benefit from the Victorian Budget 2018–19 providing \$109 million to redesign Careers Education in all government secondary schools. From 2019, students will begin Career Education earlier, have access to a free online career analysis tool to explore their interests and strengths (at Year 9), and create a Careers e-Portfolio. This forms part of a suite of initiatives to strengthen pathways through secondary schooling, which include investment in vocational education in schools programs and the new Head Start Apprenticeships and Traineeships.</p>	<p>1-4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING</p>



Water

The Southern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is for broad scale uptake of fit-for-purpose recycled water across the region, providing a climate-resilient water resource for long-term economic growth and environmental benefit

What you said

“We use precious water once. Use of recycled water and stormwater can bring economic growth for this area.” ASSEMBLY

“Water is a precious resource and everyone needs water.” ASSEMBLY

“Recycled water and stormwater can be used for agriculture and horticulture, and improve jobs and economic growth.” ASSEMBLY

“Water is one of the most valuable resources. Wasting that resource does not make any sense.” ASSEMBLY

“Improve the efficiency of residential use of water.” ASSEMBLY

What we've heard

The Partnership's advice focuses on ways to provide access to recycled water, especially for farmers on the Mornington Peninsula, to reduce dependence on groundwater and ensure long-term food security.

Agriculture is an important industry in the south-east of Melbourne with \$1 billion in agricultural production coming from the Mornington Peninsula, according to the Partnership's advice. With proximity to Melbourne's population, farming regions on the Peninsula can play a role in food security. Access to water is essential, and in a drier future, access to recycled water will be even more important.

Every day, 350 million litres of Class A recycled water are pumped into Bass Strait via the South Eastern Outfall from the South Eastern Treatment Plant. The Mornington Peninsula is close to the Plant, with recycled water flowing through the municipality via an underground pipe. Redirecting this underused water to farms would increase the production of fresh food for Melbourne, return flow to natural streams, and provide water for fire-fighting.

Getting this water to the agricultural land would require investment in new infrastructure, for both hinterland and coastal farmers.

Participants at the community Assembly ranked access to water fourth out of seven priorities. They described recycled and stormwater as underutilised resources. They identified opportunities to promote economic growth through an increase in alternative water resources and improve liveability and public green spaces.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



Deliver Stage 1 of Class A water to Tyabb and Somerville to support the agriculture industry in the south-east part of the region and the Mornington Peninsula, which generates \$1 billion in agricultural production annually

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is leading the implementation of the strategic directions of the Western Port Integrated Water Management Forum. This project is listed as a priority project (Action 13) in the Strategic Directions Statement of the Western Port Integrated Water Management Forum. \$200,000 has been allocated and matched dollar-for-dollar by collaborative partners to review the existing business case, undertake detailed engineering design and development of an appropriate governance model.

TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT

12 MONTHS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING



Conduct a Feasibility Study for Hinterland Water Projects to deliver recycled water to the hinterland areas around Arthurs Seat

This project is listed as Action 14 in the Strategic Directions Statement of the Western Port Integrated Water Management Forum and is led by Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. Having received \$300,000 from the Commonwealth Government as an election commitment, this project will collaborate with South East Water, Melbourne Water, Southern Rural Water, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The project will be realised through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

The collaborative partners are currently developing a costed proposal for a feasibility study, which is expected to be available in the second half of 2019. Upon completion of the costed proposal, the collaborative partners will explore further funding opportunities.

1-4 YEARS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING



ADVOCACY Investment in new infrastructure to connect farmers and industries to recycled water

This advocacy item aligns with the work of the Western Port Integrated Water Management Forum, which is advocating to broaden the use of recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant and other regional Sewerage Treatment Plants located in the southern region of Metropolitan Melbourne for various uses such as agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, sand mining, and environmental flows.

ONGOING

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING

Pick My Project

Another way we have encouraged participatory decision-making in the Southern region is through Pick My Project

Pick My Project is a democratic grassroots program supporting local communities throughout the state to develop and deliver initiatives that strengthen their local areas and neighbourhoods. Through this program communities in the Southern Region have nominated local priorities, identified local projects and got them delivered. Pick My Project have provided \$34.8 million for local, community-led projects across Victoria.

Pick My Project backs ideas to improve local communities, such as new or improved sport and recreation activities, or programs supporting health and wellbeing, innovation, and arts and culture.

How it works

Residents nominated local community-building projects and identified an eligible local organisation to sponsor their idea, such as a community group, school or local council before submitting their proposal to an online community vote.

During voting, applicants worked with their networks and encouraged their community to vote for their project.

In the Southern region, \$3.65 million was allocated to 31 successful Pick My Project proposals. The projects broadly reflected the Southern Metropolitan Partnership priorities with the highest proportion of projects relating to community inclusion and health and safety as well as education, training and skills. The successful proposals were spread across the region, featuring community safety projects in Casey and Cardinia, health projects in Kingston and the Mornington Peninsula, and projects addressing family violence and homelessness in Frankston.

Landscaping and construction of car parks at Buddhist centre, Berwick

Buddhist Vihara Victoria Inc. (BVV) is a non-profit ethnically diverse organisation operating a teaching and training centre, public library and meditation centre at Berwick. A language/Dhamma school is conducted every Sunday during Victorian school term. The curriculum covers teaching Sinhala as a LOTE subject and Buddhism to encourage study and promote and practice peace and harmony among all living beings.

BVV conducts two monthly meditation programmes for elderly and children and organises cultural events to introduce culture and heritage to the wider community.

This project is designed to provide better accessibility for people attending programs offered at Buddhist centre with dedicated parking spaces for elderly and disabled passengers and well-maintained temple premises. Meditators can use the finished surface for mindfulness walking meditation sessions. The open spaces, green areas and vehicle parking will give a peaceful, pleasing to eye appearance to people attending programs, people passing by and people living in the area. The project partner is Buddhist Vihara Victoria Inc. and the budget is \$196,196.

Appendix 1

Southern Metropolitan Partnership members

Elizabeth Deveny

CHAIR
CEO, South Eastern Melbourne
Primary Health Network

Elizabeth is CEO of the South Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network. She was formerly the CEO of Bayside Medicare Local and has worked at the University of Melbourne, building and coordinating activities of the general practice practice-based research network.

Andrew Simmons

DEPUTY CHAIR
CEO, East Local Learning and
Employment Network

Andrew is CEO of East Local Learning and Employment Network, where he works to improve outcomes for young people in the education, training and employment sectors through the development of strategic sustainable partnerships. He also sits on a broad range of committees, task forces, networks and boards.

Jacqueline Galloway

CEO, Peninsula Community
Legal Centre

PCLC is an independent not-for-profit organisation that provides free legal services to Melbourne's eastern communities. She has worked at the Centre since 1998 holding various roles including caseworker, program management and executive positions. Prior to her role at PCLC she has worked in the welfare sector.

Andrew Gardiner

CEO, Dandenong and District
Aborigines Co-operative Ltd

Andrew has more than thirty years' experience working in the Indigenous sector in Victoria and Far North Queensland, including seven years with the Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the past eight years with DDACL.

Shabnam Safa

Co-founder, Noor Foundation

Noor Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that helps newly-arrived refugees and migrants with their settlement in Australia and fosters a positive connection between young people and their community. She has represented Australia at the UN and other international summits and has also earned her black-belt in karate.

John Baker

CEO, Mornington Peninsula
Shire Council

John has extensive local government experience in the UK combined with commercial expertise developed as lead Partner in both Ernst and Young and KPMG in the UK and Australia. John has worked on local issues as diverse as health, social services and transport infrastructure.

John Bennie

CEO, City of Greater Dandenong

John was appointed in 2006. He was previously CEO at Manningham City Council and has held numerous executive roles over his 37-year local Government career. John is currently a non-Executive Director at MAVIB; Chisholm Institute and Mannacare P/L.

Carol Jeffs

CEO, Cardinia Shire Council

Carol has extensive experience in local Government management and leadership, and a demonstrated commitment to community engagement and participation. Carol brings more than 15 years' experience as a senior local government executive and has held positions of Interim Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Community and Economic Development at the City of Port Phillip.

Julie Reid

CEO, the City of Kingston

Julie commenced as CEO of City of Kingston in August 2019. As the first female CEO of the City of Kingston, she brings a wealth of experience in major infrastructure projects, strategic planning, urban design, economic development, tourism and events. In 2017 she was named in the top 50 public sector women in the state. With 30 years' experience within the public sector in Australia and in the UK, she was worked at a number of Victorian local councils including City of Greater Dandenong, Whitehorse, Bayside and Casey. She is passionate about making a difference within communities.

Phil Cantillon

Interim CEO, Frankston City Council

Phil Cantillon was appointed as temporary CEO of Frankston Council in July 2019. Mr Cantillon has been at Frankston City Council since October 2017 as the Director of Community Assets. He was previously at Baw Baw Shire Council, including eight months as their interim CEO in 2017.

Glenn Patterson

CEO, Casey City Council

Glenn was appointed CEO in October 2018. Prior to this, he was the CEO at Yarra Ranges Shire Council from 2008 and CEO at Baw Baw Council. He has 25 years' senior management experience with a number of metropolitan and rural councils, his first CEO role being at Colac Otway Shire in 1998. He also spent a period as the CEO of a Melbourne-based property development group.

Argiri Alisandratos

Victoria Government representative Deputy Secretary, Children and Families, DHHS

Argiri is the Deputy Secretary, Children and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services. Argiri joined the department more than 25 years ago as a child protection practitioner. Since then Argiri has held a number of senior leadership roles within the department including: Deputy Secretary South Division, Chief Operations Transformation Officer; Director, Southern Melbourne Area; Director, Inner Gippsland Area; Assistant Director, Placement and Family Services in the Children, Youth and Families Division; and Manager Community Services, Loddon Mallee Region.

Thank you to the following outgoing members of the Southern Metropolitan Partnership who helped developed the 2018 advice:

Jenny Atta

Former Victorian Government representative

Jenny is former Deputy Secretary, Infrastructure and Finance Services Group at Department of Education and Training. Ms Atta has extensive experience working in the public sector, and was promoted to the role of Secretary, Department of Education and Training in 2019.

Andrew Cornwall

Managing Director of Ventura Bus Company

Andrew is Managing Director of Ventura Bus Company, Melbourne's largest bus provider, with over 1,500 employees and delivery of 32 million passenger trips across the southern region. Andrew is the third generation of the Cornwall family to have led Ventura and is currently on the board of Bus Association Victoria.

Jill Walsh

Adviser at Bluelark Pty Ltd

Formerly a partner with Actco Pickering Metal Industries, Ms Walsh is an accountant by profession and has spent more than a decade working in Dandenong where she is well known for her passionate advocacy for local content in government procurement, together with support for local and Victorian manufacturing across all sectors.

Vicki MacDermid

Executive Director and Partner at Pitcher Partners

Vicki delivers business advisory solutions to a broad portfolio of clients. Vicki is also Chair of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee and author of a research paper "What Horses Teach us about Leadership".

Carl Cowie

Former CEO, Mornington Peninsula Shire

Carl is a Scotland native with qualifications in economics, finance, an MBA and studies at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. Carl served as CEO of the Mornington Peninsula Shire between 2014 and 2019. Carl has sector experience in healthcare, facilities management, transport and manufacturing and construction project management.

Dennis Hovenden

Former CEO, Frankston City Council

Recently retired, Dennis has more than 30 years' local government experience across three states and has tertiary qualifications in Political Science, Legal Studies and Public Sector Management. Dennis is a member of the Victorian LGPRO Board, the National Local Government Professionals Australia Board and is International Vice President on the ICMA Board.

Garry McQuillan

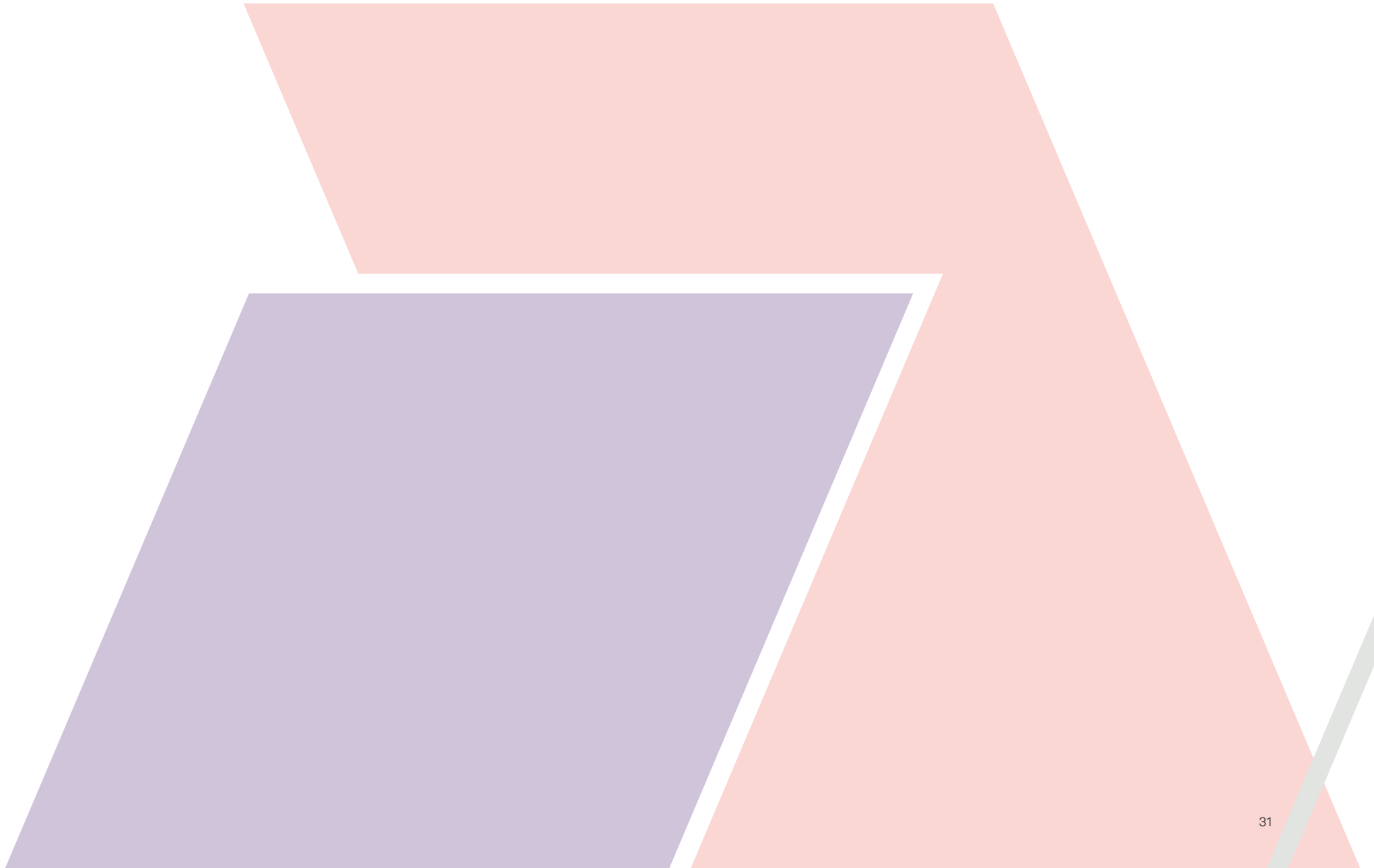
Former CEO, Cardinia Shire

Garry held the position of CEO at Cardinia Shire Council for over 10 years. He has a long history in local government in Victoria and NSW. Garry has held the positions of Chairperson of the Southern Metropolitan Regional Development Australia Committee and membership of the Interface and South East Metropolitan group of councils.

John Nevins

Former CEO, Kingston City Council

John was CEO at the City of Kingston between 2005 and 2019. Before joining Kingston, John spent 10 years working in local government in metropolitan Melbourne. John's experience also includes seven years of senior management and leadership roles at the Public Transport Corporation and 12 years in the Victorian Public Service.





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southern.partnership@djpr.vic.gov.au

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