

Northern Metropolitan Partnership

REPORT BACK 2019





Northern 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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Strengthening the economy and enhancing liveability

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

Melbourne's north is a diverse and vibrant region, ranging from the inner-city cultural hubs of Brunswick and Coburg to the growing outer suburbs of Craigieburn and Wallan, and out to the Kinglake National Park near Whittlesea and St Andrews. The community is proud of its multicultural diversity and its importance as home for some of Victoria's most significant Aboriginal community organisations.

The Northern Metropolitan region is experiencing a period of significant growth and change. This growth is being supported by its critical role as Melbourne's transport gateway for Melbourne's growing economy. The impacts of growth are being experienced in both the settled inner urban areas and fast growing outer suburbs. Managing these changes and ensuring all residents benefit from the region's growth is a critical challenge.

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 Northern Partnership and the community for their hard work in developing this advice. I am looking forward to working with the Northern Metropolitan Partnership on a range of issues, including how we can manage growth in a way that strengthens the region's economy and enhances liveability.



A stylized, handwritten signature in dark blue ink.

The Hon Marlene Kairouz MP

Minister for
Suburban Development
Minister for Consumer Affairs,
Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Delivering for the Northern Region

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



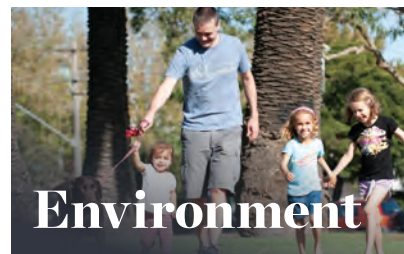
Education

\$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.



Sport

\$175 million

Local Sports Grants across Victoria to support local communities to develop sport and active recreation infrastructure.



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

\$15.8 billion

Fully fund the North East Link – finally making the missing link in our network a reality.

\$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.

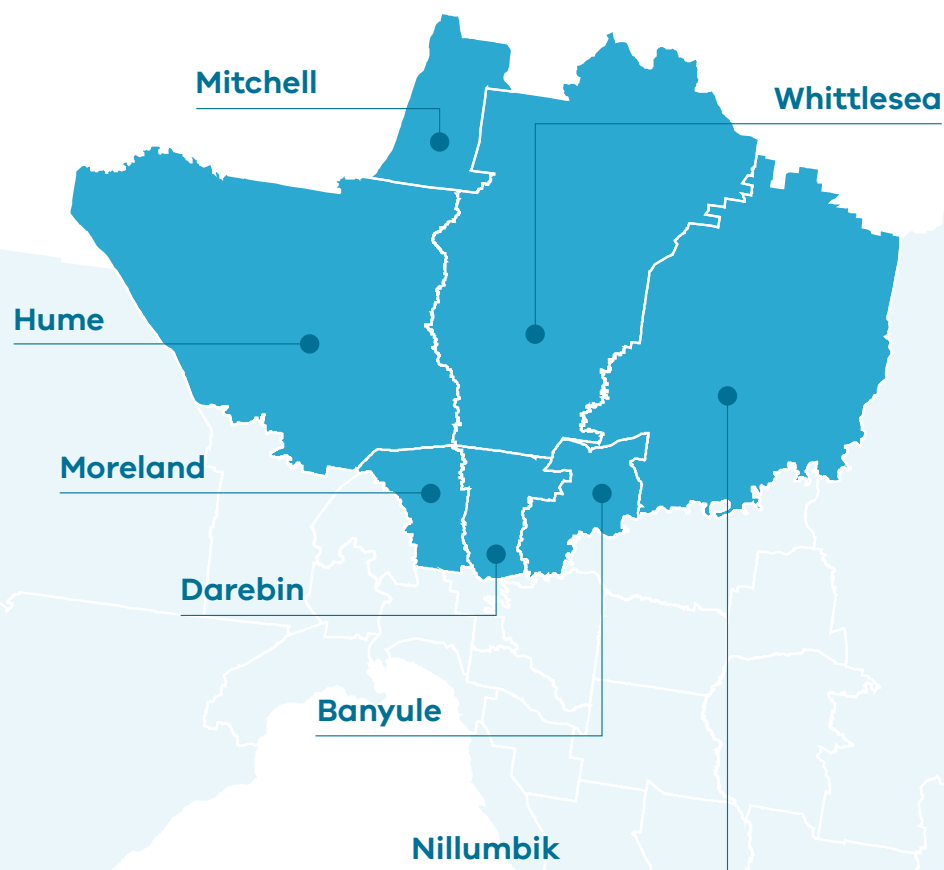
\$173 million

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 Northern Metropolitan Region know better than anyone the opportunities and challenges for the region.

The Government established the Metropolitan Partnerships to ensure our suburbs remain great places as we continue to grow. Established in 2017, this new regional partnership approach places community at the centre of decision-making.

The Metropolitan Partnerships were established across Melbourne's six sub-regions to provide government with 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 Northern Metropolitan Partnership's advice for 2018, its engagement, and our response.

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 Northern Metropolitan Partnership

The Northern 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. Partnership members include up to nine community and business representatives, the CEOs of each local council in the region and a senior executive representing the Government.

SEE APPENDIX 1.

Highlights of the Partnership's engagement in 2018 include contributing to the metropolitan-wide Youth Forum on 7 May bringing youth voices from the North to the table and hosting the annual Assembly of 171 community members, businesses, councils, mayors and Members of Parliament on 15 August.

The Partnership also received feedback from the business network and regional economic development advocacy group, NORTHLink, which aims to develop the North's manufacturing sector and supply/value chain as traditional manufacturing is replaced by advanced manufacturing.

A dominant theme in the 2018 engagement was the importance of economic development and local jobs.

The top three priorities identified at the Assembly were: access to local jobs, equitable access to public transport, and health and well being.

Four additional priorities were recommended: addressing gambling, inclusive region for all, family violence, and waste and recycling.

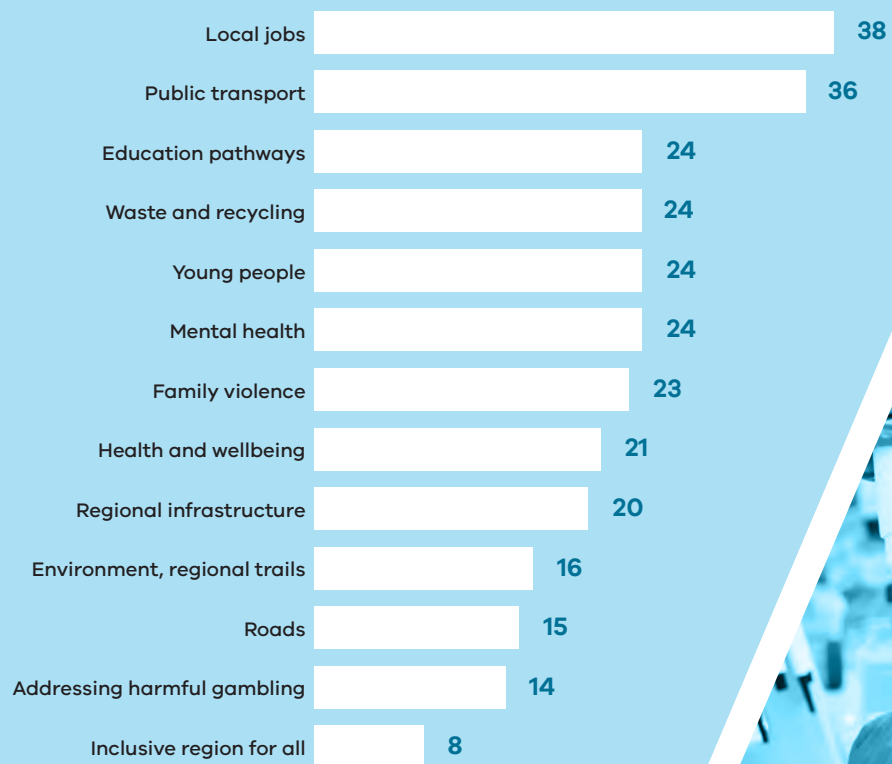
The top priorities for the North's representatives at the 2018 Youth Forum were:

- health and well being with easy access to information and support for young people on mental health issues, anxiety and stress
- career and entrepreneurship pathways for students to build their skills
- more life skills in school curriculums
- environment protection and education.

Youth Forum and Assembly participants supported land preservation and advocated for programs and services that help minimise overconsumption and environmental degradation. They recommended increasing the use of public open green space including re-establishing pre-existing open green spaces as multifunctional community spaces encouraging greater mobility and improved health outcomes.

The Partnership's vision for the northern metropolitan community is for its citizens to have: ***'opportunities and access to work within the northern region, to be connected to the environment, have access to lifelong learning, improved health and well being, where our young people feel connected and have access to jobs, and our rich cultural diversity thrives'.***

Top priorities from the Northern Assembly



The Northern Metropolitan Partnership's advice

The Northern Metropolitan Partnership's advice to government focused on:

1 Jobs and investment

Creating local jobs and ensuring the region is an attractive environment for new business and investment

2 Transport and infrastructure

Improving intra-regional transport and road connectivity, protecting the North's strong freight and logistics networks and assets, and redeveloping the Broadmeadows Railway Station

3 Health and well being

Improving youth and young adult mental health, timely provision of health services to growth area communities, and culturally appropriate health services and systems for everyone, with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

4 Lifelong learning

Linking young people and adults, particularly those who may be disengaged or disadvantaged with pathways to education, training/re-training and jobs

5 Environmental sustainability

Finding ways to protect and enhance the region's unique environmental assets, promote the use of renewable energy, and improve connection to nature and open spaces

6 Connected young people

Improving youth engagement and participation in their communities.

We received the Partnership's advice about regional priorities in September 2018, and we're responding in various ways, through:

- existing programs and services
- supporting further investigation of issues using Metropolitan Partnerships Development Funds
- new initiatives funded in the Victorian Budget 2019–20.

This Report Back provides an overview of the Partnership's advice on priorities and key issues raised by your communities, our response, and other actions we're taking to contribute to the prosperity and liveability of the North.



Gurpreet
Singh

Jobs and investment

The Northern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is to create jobs and ensure the region is an attractive environment for new business and investment



What you said

“If we’re talking about the 20-minute suburb then you have to have local jobs.” ASSEMBLY

“We aren’t telling people where the job opportunities are.” ASSEMBLY

“There is limited support for job seekers.” ASSEMBLY

“In the NDIS ... we have a major opportunity. In the health and disability sectors we need local people with the skills, but there’s also an opportunity to develop assistive technology products because 80 per cent of the current products are imported, ... not custom-made, and clients stop using them. This is an opportunity for advanced manufacturing to realise workforce skills and import replacement.” ASSEMBLY

“The North has powerhouse precincts for economic and cultural development.” ASSEMBLY

What we’ve heard

The Partnership’s advice is focused on creating local jobs, and ensuring the region is an attractive place for new business and investment.

Melbourne’s Northern region is transitioning from an economy centred on manufacturing to a more diversified economy. Continued business growth is being driven by unprecedented population growth, land availability and affordability.

Unemployment is a challenge. Upskilling in new industry sectors must go hand in hand with leveraging local assets and activating key areas for business, commercial development and creating local jobs.

With a strong manufacturing heritage, your region is in a unique position to be a global leader in assisted technology and disability/aged care services. There are opportunities to support and expand your strong food and beverage manufacturing sector.

At the Assembly, the community talked about the number and location of jobs and support for people looking for work. The community identified opportunities to connect people looking for jobs with employment support services; plan and invest for growth in activity centres and commercial precincts; and work with the National Insurance Disability Scheme to train up a local workforce in the disability sector.

The Partnership has also advocated for a combined City Deal for Melbourne’s North and West – an initiative that involves joint investment by local, state and federal governments in transformative, large-scale infrastructure – to deliver better transport, reduce congestion, jobs and business growth, affordable housing and resilient communities.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



Redeveloping Broadmeadows station and the environment (activity centre) around it

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Broadmeadows has been identified as a future station location for the Suburban Rail Loop project.

The project will connect every metropolitan train line from Cheltenham to Werribee, create a rail link to the airport and build three transport super hubs at Clayton, Broadmeadows and Sunshine to connect regional passengers to the Suburban Rail Loop.

Broadmeadows Station has been identified as a regional hub within the Suburban Rail Loop project and will be considered as part of more detailed work required to deliver on this project. The design and delivery of the project will be led by the Suburban Rail Loop Authority.

In the meantime, the government is investing in the revitalisation of Broadmeadows. This has included:

- \$7 million co-contribution to the redevelopment of the Broadmeadows Town Hall
- \$2 million for Stage 1 of the Meadowlink shared-use path
- \$600,000 for Stage 2 extension of the Meadowlink project.

The re-development of the Broadmeadows Town Hall is well underway and due for completion in October 2019 and building work on the Meadowlink shared-use trail has commenced.

The Broadmeadows Station has recently benefited from facilities upgrades as part of the Government's commitment to improve travel times and make it safer and easier to catch the train.

The upgrade works included four new myki readers to ease congestion for passengers, revamped toilets and a new ramp for the station entrance to make the station more accessible for people using mobility aids, carrying luggage and for parents with young children and prams.

The Broadmeadows Station pedestrian subway also received a make-over, including repainting and new lighting to improve safety for commuters travelling after dark.





The Broadmeadows Railway Station has also been identified as a regional hub within the Suburban Rail Loop project and will be part of more detailed work required to deliver on the project – supporting the recommendations of the Broadmeadows Board.

In addition, the Victorian Budget 2019–20 provides an additional \$3.5 million for suburban revitalisation including Broadmeadows to support the ongoing activities of the Broadmeadows Town Centre – Station Revitalisation Project. This support will deliver on key recommendations of the Board, including master planning for Broadmeadows city centre and completion of the second stage of the Meadowlink shared-use path.

TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT

ON-GOING

DEPARTMENT
OF JOBS,
PRECINCTS
AND REGIONS

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT
 <p>Establishing a regional National Disability Insurance Scheme Cluster with an assisted technology hub in Hume</p>	<p>Victoria has invested \$26 million in <i>Keeping our sector strong: Victoria's workforce plan for the NDIS</i>. This includes place-based responses to local workforce challenges and opportunities. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions will work with the Partnership to better understand the scope and intent of the initiative.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</p>
 <p>Developing a jobs and economic plan that considers the potential for expanding the innovation and business incubation centres/networks across the region</p>	<p>The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions supports working with the Partnership to further develop and scope this initiative, and opportunities to leverage the resources of the Northern Economy and Planning Working Group.</p>	<p>1-4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, PRECINCTS AND REGIONS</p>
 <p>Supporting the outcomes of the Food and Beverages Group's work to achieve a high quality and visionary food precinct</p>	<p>With the Melbourne Market relocated to Epping, the food and beverage manufacturing sector is strong in the North, and there are opportunities for further development. The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions will continue to work with the Northern Metropolitan Partnership to consider opportunities for the development of the site adjacent to the market.</p>	<p>1-4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, PRECINCTS AND REGIONS</p>
 <p>ADVOCACY Pursue a City Deal for Melbourne's North and West</p>	<p>The Government is committed to working with the Commonwealth and local governments to deliver the best outcomes for our state. The Government notes the Northern Metropolitan Partnerships advocacy on this matter.</p>	<p>DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, PRECINCTS AND REGIONS</p>

Transport and infrastructure

The Northern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome for the region is to build a truly connected community in the North – reducing congestion and improving productivity for all — by taking an integrated approach to planning and delivering transport infrastructure



What you said

“Promote the establishment of community retail hubs at train stations.” ASSEMBLY

“Students from the inner part of the region really love the easy access to public transport ... in Whittlesea, we find it hard. It’s really frustrating because we have to rely on our parents to drive us across the region.”

YOUTH FORUM PARTICIPANT REPORTING TO ASSEMBLY

“As population increases there is a disconnect between people moving in and the relevant people movement infrastructure being delivered.” ASSEMBLY

“There’s not enough car parking at stations.” ASSEMBLY

“Improve consumer access to public transport information, for example, arrival times and route changes.” ASSEMBLY

“More parking and cycling infrastructure.” YOUTH FORUM

“Extend public transport operating hours during the week.” ASSEMBLY

“Increase frequency across all modes of public transport.” YOUTH FORUM

What we’ve heard

Inter- and intra-regional transport connectivity is a key focus for the Northern Partnership, which includes protecting the North’s freight and logistics networks and assets, and redevelopment of Broadmeadows Railway Station.

Infrastructure underpins the liveability of communities and plays a critical role in supporting economies and connecting suburban communities. An integrated approach is required for enhanced transport connection across the region.

Equitable access to public transport was one of the top three priorities identified at the Northern region community Assembly. Connectivity is a challenge in the outer north and growth areas, which has a knock-on effect with road congestion increasing in the inner and middle ring areas.

The Northern community raised concerns about the high levels of car dependency, infrequent transport routes (particularly bus services), limited car parking at train stations and poor interconnectivity between different transport modes.




Students who attended the Youth Forum expressed frustration about availability, reliability, fees and lack of cross-town connections, and they acknowledged the disparity of services and access in the region.




At both the Assembly and the Youth Forum, citizens identified opportunities to improve the geographical reach of public transport and access to it, and consumer access to information about it.

The Northern region has strong freight and logistics networks and assets. The North is Victoria’s interstate and international gateway for freight and logistics, connecting the Melbourne Airport, the Hume Freeway and the Melbourne–Sydney–Brisbane rail line, and significant freight and logistics hubs.

The Northern Partnership sees opportunities for greater use of existing rail facilities; redevelopment of the Broadmeadows Railway Station and surrounds; and development of an interstate freight terminal.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT
 <p>Planning to protect availability of land for the Beveridge Interstate Freight Terminal and begin the site planning</p>	<p>The Victorian Freight Plan, <i>Delivering the Goods</i>, confirms that a site at Beveridge will be selected for a future Interstate Freight Terminal. Concept designs will be established, and site assessments completed to put Public Acquisition Overlays in place to support this major new terminal. This facility will be developed after the complementary Western Interstate Freight Terminal at Truganina. It is not expected to be required for some time. Initial funding has been allocated and work is commencing to establish the project team to complete this work.</p>	<p>1-4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT</p>
 <p>Progress delivery of transport network improvements by continuing the removal of level crossings at Moreland Rd Brunswick, Bell St Coburg, Glenroy Rd Glenroy, Bell St Preston and High St Reservoir</p>	<p>With 29 level crossings already removed, the Victorian Budget 2019–20 invests a further \$6.6 billion to deliver on the Government's promise to remove a total of 75 crossings by 2025, cutting congestion and making our communities safer. The additional level crossing removal sites for the Northern Metropolitan Region are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cramer Street, Preston • Munro Street, Coburg • Murray Road, Preston • Oakover Road, Preston • Reynard Street, Coburg • Station Street/Gap Road, Sunbury. 	<p>1-4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT</p>
 <p>Develop an integrated transport framework for enhanced connectivity across the Northern Metropolitan Region including an update of Northern Horizons Strategy and an investigation into user needs</p>	<p>The Government supports an update to the Northern Horizons regional development and investment strategy to reflect the infrastructure and service needs of the Northern Metropolitan Region into the future. Hume City Council is leading this project on the behalf of the Partnership with an \$80,000 investment from the Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund. The update will explore issues and opportunities, including the expansion of innovation and business incubation centres and networks in the North.</p>	<p>1-4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT</p>

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT
 <p>ADVOCACY The Partnership advocates for the progression of the business case for the Sunshine Route for the Airport Rail Link</p>	<p>The Sunshine Route is the Government's preferred route for the Airport Rail Link. The full Business Case is underway and due for completion in 2019–20.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT</p>
 <p>ADVOCACY Redevelopment of the Broadmeadows Train Station. The Partnership advocates for business case development for the redevelopment. Broadmeadows Station is a key transport hub for the growing activity centre. It suffers from ageing infrastructure, negative perceptions and does not meet safety and shelter needs</p>	<p>Broadmeadows has been identified as a future station location for the Suburban Rail Loop project.</p> <p>The project will connect every metropolitan train line from Cheltenham to Werribee, create a rail link to the airport and build three transport super hubs at Clayton, Broadmeadows and Sunshine to connect regional passengers to the Suburban Rail Loop.</p> <p>Broadmeadows Station has been identified as a regional hub within the Suburban Rail Loop project and will be considered as part of more detailed work required to deliver on this project. The design and delivery of the project will be led by the Suburban Rail Loop Authority.</p>	<p>1–4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT</p>
 <p>ADVOCACY North East Link. The Partnership advocates for detailed design and planning process for the North East Link</p>	<p>The Government is progressing the planning and design of the \$15.8 billion North East Link with the announcement of tenders for this project in January 2019. Construction for North East Link is expected to start in early 2020 with the road opening to traffic in 2027.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT</p>

Health and wellbeing

The Northern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is for the timely delivery of primary health and community services and infrastructure to new growth area communities to help communities build resilience and be healthy and well



What you said

“Link education and health programs to remove the stigma of mental health.” YOUTH FORUM

“With mental health service, we want to make sure that no one feels that there’s no connection and nowhere to turn.” ASSEMBLY

“We need more allied healthcare professionals in the area and to have them easily accessible.” YOUTH FORUM

“Help parents to parent ... with assistance for raising children.” ASSEMBLY

“Limit the number of electronic gaming machines ... and limit losses for particularly vulnerable people.” ASSEMBLY

What we’ve heard

The Partnership advice focuses on youth and young adult mental health, timely provision of health services to growth area communities, and culturally appropriate health services and systems for everyone, with attention to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The North is economically and socially diverse encompassing many areas of high need or limited access to health and community services. Unprecedented population growth has created pressure on existing health and human services in established suburbs — investment in health infrastructure is needed in response.

In the outer North there are also concerns about young people and mental health issues – especially in areas where adults already experience high levels of psychological stress and services are limited.

There are pockets of disadvantage with vulnerable members of the community, including Aboriginal people, newly arrived migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and people with mental health issues.

At the Assembly, participants identified accessibility and provision of health services as a challenge in parts of the region and for certain groups – and made the connection between limited public transport and access to health services.

Community members also put a high priority on action on family violence, reducing harm from gambling and housing affordability.

For the students attending the Youth Forum the mental health of young people was important. Community members at the Assembly also pointed to the ongoing challenge of bullying in education and other settings.

The Northern Metropolitan Region includes the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population in Melbourne. The Partnership supports continued government work on Treaty and indigenous cultural recognition and seeks progress with the development of a Centre for Excellence for Indigenous Sport, Culture and wellbeing in the North.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



Developing a whole-of-government approach to youth and young adult mental health in the outer North region

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Government has established a wide-ranging Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System focusing on quality and cost of care. The Royal Commission will recommend how the current system can best support Victorians suffering from mental illness. The hearings are addressing early intervention, the quality and cost of care available and how this determines who gets treatment. The Royal Commission will also address how the Government can better support families affected by mental health.

The Department of Health and Human Services has worked with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to map the location of community-based youth mental health and wellbeing initiatives led by the Department of Education and Training. The information provides a high-level account of state funded initiatives that support youth mental health in the Northern Metropolitan region. DHHS will work with DET to undertake a gap analysis of current and planned service provision, to inform future planning.

The Government will also continue to work on youth mental health, mapping primary prevention initiatives and community-based and acute services in the region. Further work will include initiatives from across government to provide a map, policy summary and recommendations to the Partnership. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education and Training have discussed coordinating mental health work, including implementation of the Mental Health in Schools election commitment and links to other service planning and provision across the Northern region.

This action is aligned with the improving mental wellbeing priority within the Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2015–19. Partnership members were invited to participate in consultations to inform the Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2019–20 which was recently released.

TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT

12 MONTHS

DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN
SERVICES

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT



Delivering of the Craigieburn health and wellbeing Hub

The Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority is progressing this project with the recent call for expressions of interest for a Community Consultative Committee for the Community Hospital Program for the sites planned for Craigieburn and Sunbury. In addition, the Government has committed \$675 million to build, upgrade or expand 10 community hospitals across the state.

Existing services in Craigieburn will be expanded to become community hospitals – with more treatments, services and after-hours care.

The Community Hospitals commitment has a strong focus on integration with other local health and community services and local government infrastructure planning.

Funding of \$2 million was provided in the Victorian Budget 2019–20 for initial planning and scoping, including communications and engagement with key stakeholders for each of the 10 community hospitals through the establishment of Community Consultation Committees. The committees will be chaired by local MPs and involve local health services, community health centres, local councils, local aboriginal groups or individuals involved in health and community services. Early planning works will also include land identification with local councils and service mapping.

4–10 YEARS

DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN
SERVICES



Delivering the Mernda Integrated Community, health and wellbeing Hub

The Victorian Government has committed \$675 million to build, upgrade or expand 10 community hospitals across the state.

One of the 10 has been committed for the City of Whittlesea, and sites within the local government area, will be considered for this development.

The Community Hospitals commitment has a strong focus on integration with other local health and community services and local government infrastructure planning.

Funding of \$2 million was provided in the Victorian Budget 2019–20 for initial planning and scoping, including communications and engagement with key stakeholders for each of the 10 community hospitals through the establishment of Community Consultation Committees.

4–10 YEARS

DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN
SERVICES

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



COLLABORATIVE PROJECT Research and develop a framework for community resilience indicators in growth areas to identify issues and barriers to community resilience in Northern growth suburbs

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Northern Metropolitan Partnership is using funding from the Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund to undertake a collaborative research project that will consider community resilience in new, outer urban growth area communities. The project will establish how the Victorian planning system can support councils in managing growth and building resilience within developing growth area communities. The development of key facilities, services and infrastructure prior to the introduction of gaming venues is considered a priority to enable healthy resilient communities. This collaborative research project is being led by Mitchell Shire Council in collaboration with Hume City Council and Whittlesea Council, the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the Victorian Planning Authority and the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. This research project aligns with the Partnership's priority outcome of improving the region's health and wellbeing by supporting the timely delivery of services and infrastructure to new and emerging communities to help them build resilience and good health and will allow the Northern Partnership to provide evidence-based advice to the Victorian Government.

TIMEFRAME
+ LEAD DEPT

12 MONTHS

DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN
SERVICES

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



ADVOCACY Treaty and indigenous cultural recognition. The Partnership advocates for continued work on Treaty and cultural recognition in Victoria

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Victorian Government is firmly committed to advancing a treaty process with Aboriginal Victorians. In August 2018, the Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018 (Treaty Act) became law, having passed through both houses of the Victorian Parliament in June 2018. This is the first piece of treaty-related legislation in Australia and cements the Victorian Government's commitment to the treaty process.

Following an open recruitment process, Ms Jill Gallagher AO was appointed as the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner in December 2017 and commenced in the role in January 2018. The Commissioner is supported by the Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission, an independent office set up to establish the Aboriginal Representative Body and maintain the momentum of the treaty process. The Commission commenced operation in January 2018.

The Aboriginal Representative Body will play a crucial role in the next phase of the treaty process, working as the State's equal partner to establish a Treaty Authority, treaty negotiation framework and self-determination fund. The Commissioner has announced that the Aboriginal Representative Body will be named the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

The Victorian Budget 2019–20 provides \$30.4 million over two years to support and deliver on the Government's commitment to advance a treaty process with Aboriginal Victorians. This investment will:



- support the operations of the Aboriginal Representative Body, as an independent body to work with the State to prepare for treaty negotiations
- establish an Elders' voice to guide the work of the Aboriginal Representative Body
- support Traditional Owners across Victoria to undertake treaty readiness and nation-building activities that will enable them to be involved and engaged in the treaty process
- enable the State to establish a specialist team to engage with the Aboriginal Representative Body to develop the architecture for treaty
- support communications aimed at all Victorians to drive awareness and understanding of the treaty process and build momentum towards treaty.

This investment builds on the \$9 million over one year allocated in the Victorian Budget 2019–20 and \$28.5 million provided for self-determination and treaty in the 2017–18 Victorian Budget.

TIMEFRAME
+ LEAD DEPT

1–4 YEARS

DEPARTMENT
OF PREMIER
AND CABINET

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT
 <p>ADVOCACY Development of a Centre for Excellence for Indigenous Sport, Culture and wellbeing. The Partnership advocates for the progression of developing a Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Sport, Culture and wellbeing at the Aborigines Advancement League in Thornbury</p>	<p>The Aborigines Advancement League has received a grant of \$900,000 under the Community Support Fund, including \$100,000 to support the implementation of the sustainability study for the Fitzroy Stars Football and Netball Club.</p> <p>Aboriginal Victoria will continue to work with the Aborigines Advancement League to support Aboriginal communities in Melbourne's North.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET</p>
 <p>ADVOCACY Continued fulfilment of Korin Korin Balit-Djak – Aboriginal Health, Wellbeing and Safety Strategic Plan 2017–2027. The Partnership seeks commitment from DHHS to be briefed on the priorities of the governance groups for the Northern Metropolitan Region, so that shared priorities can be understood and progressed across government</p>	<p>The Department of Health and Human Services is committed to the fulfilment of Korin Korin Balit-Djak and will continue to brief the Partnership on the priorities of the Northern Metropolitan Aboriginal Strategic Governance Group.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</p>



Lifelong learning

The Northern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is for a seamless approach to lifelong learning for all ages leading to a more skilled, work-ready, employed, resilient and connected community



What you said

“A lot of young people are going out not ready for work. We need to improve the ‘work-ready’ idea in our schools.” YOUTH FORUM

“Education is not just about getting a job and good grades. It needs to educate young people about ‘life stuff’.” YOUTH FORUM

What we’ve heard



The Partnership’s advice focuses on linking young people and adults, particularly those who may be disengaged or disadvantaged with pathways to education, training/ re-training and jobs.

For Northern students attending the Youth Forum, it’s important to find jobs to build skills in line with their career aspirations – jobs likely to be part of a future in new, creative industries. Young people want to see life skills included in the school curriculum to prepare young people for life after school – skills such as financial literacy, how to start a business and entrepreneurship. They identified education pathways, and life skill resources and support as priority issues.

Youth unemployment is a growing concern for the community of Melbourne’s North. Developing young people who are ‘work-ready’ and finding opportunities for them is essential for the region to reach its potential. In the context of rapidly changing technology, skills rust, which is why re-training is so important.

Building relationships between industry and schools will help foster personal connections and job opportunities. Giving young people a voice in skills and jobs forums will build experience and skills. Assembly participants raised the need to strengthen training connections with employers and young people, improve the school curriculum, and encourage youth voices to contribute to the development of new education pathways.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT
 <p>Develop a program for students and others re-entering the workforce to capture skills and experiences and build personal capacity in partnership with TAFE, Learn Locals, universities etc</p>	<p>The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and the Department of Education and Training will work with the Partnership to investigate expanded career advice activities, such as Skills and Job Centres, to support students and others re-entering the workforce. Based in TAFEs, Skills and Jobs Centres provide expert advice on training and employment opportunities, including help with jobs searches, resume preparation and career and training advice. The Centres also engage with a broad range of local industries, ensuring that the centres are tailored to meet the needs of their local communities and industries.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING</p>
 <p>Develop clear entrepreneurship pathways for young people by leveraging off existing innovation and incubator centres across the region</p>	<p>The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions suggest the Northern Partnership pursue this proposal through an application to LaunchVic.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, PRECINCTS AND REGIONS</p>



Environmental sustainability

The Northern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is that the region's natural assets are protected and enhanced, renewable energy is promoted and there is an improvement in connection to nature and open spaces

What you said

“Overconsumption is leading towards environmental degradation.” ASSEMBLY

“Green wedge areas are under threat.” ASSEMBLY

“The availability of landfill discourages resource recovery.” ASSEMBLY

“Ban single use plastics across the region.” ASSEMBLY

“Promote sustainable technology practices.” YOUTH FORUM

“Educate the community about the importance and reasons for protecting the environment.” YOUTH FORUM

“Councils should work with local communities on developing environment programs, for example, community education ... about waste, and recycling support.” ASSEMBLY

What we've heard

The health of the natural environment contributes to the liveability of your suburbs in the North – the parks, trees and green spaces, how we manage waste and use water, how we plan buildings, and produce and use energy.

The Yarra River catchment, which provides 70 per cent of Melbourne's drinking water, features significant parkland. The green wedges around the semi-rural areas of Whittlesea and Nillumbik are key environmental assets, particularly given significant and projected urban expansion.



Protecting and enhancing the region's unique environmental assets is important to your communities. The environment, climate change, waste management and recycling emerged as key issues at the Northern Metropolitan Partnership's community Assembly.

Participants voiced concern about the amount of waste generated in the North, waterway health, and threats to green wedge areas, vegetation and natural habitat. Students attending the Youth Forum added 'environmental protection for future generations' to their list of priority issues.

At the Assembly, community members identified opportunities to protect the remaining green wedge areas, for example, tougher measures by councils on development threatening these areas, and community education on waste and recycling.

Youth Forum participants said better environmental education would help people understand their own impact on the environment and what they could do to protect the environment. They want young people to have a voice in government decision-making on the big issues, including climate change.

How we're responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT
 <p>Funding to implement the Northern Regional Trails Strategy and the included priority trails</p> <p>Main Yarra Trail, 650m in Banyule (\$1.5 million)</p> <p>Blind Creek Trail Stage 1 600m in Hume (\$360,000)</p> <p>Diamond Creek Trail, 7.3km in Nillumbik (\$12 million)</p> <p>Edgar's Creek Trail, 7.95km in Whittlesea (\$4 million)</p> <p>There are 11 priority trails that are considered by the Northern Trails Governance Group. The trails listed above are further advanced in the design process. Funding sought is based on a 50:50 contribution from state and local government</p>	<p>Building on the previous Budget, the Victorian Budget 2019–20 provides funding to complete 17 kilometres of the Plenty River Trail, and build new bike and walking trails across Nillumbik, Moreland, Banyule, Darebin, Hume and Whittlesea. The Government will invest \$10 million in new cycling and walking trails across northern municipalities and deliver the new Upper Merri Parklands from Broadmeadows to Wallan. This is part of the Government's \$154 million commitment to a new Suburban Parks Program to deliver 6,500 hectares of parkland, including new walking and bike trails across Melbourne. The Government will also undertake a feasibility study for a new Wallan Regional Park and expand the Quarry Hills Park to 1,088 hectares near South Morang.</p>	<p>1-4 YEARS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING</p>
 <p>Funding for a business case for delivery of renewable energy infrastructure at the Melbourne Market</p>	<p>Melbourne Market is encouraged to work with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to explore available funding opportunities for new renewable energy infrastructure projects. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is able to brief the Northern Metropolitan Partnership on current renewable energy projects in the Northern Metropolitan Region.</p>	<p>12 MONTHS</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING</p>

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL



Undertake a scoping study to investigate gaps in community participation in environmental education and protection on the urban fringe/greenfield/green wedge areas

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will work with Planning’s Port Phillip Region to further explore the scope and opportunities of this proposal.

TIMEFRAME
+ LEAD DEPT

1-4 YEARS

DEPARTMENT
OF
ENVIRONMENT,
LAND, WATER
AND PLANNING



Connected young people

The Northern Metropolitan Partnership's desired outcome is to build a strong and resilient region where young people have a voice, feel connected and are healthy and respected in communities where diversity thrives

What you said

“Youth voice is, in my opinion, so important. We will be on this earth long after those who are currently making the decisions.” YOUTH FORUM

“Create opportunities to keep young people occupied.” ASSEMBLY

“Set up youth hubs that provide a range of services including opportunities to socially connect young people. Young people should decide what services are provided there.” ASSEMBLY

What we’ve heard

There are nearly one million young people in Victoria aged 12 to 24 years. Being a young person in Victoria can be quite challenging.

The Northern Partnership is hearing that increasingly young people report feeling disconnected from their peers and from society because of unemployment, anxiety and bullying. Young people are feeling shut out of decision-making about matters that are important to them, such as climate change, or that have a direct impact on them, such as education and employment pathways. Young people in the North describe uneven access to mental health services, employment and the public transport they need to get around.

Northern students who attended the Youth Forum recognised that the further you move away from the inner suburbs, the harder it is to get around. It’s a source of frustration when they are forced to rely on parents or other adults to travel.


Giving young people a voice in decision-making was identified as a priority issue at the Youth Forum – the students valued being able to make informed decisions and find their way, with support, to meaningful jobs and training in new and emerging fields such as tech start-ups and creative industries.

Assembly participants acknowledged the importance of empowerment too. They also identified bullying and social isolation as issues limiting the ability of young people to engage positively in education, work and social events.

The Northern Partnership’s suggested initiative to connect young people in the region is to develop a framework to join up the ways the Government, councils and community organisations engage with young people, and identify the gaps.

Other suggested initiatives to connect young people are included in other parts of this Report Back and relate to health, particularly mental health, and jobs and transport.

How we’re responding

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	TIMEFRAME + LEAD DEPT
 Develop an integrated framework for engaging with young people in the Northern region	The Department of Premier and Cabinet will work with the Partnership to develop a shared understanding of youth engagement issues. A youth forum and workshop will be held to investigate best practise approaches and gaps in youth engagement, This will include Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities and Aboriginal youth and community organisations.	<div data-bbox="1741 456 1892 502">ONGOING</div> DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

Pick My Project

Another way we have encouraged participatory decision-making in the North 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 North have nominated local priorities, identified local projects and got them delivered. Pick My Project has 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 Northern Region, \$2.94 million of funding was allocated across 18 successful projects, including:

- Plenty Gorge Park mountain bike trail program
- Second Chance Community Animal Hospital in Broadmeadows
- Gladstone Park Agricultural Centre
- Tempo Rubato: a backstreet classical music venue supporting new immigrants in Brunswick
- Sunbury SES Needs a Training Room
- Community Solar Installation Project in Heidelberg
- Solar panels for Melbourne's first pay-as-you-feel rescued food market in Thornbury.



Multi-purpose training facility for Sunbury SES unit

Sunbury SES is the Primary and Secondary Road Crash Rescue provider for the Sunbury, Bulla and Diggers Rest region as well as managing storm, flood and other natural disaster response.

Sunbury SES membership has grown to more than 70 volunteers and a junior squad of 11 (15 to 17 years), and the unit needs a large indoor training facility for theory and information technology-based learning.

This project entails purchase of a relocatable multi-purpose building, which can be used as a classroom, small conference room and meeting room.

Equipped with computers for on-line learning modules, it will enable the unit to host regional training courses for SES volunteers. Volunteer members of Sunbury SES are also active in other local community not-for-profit groups. The facility will be available for use by those groups for meetings and training activities. The project partner is the Victoria State Emergency Service, and the budget is \$199,950.

The Banyule Sugar Glider Project

Wildlife corridors are critical for native fauna to survive and thrive. Many are disappearing due to urban pressures. Sugar gliders are a keystone species that will help us map remaining wildlife corridors.

This project records glider occupancy in specially designed, strategically placed nesting boxes. The boxes will be made by the local men's shed and professionally installed in reserves, schools and gardens. Trained residents will check their occupancy regularly and document the findings, which will inform a corridor strategy for the Banyule area.

Banyule Council and conservation groups will use this strategy to protect, maintain and enhance corridors.

Residents can join a monitoring group or host a 'nest box' tree home for gliders in their garden. With 300 new nest boxes to be placed, imagine seeing sugar gliders emerge from their home at dusk, gliding past you to their supper. The project partner is the Montmorency Community Group and the budget is \$64,038.



Appendix 1

Northern Metropolitan Partnership members

Terry Larkins

CHAIR
Leader and practitioner
in local government and
community development

Terry is an experienced leader and practitioner in local government and community development. He has held roles in both the development of the community and commercial outcomes in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Terry was awarded the Public Service Medal in 1995 for Outstanding Public Service to Local Government.

Helen Coleman

DEPUTY CHAIR
Former Mayor, Deputy Mayor and
Councillor, Nillumbik Shire Council

Helen has spent her career working with local communities in all aspects of neighbourhood and community life, and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2019 for service to the community.

Phillip Bain

Experienced Health Leader

Phillip is an experienced health leader having held roles as Chief Executive of Plenty Valley Community Health in Whittlesea and Goulburn Valley Medicare Local in Wyndham. He has a long-standing interest in public policy, especially as it affects the North, and chaired the Victorian Government's Community Health Taskforce.

Esme Bamblett

CEO, Aborigines
Advancement League

One of the oldest Indigenous organisations in Australia, the League is primarily concerned with Indigenous welfare issues and the preservation of culture and heritage. Esme completed her PhD in Koori Identity in 2010.

Sue Davies

Director Community/Industry
Engagement and Employability,
La Trobe University

Sue has a strong communications and community and industry engagement background. Sue sits on the NORTH Link and Engagement Australia Boards (Universities Australia), and the Committee of Management for Youth Foundation 3081.

Carmel Guerra

CEO, Centre for Multicultural Youth

Carmel has over 20 years' experience in the community sector and is founder and CEO of the Centre for Multicultural Youth. A recognised researcher, contributor and commentator for multicultural youth affairs, she convenes the national Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network and is a member of the Youth Parole Board.

Mark Maskiell

CEO, Melbourne Market Authority

Mark is an experienced executive in the business sector, having held leading roles at Essendon Airport and the Australian Grand Prix Corporation.

Carl Cowie

CEO, Nillumbik Shire Council

Carl is a Scotland native with qualifications in economics, finance, an MBA and studied at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. Formally CEO at Mornington Peninsula Shire, Carl commenced at Nillumbik Shire Council in October 2018. He has experience in healthcare, facilities management, transport and manufacturing and construction project management and is interested in maximising business performance, executing clear business strategies and increasing customer satisfaction in the work of Council.

Domenic Isola**CEO, Hume City Council**

Domenic is CEO of Hume City Council, where he is responsible for the day to-day running of council, including implementing council decisions, providing timely advice to council and achieving council's goals.

Simon Overland**CEO, Whittlesea City Council**

Formerly the Secretary of the Department of Justice in Tasmania for five years, Simon has been CEO at the City of Whittlesea since 21 August 2017. He has extensive experience in executive management, leadership and community service roles. Simon was Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police from March 2009 to mid-2011.

David Turnbull**CEO, Mitchell Shire Council**

David has 38 years' experience with local government. David's career has been with interface municipalities undergoing significant change and growth, combined with the challenge of maintaining township, rural and green wedge qualities.

Sue Wilkinson**CEO, Darebin City Council**

Formerly the CEO of Colac Otway Shire Council, Sue was appointed as the first female CEO at Darebin in September 2017. She has extensive leadership experience in both state and local governments having worked for the Department of Planning and Community Development, Monash and Port Phillip councils in planning, environmental and community focused roles.

Kate Rattigan**Victorian Government
Representative**

Kate is the Deputy Secretary, People and Executive Services group at the Department of Education and Training where she leads services and advice in human resources, communications and media, legal, executive and ministerial services, occupational health and safety, integrity reform and audit. Kate's group directly services the Department's 1,500 Victorian government schools. With degrees in Law, Employment and Labour Relations, Kate was previously the Executive Director of the Department's Legal Division.

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

Meghan Hopper**Former Chief Policy Officer at
Safe Steps Family Violence
Response Centre**

Meghan served as a councillor in the City of Moreland's South Ward 2012–16 and was Moreland's youngest female mayor. Meghan has extensive board experience, including on the Monash University Council and the Victorian Ministerial Mayoral Roundtable.

Simon McMillan**Outgoing CEO, Banyule City Council**

Simon has worked in local government for 28 years in both inner and middle Melbourne metropolitan areas and has been with Banyule since 1999. Simon was appointed CEO at Banyule City Council in 2007. Prior to Simon's appointment, he was the Director City Development responsible for Strategic Planning, Economic Development, Environment, Statutory Planning, Building, Engineering and Council Governance.

Nerina Di Lorenzo**Outgoing CEO, Moreland
City Council**

Nerina has over 18 years' experience in Victorian Local Government in a range of senior leadership roles spanning the areas of Business Improvement, Infrastructure Management and Project Delivery. Nerina has a Bachelor of Engineering, a Bachelor of Business and most recently completed a PhD on "Barriers and enablers to implementing change in Victorian local government organisations".

Andrew Crisp**Former Victorian
Government Representative**

Andrew was the Victorian Government representative on the Northern Metropolitan from 2017 to early 2019 in his then role of Deputy Police Commissioner. He has more than 37 years' experience in operational, project and specialist roles within Victoria Police and overseas. Andrew was also the Deputy Commissioner of Regional Operations, responsible for the four policing regions across the state, Transit and Public Safety Command, State Emergencies and Security Command and Family Violence Command. Andrew is now Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner.

Find out more and get involved

How can I find out more?

Visit our website

www.suburbandevelopment.vic.gov.au/partnerships/metropolitan-partnerships

Email your question

northern.partnership@djpr.vic.gov.au

Visit MyVictoria

www.myvictoria.vic.gov.au

Visit Pick My Project

www.pickmyproject.vic.gov.au

How can I get involved?

Share your thoughts or register to attend a community forum on Engage Victoria

engage.vic.gov.au/northern-metropolitan-partnership

