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21 February 2019

Senator The Hon. Zed Seselja
Assistant Minister for Treasury and Finance
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Seselja

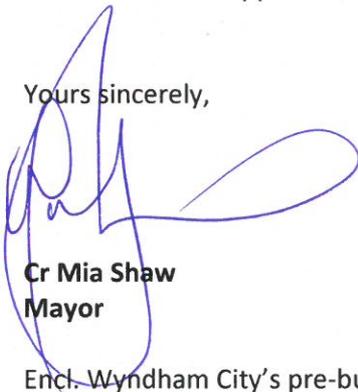
Federal Government Pre-Budget Submission for 2019/2020 - Wyndham City Council

On behalf of Wyndham City Council, I write to provide Wyndham City's infrastructure and service priorities to be considered for possible inclusion in the 2019/2020 Federal Budget.

This submission contains key priority areas and proposals that Council has identified as critical in servicing Wyndham's growth and needs of our diverse community. They include public transport, road and rail infrastructure, kindergarten education and community safety.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues and opportunities further with you.

Yours sincerely,



Cr Mia Shaw
Mayor

Encl. Wyndham City's pre-budget submission



Wyndham City

Federal Government –
Budget Submission
2019-20



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Introduction

Wyndham City is one of Australia's fastest growing municipalities, expected to almost double in size by 2041. It is also the link between Melbourne and Geelong, the two largest cities in Victoria, making it an area of great economic significance that extends beyond its own region, impacting the rest of the state.

According to the latest ABS data between 2016 and 2017, Wyndham was Victoria's largest growing municipality, increasing its population by 14,092 people, or 6.2%.

Affordable housing, geographic appeal, high birth rates, increased migration and major infrastructure investments are the driving forces behind Wyndham's position as the epicentre of western Melbourne's population growth. This growth will transform Wyndham from a City of 257,028 people in 2018 to nearly double in size to 489,379 by 2041.

According to the latest ABS data between 2016 and 2017, Wyndham was Victoria's largest growing municipality, increasing its population by 14,092 people, or 6.2%. This population growth is placing increasing pressure on the infrastructure and services needed by Wyndham residents.

Preschool education, roads, public transport, and community safety are key priorities requiring urgent funding from government if we are to meet the needs of the people living and working in Wyndham.

Wyndham is home to more than 3,100 children who are currently enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten. This is why Wyndham City is leading a national campaign to call on the Federal Government to commit to long-term and ongoing kindergarten funding.

The traditional divide seen between communities and regions by inadequate planning in the past, can be overcome by embracing strategic partnerships with Local Government and by continuing to invest in long term, evidence-based infrastructure projects.

Coupling major infrastructure investments with a greater focus on projects that will improve the safety, wellbeing, education of Wyndham residents will help deliver a vibrant future for this region where people will want to live and work, helping it to continue to make significant contributions to the Victorian economy.

This submission provides summaries of Wyndham City's priorities for the Federal Government's investment in the 2019-20 budget. These priorities are linked to objectives of the Australian Infrastructure Plan, which aligns with Wyndham's City Plan 2017-21.

Budget Submission Summary

Wyndham City is a small, rapidly-growing city and supports the Australian Infrastructure Plan's priorities for capitalising on the many advantages of small cities. The following policy directions in the Plan are specifically aligned with Wyndham's desired outcomes for 2019-20 and beyond:

- At the local level, governments should align the delivery of higher density developments with related upgrades to community infrastructure and amenities.
- Australia's key freight routes need attention. First and last mile issues, bottlenecks and pinch points, increase the time it takes for freight to travel from sender to receiver. These issues will be further exacerbated by population growth. Australia needs a 'National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy'. Infrastructure Australia, in partnership with governments and the private sector, should lead the development of the strategy.
- Governments should routinely consider value capture opportunities in all future public infrastructure investments. Opportunities for value capture should be identified and implemented early in planning processes.
- Governments should increase funding to address gaps in access to passenger transport on the outskirts of Australian cities.
- Australia's energy and water supplies should be resilient to market and environmental changes and risks.

The following projects impacting Wyndham City will deliver on the above priorities:

Regional Project	Recommendation
1. Kindergarten Funding.	Commit to fund five hours of kindergarten per week on a long-term, ongoing basis.
2. The Outer Metropolitan Ring.	Commence the Environmental Impact Assessment required to enable the land acquisition for this major transport and freight corridor to be brought forward.
3. Geelong fast rail connection via Wyndham.	Fund a fast rail link between Sunshine and Geelong, via Wyndham.
4. Regional Rail Link Stations and capacity.	Construction and planning for Regional Rail Link stations at priority sites, particularly Sayers Rd in Tarneit .
5. Werribee and Wyndham Vale rail connection.	Support Victorian Government plans to link Werribee and Wyndham Vale via rail.
6. Western Interstate Freight Terminal (WIFT)	Funding for a land and infrastructure planning study, development of a master plan and land acquisition.
7. Increase capacity on the Werribee line.	Upgrade the Werribee rail line with high capacity signaling to enable an increase in the number of peak hour services.
8. Werribee Irrigation District.	Fund the pipeline modernization for the Werribee Irrigation District.
9. Train Station parking.	Fund improvements to commuter parking at train stations.
10. New and expanded bus services.	Fund the expansion of bus services in fast growing and new suburbs.

Project information

[1. Kindergarten Funding](#)

Wyndham City strongly urges the Federal Government to commit to ongoing and long-term funding for kindergarten. While the Victorian Government has committed to continue funding 10 hours a week of kindergarten per child, the Federal Government's funding of five hours a week per child is due to lapse in December 2019. If this happens many children to fall through the gaps and not receive this important start to education.

[2. The Outer Metropolitan Ring](#)

Wyndham City strongly urges the Federal Government to fund and bring forward the commencement of an Environmental Impact Assessment required to enable the necessary land acquisition for the Outer Metropolitan Ring (OMR). This 100-kilometre-long high-speed transport link for people and freight in Melbourne's North and West will be transformative for Melbourne and the surrounding regional areas. It will create better connections to key international transport hubs such as Melbourne Airport, Avalon Airport, the Port of Geelong, and the proposed Western Interstate Freight Terminal. The OMR will provide a more direct, high speed alignment for Inland Rail. It will also link residential and employment growth areas in Melbourne, including Wyndham. The concept for this project was announced in November 2008 however there has been little progress since. Infrastructure Australia has named acquiring the corridor for this project as one of Victoria's top infrastructure priorities.

[3. Sunshine and Geelong Fast Rail Connection, via Wyndham](#)

In 2018 the Victorian Government announced plans to invest \$50 million for detailed planning to investigate a fast rail link between Sunshine and Geelong via Wyndham. With \$4 billion invested in the Regional Rail Link, Wyndham City supports calls for the Federal Government to capitalize on this opportunity and help fund this connection as a way of unlocking major employment opportunities.

[4. Regional Rail Link Stations and Capacity](#)

Wyndham City is calling on the Federal Government to build four new Regional Rail Link (RRL) stations in Wyndham. The stations have been identified as vital to supporting Wyndham's population growth and demographic changes. In particular, the Sayers Road station in Tarneit is needed as a priority to capitalize on opportunities created by Wyndham's successful bid for an A-League team, including a new 15,000 seat stadium, to be located in this area.

[5. Werribee and Wyndham Vale Rail Connection](#)

The Victorian Government has proposed the construction of a metro rail link from Wyndham Vale to Werribee as the western section of the Suburban Rail Loop. Wyndham City greatly supports this link as a way to improve the connection between Werribee and Geelong. The link will integrate the metro line with the RRL and create more employment, economic and lifestyle opportunities for businesses and residents. Wyndham City encourages the Federal Government to support this project financially in both the planning and construction stages.

[6. Western Interstate Freight Terminal \(WIFT\)](#)

The Western Interstate Freight Terminal (WIFT) is a regionally significant project, recognised previously through a joint Victorian and Australian government funded pre-feasibility study in 2013. The Victorian Government has also provided funding to commence a business case and the 'Victorian Freight Plan – Delivering the Goods' identifies the need to reserve land for the location of the WIFT in Truganina. Wyndham City is calling on the Federal Government to continue to progress this project with a land and infrastructure planning study in 2019-20, to enable the future development of a master plan and land acquisition. Wyndham City also supports the inclusion of the WIFT as a priority in a National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy.

7. Increase Capacity on the Werribee Line

Improving peak services and capacity on the Werribee line is needed to reduce pressure on the existing system and to drive down congestion on local and arterial roads. Upgrading the Werribee line with high capacity signaling will enable an increase in the number of peak hour trains from eight to 13 trains per hour. As part of the Metro Tunnel Project, a contract for high capacity signaling for the Pakenham/Cranbourne and Sunbury line was awarded for \$1 billion. A similar amount would be required to upgrade the Werribee and Sandringham lines, which is planned to happen following the completion of the Metro Tunnel project.

8. Werribee Irrigation District

Wyndham City strongly urges the Federal Government to commit \$11mil to complete the irrigation pipeline modernisation for the Werribee Irrigation District, to maintain and improve Werribee South's access to critical water supplies. The Werribee Irrigation District is recognised as an agricultural precinct of state significance. Werribee South is the closest area of intensive food production to Melbourne. Its position, adjacent to the Western Treatment Plant, means that Werribee South farmers have access to recycled water, allowing them to continue growing vegetables during drought. The Melbourne Foodprint Project by Melbourne University showed that the capacity of Melbourne's city fringe food bowl to feed greater Melbourne could fall from around 41% currently to around 18% by 2050. Werribee South is therefore indispensable as an agricultural precinct of state significance.

9. Train Station Car parking

Commuter parking at Wyndham's railway stations is currently at capacity, limiting the number of people who can use public transport to travel to and from work, and adding to congestion on local roads. Prime Minister Scott Morrison recently pledged \$68 million to fund the construction of new train parking spaces at six stations in Melbourne. Wyndham City was disappointed that no local train stations were included in this announcement and we encourage the Federal Government to invest similarly in Wyndham's overcrowded stations.

10. New and Expanded Bus Services

New and more frequent bus services are needed for residents in Wyndham's fastest growing suburbs including Tarneit, Wyndham Vale, Manor Lakes, Truganina and Point Cook. These suburbs already have large numbers of people living in new estates that have poor or no access to public transport. With Wyndham's booming population, it's important that residents have access to a wide range of public transport options.



Invest in Wyndham's Future

Wyndham City requires long-term planning and partnerships for major infrastructure and services, such as transport and public safety. Wyndham City seeks partnerships and innovative solutions that are supported by all tiers of government. Some of Wyndham City's proposals for the next financial year have strong potential to address these issues for Wyndham and other growth areas. Wyndham seeks to achieve the same level of support and recognition as the other vibrant, small cities listed in the Australian Infrastructure Plan; Council's aims are consistent with the Plan's recommendations for these cities to access new and upgraded infrastructure to support their growth while strengthening links with larger cities.

The below map shows Wyndham's strategic geographic position and significant infrastructure projects.

