

## Seven councils and industry working together to support the growing North:

- **Banyule City Council**
- **City of Darebin**
- **Hume City Council**
- **Mitchell Shire Council**
- **Moreland City Council**
- **Nillumbik Shire Council**
- **City of Whittlesea**
- **NORTH Link**
- **La Trobe University**

### Introduction

The Northern Councils Alliance has been working with stakeholders and partners to develop the North and West Melbourne City Deal Plan 2020-2040.

The plan is a blueprint for the region and will go towards responding to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the immediate and medium term, and reform our economy for the future.

We are committed to ensuring a better future for all those living in Melbourne's North, and are putting forward projects for funding that highlight our precincts and connect people with employment, health and education. Significant investments in transformational road and rail infrastructure will open up the Northern Growth Corridor and help create thousands of jobs.

### Melbourne's North

Melbourne's North is a fast growing and diverse region with a bustling inner city, new suburbs under construction, Melbourne's international airport, and is also connected to a beautiful natural environment.

At present only 10.9% of households use public transport daily and population is estimated to grow to 1.5 million by 2040.

It is time to invest in our one million people and their future by opening the North to future investment and growth opportunities, thereby creating jobs, relieving traffic congestion, expanding public transport and delivering thriving precincts and Metropolitan Activity Centres.

## Our advocacy priorities and projects

### Broadmeadows revitalisation

The Broadmeadows Metropolitan Activity Centre is located 16km from the Melbourne CBD and 9km from Melbourne Airport. It has a major hospital presence, Kangan Institute Broadmeadows campus, Hume Multiversity, Magistrate's Court and the Department of Justice, a regional office of the NDIA and has strengths in food and other manufacturing. There is a need for more local jobs and white-collar employment opportunities to reduce the heavy commuting load. The planned development of Broadmeadows train station into a regional superhub will unlock the commercial potential of Hume Central and create a thriving employment precinct.

### Road duplication projects

Mickleham and Somerton Roads are important road links in the Northern Growth Corridor. The duplication projects will relieve traffic congestion and connect fast growing communities with important services.

**Duplication of Mickleham Road** between Somerton and Craigieburn Roads is a key north-south road link, connecting established communities in Tullamarine and Melbourne Airport with the suburbs of Greenvale West and Craigieburn.

**Duplication of Somerton Road** between Roxburgh Park Drive and Kirkham Drive is an important east-west road link, connecting fast growing residential areas with important health services, train stations, shopping centres and the Hume Freeway. It also provides an important alternative route to Melbourne Airport (via Mickleham Road).

### Outer Metropolitan Ring Road / E6 Freeway

The Outer Metropolitan Ring Transport Corridor/E6 Freeway will connect key international transport hubs and future growth areas by delivering a high-speed transport link for people and freight. The E6 Freeway will connect future growth areas throughout the Northern Growth Corridor which is forecast to accommodate 300,000 people. This will create better connections to Melbourne Airport, Avalon Airport, the Port of Geelong and the proposed Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal and the Western Intermodal Freight Precinct.

### Widening of the Hume Freeway and diamond Interchanges

The Hume Freeway is a major interstate transport corridor linking with the north and connecting Melbourne to Sydney. Improved interchanges between the Hume Freeway and major arterial roads will be a catalyst to unlock significant residential development and employment land within the northern urban growth boundary. Providing diamond interchanges at Watson Street, Camerons Lane and Gunns Gully Road are priorities, and a new Hume Freeway interchange at English Street is required.

## **Cloverton/Beveridge (planned Metropolitan Activity Centre)**

Cloverton/Beveridge (formerly known as Lockerbie) is located 38km from the CBD, 26km from Melbourne Airport and is a future commercial and industrial centre expected to accommodate 300,000 people in the future. It is strategically located near both the Hume Freeway and the national standard gauge freight and passenger rail line linking Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Key projects planned for the area are the Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal, a public hospital, and a TAFE campus. The planned Outer Metropolitan Ring Road / E6 Freeway transport corridor route and the Hume Freeway upgrades, will play a significant role in supporting this important growth corridor.

### **Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal**

The proposed Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal will provide a nationally significant freight terminal, logistics and industrial precinct, expected to unlock thousands of jobs. It will play a significant role in delivering efficiencies in freight movement and easing traffic congestion. It will also maximise productivity in Australia's freight network and encourage additional investment in this important growth corridor. Its construction is crucial to the Inland Rail project.

## **Epping (Metropolitan Activity Centre)**

Epping is located 19km from the CBD, 16km from Melbourne Airport and is an emerging commercial and industrial centre, needing improved transport to support industry growth. It has a major hospital presence in Northern Health and its associated Northern Centre for Health and Education Research, a private hospital and two more proposed private hospitals. It is also the home of Melbourne Polytechnic Epping campus and the Melbourne Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Flower market. Billions of dollars of investments are proposed for the precinct with the retail, commercial education and residential sectors all looking to expand. The Cooper Street employment area is expected to provide 30,000 jobs in the next ten years. Improved transport linkages are needed to support industry growth and employment creation.

### **Epping Export Food and Innovation Hub**

The Melbourne Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Market at Epping has an adjoining 51-hectare site available to develop a 21st century food cluster. The cluster will be a food manufacturing, distribution and research hub, providing a distinctive regional competitive strength for the North. This is a key future employer for the Region, offering more than 3,500 construction jobs and almost 6,500 ongoing jobs and bolster Melbourne's North as a major player in the global food market.

## **La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC)**

Anchored by La Trobe University (Bundoora campus) and the Heidelberg medical precinct, this cluster also includes the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct, Heidelberg West Business Park, Northland Activity Centre and Heidelberg Activity Centre. Vital to the precinct is La Trobe University's \$5 billion University City of the Future plan which will involve significant investment over the next 10 years, including education and health facilities, housing, a new town centre, sports park, green spaces and improved student and community amenity. Enhanced

sustainable transport and connectivity is crucial to unlocking this important study and employment area, which is expected to create over 20,000 jobs.

### **Greensborough Station redevelopment**

The redevelopment includes a significant fully accessible transport interchange to facilitate bus to rail connectivity, which will provide better links to the city and to the La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC). Additionally, reconfiguring Para Road and the Para Road /Flintoff Street intersection will facilitate bus, pedestrian and cycling movement to the proposed transport interchange.

### **Eltham congestion busters**

This project will unlock mobility and connectivity to the city and to the La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC). Improvements to the Eltham Railway Station and bus interchange, together with carparking management and traffic management measures along Main Road, will provide enhanced transport in the highly mobile outer north-east which currently does not have direct access to La Trobe University.

### **Route 86 Tram extension**

Extending Tram route 86 from Bundoora to South Morang Train Station will reduce travel time to Melbourne's CBD and La Trobe University. It will provide better connectivity between the inner and outer suburbs and is vital to improving connectivity across the region.

### **Suburban Rail Loop**

The proposed underground rail link will connect Melbourne's middle suburbs to major railway lines from the Frankston line to the Werribee line via Melbourne Airport. Melbourne's North will have better access to metropolitan Melbourne, the CBD and La Trobe University, with interchanges at Fawkner, Reservoir and Heidelberg, a new train station at Bundoora and a superhub at Broadmeadows. The new interchanges will enhance cross regional connectivity.

### **Metro 2 Tunnel**

The proposed tunnel will directly connect the North to the West and link the northern suburbs to Fishermans Bend and Newport through to Altona North and Sunshine. It will provide a new way for Mernda trains to reach the CBD and join up with other lines, alleviating current bottleneck issues at Clifton Hill and from there to Jolimont. Decoupling the Mernda and Hurstbridge lines to run on their own tracks will mean that a network issue on one line, won't affect the other. It will also increase the capacity of the lines, enabling more trains and provide better access to jobs, education and services. It will also enable delivery of Wollert Rail.

## **Melbourne Airport Rail Link**

Transformation of Victoria's transport network, connecting Melbourne Airport with a rail and giving commuters a train service directly to the airport and the CBD from Broadmeadows.

Development of the detailed business case is now underway, with the project set to begin construction by 2022 and take up to nine years to complete.

## **Upfield Line duplication and extension**

The 7.5km track extension project will connect the existing Upfield Train Station to Craigieburn, relieving current and future capacity constraints. It will provide future capacity for residents in growth areas, while enabling direct access to RMIT University and employment hubs.

## **Electrification of the north east line from Craigieburn to Wallan**

The electrification of the north east line will provide essential transport services to Wallan as it rapidly transforms into a suburban centre within Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary. It will relieve capacity constraints, reduce travel times and ensure appropriate and sufficient public transport access for the Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal.

## **Deliver a high frequency bus service**

To address connectivity issues across the La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster and accessibility to La Trobe University, this short-to-medium mass rapid bus (fast buses) transit solution will mimic the Suburban Rail Loop route. Predictions are that this early connection will deliver \$11million in economic benefit and 11,000 jobs.

## **Northern Regional Trails**

The Northern Regional Trails Strategy seeks to provide a highly connected functional off-road shared trail network with regional-scale economic, social and environmental value. Implementation of the trail network will deliver benefits to the entire region, connecting people to places and the natural environment.