

## **THRIVING SUBURBS PROGRAM SUBMISSION**

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Report Author: Manager Recreation Parks & Facilities  
Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure  
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

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*The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.*

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

### **SUMMARY**

There are three Federal Government grants recently made available for Local Government:

1. Housing Support Program,
2. Urban Precincts program, and
3. Thriving Suburbs Program.

A submission has already been made to the Federal Housing Support program to upgrade roads in areas aligned with the Yarra Ranges Housing Strategy 2024.

Further work is required to determine a suitable application/s under the Urban Precincts Program and will be presented to Council once ready.

Two submissions are proposed under the Thriving Suburbs Program:

1. Don Road, Healesville Community Pavilion and Reserve Upgrade.
2. Lillydale Lake Masterplan Delivery.

Both submissions are aligned with the grant criteria and Council's contribution can be met through a combination of Asset Renewal Fund, Asset Investment Fund and Public Open Space Funds over the delivery timeframe of the projects.

## RECOMMENDATION

### *That*

1. ***Note the submission made to the Federal Government’s Housing Support Program (Community Enabling Infrastructure Theme) to fully fund road upgrades in areas aligned with the Yarra Ranges Housing Strategy 2024.***
2. ***Endorse investigating a suitable application to the Federal Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program.***
3. ***Endorse two submissions to the Thriving Suburbs Program, with a 30% Council funding contribution:***
  - (a) ***Don Road Pavilion and Reserve Upgrades.***
  - (b) ***Lillydale Lake Masterplan Delivery.***
4. ***Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to modify submissions in response to any requests from the funding body, provided any changes do not materially increase the Council contribution.***

## RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Yarra Ranges Housing Strategy 2024.

## DISCUSSION

### ***Purpose and Background***

There are three Federal Government grants recently made available for Local Government. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the grants, details of the recent submission, and outline the two proposed submissions.

### **Housing Support Program (Community Enabling Infrastructure Stream)**

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/cities/housing-support-program>

The Community Enabling Infrastructure (CEI) Stream provides funding to local, state and territory governments for enabling infrastructure and community amenity projects. Each project’s primary aim must be to enable increased housing supply and to achieve the commitments of the National Housing Accord 2022 through the delivery of enabling infrastructure and/or community amenities to service or enhance liveability for new housing development(s). Projects must commence before 31 January 2025.

Earlier in August, a submission from Yarra Ranges Council was made, themed “Community Roads for Housing Support” which focused on providing an improved road network in substantial and increased growth areas identified in the Yarra

Ranges Housing Strategy 2024. The sealing and upgrade of roads provides a direct benefit to investment and development in these higher and medium density areas, offering a range of related benefits including improved accessibility for pedestrians, vehicles and bicycles, as well as delivering more effective drainage infrastructure.

The packages proposed in the project will upgrade and improve collector roads within the Major Activity Centres of Lilydale and Chirnside Park and the Large Neighbourhood Activity Centre of Mooroolbark where significant population and housing growth and intensification is forecast. This is balanced with additional projects in housing growth areas that sit outside the Urban Growth Boundary but play an important role in increasing housing diversity and supply for more regional centres. This critical community infrastructure is essential to attract investment in new housing developments in Yarra Ranges, supporting local employment and services and maximising community benefit.

### **Urban Precincts & Partnerships Program**

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/cities/urban-precincts-and-partnerships-program>

This program seeks to support transformative investment in urban precincts based on the principles of unifying urban places, growing economies and serving communities. The program focuses on a partnership approach, bringing together governments, businesses and communities to deliver multi-purpose urban precincts that are place-based, tailored to local needs and positioned around a shared vision, need or theme.

There are two streams:

1. Precinct development and planning, and
2. Precinct delivery

It is an open program with no specified due date for submission. Further work is proposed to determine suitable opportunities.

### **Thriving Suburbs Program**

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/cities/thriving-suburbs-program>

The objectives of this Federal grant program area:

- constructing or upgrading community infrastructure that fills an identified and immediate gap or unmet need for community infrastructure, particularly for communities that have experienced substantial growth.
- contributing to achieving social outcomes and increased community cohesion, liveability and accessibility for urban, suburban and peri-urban growth areas, fringe areas and inner suburbs.

- strategic alignment with the Australian Government's National Urban Policy to deliver targeted and place based investment that promotes sustainable growth and enables communities to thrive.

### ***Recommended option and justification***

Two submissions have been prepared in line with the grant criteria:

- *Don Road Pavilion and Reserve Upgrades.*

This project would deliver a multipurpose sports and community building and associated works that could be utilised by multiple user groups. The approximate cost is around \$8.25M (with \$2.5M Council contribution, equal to 30%) which includes a building and some peripheral works.

- *Lillydale Lake Masterplan Delivery.*

This package delivers on short and medium term priorities at Lillydale Lake, Council's most popular regional social recreation space located in the heart of Council's fastest housing and population growth. These priorities include enhanced accessibility from Box Hill Institute and the Kinley development, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) improvements such as benches and paths, wayfinding and vegetation enhancements, with an approximate total cost of \$1.5 M to \$2M.

These projects are not currently funded in Councils Capital Works Budget. Federal funds would support delivery of these endorsed and high priority projects.

## **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

The Housing Support Grant is fully funded by the Federal Government.

There is no defined percentage of the proposal cost that must be contributed to the Urban Precincts Program.

The Thriving Suburbs Program requires a 30% contribution by Council. This can be met through a combination of Asset Renewal Fund, Asset Investment Fund and Public Open Space Funds over the delivery timeframe of the projects.

## **APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES**

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

- Connected and Healthy Communities
- Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places
- Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment
- Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism

## **RELEVANT LAW**

Not applicable

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

### ***Economic Implications***

The Thriving Suburbs submissions are aligned with the intended outcomes of the program which is to:

- provide multi-use infrastructure which benefits a broad section of the community by improving access, equity and social inclusion.
- enhance amenity and liveability, particularly in suburban and peri-urban areas (new and outer suburbs) that are experiencing growth.
- contribute to the achievement of Government priorities supporting the resilience, adaptability, accessibility, sustainability and liveability of communities, including in First Nations communities.

### ***Social Implications***

The Thriving Suburbs submissions are aligned with the intended outcomes of the program which is to:

- provide multi-use infrastructure which benefits a broad section of the community by improving access, equity and social inclusion.
- enhance amenity and liveability, particularly in suburban and peri-urban areas (new and outer suburbs) that are experiencing growth.
- contribute to the achievement of Government priorities supporting the resilience, adaptability, accessibility, sustainability and liveability of communities, including in First Nations communities.

Community sport plays an important role in the social fabric of communities. Providing these clubs with fit for purpose, inclusive, and accessible pavilions encourage a larger cohort of the community to join and benefit from active lifestyles and encourages greater community connection.

Research by LaTrobe University's Centre for Sport and Social Impact (CSSI) reported that for every \$1 spent on a community sporting club (in this case Australian Rules), there is at least a \$4.40 return in social value.

The social return on investment in social value was in terms of increased social connectedness, wellbeing, mental health status; employment outcomes; personal development; physical health; civic pride, and support of other community groups.

## ***Environmental Implications***

The Thriving Suburbs submissions are aligned with the intended outcomes of the program which is to:

- provide multi-use infrastructure which benefits a broad section of the community by improving access, equity and social inclusion.
- enhance amenity and liveability, particularly in suburban and peri-urban areas (new and outer suburbs) that are experiencing growth.
- contribute to the achievement of Government priorities supporting the resilience, adaptability, accessibility, sustainability and liveability of communities, including in First Nations communities.

Specific environmental improvement opportunities, in particular related to climate change implications for any building at Don Road and high performing sustainability design elements, will be considered as part of detailed design.

Opportunities for improved environmental outcomes as part of road construction would be investigated as part of delivering Community Roads for Housing program, if the submission is successful.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A comprehensive community engagement was carried out in the development of the Lillydale Lake Masterplan. The submission implements a series of social inclusion and amenity projects at Lillydale Lake advocated for and supported by community feedback during the Masterplan's development.

Discussions with key stakeholders regarding upgrades at the Don Road Recreation Reserve are ongoing, and would continue throughout the detailed design process, if successful with the submission.

## **COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought in order to identify candidate projects for submission. Relevant authorities will be engaged as required in the delivery of each project.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Risk management plans are a grant criteria requirement and have been developed as part of the submission.

If successful, detailed project delivery risk plans would be developed as part of Council's Project Management Framework.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

## **ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT**

Nil