



Melton City Council Federal Budget Submission 2024-2025

Aspirations for the future

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Melton City Council acknowledges Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples living and working in Melton. Council recognises the people of the Kulin Nations as the original custodians of the land now known as City of Melton. On behalf of the municipality, Council pays respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Mayor's Message

Aspirations for the future

The City of Melton is the fastest growing municipality in Australia. In the year to June 2022 our population grew by 11,642 people, or 6.4%, as we saw 58 babies born and 72 families move in every week. Home to 205,867 residents in 2023, our population is projected to grow to 440,142 by 2051. That's the same size as Canberra today.

We are excited with the commencement of the Western Highway business case, Melton Hospital project and level crossing removals. We are working closely with the Victorian State Government in the delivery of these projects.

Council sees our contribution as an important part of the all-of-government partnership. The 2023/24 Melton Council Budget was inclusive of a capital works program of more than \$100 million to deliver roads, park upgrades, recreational, leisure and community facilities, and active transport networks.

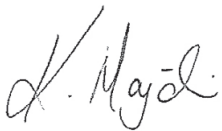
We have a skilled and diverse workforce ready to embrace local jobs created through commercial investment. Our Investment Attraction Strategy highlighted the opportunity to create 100,000 new local jobs and return \$19 billion annually to the Australian economy.

This strategy is already coming to life with the commencement of the Melton Hospital and major global brands investing locally to create jobs, including Nike, Lululemon, Electrolux, Makita, and Amazon.

We have been listening to our community, and they have strong aspirations for the future; for themselves and their families. Our 2024-2025 Federal Budget Submission seeks to deliver on our community's aspirations for its future.

We have a real appreciation of the financial constraints for government, but as Australia's fastest-growing municipality, we require investment to secure intergenerational improvement. We look to each level of government working in partnership to improve economic prosperity and people's lives.

We call on the Federal Government to partner with Council through investment in transformational, intergenerational infrastructure to increase productivity, liveability and create jobs.



Cr Kathy Majdlik
Mayor



Community Profile

The City of Melton is experiencing significant residential and commercial growth. In 2021 there were 5788 new residential greenfield lots expected to deliver over 13,400 new dwellings, higher than any other growth area in Victoria. Major global brands have invested in new employment precincts including Amazon, Nike, Hello Fresh, Lululemon, DHL, Electrolux, Myer, Mitre 10 and Makita, creating 6,133 new jobs.

The City of Melton offers an outstanding mix of established and growth suburbs, alongside industry that has untapped opportunity for growth. We have a plan to create more local jobs. The City of Melton's Investment Attraction Strategy seeks to deliver 100,000 new local jobs and return \$19 billion to the Victorian economy annually.

One of the strengths of the City of Melton is the significant commercial and industrial land availability close to freight corridors such as the Western Highway, Calder Highway and regional rail lines.

Located 19 kilometres northwest of Melbourne's CBD, the city covers an area of 527 square kilometres and will provide significant affordable housing for those looking for their new home.

Our municipality offers the unique opportunity to establish a new benchmark for growth and development, where services and infrastructure are planned and delivered in line with population growth. This will increase accessibility and liveability.

Our community is becoming more educated, culturally diverse, prosperous and ambitious with strong aspirations for the future.

<p>6.4% annual growth: 216,000 (2022) to 450,142 (2051)</p>		<p>33 Median age in Melton, compared to 37 Victoria</p>	
	<p>160 nations speaking more than 167 different languages</p>		<p>57.9% of families have children</p>
<p>5.7% unemployment in Melton, compared to 3.7% in Greater Melbourne</p>		<p>\$6.66B Gross Regional Product 2022</p>	
	<p>14.3% Youth unemployment in Melton compared to 11.3% in Victoria</p>		<p>15,398 local businesses (ABS 2021)</p>

Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/melton>

Urban Growth Map with employment districts

DIRECT JOBS BASED ON AREA

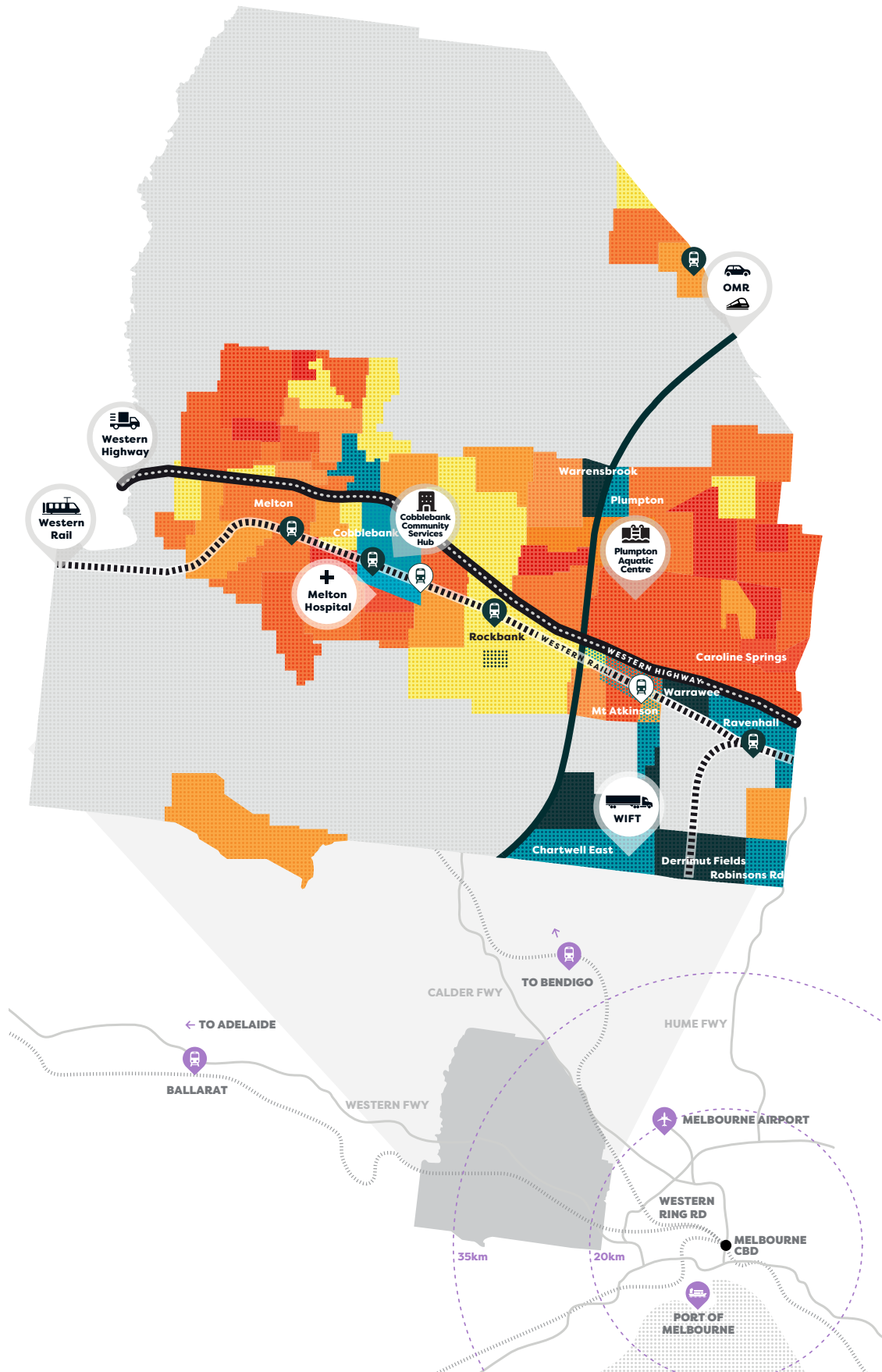
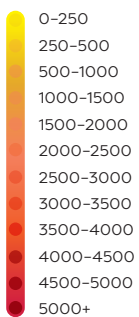
- 10,027** ● Melton Industrial (existing)
- 24,000** ● Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre (includes Melton Hospital)
- 6,225** ● Mt Atkinson and \ Tarneit Plains Industrial
- 8,582** ● Chartwell East Industrial
- 5,481** ● Warrensbrook Industrial
- 11,421** ● Plumpton Major Town Centre and Industrial
- 1,854** ● Rockbank Major and \ Local Town Centre
- 3,200** ● Mt Atkinson Major Town Centre and Mixed Use Space
- 2,145** ● Warrabee Industrial
- 5,975** ● Ravenhall Industrial (existing)
- 8,128** ● Derrimut Fields Industrial
- 2,000** ● Robinsons Rd Industrial

● Employment precinct

Train Station

Planned Train Station

2031 Population / km²



Plumpton Aquatic and Wellness Centre

For an active, healthy community

We are seeking:

A partnership with the Federal and Victorian Governments to build this critical community facility.

Located in Fraser Rise, the Plumpton Aquatic and Wellness Centre (PAWC) will be a six-star Green Star, district-level facility with a focus on wellbeing, accessibility and inclusion, featuring Australia's first water sensory area. It will be a destination for physical activity, participation, community connectivity and fun.

Council has invested \$250,000 in the 2023/24 budget to finalise the master plan and commence schematic design and detailed design. The City of Melton has only one Council-owned aquatics facility, the Melton Waves Leisure Centre, for a population of over 205,000 people spread out over 527 square kilometres.

Melton Waves is an aging facility so delivering an additional facility within the municipality is necessary for the liveability of our residents.

The City of Melton has the highest rate of need across all determinants of health in the North-Western Melbourne

Primary Health Network which is generally associated with high levels of disadvantage, high acute service use and high rates of chronic disease. That's why the PAWC will include a designated allied health wing of 2,000m² to address the significant gap in access to local allied health services such as:

- occupational therapy
- nutrition
- psychology
- psychiatry
- exercise physiology
- physiotherapy
- sports medicine
- NDIS.

The PAWC will feature Australia's first water sensory area – including water features, interactive wall elements, and a heated pool with a beach-style entry. The high-tech multi-sensory environment will be specially designed to cater for people of all ages and abilities to create opportunities and connections that enhance and contribute to wellbeing.

It is projected that the facility will attract 687,156 visitations in the first year.



Cobblebank Community Services Hub

Access to community and allied health services locally

We are seeking:

Investment from the Federal Government to help deliver this facility for improved social, health and wellbeing outcomes.

Located in the heart of the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre, the Cobblebank Community Services Hub (the Hub) will provide space currently lacking in the City of Melton to accommodate a range of community and allied health services which meet the needs of our growing community and the broader region.

The site of the Hub is close to the Cobblebank Train Station and bus interchange, outdoor parks, Cobblebank Stadium, the future Melton Hospital and TAFE, along with a significant retail and entertainment precinct.

The Hub will be a purpose-built facility filling critical community and allied health service gaps such as prevention of family violence, mental health, disability, employment, alcohol and drug support, refugee support and culturally specific services for our Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander communities and culturally diverse communities.

Melton City Council has long recognised the need for localised delivery to increase accessibility to health and human services. Delivering the health and human service system needed within the City now and over the next twenty years, won't happen without careful planning, policy, and facilitation in partnership with key stakeholders.

The Hub will deliver an innovative solution to the ongoing accommodation issues being experienced by service providers, thereby;

1. improving the capacity of Council and the Federal Government to respond to the needs of the community by locating services close to the greatest need
2. delivering a facility that will attract key services to the area supporting improved health and wellbeing outcomes
3. providing significant opportunities for training and local employment both during and after construction.



Western Highway

Connectivity to residential and employment growth

We are seeking:

The funding allocation for construction of the road upgrade and interchanges to commence in 2025, including:

- upgrade to urban freeway standard from Melton to Deer Park, with additional lanes
- new or upgraded interchanges, including at Bulmans, Ferris, Mount Cottrell, Hopkins, Christies and Leakes Roads
- new pedestrian and cycling path along the Western Highway.

We are appreciative of the commencement of the Business Case for the Western Highway funded by the State and Federal Governments.

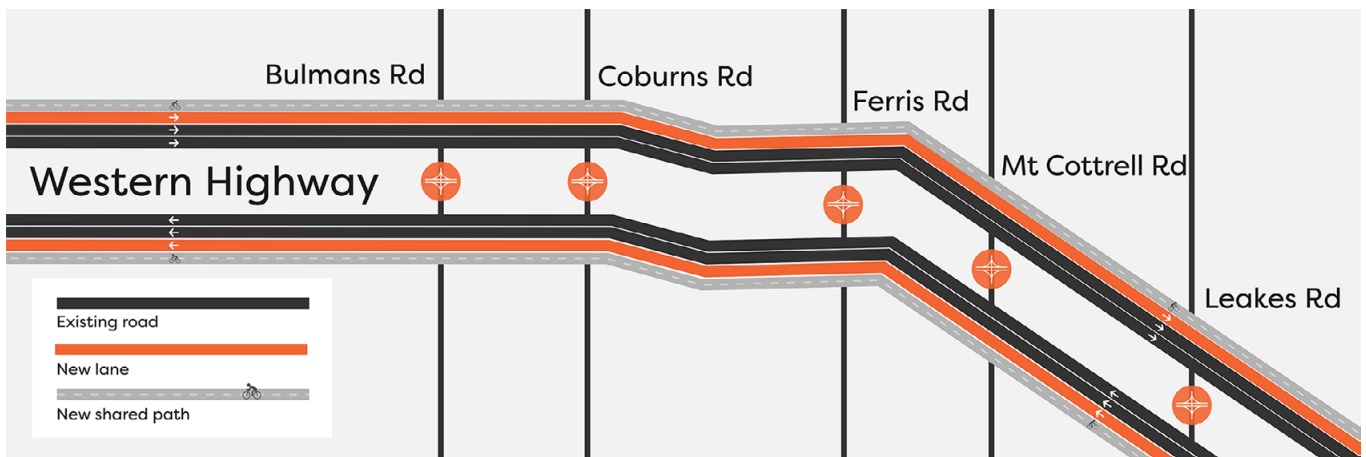
The Western Highway is the main road between Melbourne, Ballarat and Adelaide, and the second

largest freight carrier of any national highway, carrying more than 5,400 trucks a day. It is an aged and rural-standard highway with direct property accesses and at-grade interchanges at numerous points. The lack of interchanges and overpasses present a significant safety risk to road users.

The Western Highway, between the M80 Ring Road and Bulmans Road, is estimated to carry over 86,000 vehicles per day. Traffic modelling commissioned by Council indicates that this will increase to over 110,000 vehicles per day by 2031. 280,000 new residents are expected to be added along the Western Highway by 2051.

Independent analysis by Clarity Consult found that the upgrade of the Western Highway would see a positive Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.08. The estimated project cost of \$1.3 billion will see a total economic benefit of \$1.4 billion over 30 years. This figure includes 343,000 hours of travel time saved, 37,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases saved and a 18% reduction in crashes or 170 less crashes.

- Visit movingmelton.com.au/westernhighway for modelling and further information.



• Proposed Western Highway upgrades



• Above left, a typically busy section of the Western Highway, and at right, an artist's render showing the impact of additional lanes.

Western Intermodal Freight Terminal

The catalyst for 39,000 local jobs, increased productivity, reduction in congestion and towards net zero.

We are seeking:

Investment for land acquisition and construction of the Western Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT) in Truganina.

Local job creation is our number one priority – we need more opportunities for residents to work close to home. It will reduce commuter times, reduce pressure on the public transport network, take cars off roads, increase prosperity, and help our transition to a net-zero economy. Council has identified the need for diversified, quality job creation and now seeks investment into the Western Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT) as a catalyst infrastructure project.

One of the strengths of the City of Melton is the significant commercial and industrial land availability close to freight corridors such as the Western Highway, Calder Highway and regional rail lines.

The WIFT is an intergenerational regional infrastructure project proposed for Truganina, establishing the interstate rail freight terminal and warehousing precinct. The WIFT is located in the Western State Significant Industrial Precinct (SSIP), the largest SSIP in Victoria.

The WIFT will increase productivity, create approximately 1360 jobs during construction, and 2,000 ongoing jobs, and be a catalyst for the attraction of commercial investment to create 39,000 jobs. The WIFT will contribute \$7.5 billion to the Australian economy when fully operational.

The Federal Government has a two-terminal policy for Melbourne, one in the outer north and the WIFT in the outer west, and has committed \$740 million, for the WIFT’s construction.

Council is asking the Federal and State Governments to prioritise the WIFT and build it by 2029 because the WIFT:

- is close to over 50% of existing interstate freight rail customers and existing warehousing and logistics companies in the west
- has the support of the two main interstate rail freight operators, with 90% of the market
- is in close proximity to the Port of Melbourne, Port of Geelong, Melbourne and Avalon Airport
- has the room to accommodate 1,800 metre long double-stacked trains.
- has access to a further 7,200 hectares of industrial land in the Western State Significant Industrial Precinct beyond 2040.
- will remove up to 2,000 daily truck movements from Melbourne’s inner west when freight is relocated away from Dynon Terminal
- will capitalise on benefits of the Inland Rail Project
- will improve efficiencies in local, national and international freight movement by bringing local warehouse precincts closer to freight terminals
- is supported for investment by industry and the Victorian State Government.

The WIFT is supported by the WIFT alliance which includes Australia’s biggest supply chain and logistics companies:



Outer Metropolitan Ring (Road and Rail)

We are seeking:

The Federal Government, in partnership with the Victorian Government, to invest in the land acquisition and construction of the OMR.

The Outer Metropolitan Ring (OMR) is a 70-kilometre-long reservation from Little River in Melbourne’s south west to Kalkallo in the north with provision for four rail tracks and six road lanes.

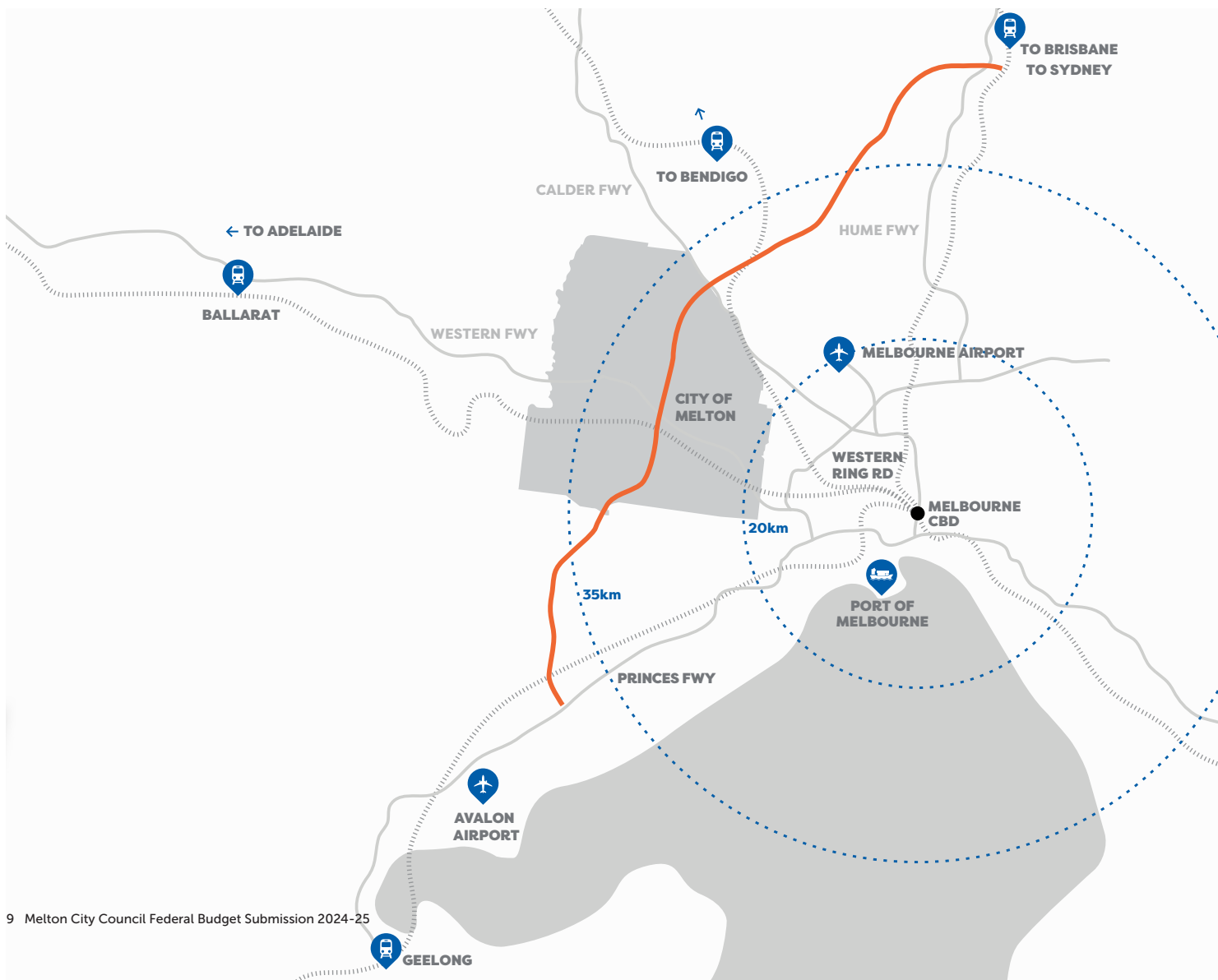
The OMR would connect the Hume Freeway, Calder Highway, Western Highway, Princess Freeway and freight transport hubs and employment precincts such as Melbourne Airport, Port of Melbourne and regional centres.

The OMR will connect the Commonwealth’s Inland Rail Project to the WIFT and south-west rail, taking trucks off roads.

With the Western Ring Road at capacity, the OMR is critical to unlocking employment and investment in the outer west and outer north, and connecting growth residential areas.

Infrastructure Victoria’s strategic assessment indicated “a compelling case for the road component of the project.” The Federal Government has committed \$920 million to build OMR south, the rail section connecting the WIFT to Wyndham.

- Visit movingmelton.com.au/outer-metro-ring-road-omr for modelling and further information



Western Rail Plan: electrification and duplication of the Melton Line

Investment in rail to increase productivity, accessibility and move towards net-zero.

We are seeking:

- implementation of the Western Rail Plan including electrification and duplication of the Melton line between Melton and Sunshine stations
- the construction of new rail stations at Mt Atkinson and Thornhill Park to cater for the rapidly increasing population in these areas.

Over the next 30 years 183,500 people will move into the railway line corridor, and six new suburbs that are directly aligned to the rail line will bring 65,900 new dwellings. The existing rail network is not adequate to service the number of commuters. Our modelling has found the even with nine-carriage VLocity trains, they will be at crush capacity in the peaks, as without duplication services will be unable to increase frequency.

Extension of the electrified rail network from Sunshine to Melton and separation from the Ballarat line would triple the passenger carrying capacity and improve frequency. Metropolitan trains can carry up to 1,500 passengers at a time and can operate at increased frequency.

Independent analysis by Clarity Consult found that electrification and separation of the Melton Line would see a Present Value of Benefits of \$910 million over 30 years.

By 2041 the electrification and duplication will result in 12,000 less cars on the network every day, 77,300 less private vehicle kilometres travelled every day and 33,000 entries and exits every day for all stations in the City of Melton.

The electrification and duplication of the Melton Line will also service key employment precincts including Horizon 3023, Melbourne Business Park and Cobblebank MAC - attracting commercial investment and supporting 73,000 future jobs.

Electrification of Melton to Sunshine rail line



\$910 million
of Present Value of Benefits
over 30 years



12,000 less car trips
on network daily



27% or 15,000+
more local trips on
public transport



36.1% or 6,363
more bus boardings
in the City of Melton

**All values for 30 year analysis period*

- Visit movingmelton.com.au/rail for modelling and further information on rail transport needs.



Skills

A job-ready local workforce

We are seeking:

- a partnership between State and Federal Governments to deliver skills training locally
- expansion of the new TAFE in Cobblebank to include logistics, health, education and community service
- creation of a Tertiary School of Medicine at the new Melton Hospital to train doctors and allied health specialists for outer metropolitan areas and regional centres.

We have skills shortages right now, and with significant investments - including a new hospital, a future freight terminal and a growing construction, warehouse and logistics sector - we need a job-ready workforce for the local jobs that are quickly emerging.

- The opening of Melton Hospital in 2029 will create 3,975 direct jobs and 2,485 indirect jobs. There are existing gaps in specialist and allied health professionals for the growing community.
- NDIS already has 4,526 clients in the municipality needing support workers.

- Construction of 89,000 dwellings and \$1 billion of community infrastructure over the next 30 years will create an estimated 267,000 jobs.
- New supply chain and logistics hubs will see 39,000 jobs created over the next 30 years within the WIFT and surrounding employment precincts.
- Our rapidly expanding population will see a need for maternal child health nurses, educators and at least 1,370 kindergarten teachers to support the 36,060 children who will be under five in 2051.
- New primary and secondary schools will require teachers for the 74,161 students aged 5-14 in 2051.
- Additional maternal child health nurses will be needed to help with a significantly higher birth rate at 73 babies per week.
- Aged care workers will be needed to support the 24,209 people who will be aged over 75 in 2051.

Council is excited by the Victorian Government's commitment to build a TAFE in Cobblebank to deliver training for the construction industry. We seek a commitment from both the State and Federal Governments for the delivery of a broader TAFE offering and a university to prepare our residents for job readiness in tomorrow's workplace.



A nighttime photograph of a park or lake. In the center, a tall, bright yellow fountain jet rises from the water. To the right, colorful fireworks (red, green, white) are exploding in the dark sky. The background shows a line of trees and city buildings illuminated by streetlights. The water in the foreground reflects the lights. In the bottom left corner, there is contact information for Roslyn Wai, Chief Executive Officer of Melton City Council.

Roslyn Wai
Chief Executive Officer
Melton City Council

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