

Beyond roads, rates and rubbish-innovation in managing community expectations with intense growth and major arterial roadworks

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The Wyndham City is one of Australia's principal growth municipalities, increasing from 227,008 in 2016 to 241,100 in 2017 (1) expected to grow over 450,000 by 2050. Located on the western fringe of Melbourne the population is centered in the residential areas around Werribee, Point Cook, Hoppers Crossing Truganina and Tarneit.

Primary movement for Wyndham residents for work is towards the city which is predominantly served by the Princes Freeway, the Princes Highway, the Western Ring Road, and two rail lines-Metro and Regional Rail Link. Access though is marginalized by over-reliance on roads, an arterial network that hasn't kept pace with growth whilst also being too reliant on the Princes Freeway without capacity upgrades at the city outlets.

To address these deficiencies, the Victorian Government under a PPP arrangement have initiated a program of road arterial upgrades that seeks to dramatically improve arterial road capacity. This contracted arrangement is known as the Western Roads Upgrade (WRU) which includes a significant investment of \$1.8 billion in Melbourne's West. While this investment is highly welcomed, Wyndham City acknowledges its role in coordinating these works with WRU team.

This presentation details the efforts that the Wyndham City have initiated to proactively minimise the impacts on the community as below:

- Review of road network in the corridor and identify potential issues and opportunities. This included managing short-term deficiencies (WRU construction phase) and capital planning review/remodel of Council road projects to build some extra capacity.
- A new dedicated role to represent the local community working with WRU, to plan and coordinate the works to minimise existing service disruption.
- Influencing external stakeholders.

References:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics.