

Victorian State Budget 2022/23

The VLGA welcomes the release of the 2022/23 State Budget. The Budget, with a published theme of Putting Patients First clearly sets public health and wellbeing and also a continuation of major capital projects such as hospitals, roads and continued removal of level crossings as its headline components.

There will be mixed views across the local government sector regarding its content. It is evident that many councils' significant advocacy efforts have paid off, with projects delivered including infrastructure needs for interface councils and expansion of community mental health services.

The below Table shows allocations marked specifically for local government in the Budget Papers. There will be other allocations in the Budget that impact individual councils. The complete budget papers are available at: <https://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/state-budget/2022-23-state-budget>

<i>Initiatives relevant to local government – as listed in Appendix B, Service Delivery (Budget Paper No. 3), Victorian Budget 2022/23</i>			
Department	Initiative	Funding	LGAs
Whole of government	Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy (VALGAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With specific funding to support and facilitate engagement and relationships between local governments and Aboriginal communities. 	\$400,000 (\$350,000)	All
Department of Education and Training (DET)	Building Inclusive Kindergartens	\$2.9 million (\$11.9m over the next 3 years)	All
	Improving outcomes for culturally and linguistically diverse children	\$1 million (\$4m over next 3 years)	All
Department of Environmental, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)	Implementation of the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy	\$30 million (\$56.6m over next 2 years)	Central: Moorabool Shire Council, Wyndham City Council Gippsland: Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire Council
	Revitalising Central Geelong	\$400,000 (\$2.3m over next 2 years)	Greater Geelong City Council
	VicCoasts: Building a safe, healthier and more resilient marine and coastal environment for the community	\$7 million	Coastal councils

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)	Continuing COVID-19 support and recovery for multicultural communities	\$3.7 million	All
	Investing in a thriving North Richmond	\$2 million (\$7.4m over next 4 years)	Yarra City Council
	Investing to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring	\$8.3 million (\$51.3m over next 3 years)	All
	Victorian State Disability Plan	\$14.6 million (\$15.1m over next 2 years)	All
	Victorian Social Recovery Support program	\$700,000	Key focus areas: Central and Southwest Gippsland; Yarra Ranges, Murrindindi and Cardinia; Central Highlands
Department of Health (DOH)	Promoting good mental health and wellbeing in all communities	\$10.5 million (\$30.5m over next 4 years)	All
	Public health and local place-based delivery	\$72.3 million (\$87m over next 4 years)	All
Department of Jobs, Regions and Precincts (DJPR)	Creative Spaces & Places	\$3 million (\$6m over next 2 years)	All
	Creative West	\$2.4 million	Western metro councils
	Growing Suburbs Fund	\$50 million	Interface and peri-urban councils
	Meeting Victoria's demand for local sport and active recreation infrastructure	\$88 million	All
	Our Suburbs: Living Local – Supporting our suburbs to recover and thrive	\$24.7 million	Darebin City Council, Frankston City Council, City of Greater Dandenong, Hume City Council, Knox City Council, Melton City Council, Wyndham City Council and Yarra Ranges Council.
	Living Local: Regional	\$5 million	Regional/Rural
	Public Libraries Funding Program	\$2.3 million	All
Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund	\$29 million (\$30m total with \$1m in 2021/22)	Regional/Rural	

	Transforming small business	\$8.9 million	All
	Transforming Western Melbourne	\$2.3 million (\$2.8m over next 2 years)	Wyndham City Council (flow on effects to Western metro councils)
Department of Transport (DOT)	Active transport	\$5.5 million (total of \$6.9m over 4 years including 2021/22)	Selected metro and Greater Bendigo City Council
	Delivering the Road Safety Action Plan	\$9.6 million (total of \$17.6m over 3 years including 2021/22)	All
	Local ports critical maintenance works	\$1.5 million in 2023/24	Bayside City Council, East Gippsland Shire Council, Hobsons Bay City Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and Wellington Shire Council
	Maintaining Victoria's road network	\$119.4 million	All
	Metropolitan road upgrades	\$9.4 million (\$24.9m over next 4 years)	Metropolitan councils
	Regional road upgrades	\$7.5 million (\$8.6m over next 4 years)	Regional/rural

Ongoing commitments

- Funding carried over from the last budget (2021-22) for the Roadside Weeds and Pests program (\$9.3m commitment with \$2.9m allocated annually).
- The Rural Councils Transformation Program continues (\$20m total value; first announced in 2017-18 Budget)
- Funding carried over from the last budget (2021-22) for the Municipal Emergency Resources Program (\$4.9m)

Other items to note

- Level of support from Commonwealth financial assistance grants significantly lower – this may be due to COVID-19 related support being wound back. \$171 million to be passed on to councils in 2022-23 compared to \$850 million in 2021-22.