



HUME CITY COUNCIL

Infrastructure Victoria

30 Year Draft Infrastructure Strategy

hume.vic.gov.au
April 2025





“We rely heavily on State and Federal Government prioritisation of infrastructure, particularly funding for important assets like national, state and arterial roads, public transport, schools, hospitals, and social housing that provide places for people to come together and connect our communities better and for policy changes that reduce the social inequities that some of our community may face. Council’s submission to Infrastructure Victoria provides another platform to share the voices of our community in ensuring all levels of Government are aware of the infrastructure we need.”

Mayor of Hume City, Councillor Jarrod Bell

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Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land.

Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia's identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

Executive Summary

Hume City Council is acutely aware of the important role that Infrastructure Victoria plays in providing independent advice to Government.

Whilst Local Governments are responsible for the delivery of the majority of infrastructure in local community's we cannot do it on our own. The State and Federal Governments have responsibility for the delivery of much of the infrastructure and services that local community's need.

As the ear to the community, it is imperative that Local Government understands what their local community's needs are and ensure that the voices of their community are heard.

This forms the basis of Hume City Council's submission in response to the draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy prepared by Infrastructure Victoria. Our submission does not respond to all 43 Recommendations and 7 Future Options presented in the draft strategy, but it outlines our feedback aligned to our community's highest priorities that require intervention from other levels of Government.

Our feedback to the strategy speaks to what we have heard and what we continue to hear from our residents. We have made commitments to them that we will not stop advocating for what they need until they receive what they need – that is our role.

About Hume City

Hume is a place of great contrasts – in geography, economy, background and cultural diversity. Located just 15 kilometres north of the centre of Melbourne, Hume City is one of the fastest growing and most culturally diverse communities in Australia. More than one quarter of the population is aged under 18 years whilst one in nine residents are aged 65 and over.

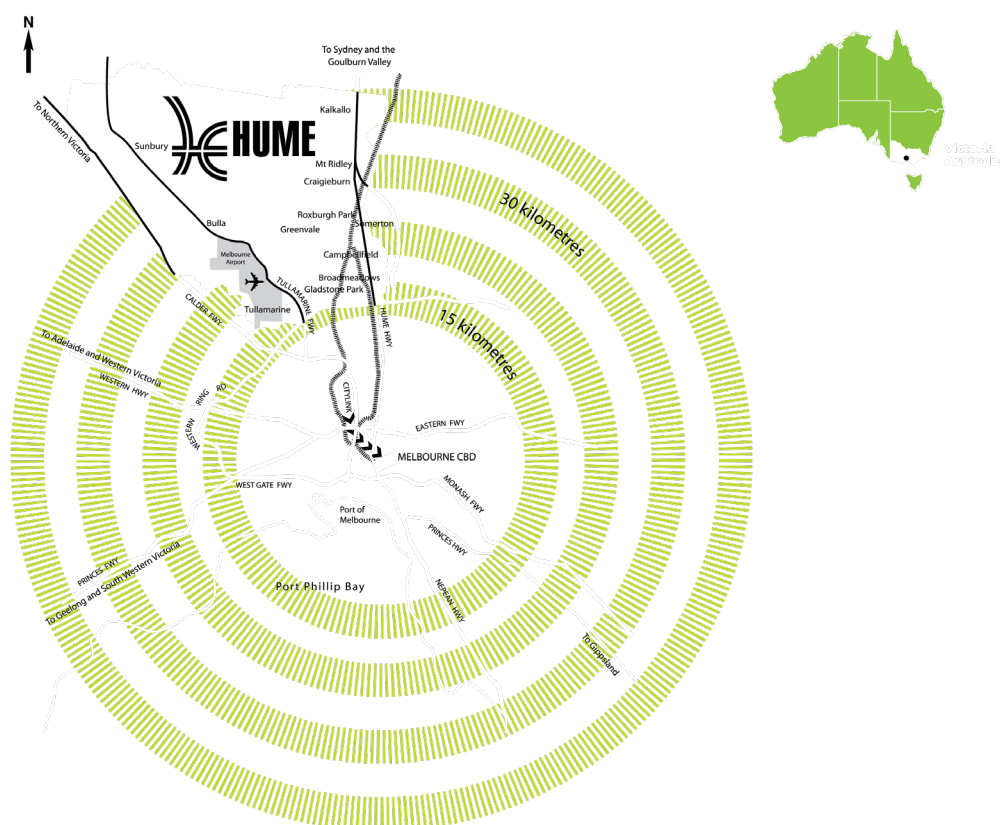
Hume's population is expected to grow to 397,453 by 2041 from its current estimated 250,001 (source: id profile™). Over the next five to twenty years, urban growth, densification of established areas, and related changes in population and household structures will drive an increase in service delivery and infrastructure requirements.



Hume covers an area of more than 504 square kilometres. It stretches 30 kilometres from east to west, and over 22 kilometres from north to south. The southern parts of Hume are represented by well-established suburbs. Expanding out from here are Hume's rapidly developing new suburbs and employment areas, including the future Metropolitan Activity Centre at Cloverton, 35 kilometres from the city centre.

Hume's communities are served by major road transit routes including the Tullamarine Freeway, Western Ring Road, Hume Freeway and Calder Freeway. Melbourne Airport, in the south of Hume, is part of a significant industrial area in the south and east of the municipality. Logistics and related businesses in Hume benefit from access to multiple freeway networks in addition to Melbourne Airport.

Residents come from **170 different countries** with 40% of all residents born overseas. They speak over **155 languages** with 49% speaking a language other than English at home.



Why our community needs investment

As one of Australia's fastest growing and most diverse communities, we need vital infrastructure and services to grow with us.

We will build the local roads and footpaths, community facilities, sports reserves and preschools our community needs but there is much more that falls outside our area of responsibility - such as arterial roads and highways, public transport, hospitals and public housing. Our role is to ensure that other levels of Government know what our community needs and when they need it.



Council's approach in responding to the strategy

Councils' submission to the Infrastructure Victoria Draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy responds to the challenges faced in our community as we balance the expectations of established communities with those that are rapidly growing.

Our submission focuses on the recommendations and future options within the six objectives that are of the highest importance to the Hume City community.

Council's Recommendations

Objective: Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities

Draft Recommendation 1

Build more social housing

Despite its vibrancy, Hume City faces socio-economic challenges. It ranks as the third most socio-economically disadvantaged local government area in Greater Melbourne – with the third highest rate of low-income households.

This is reflected that within Hume City, there are over 2,500 social housing dwellings, with the vast majority of these being single/stand-alone houses. Unsurprisingly most are under the ownership of the Victorian Government as public housing with over 330 being owned by Community Housing organisations.

It is recognised that a significant amount of that social housing stock is over 30 years old, and this housing falls short of the livability standards that our community expects and deserves.

Coupled with the fact that Hume City has approximately 7,000 applications on the Victorian Housing Register, this represents an acute need for additional public and community housing in the Hume municipality.

Hume City Council strongly supports this recommendation and would see benefit of a 15-year program – particularly with a focus on a pipeline of projects including committing to the full redevelopment of the Banksia Gardens Estate in Broadmeadows.



Draft Recommendation 2

Facilitate markets and invest in kindergarten infrastructure

Hume City Council operates 34 kindergartens which do not currently meet the needs of our rapidly growing community. We are not addressing the entire need in our community through Council-run kinder provision with the private sector filling the gap, so it is essential to have up-to-date information available from the Government regarding plans for new kindergarten services being developed and delivered by all providers (private and not for profit).

This will enable Local Government to plan effectively for new services in the lead-up to rolling out 30 hours of Pre-Prep so there is no overlap or over-supply in growth areas.

Draft Recommendation 5

Build libraries and aquatic centres for Melbourne's growing communities

Communities across the outer Melbourne need new aquatic centres and libraries to support our fast-growing populations.

Historically, the Victorian and Federal Governments helped fund the development of new libraries and pools across our suburbs.

But over recent years local councils have been left to go it alone. This is unfair and unsustainable.

This has led to a growing deficiency in the availability of libraries and aquatic and recreation centres in our region, and a backlog of projects that need to commence. In the coming years our community will need new library and leisure facilities in our growing suburbs such as Sunbury and Kalkallo. As our older facilities face renewal, investment will be required to bring them up to standard.

A 'one-third each' approach will best ensure we can respond to the needs of outer Melbourne communities and provide our residents with the infrastructure they demand in a timely way as suburbs and population continues to expand.

Consideration also needs to be given to the operational funding of these types of facilities. With respect to libraries, operational funding has been pegged since 2018, and it is imperative that moving forward this funding needs to increase in line with growth and CPI.

Without this occurring Councils will be forced to shoulder an even greater proportion of operational costs, when this should be 50/50 between the State Government and Councils.



Draft Recommendation 8

Extend Melbourne's trams to encourage more new homes nearby

Hume City is not supported with tram provision - existing tram services end to the south of our municipality. Tram services within our community would provide additional ways to reduce vehicle congestion on already congested roads and deliver more cost efficient alternative to get people to and from shopping and activity centres, schools and other community facilities.

Council seeks that Infrastructure Victoria include the following projects as part of this recommendation:

- Extension of the existing Tram Route 59, from Airport West to Melbourne Airport, via Melrose Drive Tullamarine
- Extension of the existing Tram Route 1 from North Coburg to Campbellfield, via Sydney Road.

This would provide better connections to key landmarks within Hume City and help facilitate additional housing opportunities which would assist the Victorian Government in meeting its housing targets.

Draft Recommendation 9

Run faster bus services, more often, in Victoria's largest cities

Hume is reliant on buses to connect its communities. Whilst we are serviced by three train lines, the east west connections provide avenues for our residents to get access to train stations, shopping and activity centres, Government services, schools and health.

Council strong supports this recommendation as a fast, direct, and frequent bus network would “turbo charge” transport in Melbourne. It would improve congestion by providing effective alternatives to driving. It would extend the reach of trains, providing much improved last kilometre connections.

Priority service for Council is the extension of the 525 Bus service that connects Craigieburn, Mickleham and Kalkallo with additional stops in Kalkallo north following the opening of new Primary Schools and community facilities.



Draft Recommendation 10

Build a new bus rapid transit network

The 901 Bus service connects important locations at high frequencies. This route has some bus priority and offers a relatively competitive service. With increasing residential densities in Hume, and no new rail lines, the city needs better public transport now. Bus Rapid Transit will allow Hume to build more cost effectively, reducing parking requirements and unlocking increased densities.

Council would support a Bus Rapid Transit route that connected Broadmeadows with Melton via Sunbury and Diggers Rest as a way of connecting these like communities and improving bus connections between Sunbury and Broadmeadows.

Additional to this, Council supports the Northern Councils Alliance (NCA) Northern Region Transport Study Stage 2 recommendation to implement a Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) bus service, mimicking the proposed alignment of SRL North Stations. This would afford opportunities for our residents to access tertiary education facilities from right across Melbourne.

Objective: Victorians are healthy and safe

Draft Recommendation 15

Build safe cycling networks in Melbourne and regional cities

Strategic active transport infrastructure is vital to improving the health and wellbeing of Hume residents and increasing other viable, low-cost ways of connecting our people to community, education, business and health services and facilities right across our city.

This has the added benefit of taking cars off already congested roads and is consistent with Council's Transport Strategy recommendation on Principle Networks and Arterial roads to "Deliver dedicated, low stress bike paths for all nominated paths in the PBN including along Strategic Cycling Corridors."

Draft Recommendation 16

Help government schools share their grounds

Primary and Secondary Schools can have greater multi-purpose use for the facilities and spaces that are contained within them. These include ovals and running tracks that can be utilised for team training, playgrounds that provide new spaces for children to play, indoor and outdoor courts for both training and competition, classrooms that can double as meeting rooms and kitchens that can host community cooking classes just to name a few.

But these facilities are often closed to the public and can sit unused for hours, predominately from 4.00pm onwards on weekdays and all day on weekends with about one third of Government schools currently not open to the public.

Residents of Sunbury in the northwest of our city have reaped the benefits of a partnership between Council, the Victorian Government, Sunbury Downs College and Sunbury Heights Primary School in the form of the Dulap Wilim Hub which offers:

- Flexible multi-purpose meeting spaces to accommodate groups of 20-120 persons.
- Small meeting spaces and consulting/interview rooms;
- Commercial kitchen offering space for training and to support culturally themed events and activities
- A two room Preschool to deliver structured kindergarten programs
- A dedicated early year's playroom

The Victorian Government can play a more proactive role in encouraging schools to open their facilities up for community use – a position that Council would support.

Draft Recommendation 17

Invest in maintenance, upgrades and expansions of community health facilities

Current health services in Melbourne's north are at capacity. With a growing population, our region needs government support to ensure that all our residents have access to health services and the public transport they need to access those services.

As a result, Council has actively identified the need for additional investment in health facilities in response to the gap in large hospital services.

Health services that our community requires for increased access include:

- Culturally appropriate medical and allied health services:
- At least four additional aged care facilities by 2036, providing culturally specific services
- At least six new multidisciplinary health service facilities (medical, dental, chemist, support services etc.) by 2036
- An Ambulance service
- Mental health services for early intervention and complex disorders
- Age specific services including supporting healthy development in children and allowing ageing in place for Seniors, and domestic and family violence support services

Objective: Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks

Draft Recommendation 34

Speed up household energy efficiency and electrification

Council implements a range of actions to support business, industry, organisations and residents to take climate action. Many of these come from Council's other strategic plans and programs.

This is a reflection that taking climate action returns many other community benefits. For example, the Household Energy Program helps Hume households, especially those vulnerable to bill stress, reduce emissions, reduce energy bills and improve health and wellbeing outcomes through better thermal comfort at home.

Council is committed to advocating to other levels of government for enhanced climate action on behalf of the Hume community on the following items as evidence of our community need:

- Fully electric new developments
- New housing estates and suburbs are designed for sustainability and climate resilience
- Support for residents vulnerable to bill stress and climate impacts
- Support for business and industry and retraining of workers to transition to low or no carbon operations and adopt Circular Economy principles
- Extend bans on non-recyclable materials
- Facilitate transition to Electric Vehicles

It is for these reasons that Council supports this recommendation.

Objective: Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy

Draft Recommendation 35

Prepare and publish infrastructure sector plans to shape Victoria's cities

Councils are often challenged by the misalignment of approval processes alongside the delivery of housing and state and local infrastructure.

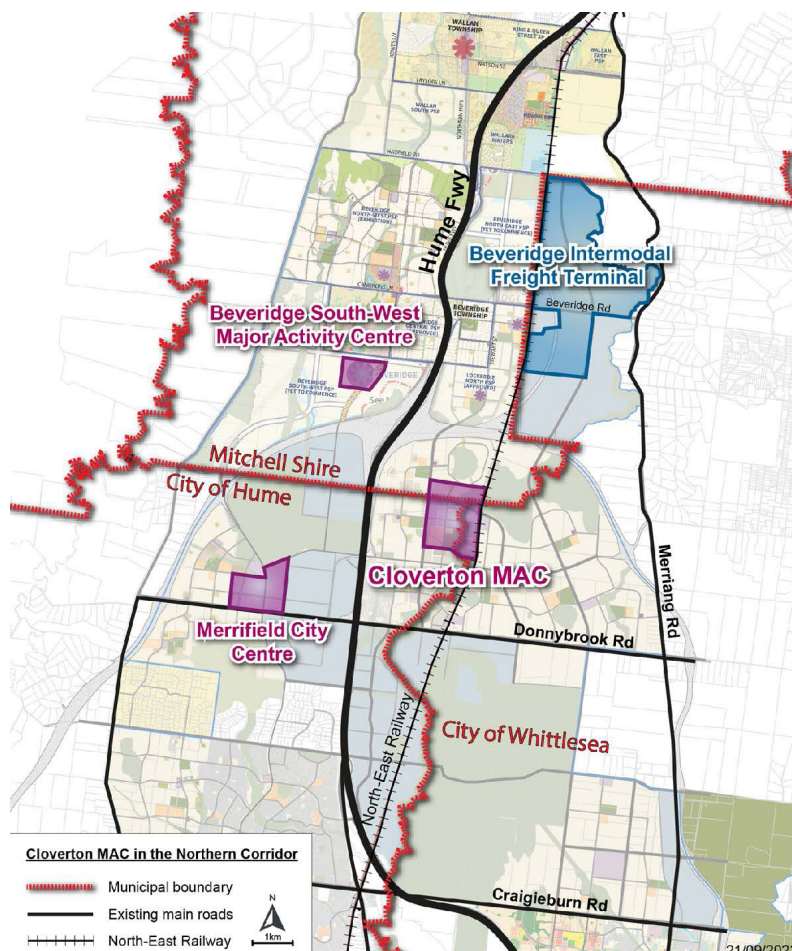
What becomes commonplace is for commercial developers to build housing and associated local roads network prior to the delivery of other vital infrastructure such as schools, activity centres, community facilities and sports reserves.

There is no better time than now to learn from the missteps of the past. Within Hume City, Cloverton presents an opportunity to create a city centre that services a population of 380,000 and achieve outcomes for the current and future community not seen in a greenfield context before.

The three Councils of Hume City, City of Whittlesea and Mitchell Shire have a shared vision to initiate a trial that illustrates a deep partnership across three tiers of government.

It requires the leadership of the Federal and Victorian Governments to provide a platform to explore innovative models, including co-location and integration of housing, regional infrastructure and environmental outcomes that deliver a safe, walkable, climate resilient city in the north.

We strongly support this recommendation from Infrastructure Victoria as our coordinated infrastructure planning and delivery program would set a innovative direction for new communities and ensure that those residents will have access to the services and facilities they need when they need them.



Draft Recommendation 38

Prepare for more recycling and waste infrastructure

Council supports this recommendation in order to provide new opportunities for residents to dispose waste safely and to encourage increased levels of recycling.

Dumped rubbish is an ongoing issue in Hume. Last financial year, we cleaned up 4,881 tonnes of illegally dumped rubbish at a cost of \$4.7 million.

Dumped rubbish is also unpleasant to look at and expensive to clean up. It's also a health and safety hazard and a threat to the environment.

It is important that the placement of any new infrastructure takes into account feedback from the local community and addresses the inequities that come from the Municipal Industrial and Landfill Levy.



Draft Recommendation 41

Make rail freight competitive, reliable and efficient

Given its location, Hume City is well placed to benefit from increased rail traffic to move freight which will take heavy vehicles off already congested roads. This is consistent with a recommendation from our Transport Strategy to “Deliver suitable road and rail infrastructure for all nominated Principal Freight Networks(PFNs)”

As an example, the Somerton Intermodal Terminal which aims to remove approximately 500,000 truck trips off Melbourne’s roads each year, the Terminal will derive significant economic benefits not only locally but nationally.

This will also result in increased safety and reduced pollution on our roads – which is a great outcome for residents and the local business community.

The addition of the Beveridge Intermodal Precinct will significantly enhance competition in the rail freight sector by ensuring independent, open access arrangements for all industry participants and offer the ability to provide freight services across Melbourne and through to Sydney, Brisbane, and Perth.

Facilitating further investment in rail freight services will deliver additional economic benefits for Victoria.

Future Option

Reconfigure the City Loop for more frequent and reliable trains

As Council is serviced by both the Craigieburn and Upfield lines, Council recommends that this project be moved from a **Future Option** to a **Recommendation**.

On the Craigieburn line a cumulative total of over 3.3 million station entries were recorded in 2023/24 at stations based in Hume City - Broadmeadows, Coolaroo, Roxburgh Park and Craigieburn (Public Transport Victoria), thus making it one of the highest patronage lines in the north and west of Melbourne. Increasing the frequency of train services on the Craigieburn line will decrease passenger congestion on these services and increase the likelihood of people using train travel as an alternative to car.



Whilst on the Upfield line, service frequencies are the worst in the network. They do not match the high level of development along the line. A coordinated and timely reconfiguration of the City Loop will also allow for the Upfield line to be extended further north to Wallan allowing Hume City and Mitchell Shire residents to gain better access the CBD, and destinations south of the river. Objective: Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy Perth.

Facilitating further investment in rail freight services will deliver additional economic benefits for Victoria.

Future Option

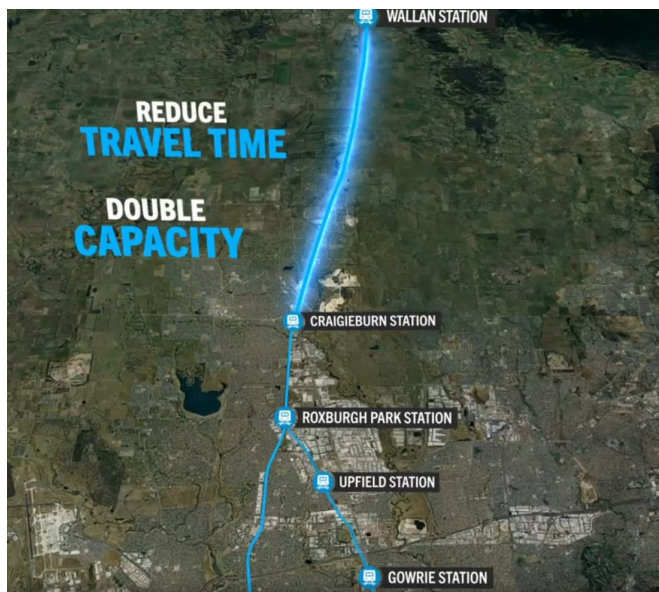
Extend metropolitan trains to growth areas in Melbourne's north and south-east

The Federal Labor and Federal Liberal/Nationals Coalition have both made commitments to planning for the extension of the Upfield Line in Melbourne's North.

Federal Labor have committed \$7.05 million for a business case to uplift services on the Craigieburn, Upfield and Northern Growth Corridor, exploring the full range of infrastructure upgrades required to respond to growth. Infrastructure upgrades that will be assessed include track modifications, electrification, signaling and power upgrades, level crossing removals, additional stabling and potential new stations such as Cloverton/Lockerbie, Beveridge and Summer Hill Road.

The Federal Liberal/National coalition have committed \$2 million towards a scoping report to outline the plan and cost estimates of duplicating and extending the Upfield Rail Line to Wallan which includes a focus on:

- Extending and electrifying the Upfield line to Wallan
- Examining new stations at Beveridge and Cloverton, to support the region's rapid residential, commercial and industrial development
- Duplicating and upgrading the Upfield rail line between Gowrie and Upfield Stations
- Removing constraints and improving capacity, frequency and reliability for the Upfield and Craigieburn lines



As this planning work is being committed to by both the major parties and will see the work undertaken, Council recommends that Extending metropolitan trains in Melbourne's north should be a standalone Recommendation rather than a Future Option. This would include recommending that the line upgrades be made all the way to Wallan, not just Kalkallo and include the addition of a new station at Campbellfield as outlined in the draft strategy.

Conclusion

As one of Victoria's fastest growing community's, we need to work with other levels of Government to ensure that our community gets the investment it needs, when they need it.

In responding to the draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy we have been deliberate in not providing our feedback on every single recommendation and future option presented, so as to ensure that we relay our community's voices for the projects and services they need the most.

Council looks forward to the final strategy being developed with consideration of our feedback to help improve livability in our community.

**For more information, contact our
Government Relations and
Advocacy unit**

 GovRelations@hume.vic.gov.au

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