The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has established the Growth Areas Community Infrastructure Partnership Program to work with targeted councils to better plan and integrate community precincts, infrastructure and services within five of Melbourne's growth areas.

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Overview

Official population projections (from Victoria in Future) indicate that Melbourne's growth areas are likely to accommodate more than one million extra people by 2031.

A key future challenge is to more effectively deliver community precincts that include a mix of public, private and community sector activities. This generally provides better value for money, and importantly, provides better access to a range of services for the community.

To facilitate this approach, DELWP partners with five of Melbourne's growth area councils (Cardinia Shire Council, Hume City Council, Melton City Council, Whittlesea City Council and Wyndham City Council) to jointly fund Community Infrastructure Brokers who will deliver a partnership-based approach to planning and delivery of community precincts.

The Approach

The program represents a partnership based approach to delivering priority community infrastructure projects.

The approach ensures that:

- most community precincts in Melbourne's growth areas are masterplanned
- community infrastructure, such as schools, sporting facilities, community facilities and town centres are planned and delivered in an integrated fashion
- shared use and multi-purpose facilities are developed where possible, resulting in reduced infrastructure costs and better community access
Program Objectives

- deliver better quality, more timely, integrated community infrastructure
- demonstrate improved social, economic and environmental outcomes by delivering integrated community infrastructure and investment using a multi-agency strategic partnership model
- develop new systems for the integrated planning and delivery of community infrastructure
- increase the capacity of local government to use a strategic partnership model to deliver community infrastructure

Key Tasks of Brokers

- liaise with key infrastructure providers (principally the Department of Education and Training (DET), councils, developers and potential service providers to establish a sustainable project partnership for each precinct
- guide the partnership in each precinct to undertake master planning and develop options for the design and delivery of integrated community infrastructure
- broker funding for the community infrastructure from a range of sources (council, DET, DELWP, revenues from the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution, Commonwealth Government, developers etc.)

Creating Partnerships

The program builds on the work that DELWP has been leading since 2005 under the Schools and Community Partnership. That partnership involved the Department, the Department of Education, key growth area councils and developer Delfin Lend Lease in demonstration projects in four community precincts.

The program receives high level direction from Victorian Government Interdepartmental Committee on Integrated Community Infrastructure.

Other Government partners include DET, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Justice and Regulation (DoJ), as well as Creative Victoria and the Metropolitan Planning Authority.