

Media release

Council welcomes funding for essential projects

30 April 2024

Cardinia Shire Council has welcomed \$21.5 million in funding from the Victorian Government to support the delivery of essential infrastructure and road projects in Cardinia Shire's growth corridor.

The Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny delivered the good news, alongside Pakenham MP Emma Vulin, on Wednesday 24 April during a visit to Cardinia Shire.

The funding is being provided through the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) fund. GAIC funding supports the delivery of essential infrastructure to create resilient and liveable communities in Melbourne's fastest-growing suburbs, including Cardinia.

Council applied for GAIC funding last year and has been successful in securing funding for the following projects:

- **Reconfiguration of Drake Place - \$8.4 million**

These works form part of the Pakenham Revitalisation Project. The project will improve pedestrian access to Main Street and connections with key destinations, including the Pakenham Railway Station and proposed community hospital.

- **Extension of John Street, Pakenham - \$4.3 million**

John Street will be extended from Drake Place through to Henty Street to improve access through to McGregor Road and to the proposed community hospital.

- **McGregor duplication and Henty Road signalisation (traffic lights) - \$6 million**

The road duplication will further improve traffic flow, following the removal of the level-crossing in McGregor Road. The installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Henty Street and McGregor Road forms part of the wider Pakenham Revitalisation Project and will help flow to Main Street. Project design is underway.

- **Princes Highway / Arena Parade intersection upgrade - \$2.8 million**

These works are required as part of the Cardinia Road Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) and will help to facilitate further development of Officer and its town centre. Design works are now underway.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik said Council had engaged with all levels of government to advocate for funding to support the Pakenham Revitalisation Project and welcomed the announcement.

"Council would like to thank the Victorian Government for recognising how vital these projects are to our growing community in Pakenham and Officer.

"This funding enables us to lock in further stages of the Pakenham Revitalisation Project and keep delivering on the community's vision for Pakenham – as a vibrant and exciting destination that's safe and accessible for everyone," Mayor Kowarzik said.

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