



Latrobe *City Council*
Advocacy Agenda
2025/26



Table of Contents

03

Introduction

04

Latrobe City's
New Energy Future



06

Victorian Aerospace
Technology Precinct at
Latrobe Regional Airport



08

Residential Development
Precincts



10

Latrobe's Future
of Education



12

Inter-Township
Trail Network



14

Flood Recovery
and Resilience



16

Traralgon
Bypass



18

Traralgon
East-West Link



20

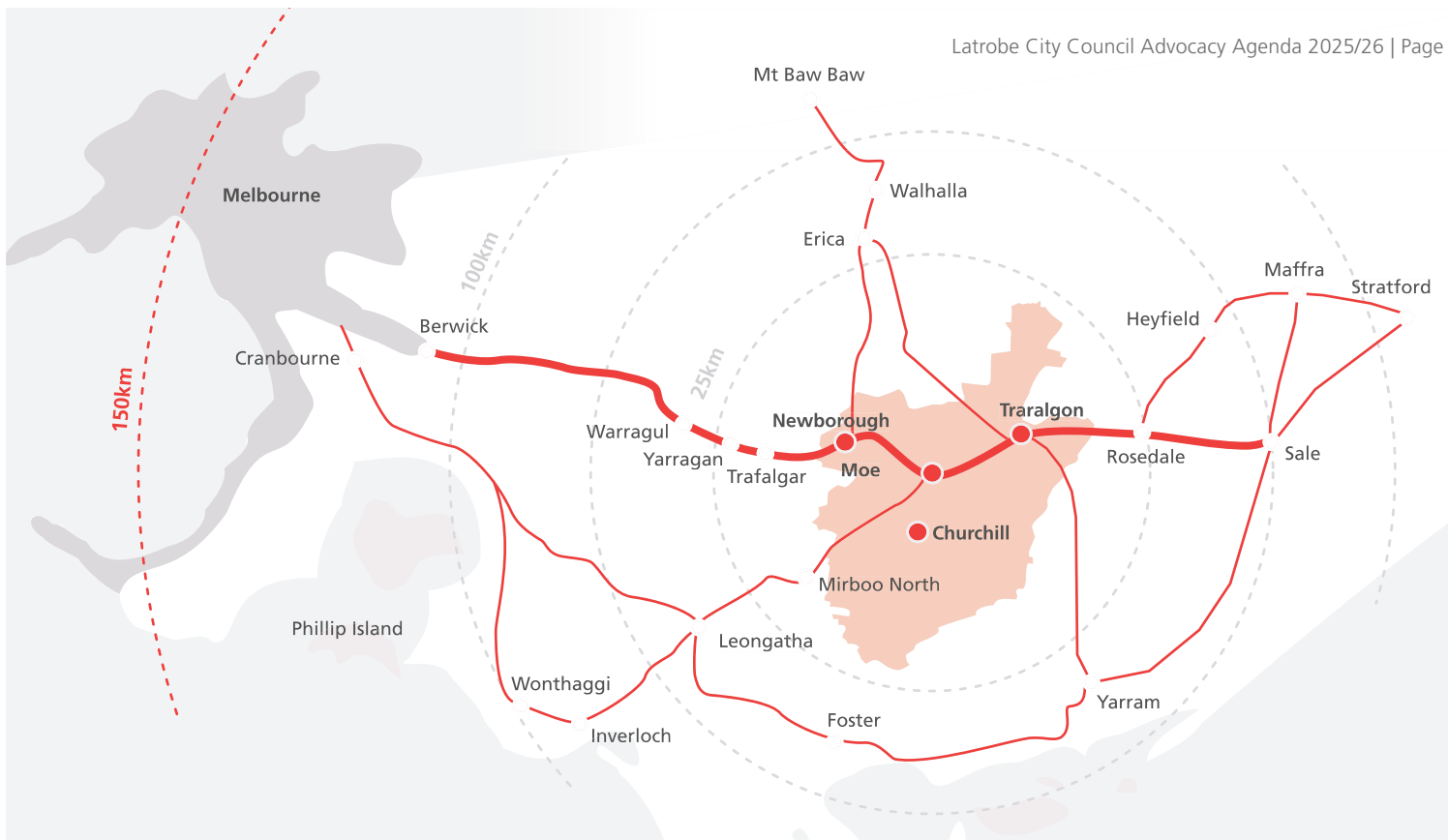
Moe Revitalisation Project
Stage 3



22

Infrastructure
Transformation





Latrobe City is one of Victoria’s major Regional Cities. It is located 135 km east of Melbourne and has a population of approximately 75,500. The municipality comprises of several major urban centres, is the primary service and cultural centre for the Gippsland region, and hosts regional headquarters for government, private, and education entities.

Latrobe City is undergoing a significant economic transition as it shifts towards a more sustainable and diverse economy. The region has long been known for its traditional industries, having served as Victoria’s power generation centre for over 100 years. The global transition to cleaner energy sources to address climate change has seen the owner/operators of the region’s power stations and mines announce their closure dates. The confirmation of these timelines has led to Latrobe City developing ‘Our Transition’ plan, which seeks to build on our strengths and support the region’s economic transition and transformation. The plan supports the equitable diversification of Latrobe City’s economic base and transition towards a low emission future through attracting investment, upskilling to meet needs, skilled workforce promotion, understanding future job opportunities, providing business support, and promoting Latrobe City.

Latrobe City businesses employ approximately 35,322 people. With a Gross Regional Product (GRP) valued at \$6.2 billion, Latrobe City makes a significant contribution to the Victorian economy.

Overall, electricity, gas, water, and waste services are the most valuable industries in Latrobe City, yielding over \$3.5 billion in regional output. Other important industries include healthcare, manufacturing, construction, rental, hiring and real estate services and social assistance.

With the upcoming closure of Yallourn Power station in 2028 and Loy Yang A Power Station in 2035, we have reached a critical point in our transition. While we appreciate the significant investments made by both state and federal governments, there is still more work to be done. This is why Council is seeking investments in key projects to support our community’s prosperity.

We are committed to advocating for investments in crucial industries that will create new jobs and career pathways, support local businesses, and diversify our economy. Strategic investments from all levels of government will be essential to unlocking our potential as a strong, progressive, and fast-growing regional city.



To view our Transition Plan, scan the QR code.

LatrobeCity

LATROBE CITY'S NEW ENERGY FUTURE

Invest in our new energy future to:

- Create new jobs and career pathways
- Support local investment and procurement.



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #1:

LATROBE CITY'S NEW ENERGY FUTURE

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to guarantee the liveability of the city via an equitable transition to our new energy future.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to guarantee our community is a beneficiary of the clean energy economy through investment that will drive opportunities in hydrogen and renewable energy, create jobs, and attract new industries to the region.

Academic experts recognise that economic diversification is one of the three best ways to grow a transitioning economy. With the Latrobe City at the forefront of the renewable energy transition and standing as the most heavily impacted municipality in Victoria, the time to act is now.

With the closure dates for the regions power stations and mines announced for 2028 and 2035, greater certainty regarding the future of the local workforce is critical. With access to transmission lines, freight networks, a skilled workforce and ample industrial land, Latrobe City is primed to lead this transformative shift.

With the shift to Net Zero a key priority for state and federal governments, Latrobe City Council stands ready to continue to be the epicentre for the energy economy.

This is why we are calling on both the state and federal governments to introduce targeted measures to drive clean energy investment, support economic recovery, and facilitate jobs. We want to work with all levels of government, prioritising investment in areas such as renewable energy generation and hydrogen. This will support our economy to diversify and ensure sustained economic prosperity for our community now and into the future.

We are calling for:

- ✓ A localised job quota within the renewable energy sector, including at the State Electricity Commission (SEC) in Morwell.
- ✓ Development of new renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure in Latrobe City.
- ✓ Latrobe City to be classified as a Renewable Energy Hub.
- ✓ Latrobe City to be the home of the Wind and Hydrogen Worker Training Centres.
- ✓ Latrobe City to be the home of the SEC Centre of Excellence.
- ✓ Blue and green hydrogen pathways and supply chains in the region.
- ✓ Government support for net zero uses of lignite
- ✓ Ensure policy frameworks exist to maximise local procurement and job opportunities.
- ✓ Removal of the Coal Overlays.
- ✓ A comprehensive audit of existing energy workforce and development of a localised jobs and skills plan for Latrobe City.
- ✓ Ongoing government funding for CarbonNet.
- ✓ Government support for the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC) and its commercialisation in Latrobe City.
- ✓ Fast track approvals to realise the \$41bn investment in Offshore Wind.
- ✓ Develop community benefit sharing schemes in partnership with local government and stakeholders.

Latrobe*City*

LATROBE AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT AT LATROBE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Invest in the Victorian Centre for Advanced Air Mobility (AMM) at Latrobe Regional Airport to:

- Diversify our economy
- Create new industries



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #2:

LATROBE AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT AT LATROBE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in Australia's only Integrated Advanced Air Mobility Ecosystem to diversify our economy and create new industries.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to partner with us and invest in the development of the Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct (Precinct).

Established in 2024 at the Latrobe Regional Airport, this state-of-the-art hub is the first of its kind in Australia. Launched in partnership with Invest Victoria, this strategically positioned Precinct was designed with a vision to generate investment and technological advancements in emerging zero-emissions industries, particularly Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and other eco-friendly aviation initiatives that offer significant economic, environmental, and industrial benefits.


With sustainable aviation and technologies being a key priority of the federal government's policy agenda, Council stands ready to house investment in emerging industries.

This is why we are calling on both state and federal governments to partner with us and build a dedicated AAM facility that will support small-scale manufacturing, research, and development, and be a 'launchpad' for startups.

This purpose-built facility will underpin Australia's first fully integrated AAM ecosystem, facilitating economic diversification while generating employment opportunities and paving the way for a new industry workforce. It will enhance access to local Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) jobs, foster innovation among startups and enable new zero-emissions capabilities across various sectors such as logistics, emergency services, and passenger transport.

Our proposal for the Precinct also aims to activate council-owned commercially zoned land by extending a taxiway, facilitating development, providing access to land for the niche aviation market, and importantly generate hundreds of jobs.

We are calling for:

-  State and federal governments to partner with us to drive investment at the Latrobe Regional Airport.



LatrobeCity

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PRECINCTS

Invest in trunk infrastructure to:

- Unlock Latrobe City's growth
- Support more people into housing.



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #3:

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PRECINCTS

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in the establishment of a trunk infrastructure fund to boost housing supply and create more jobs closer to home.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to establish an infrastructure fund to tackle the current challenges in delivering trunk infrastructure in regional developments to drive residential growth.

As one of Victoria’s four Regional Cities, Latrobe City provides an exceptional quality of life. It offers access to top-tier sporting facilities, a world-class performing arts centre, diverse retail opportunities, educational institutions like TAFE Gippsland and Federation University, and established public transportation via the Gippsland train line.

Housing affordability in Latrobe City also stands out compared to neighbouring municipalities, with median house prices ranging from \$338K to \$480K, significantly lower than the \$665K median price in adjacent areas. This makes Latrobe City a logical choice for supporting population growth.

With housing availability a key priority for both state and federal governments, Council stands ready to play a vital role by providing access to land and new affordable homes.

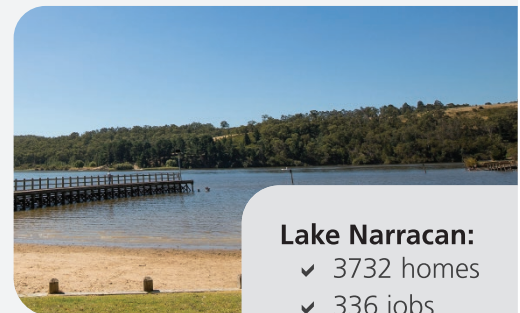
Our proposal for a trunk infrastructure fund would aim to support the initial upfront delivery of crucial infrastructure, including sewerage, gas, electricity, and arterial road connections, to fast-track development. Developers would replenish the fund as lots become available, ensuring its continuous use for future developments.

The introduction of the fund would empower communities in Latrobe City to activate housing developments faster, tackling the root problem of housing supply.

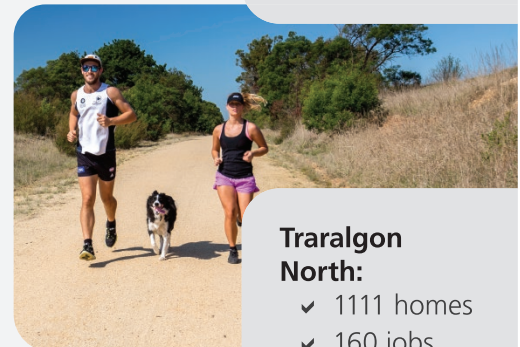
Council has been proactive in completing the required planning scheme amendments to ensure land is suitably zoned and have three shovel ready developments ready for trunk infrastructure.

We are calling for:

- ✓ An initial investment of \$35 million to kick start a rolling trunk infrastructure fund that will deliver housing in three key locations.



- Lake Narracan:**
- ✓ 3732 homes
 - ✓ 336 jobs



- Traralgon North:**
- ✓ 1111 homes
 - ✓ 160 jobs



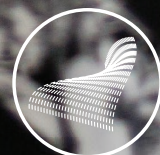
- Morwell North-West:**
- ✓ 3732 homes
 - ✓ 100 jobs

LatrobeCity

LATROBE'S FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Invest in our educational providers to:

- Create educational pathways
- Support more people into jobs.



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #4:

LATROBE'S FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to increase funding for our educational providers to create education pathways that will boost jobs and skills.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in our educational providers to help more people get into jobs.

With the closure dates for the regions power stations and mines announced for 2028 and 2035, we need investment in jobs and education that will support our community to transition.

With the state government investing heavily into Latrobe Regional Health and supporting the recruitment and training of over 17,000 nurses statewide Latrobe City stands ready to be part of the training program.

This is why Council is now partnering with Latrobe Regional Health and Federation University to call on both levels of government to invest in a Health and Education Hub at Latrobe Regional Health.

This exciting initiative will not only provide invaluable training and employment opportunities for nursing and allied health students it will also inject new vitality into our local economy. By diversifying our economic landscape and enhancing educational prospects, we can attract and retain talented individuals within our vibrant community.

We are also calling on the state government to establish the SEC Centre of Excellence and the Wind and Hydrogen Worker Training Centres in Latrobe City. These centres represent a significant leap towards sustainable energy practices and economic prosperity and will further support our transition by helping to reposition the Latrobe City as a Renewable Hub Energy Hub.

We are calling for:

- ✔ A comprehensive audit of existing energy workforce and development of a localised jobs and skills plan for Latrobe City.
- ✔ Latrobe City to be the home of the Wind and Hydrogen Worker Training Centres.
- ✔ Latrobe City to be the home of the SEC Centre of Excellence.
- ✔ Funding boost for health sector training.
- ✔ Health Education Hub.



LatrobeCity

INTER-TOWNSHIP TRAIL NETWORK

Invest in our tourism economy to:

- Attract new tourism industries
- Increase visitation.



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #5: INTER-TOWNSHIP TRAIL NETWORK

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in our tourism economy to attract new industries, increase visitation and provide more attractions locally.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in an inter-township walking and cycling trail to bolster our visitor economy.

Nestled in the heartland of Gippsland, Latrobe City boasts a vibrant community surrounded by breathtaking bushland, serene waterfalls, picturesque lakes, and sprawling national parks, making it an exceptional destination for visitors.

We need large-scale investment in new industries, including tourism offerings, to diversify our economy and ensure the prosperity of our community now and into the future.

This is why we have devised an ambitious plan to establish a network of trails between townships, spanning across Latrobe City and beyond. These trails will be accessible via the Gippsland train line, enabling visitors of all abilities to explore our stunning municipality.

By incorporating the significant Haunted Hills Mountain Bike Path and elements of rail heritage, these trails will offer a diverse range of experiences. From leisurely rides suitable for young families and beginners, to challenging off-road mountain bike trails and long-distance routes catering to seasoned rides, our trail network will appeal to all cyclists.

We are calling for:

✓ An initial investment of \$3 million is needed to complete the planning and design, followed by a staged investment to deliver the project construction.

A connected regional city

This project connects the following existing trails:

- ✓ Boolarra to Yinnar
- ✓ Churchill to Morwell
- ✓ Morwell to Moe
- ✓ Traralgon CBD to the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail
- ✓ Traralgon to Tyers
- ✓ Traralgon to Traralgon South

LatrobeCity

FLOOD RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

Invest in our community facilities to:

- Support flood recovery
- Future-proof our facilities



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/25 PROPOSAL #6:
**FLOOD RECOVERY
 AND RESILIENCE**

Latrobe City Council is calling on the federal government to invest in the Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Glenview Park to support flood recovery, future-proof our facilities, and mitigate future flood events.

Council is calling on the federal government to partner with the Victorian State Government and Council to construct a new multi-use pavilion at Traralgon Recreation Reserve and a new multi-use sports hall at Glenview Park.

In June 2021, Victoria faced a severe weather event that resulted in widespread flooding across Latrobe City. Traralgon Creek experienced a peak of almost six metres of flood waters, exceeding major flood levels by nearly 1.5 metres, affecting over 100 buildings. This was the largest flooding of Traralgon Creek in living memory, leaving devastating impacts on the community.

The destruction resulted in many buildings home to user groups at the Traralgon Recreation Reserve being completely destroyed.

We know how important it is to provide safe, inclusive, and welcoming sports, recreation, and leisure facilities and how they play an important part in a well-balanced lifestyle.

The benefits associated with participating in sports and physical activity are clear, including physical and mental health, social interaction, personal enjoyment and achievement, community involvement, community resilience, and opportunities to express community pride.

This is why we are committed to advocating to rebuild two facilities to house the impacted user groups, including a brand-new multi-use pavilion at Traralgon Recreation Reserve and a multi-use sports hall at Glenview Park.

We understand what success can look like when all levels of government work together. We are grateful for the state governments commitment of \$4.75 million to these important works and are now calling on the federal government to match it.

We are calling for:

- ✔ An investment of \$4.75 million for the federal government to build a multi-use pavilion at Traralgon Recreation Reserve and a multi-use sports hall at Glenview Park.

Preparations complete

Traralgon Recreation Reserve Multi-use Pavilion

- ✔ Concept design
- ✔ 3D renders
- ✔ Cost plan
- ✔ Tender drawing
- ✔ Shovel ready



Glenview Park Multi-use Sports Hall

- ✔ Concept design
- ✔ 3D renders
- ✔ Cost plan
- ✔ Tender drawing
- ✔ Shovel ready



Images are 3D renders of concept plans only. Costs are Council's working estimates.

LatrobeCity

TRARALGON BYPASS

Invest in the Traralgon Bypass to:

- Improve road safety and connectivity
- Mitigate future flood events.



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/25 PROPOSAL #7:

TRARALGON BYPASS

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in road infrastructure to get our community home safely and reduce congestion on our road network.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both the state and federal governments to invest in the Traralgon Bypass as a crucial step in addressing local traffic congestion and safety issues.

The Traralgon Bypass was recognised as a priority many years ago. It aims to divert heavy vehicles and through traffic away from the increasingly busy town centre.

As the largest town in a road freight-dependent region, we need a safe and efficient link to accommodate Gippsland's growing communities.


Extensive groundwork conducted by VicRoads in the 2000s included preliminary road designs and assessments covering various aspects such as flora, fauna, economics, land use, and cultural heritage. These efforts led to the formal inclusion of the bypass route in the Latrobe Planning Scheme in 2009, along with a subsequent commitment of \$1.4 million by the state government in 2017 for bypass planning.

Further planning endeavours facilitated by Regional Roads Victoria involved community feedback on route preferences and interchange locations. The resulting study comprehensively analysed the economic, environmental, social, and traffic impacts of the proposed bypass. However, progress has been hindered by concerns regarding the proximity of the bypass to the Loy Yang mine and potential implications for rehabilitation efforts. With the scheduled closure of the Loy Yang mine now confirmed for 2035, we are calling on the federal government to prioritise this project.

The Traralgon Bypass is integral to the industry's needs and is highlighted as the highest priority in the Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan commissioned by Regional Development Australia.

We are confident that this project aligns with the priorities of the federal government to deliver infrastructure that improves productivity and resilience.

We are calling for:

-  The state and federal governments to partner with us to commit to a delivery timeline for the Traralgon Bypass.



LatrobeCity

TRARALGON EAST-WEST LINK

Invest in the Traralgon East-West Link to:

- Enhance the connectivity of the Traralgon community
- Improve road safety and reduce traffic congestion.



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #8:

TRARALGON EAST-WEST LINK

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in road infrastructure that will support our growing population and growing towns.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in a Traralgon East-West Link to improve liveability and connectivity for our community.

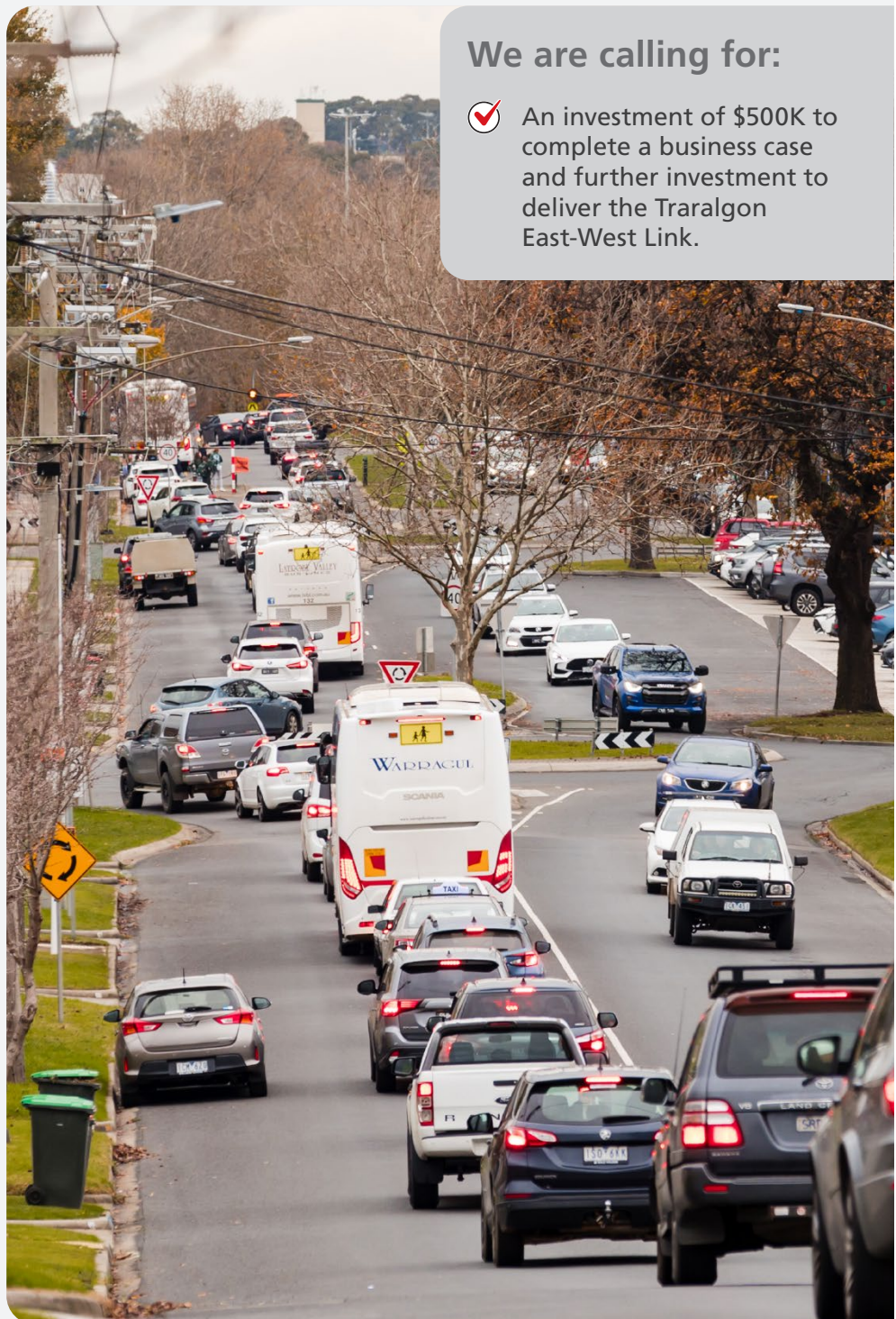
As Traralgon continues to grow, we need investment in road infrastructure that will future-proof the road network, alleviating congestion and improving safety around the city centre.

The Traralgon East-West Link will divert traffic away from the Princes Highway and provide the community with an efficient and logical route to commute across town without the need to go via the city centre.

Presently, there are no viable east-west connections to the north of Traralgon, meaning commuters are required to travel via the city centre. This creates safety issues in and around the town centre and pushes traffic onto the already busy and congested Princes Highway.

This is why we have created a plan to support traffic from the east to the west of Traralgon.

This project paves the way for the continued growth of Traralgon as a vital regional centre with a focus on enhancing the connectivity of our community.



We are calling for:

- ✓ An investment of \$500K to complete a business case and further investment to deliver the Traralgon East-West Link.

Latrobe*City*

MOE REVITALISATION PROJECT STAGE 3

Invest in the Moe Revitalisation Project to:

- Enhancing the visual aesthetics of Moe
- Creating an inviting environment for local businesses to grow.



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #9:

MOE REVITALISATION PROJECT STAGE 3

Latrobe City Council is calling on state and federal governments to invest in our precincts to continue creating safe and vibrant towns where our businesses and community can thrive.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in Stage 3 works for the Moe Revitalisation Project to enhance the vitality of the town and boost community pride.

Moe is a vibrant mix of residential, commercial, and industrial, with shops, cafés, restaurants, and a range of parks and recreational areas.

With numerous schools, employment opportunities, active community organisations, and inclusive events for people of all ages, Moe is a great place to live, work, and play. This is why Council has created a comprehensive plan to make the Moe township even better.

Our commitment is to enhance the vitality of the town centre. The plan seeks to build on the success of Stages 1 and 2 of the Revitalisation Project by creating a shared-use zone, commuter car park, beautification works, and street lighting.

This project will enhance the streetscape to better accommodate businesses, commuters, and pedestrians, while providing the community with a safe shared-use space to host events.

We are confident this project aligns with state and federal governments priorities to deliver transformative precincts that support the development of thriving and liveable towns.

We are calling for:

- ✓ **\$7.5 million to complete the detailed design and delivery of Stage 3 for the Moe Revitalisation Project.**

Stage 3 will deliver

- ✓ **Redevelopment of Moore Street**
Create a shared use zone.
- ✓ **Construction of a commuter car park**
We aim to add easier parking for commuters, thereby improving accessibility and safety to the town centre.

- ✓ **Beautification works**
Enhancements such as tree planting, installation of quality street furniture, brick paving, and the addition of arched canopies elevate the space's aesthetics and appeal.

- ✓ **Creation of a u-turn**
A designated u-turn will allow for road closure in the shared use space to facilitate a safe and inclusive event space.
- ✓ **Safety measures**
Increased public lighting and signage in the commuter car park to enhance safety and boost visitation at adjacent amenities such as shops and the skate park

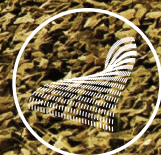


LatrobeCity

INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFORMATION

Invest in our rail infrastructure to:

- Boost efficiencies of our Freight Network
- Transport workers to and from jobs.



ADVOCACY AGENDA 25/26 PROPOSAL #10:

INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFORMATION

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in integrated, well-planned public transport infrastructure to boost efficiencies of our freight network, transport workers to and from jobs, and bring visitors to our region.

Latrobe City Council is calling on both state and federal governments to invest in our rail infrastructure and services to improve the accessibility and reliability of the Gippsland train line and expand our rail freight opportunities.

Providing safe, fast, and reliable public transport is vital to local communities. It supports access to essential health, education, and professional services, transports workers to and from jobs, and attracts visitors to our region.

However, public transport does not always provide the support our community needs.

Current services fail to provide good connectivity between Latrobe City and Melbourne, impacting our municipality's ability to access larger centres, attract and retain a new population and workforce, and boost our visitor economy.








A standard train trip from Traralgon to Flinders Street, Melbourne is approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, double the commute of other regional cities.

Providing express services and duplicating the train line is part of the solution.

This investment will not only diversify our economy but also expand our freight offerings, enhance the functionality of our existing freight infrastructure, and improve the safety of our road network. It is a step towards creating more jobs and fostering economic growth in our region.

Further government investment in several important projects is needed to reduce the community's resilience on vehicle use.

We are calling for:

-  **Improved passenger services**
To deliver fast efficient and reliable services.
-  **Infrastructure upgrades**
Duplicate tracks and bridges between Bunyip and Longwarry to enable more reliable service provision.
-  **Track upgrades**
Progressively upgrade the track between Traralgon, Sale and Bairnsdale to enhance connectivity.
-  **Freight passing loop**
Develop a freight passing loop at Sale or Wurruk to promote efficiency.
-  **Northern track upgrades**
Upgrade the northern tracks to improve travel times and extend track duplication to Morwell.
-  **Protect freight routes**
Upgrade and maintain routes from Gippsland to Melbourne Ports and Intermodal Hubs, ensuring future demand is met. This includes preserving freight service 'slots' on the Gippsland train line.
-  **Intermodal freight hub**
Establish a dedicated intermodal freight hub to serve Gippsland businesses utilising the Gippsland train line.



141 COMMERCIAL ROAD MORWELL

PHONE: 1300 367 700

EMAIL: latrobe@latrobe.vic.gov.au

www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

Facebook: [latrobecity](https://www.facebook.com/latrobecity)

CONTACT

Steven Piasente

Chief Executive Officer

Phone: 1300 367 700

Email: steven.piasente@latrobe.vic.gov.au