



Open space upgrades

Request of Government

We are seeking funding of \$7.5 million from the Federal and State Government for open space in Manningham.

The problem

- ▶ Manningham's open space network is facing more pressure from increased population density, major projects such as the North East Link, loss of private open space and tree canopy cover, climate change and increased demand for recreation facilities. Forecasts show our population will increase from 133,000 today to 149,000 by 2036, which will exacerbate the pressure on open space in Manningham.
- ▶ The State Government's proposed housing targets identify an additional 28,500 new homes by 2051 within Manningham, which will further enhance the need for additional public open space.
- ▶ Manningham currently has deficits in open space in pockets across the municipality, where access to open space is limited and increased development and growth is projected. We have committed significant funds to acquire land in areas of greater housing density and with high population growth but cannot fund the provision of open space to service this demand on its own.
- ▶ The current rate of Open Space Developer Contributions is not sufficient to adequately fund future acquisitions and upgrades across Manningham's open space network to cater for existing and future populations. If additional funds are not provided, we will be unable to meet the increasing open space needs of our community to maintain the liveability of our neighbourhoods.

The solution

We're delivering critical open space and playspace upgrades and are pursuing opportunities to acquire properties to meet the open space needs for our community. We are asking the Federal and State Governments for a contribution towards the following major projects to:

- ▶ Ensure all residents in the urban area have walkable access to quality open space
- ▶ Create parks that exceed 2000sqm in useable size
- ▶ Upgrade regional all abilities playspaces and a skatepark that attract visitors from a wide catchment
- ▶ Purchase land for new or expanded parks in high-density areas (Doncaster, Doncaster East and Lower Templestowe)
- ▶ Future-proof open space for the impacts of climate change.

Year	Location	Scale	Contribution
2025/26	Wombat Bend and Finns Reserve upgrade, Templestowe Lower Renew all abilities playspace, fitness area, picnic area	Regional	\$700,000
2026/27	Anderson Park, Doncaster East New playspace, paths, lights, toilet	District	\$500,000
2027/28	Warrandyte Skate Park, Warrandyte Reconstruct skate park	Regional	\$500,000
2028/29	Boulevard playspace, Ruffey Lake Park Renew playspace and picnic area	Regional	\$800,000
2025-2029	Strategic land acquisition for open space One to two sites per year for four years	Municipal wide	\$5 million

Project benefits

- ▶ Parks and open spaces are essential infrastructure for the health and wellbeing of our community. This investment will improve accessibility to a diverse mix of green open spaces as the population grows.
- ▶ The 20-minute neighbourhood concept considers that parks and recreation are a daily need, which should be available within convenient proximity to residential dwellings. Recent research has found there are measurable physical and mental health benefits to a community if they live near and access public open space compared to those who do not.

Project contact

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