On 1 May the Andrews Government delivered its fourth Budget and once again people in the State District of Essendon will benefit from our strong investments in education, sport and recreation, and improvements to our roads and public transport.

Thank you to all the community leaders and residents who worked with me and the Government to help plan for the future and build a better life for everyone. You are the champions of your local communities.

We have not wasted a day since coming to office. Working together, we put stricter controls over the development of the Moonee Valley Racecourse and put planning controls in place to prevent waves of overdevelopment across the Moonee Ponds Activity Centre. We rezoned Strathmore Secondary College so local students could go to their local school and funded a master plan for Mount Alexander College. We are getting rid of the Buckley Street Level Crossing so you can get to your destination sooner. We have created more than 300,000 jobs and are creating even more, with free TAFE courses to match workers with the jobs that are needed now.

There is more to be done, and I am excited for the future. As someone who lives in the community and has chosen to raise his family here, I will keep fighting for the things that matter to our lives: better schools, better transport, better jobs and better neighbourhoods.

If you would like to help me build a better community please fill in my community survey at: www.dannypearson.com.au

WHAT DOES THE 2018-2019 STATE BUDGET DELIVER FOR ESSENDON?

- New and upgraded netball courts at Riverside Park
- $1 million to widen shared paths on the Raleigh Road Bridge over the Maribyrnong
- Funding for the Mount Alexander College Master Plan
- Education Plan for schools in the Inner North West: Travancore, Flemington, Ascot Vale and Moonee Ponds
- $1.2 million upgrade of the Essendon SES headquarters
- $3 million for pedestrian infrastructure on Buckley Street between Lorraine Street and Lincoln Road
- Funding to improve accessibility at Essendon Station
- More funded hours for Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre
- Fire safety and prevention upgrades for all public housing towers
- $13.8 million for construction of Stage 1 of the Strathmore Secondary College Master Plan
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY
Grassroots organisations strengthen our community, keep us safe and keep our bodies and minds healthy. The Andrews Government is supporting these organisations and the dedicated people who run them.

BETTER SPORTING FACILITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS
We are ensuring more women and girls can play the sport they love by providing $1.5 million to upgrade and build new netball courts with lighting at Riverside Park in Ascot Vale. This project will be delivered in partnership with Moonee Valley City Council. Thank you to Essendon District Netball Association President Richard Randall for his advocacy and support for this project.

This year I also announced the Essendon Rowing Club had received a $100,000 grant to upgrade the women’s change rooms.

These investments encourage equal participation by women in sport. I am proud to be a part of a government that values women’s participation and invests in it.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE
The Victorian SES Essendon Unit is being upgraded with $1.2 million allocated in the 2018-2019 Victorian Budget. This is more than an investment in bricks and mortar, it is an investment in our dedicated volunteers. Thanks to Justin Navas, who is a great local advocate for the SES, and neighbouring MP, Ben Carroll, the Member for Niddrie.

BUILDING A BETTER ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US
BETTER JOBS FOR OUR COMMUNITY
Our economy is strong. We are building roads, hospitals and schools. We are hiring tradies, teachers, nurses and police.

If you are looking for work or interested in making a change visit https://hiring.vic.gov.au/ to see how you can keep our state moving.

EASING THE COST OF LIVING
☑ SHORT TERM VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
Household budgets are tight, and at times paying for your car registrations can be tough. The Andrews Government has introduced short-term payments so that you can also pay in three-month or six-month instalments. Sign up for short-term registrations at: https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/registration/registration-fees/short-term-rego

☑ SAVE ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS
We are making retail energy fairer for Victorians. The Andrews Government has cracked down on the big energy retailers. However, there are things individuals can do to reduce their energy bills. Check the independent Victorian Energy Compare website to find the best deal on gas and electricity pricing. This initiative aims to make it easier to compare energy retail offers. Log on to the website and register your details to receive $50 after July 1 2018, and save on your energy bill: https://compare.switchon.vic.gov.au/
BUILDING THE EDUCATION STATE

We have delivered a record $26.6 million to local schools and kindergartens – that’s the biggest one-term investment in school capital infrastructure in the State District of Essendon in decades. From sensory gardens to brand new classrooms, I am so proud to be a part of a government that is building better facilities for our local students. These are the wins that we have secured for our local schools to date. I will continue to fight to ensure all of our schools receive the funding they need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ascot Kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ascot Vale PS</td>
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<td>Ascot Vale Progress Kindergarten</td>
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<td>Debeny Meadows PS</td>
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<td>Moonee Ponds West PS</td>
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<td>Mount Alexander College</td>
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<td>St Aidan's Preschool</td>
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<td>Strathmore Secondary College</td>
<td>$16,580,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wingate Avenue Children’s Co-op</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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BETTER SUPPORTS AND MORE INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS

We are building the Education State so every child will have access to a quality education. This is why the Andrews Government is funding better training for teachers, upgrading specialist schools and improving student retention and health and well-being, including:

- cutting the number of students dropping out of school with the statewide roll-out of the Navigator program.
- funding more primary maths and science specialist teachers.
- providing training for more teachers through the Autism Teaching Institute.
- upgrading the Niddrie campus of the Western Autistic school, which serves our community.
- boosting student access to allied health specialists such as speech therapists, occupational therapists and child psychologists through our $232.8 million Inclusive Schools Package.

Mount Alexander College is an innovative school with a diverse community. In 2015, we funded $250,000 in urgent renovations. But the school is growing fast and we need to plan for that growth. The 2018-2019 Budget provides funding for the school’s master plan to ensure local students can learn in modern facilities that cater for its growing enrolments and progressive education model. I am looking forward to working with the school community on this exciting new project.

Strathmore students should have access to Strathmore Schools. In 2015 we successfully rezoned Strathmore Secondary College. In 2016 we secured funding for a master plan of the school. Now in 2018, the Andrews Government has allocated $13.8 million for the construction of Stage 1 of the school master plan, which begins this year. This is the single biggest capital investment made by any government into Strathmore Secondary College.

STAGE 1 CONSTRUCTION OF STRATHMORE SECONDARY COLLEGE

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF MOUNT ALEXANDER COLLEGE

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**BUILDING BETTER TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Victoria is growing and that requires new infrastructure so our transport system can keep people moving. We are building Melbourne Metro, upgrading roads, removing level crossings to free up traffic, and adding public transport services where the capacity allows.

**Tram routes 57, 58 and 59** will provide an *extra 260 services per week* to help us get home sooner. This means passengers will now have a tram every 15 minutes from the afternoon peak until 9pm.

**Works to remove the Buckley Street Level Crossing** are under way, with major construction expected to begin later this year. Our community has waited for more than 100 years for this dangerous level crossing to be removed.

The 2018-19 Budget funds extra works to make Essendon Station more accessible, and provides a pedestrian crossing on Buckley Street between Lorraine Street and Lincoln Road. I’d like to thank members of the community for their input and I am pleased to deliver these improvements to the precinct.
BUILDING BETTER NEIGHBOURHOODS

BETTER PUBLIC HOUSING

Public housing residents deserve modern, safe homes that are warm in winter and cool in summer. Many flats are run down and unsafe, and in estates isolated from the rest of our community. They need to be replaced. For too long public housing has been placed in the ‘too hard basket’, but the Andrews Government has begun the process of renewing our public housing stock across the state.

I want to improve the life chances of children living in public housing estates. Better homes, better schools and a childhood in an integrated community - these are the keys to their success.

In Flemington, this means the old walk-up flats will be demolished because they are dangerous and not fit for their purpose. We will build a minimum of 218 brand new homes for public housing residents. They will be owned by the Government through the Director of Housing. All residents will be given a place to live during construction, and they will have the right to return once the work is done. They will come back to an integrated community, which will include new private residences, a new park with new playgrounds, safer cycling paths and a new community garden.

In Ascot Vale, we are consulting on Stage 1 of the renewal of the Ascot Vale Estate, providing upgraded homes for people in public housing and homes for private residences. We are working with residents and neighbours so the transformed estate will be a model of sustainable growth and integrated communities.

We are also making our public housing towers safer. Extra smoke detectors, sprinklers and smoke lobbies will be installed in all five towers in Flemington to give residents extra protection and peace of mind.

BETTER PLANNING

Our location makes the Essendon District a desirable place to live and raise a family. It is close to jobs and has great local amenities. Planning rules help councils balance the growth of desirable areas like ours while maintaining liveability for all residents.

That is why the Andrews Government introduced mandatory height limits for suburban lots, and garden space boundaries to stop developers building boundary to boundary and to protect our suburban back yards.

However, we have never had proper protection in the Moonee Ponds Activity Centre. There were previously no mandatory height requirements or limits on developments – the rules were discretionary, and developers used them to work against the wishes of local council and the community.

The Andrews Government stepped in to help the Moonee Valley Council shift the balance, introducing in 2017 interim mandatory height controls into the Activity Centre. In line with council wishes, the maximum height ranges from three to 16 storeys, depending on location. This interim measure gives time for the council to work on permanent height controls while protecting the precinct from further inappropriate development.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Strong property prices mean some young people and families in our area have been locked out of our suburbs. Buying a first home needs to be more attainable and rents need to be fairer. That’s why we have:

- abolished stamp duty for first time buyers on homes up to $600,000 and cut stamp duty on homes valued up to $750,000.
- banned underquoting by real estate agents.
- piloted a shared-equity scheme for first home buyers to co-purchase their home with the Victorian Government.
- imposed a tax on those who deliberately keep properties empty without good reason.
- made renting fairer by introducing long-term leases, and we are introducing changes to the Residential Tenancies Act to allow tenants to keep pets as of right, and prevent unfair evictions.
A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE ARE DELIVERING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Rezoned Strathmore North Primary School
- Rebuilding Bulla Road Bridge
- Rebuilding and refurbishing Strathmore Primary School
- Funding Essendon North Primary School
- Funded the new Caroline Chisholm Society community services hub
- Removing the Buckley Street Level Crossing
- Funding Cohealth’s mental health programs
- Upgrading women’s change rooms at Essendon Rowing Club
- Upgrading Moonee Ponds West Primary School
- Upgrading Rooming Houses
- Building netball courts at Riverside
- Revitalising Ascot Vale Housing Estate
- Funding family violence, housing and fine support services at MVLS
- Mandatory Height Controls over new developments
- Upgrading Ascot Vale Primary School
- Funding Wingate Avenue JVEN employment programs
- Funding Wingate Men’s Shed
- Minor capital works at Ascot Kinder
- Renovating Mount Alexander College
- Funding Debney Meadows Primary School
- Pedestrian and cyclist safety improvements on Racecourse Road
- Redevelopment of Hope Town Early Years Centre
- Redeveloping the Flemington Housing Estate
- 70 new car parks at Strathmore Station