

La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster

La Trobe Sustainable Investment Precinct 2050

We are seeking:

1. For the Federal Government to fund a detailed economic analysis of the La Trobe NEIC's competitive advantage to optimise its potential and ensure that sufficient investment, land use and transport infrastructure is in place to support its growth.
2. For the Federal Government to fund a Precinct Structure Plan for the La Trobe NEIC that will guide the evolution of the NEIC, facilitating future development, innovation and investment in the precinct.
3. For the La Trobe NEIC to be declared a priority precinct by the State Government and to create a dedicated delivery agency supported by a formal governance model to oversee the successful implementation of the framework and investment co-ordination.



The La Trobe NEIC

The La Trobe NEIC needs coordinated attention and investment to reach its full potential as the major employment, industry, education, transport and health precinct in Melbourne's north.

The La Trobe NEIC is considered critical for driving future regional productivity, innovation and employment growth in Melbourne's north.

About the La Trobe NEIC

The La Trobe NEIC contains significant hubs and employment centres including La Trobe University's Bundoora campus, the Northland Shopping Centre, the Austin Hospital, the Heidelberg Major Activity Centre and the Heidelberg West Business Park.

It is one of seven National Employment and Innovation Clusters (NEICs) in Melbourne.

NEICs are designated geographic concentrations of interconnected businesses and institutions that make a major contribution to the national economy.

It has the highest concentration of jobs in Melbourne's north-east.



Background

La Trobe NEIC was identified as a growth area by the Victorian Government almost a decade ago, but it needs co-ordinated attention and investment, particularly in transport infrastructure.

Key organisations in the NEIC are already working together to co-ordinate billions of dollars of worth of investment to advance the precinct out to 2050. The group includes Banyule Council, Darebin Council, La Trobe University, Austin Health, Heidelberg West Business Park and Northland.

Victorian Government attention and Federal Government funding is needed for overall planning and investment in major infrastructure for this important precinct.

Recent precinct developments include the \$228 million joint venture by the Victorian Government and La Trobe University in 2012 to develop Agribio, Australia's premier bioscience facility. A \$7.5 million expansion of Agribio was completed in 2022, providing a new incubation hub for innovative start-ups and enhancing biosecurity research.

Proposed investments for the Precinct over the next decade include more major development at La Trobe University, creating 20,000 jobs; retail development at Northland, creating 5,000 ongoing jobs; long-term development plans by Austin Health and Ramsay Health's redevelopment of Warringal Private Hospital at Heidelberg.

What the NEIC means for Melbourne's north-east

Long term plans and investment in the employment, industry, education, transport and health opportunities in this precinct will benefit more than half a million residents in and around the precinct. These benefits include:

- Stronger employment growth with higher jobs density.
- Renewable energy and circular economy business and economic opportunities such as neighbourhood batteries, EV charging, large-scale roof top solar and electrified manufacturing processes.
- A sustainable transport network that supports the economic growth of the cluster and improves residential amenity.
- Improved public open space and community infrastructure to meet changing needs.
- Accelerating the transition of the precinct from a traditional manufacturing economy to one based on advanced manufacturing, knowledge industries and services, electrified and increasingly powered by renewables.
- Structure plans that support the future growth of the key education, health, employment precincts and activity centres.
- Improved engagement and coordination between the anchor institutions within the cluster.
- Increasing diversity of housing stock to support workers residing within and around the precinct.

Opportunities Paper – independent report

Banyule and Darebin Councils engaged Urban Enterprise to undertake an independent report on the opportunities that the La Trobe NEIC provides.

Key findings: The report found that La Trobe NEIC is one of only a few nationally significant employment precincts in Melbourne, attracting workers, students, and visitors from across Australia and overseas. It supports almost 36,000 jobs and generates \$9.5 billion in economic output per annum, accounting for 1.5% of all jobs and 1.2% of Greater Melbourne's economic output.

State and Federal investment is required to progress key initiatives including:

- a detailed economic analysis of the La Trobe NEICs competitive advantage

to future proof the region's economic opportunities.

- Transport planning and delivery to improve public transport connections, cycling and pedestrian access and connectivity between the various nodes within the cluster.
- Land use planning to ensure specialised activity within the NEIC is protected and able to grow and that connections with complementary economic assets are strengthened both within the precinct and regionally.
- Sustainable energy generation to adapt to evolving energy needs from industry.

Such analysis and planning will position the precinct to unlock future industry opportunities and drive regional productivity, innovation and employment growth in Melbourne's north.



Banyule

City Council

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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