



## Monash as part of a bigger region – South East Melbourne

The Mayor and CEO of Monash Council, along with representatives from the Economic Development team, have joined forces with their peers from six other Councils to raise their voice as one, lobbying state and federal governments to ensure the region gets its fair share of investment.

The group, known as SEM, was launched by the Premier Daniel Andrews in September 2017, and includes representation from community leaders, Simon McKeon AO (SEM Chair, and current Chancellor of Monash University), Bruce Billson and Simon Crean, along with the representatives of the seven municipalities.

South East Melbourne is one of the fastest-growing regions in the fastest-growing city in Australia. More than a million people live in South East Melbourne, and tens of thousands of new families move here every year.

South East Melbourne is rocketing forwards as one of the country's most important economic centres, with more manufacturing jobs than Western Sydney, Greater Adelaide or Greater Perth, and producing \$66 billion in economic output every year.

With a growing population, the south east requires more jobs and infrastructure to support the region developing in a sustainable way. The future of Victoria's economy is reliant on the continued success and strength of this region.

SEM has developed an ambitious vision to ensure the region prospers and maintains its competitive advantages into the future. This vision builds on our strengths, and identifies

the priority activities to attract investment, infrastructure, a skilled workforce and entrepreneurial businesses to grow job opportunities for the whole region.



*SEM leaders driving growth for the region*

Recent activities of SEM include:

- A call for a review of the bus network servicing employment areas (story featured in Herald Sun June 2018)
- Hosting a Digital Directions day in May 2018
- Building a lobby platform of priorities in the lead up to the Victorian state election
- 'Celebrating Melbourne's South East' event hosted by the Governor of Victoria at the Government House May 2018
- Partnering with the Victorian Skills commissioner to undertake a review of how existing training and education is servicing the needs of employers in the region.

SEM priorities (identified by representatives of the region) include:

- Expanding the region's skills base
- A freight hub to service the south east
- Strategic road and rail improvements
- Buses for jobs
- Repurposing the Port of Hastings, and
- Building the South Eastern Airport.

To read more, or get involved visit:

[www.southeastmelbourne.org](http://www.southeastmelbourne.org)