

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes



Wednesday, 15 December 2021

FIRST POCKET PARK OPENS IN MELBOURNE'S NORTH

The first of 29 pocket parks opened in Melbourne's inner north today – giving residents access to more open space under the Andrews Labor Government's Suburban Parks Program.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio today officially opened the new Oakover Pocket Park in Preston.

City of Darebin received \$400,000 to design and construct the park – created by reclaiming the former Oakover Road slip lane to provide a new public space, providing safe and accessible improvements for pedestrians and cyclists.

The new pocket parks are funded under the \$174 million Suburban Parks Program. Council nominations for the program were assessed by an independent panel.

The pocket parks are mix of new and existing parks and reserves that were underutilised such as old industrial sites and roads and old assets that are no longer needed and can be repurposed. The project will give those living in the inner suburbs of Melbourne much needed green, open space for recreation and relaxation.

The Suburban Parks Program is creating or upgrading 6,500 hectares of public open space including parkland and new trails, plus pocket parks and off-leash dog parks across Melbourne.

For information visit environment.vic.gov.au/suburban-parks

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"We promised Victorians that we would create more open, green space for them to enjoy – and we're delivering."

"The investment in open space creates local jobs and will provide social, health and wellbeing benefits for the community for years to come."

"I congratulate the City of Darebin on delivering this new pocket park, it is the first of many and I look forward to seeing more just like it over the coming months."

Quote attributable to Member for Northcote Kat Theophanous

"I'm delighted to see the completion of this new pocket park which will provide new open space and safer access for pedestrians and cyclists."