

21.01 CARDINIA SHIRE KEY ISSUES AND STRATEGIC VISION

10/08/2017
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21.01-1 Snapshot of Cardinia Shire

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The Cardinia Shire is located on the south east fringe of Melbourne and is one of eight 'interface Councils' which form the perimeter of metropolitan Melbourne, providing a transition between urban and rural areas. The municipality has an area of approximately 1,280 square kilometres, comprising a variety of landforms and landscapes.

The northern part of the Cardinia Shire is set in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges, and includes the Bunyip State Park and the Cardinia Reservoir. The red volcanic soils around Gembrook have been historically significant for potato production. The area is located within two water catchments being the Yarra Valley and Westernport catchments.

The Koo Wee Rup swamp and Western Port form the significant features of the southern part of the Cardinia Shire, and includes high quality agricultural land of State significance. The land is generally flat alluvial plains which have been substantially cleared of vegetation. The exception to this is the Heath Hill area, which is recognised as being of landscape significance by the National Trust.

The Princes Highway and the Princes Freeway corridor runs east-west through the centre of the Cardinia Shire and provides a demarcation between the hills in the northern part of the municipality and the alluvial plains to the south. The corridor is a key road and rail link between Melbourne, the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland. The South Gippsland Highway is a key link to south Gippsland and a tourist route to Phillip Island.

The majority of the Cardinia Shire's population is located within the existing towns of Beaconsfield, Officer and Pakenham. These towns are part of the Casey-Cardinia Growth Area, and will accommodate the majority of future residential and commercial growth. The remainder of the population is located within Cardinia's townships and rural residential areas.

The population within the Cardinia growth area is expected to grow from a current population of around 77,000 people (2011) to 120,000 people by 2021, and to approximately 155,000 people in 2031. A major employment corridor of approximately 2,500 hectares south of the Pakenham Bypass has been identified which, when developed, will provide employment and business opportunities for current and future residents.

21.01-2 Key influences

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The key influences in relation to the municipality are:

- Urban growth including urban pressures on the rural hinterland and management of green wedge areas.
- The quality and character of existing rural townships.
- Infrastructure to meet the needs of the existing and future community.
- Environmentally significant areas.
- Areas of significant landscape value.
- The protection and sustainable use of agricultural land.
- The local economy including employment opportunities.

21.01-3 Key issues

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The key issues facing Cardinia are focused around five strategic themes:

Environment

- The protection of environmentally significant areas including the northern hills and the Western Port coast.
- The protection and management of biodiversity.

- The protection of the Koo Wee Rup swamp area, which contains important groundwater reserves and horticultural soils in the Western Port basin.
- The maintenance and enhancement of existing significant landscapes.
- The protection of life and property in terms of flooding and wildfire.
- The protection and enhancement of areas and places of heritage significance.
- The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and potable water usage.
- The provision of a range of open space functions to meet community needs, encourage an active lifestyle and protect the environment.

Settlement and housing

- The management of urban growth including urban pressures on the rural hinterland and the Western Port Green Wedge.
- The sustainable development of the growth area and rural townships..
- The provision of appropriate rural residential and rural living development.
- The integration of health into planning communities to allow people to choose to be active in an environment that is convenient, safe and pleasant.

Economic development

- The development of a balanced local economy and local employment opportunities for residents.
- The need to support and strengthen existing businesses.
- The attraction of new business, particularly to the employment corridor south of the Pakenham bypass.
- The protection and sustainable use of agricultural and particularly land with soil that is of a high quality within the Western Port Green Wedge.
- The role of tourism within the wider business community.

Infrastructure

- The provision of infrastructure to meet the needs of the existing and future community.

Particular use and development

- Encouraging an attractive, functional and sustainable built form in existing and future development.
- The restructure of inappropriate subdivisions.
- The integration of community safety with new and existing use and development.
- The location and characteristics of gaming venues.
- Encouraging the investigation of potential locations for a third airport in Melbourne's southeast.

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Strategic vision

Cardinia Shire Council's corporate plan *Creating the Future, Cardinia Council Plan 2009-2013* describes the following vision for the municipality:

"Cardinia will be developed in a planned manner to enable future generations to enjoy and experience the diverse and distinctive characteristics of our Shire"

Council is committed to fostering the sustained wellbeing of the community and environment in the Cardinia Shire. In doing this, it seeks to balance the competing needs of the environment, economic development and the community, by:

- Developing a strong economic base.
- Recognising and protecting the diverse and significant environmental and cultural heritage values in the municipality.

- Providing opportunities to create and maintain a cohesive, safe and robust community.
- Enhancing the experience of people who live, work and visit the municipality.

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Strategic framework plan

The Cardinia Shire Strategic Framework Plan (Figure 1) sets out the general pattern for land use and development to respond to the key influences and issues to achieve the strategic vision for the municipality.

The purpose of the framework plan is to provide an overview of land use in the Cardinia Shire and to identify locations where specific land use outcomes will be supported and promoted.

The major strategic directions identified in the Cardinia Shire Strategic Framework Plan include:

- Identification of major landscape features within the Cardinia Shire, including:
 - Western Port.
 - Cardinia Reservoir.
 - Bunyip State Park.
 - Dandenong Ranges Foothills.
- Locations of areas primarily used for general agriculture.
- Locations of areas identified as having high quality soils for agriculture and horticulture.
- Locations of areas identified as having environmental and landscape significance.
- Locations of rural townships and the urban growth area.
- Existing major transport links.
- Natural and man-made drainage.

Figure 1: Cardinia Shire strategic framework plan

