

21 MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC STATEMENT

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Frankston City is situated on the eastern shore of Port Phillip Bay approximately 42 kilometres south of Melbourne. The City covers an area of approximately 131 square kilometres from Seaford Wetlands in the north to Mount Eliza in the south and east to the Western Port Highway. The western boundary of the City consists of approximately 9.5 kilometres of Port Phillip Bay coastline.

Frankston City is a largely residential municipality including older areas and new subdivisions, with large parts of the City set aside for rural, semi-rural and recreation uses, and nature reserves. The residential areas include the well established suburbs of Frankston, Frankston North, Frankston South and Seaford, and recent growth areas in Carrum Downs, Langwarrin, Langwarrin South, Sandhurst and Skye. Future residential development is limited by the Urban Growth Boundary.

Frankston City contains a substantial number of regional facilities and, as a consequence, has an influence that extends into the southern metropolitan and Mornington Peninsula regions.

Frankston City's bayside location is a defining feature, with its sandy beaches flanked by remnant coastal vegetation providing a recreation resource for Melbourne and the region. Swimming, recreational boating and sailing, diving and fishing are key recreational activities available along the City's shoreline. Boat launching facilities are utilised by people from a regional catchment. The coast and foreshore reserve from Oliver's Hill in the south to Keast Park in the north is of regional significance from a recreational and conservation point of view.

In addition to the coastline, the City's extensive natural environment encompasses a number of environmentally significant creek and wetland areas, and important landscape features. From Oliver's Hill and Mt Eliza there are spectacular views across the Bay to Melbourne and eastwards over the Frankston CAD to Mt Dandenong. The Seaford Wetlands, which are RAMSAR listed and of international significance, provide a resting place for a variety of migrating water birds. A network of major nature conservation reserves, smaller natural bushland reserves and vegetated creek valleys, e.g. the Langwarrin and Pines Flora and Fauna Reserves, Frankston Natural Features Reserve, Sweetwater and Kananook Creek valleys, create visual interest in the urban area, bringing the bush to the City, and providing a refuge for local plants and animals as well as passive recreation opportunities. When worked out, the sand mining areas at Langwarrin and Skye may provide opportunities to extend and link the network of regional open space within and adjoining Frankston City. A large number of Council Parks and public and private Golf Courses provide residents with the opportunity for both passive and active recreation.

The City's transport infrastructure, including its excellent vehicular access to inner Melbourne and Mornington Peninsula via EastLink and the soon to be constructed Peninsula Link, are an attraction for residents, business and industry. The railway line and bus connections are a vital component of the City's transport infrastructure and require constant monitoring and updating to meet resident needs.

The Frankston Central Activity District (CAD) is recognised in state government strategies *Melbourne 2030* and *Melbourne @ 5 million* as one of six major growth centres for the metropolitan area. It provides a key transport hub and is attracting large scale developments, including those of a retail, health, entertainment and sporting nature that serve a wide catchment. In addition, residential development in and around the centre is increasing.

Regional services and facilities include the Monash University Peninsula campus, and Chisholm Institute TAFE college, Frankston hospital, a number of private hospitals, the Frankston Arts Centre and McClelland Art gallery that all draw from a regional or metropolitan area.

The City also has large tracts of commercial and industrial land and, with the increased accessibility provided by recent freeway improvements this land provides employment and economic opportunities for residents and businesses in the region. The transport network also provides links to employment nodes at Dandenong, Moorabbin, Waverley and Cranbourne.

The South East Green Wedge is one of the key non-urban areas designated in the state government's metropolitan policy, and it accommodates a number of different environmental, economic and social values including wetlands, Eastern Treatment Plant, sand resources and land fill sites. The various future roles of the Green Wedge need to be defined and protected.

The population of Frankston City is expected to grow from an estimated current population of approximately 132,000 (2011), with an average annual growth rate of 0.9% between 2011 and 2021. The majority of this growth is predicted to occur in Skye-Sandhurst Carrum Downs, Seaford and Frankston Central. Population growth forecasts indicate that the City's population will reach almost 145,000 by 2021 and 153,000 by 2031. A continuing period of growth is therefore expected, during which the City's remaining 'greenfield' areas will be developed and new infill housing will occur in Frankston CAD in particular.

During the period to 2031 the population is expected to age, with the proportion of people over 65 to increase from just over 13% to nearly 21% of the population, The proportion of people under 15 is forecast to decrease slightly, from just over 18% to a little under 17% of the City's population by 2031.

The average household size for Frankston will continue to decline from 2.6 persons in 2011 to 2.47 persons in 2031, consistent with metropolitan Melbourne. A decline in household size indicates that more dwellings will be required to house the population of the City, even in areas where population is not expected to rise substantially.

The City's residents have a slightly lower household income than the Melbourne average, a slightly higher proportion of single parent households, a higher proportion of people with no tertiary qualifications, and a lower proportion of overseas born than the metropolitan average.