

21.05 DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

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21.05-1 Key Issues and Influences

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Open space and Recreation

- Open space networks throughout Moorabool Shire's towns are an important element of the Shires urban character.
- Moorabool Shire has a focus on providing integrated cycling and walking networks to link existing residential development to community facilities, commercial hubs, and parks.
- Moorabool Shire endeavours to support the health and well-being of Moorabool communities through the provision of high quality social and recreation facilities and services underpinned by effective engagement strategies.

Road Network and Infrastructure

- The Bacchus Marsh Accessibility, Traffic Management and Parking Study identifies strategies to increase accessibility in and around Bacchus Marsh, assesses key stress points in the road network and develops a strategy to accommodate future increases in traffic volumes at key points in the road network.
- Moorabool Shire Council is committed to working with VicRoads to alleviating the impact of heavy vehicles on the Avenue of Honour and commercial hub, improve traffic flow, particularly on the north south axis, and facilitate active commuting by pedestrians and cyclists. Investigation areas identified by this strategic research are shown on the Bacchus Marsh Framework Plan.
- The community and road infrastructure in a number of towns and settlements in the Shire and particularly Bacchus Marsh and Ballan have limited capacity to service the growing community without further upgrading and growth of the Shire's financial base.

Integrated Transport

- As part of state policy for the Ballarat transport corridor, the establishment of a fast train service that services Ballarat (via key towns located within Moorabool Shire) will greatly improve access to metropolitan Melbourne and Ballarat.
- Moorabool's transport infrastructure is structured around the Western Highway and the east west train line that runs through the centre of the Shire. Its two major towns (Bacchus Marsh and Ballan) are serviced by a fast rail service between Melbourne and Ballarat with timetables designed to facilitate commuting to work from the Shire to Melbourne. The rail service is augmented by linked bus services from the suburbs of Bacchus Marsh and the district around Ballan (in particular the bus line from Daylesford, through Gordon to Ballan).
- The large number of people who live in the western Statistical Local Area (SLA) and travel to Ballarat to work strengthens Moorabool Shire Council's case for the re-opening of Gordon Railway Station and the development of a public transport system in the western parts of the Shire that is oriented towards Ballarat.
- The high number of commuters from Bacchus Marsh to Melbourne also highlights the strategic location of Bacchus Marsh and the significant scope for development supported by the sustainable transport strategies of the State government. Similarly, the

large number of people who live outside but work within the Shire strengthens the arguments for improved timetabling from outlying areas including Melbourne so that employees, travelling from outside the Shire by public transport to Bacchus Marsh and Ballan, can get to work on time.

- Bacchus Marsh has been included in the metropolitan ticketing system.

Social Infrastructure

- It is the aim of the Council to build on the community fabric of the Shire by developing social programs that focus on building community capacity and providing quality and flexible community and social infrastructure for people of all ages and from all areas within the Shire.
- Moorabool Shire acknowledges the pressures that an aging population places on the social infrastructure of the Shire and the need for a diversity of housing options to accommodate demographic change.

Water supply

- Securing long-term reticulated water supplies for the towns in the Shire is an important issue.

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Objective—Open Space

To provide high quality, equitable and integrated open space and recreation facilities.

Strategies

- Provide and locate open space areas and recreation facilities in relation to other major land uses and ensure they are designed to be safe and easily maintained.
- Encourage co-location of community facilities and open space areas that maximise access, surveillance, and safety.
- Provide pedestrian links that connect with existing foot paths and integrate with the Tracks and Trails Master Plan.

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Objective—Road Network and Infrastructure

To provide a high quality road and transport network within Moorabool Shire.

Strategies.

- Require new development to make financial contributions to the provision of infrastructure such as public facilities, public transport and roads.
- Work with Vic Roads to undertake improvements to the Bacchus Marsh arterial road network in accordance with adopted strategies such as the Bacchus Marsh Arterial Road Strategy and the Bacchus Marsh Accessibility, Traffic Management and Parking Study.
- Improve road and car-parking infrastructure within the commercial centre.
- Require that land use and development does not prejudice levels of service, safety, and amenity of the Western Freeway and minimise any adverse effects of noise from traffic.

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Objective—Integrated Transport

To provide for an integrated public transport network.

Strategies

- Support the development and facilitation of integrated public transport provision and services to meet the growing needs of the Shire’s communities.
- Maximise public access to the fast rail network.
- Promote improvements to existing public transport network within the Shire.
- Facilitate future transport infrastructure planning through local structure plans.
- Plan for future transport infrastructure needs of business including roads, rail, and air.

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Objective—Social Infrastructure

To provide appropriate levels of Social Infrastructure to Moorabool Shire.

Strategies.

- Require new development through developer contribution plans to make financial contributions to the provision of infrastructure such as public facilities, public transport, and roads.

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Objective—Water Supply

To secure long-term water supplies for urban and agricultural use.

Strategies

- Ensure new urban development has access to potable water supplies.
- Ensure agricultural uses make efficient use of water resources.

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Further Strategic Work

- Develop a policy for open space planning.
- Develop local policies to protect road infrastructure in rural areas and to manage land use and development in areas adjacent to and likely to be impacted by the Western Freeway.
- Review the opportunities for the better utilisation of existing infrastructure within small towns across the various regions within the Shire, taking into account their relative location to each other and regional centres and other factors such as access to transport infrastructure, land capability, and suitability to different economic activities.

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Other Actions

- Advocate to VicRoads and the State Government to address road network issues affecting industrial development in Bacchus Marsh.

- Advocate and continue support for capital works programs of infrastructure agencies to sewer townships in water catchment areas and to address the issue of future water supply.
- Advocate for the reopening of the Gordon railway station to provide integrated public transport services.
- Promote sustainable neighbourhoods and passive safety.