**Settlement**

**Objective**

To promote the sustainable growth and development of Victoria and deliver choice and opportunity for all Victorians through a network of settlements.

**Strategies**

Develop sustainable communities through a settlement framework offering convenient access to jobs, services, infrastructure and community facilities.

Focus investment and growth in places of state significance in Metropolitan Melbourne and the major regional cities of Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe City, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.


Ensure regions and their settlements are planned in accordance with their relevant regional growth plan.

Guide the structure, functioning and character of each settlement taking into account municipal and regional contexts and frameworks.

Create and reinforce settlement boundaries.

Provide for growth in population and development of facilities and services across a regional or sub-regional network.

Plan for development and investment opportunities along existing and planned transport infrastructure.

Promote transport, communications and economic linkages between settlements through the identification of servicing priorities in regional land use plans.

Strengthen transport links on national networks for the movement of commodities.

Deliver networks of high-quality integrated settlements that have a strong identity and sense of place, are prosperous and are sustainable by:

- Building on strengths and capabilities of each region across Victoria to respond sustainably to population growth and changing environments.
- Developing settlements that will support resilient communities and their ability to adapt and change.
- Balancing strategic objectives to achieve improved land use and development outcomes at a regional, catchment and local level.
- Preserving and protecting features of rural land and natural resources and features to enhance their contribution to settlements and landscapes.
- Encouraging an integrated planning response between settlements in regions and in adjoining regions and states in accordance with the relevant regional growth plan.
- Providing for appropriately located supplies of residential, commercial, and industrial land across a region, sufficient to meet community needs in accordance with the relevant regional growth plan.
- Improving transport network connections in and between regional cities, towns and Melbourne.

Encourage a form and density of settlements that supports sustainable transport to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Limit urban sprawl and direct growth into existing settlements.
Promote and capitalise on opportunities for urban renewal and infill redevelopment.
Develop compact urban areas that are based around existing or planned activity centres to maximise accessibility to facilities and services.
Ensure retail, office-based employment, community facilities and services are concentrated in central locations.
Ensure land that may be required for future urban expansion is not compromised.

**Policy documents**
Consider as relevant:
- Central Highlands Regional Growth Plan (Victorian Government, 2014)
- G21 Regional Growth Plan (Geelong Region Alliance, 2013)
- Gippsland Regional Growth Plan (Victorian Government, 2014)
- Great South Coast Regional Growth Plan (Victorian Government, 2014)
- Hume Regional Growth Plan (Victorian Government, 2014)
- Loddon Mallee North Regional Growth Plan (Victorian Government, 2014)
- Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan (Victorian Government, 2014)
- Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan (Victorian Government, 2014)