

11.15 WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE

31/03/2017
VC134

For the purpose of this Clause, the 'Wimmera Southern Mallee region' comprises the municipal areas of Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack, covered in the *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).

Policy guidelines

In considering the policy objectives and strategies for the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, planning must consider as relevant the, *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).

11.15-1 Networked settlements

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Objective

To encourage growth throughout the region and create a network of integrated and prosperous settlements.

Strategies

Support a highly connected network of settlements based on communities of interest.

Recognise the close relationship between Stawell and Ararat and plan for these towns as a cohesive sub-regional cluster of housing, employment and services.

11.15-2 Planning for growth

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Objective

To manage population change and access to services by making key centres a focus.

Strategies

Support the role of Horsham as the key population and employment centre for the region.

Support the ongoing growth and development of Edenhope, Hopetoun, Nhill, St Arnaud, Stawell and Warracknabeal as the key service hubs within their sub-regional communities of interest.

Support the regional role of Horsham Central Activities District in providing higher order commercial and retail services.

Provide local and some sub-regional services in Dimboola, Kaniva and Murtoa.

Provide an ongoing supply of infill and greenfield residential land, particularly in Horsham and district towns.

Support investment in higher order services and facilities at Horsham that cater for a regional catchment.

Support regeneration of Horsham North through better access, community infrastructure and housing.

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Environmental assets

Objective

To enhance ecological health and rural landscapes.

Strategies

Facilitate greater connectivity between areas of medium to high natural value to improve ecosystem resilience.

11.15-4
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Agricultural productivity

Objective

To protect key agricultural resources, maintain productivity and support the development of industry.

Strategies

Protect land and environmental resources which make a significant contribution to the region's agricultural productivity.

Support local industries, activities and infrastructure which complement and enhance the region's agricultural sector.

Facilitate agricultural diversification and value adding that takes advantage of natural assets, and provide appropriate and timely infrastructure to realise these opportunities.

Facilitate intensive agriculture in appropriate locations.

Protect and manage environmental assets as cropping expands in the southern parts of the region.

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A diversified economy

Objective

To use the region's assets to facilitate the diversification of the economy and build a resilient community.

Strategies

Facilitate diversification of the regional economy and capitalise on economic development opportunities through building on the region's assets, particularly agriculture, energy, mining and tourism.

Create a regional freight and industry gateway in and around Horsham to capitalise on the Wimmera Intermodal Freight Terminal and value adding from the agricultural industry.

Provide an ongoing supply of industrial land, particularly in Horsham and district towns.

Support a diverse range of tourism development on private land, particularly in designated locations where it will:

- Have access to settlements, transport infrastructure and other services.

- Be compatible with environmental and cultural assets and values.
- Link with nearby environmental assets.
- Not be exposed to unacceptable bushfire hazards.
- Operate in conjunction with agricultural activities and be located away from intensive agriculture and mining.

Avoid residential growth in areas where tourism developments should be given priority to support the local economy.

Facilitate further development of tourism related to the wine industry at Great Western and nature-based tourism around key attractions such as the Grampians National Park, Little Desert National Park, major lakes and cultural heritage sites.

Support the development of Halls Gap as a resort town and tourism focal point for the region.

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Resilient communities

Objective

To support planning for adaptation to changes in climate.

Strategies

Provide for flexible approaches to rural land use and infrastructure which support a transition of agricultural activities over time.

Support the development of locally generated renewable energy, including bioenergy clusters.

Facilitate the use of secure water supplies to develop the region's economy.

Facilitate the economic opportunities presented by the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline taking advantage of water security to encourage more intensive agriculture and industry and tourism based on the region's wetlands and lakes.

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Liveable communities

Objective

To support development of distinct settlements to create healthy, attractive and liveable communities.

Strategies

Provide for easy access to housing, education, employment and community facilities, particularly in Horsham and district towns.

Maintain and enhance social and community facilities in key service centres, particularly district towns, to ensure they are sustainable and can continue to attract new residents.

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Infrastructure

Objective

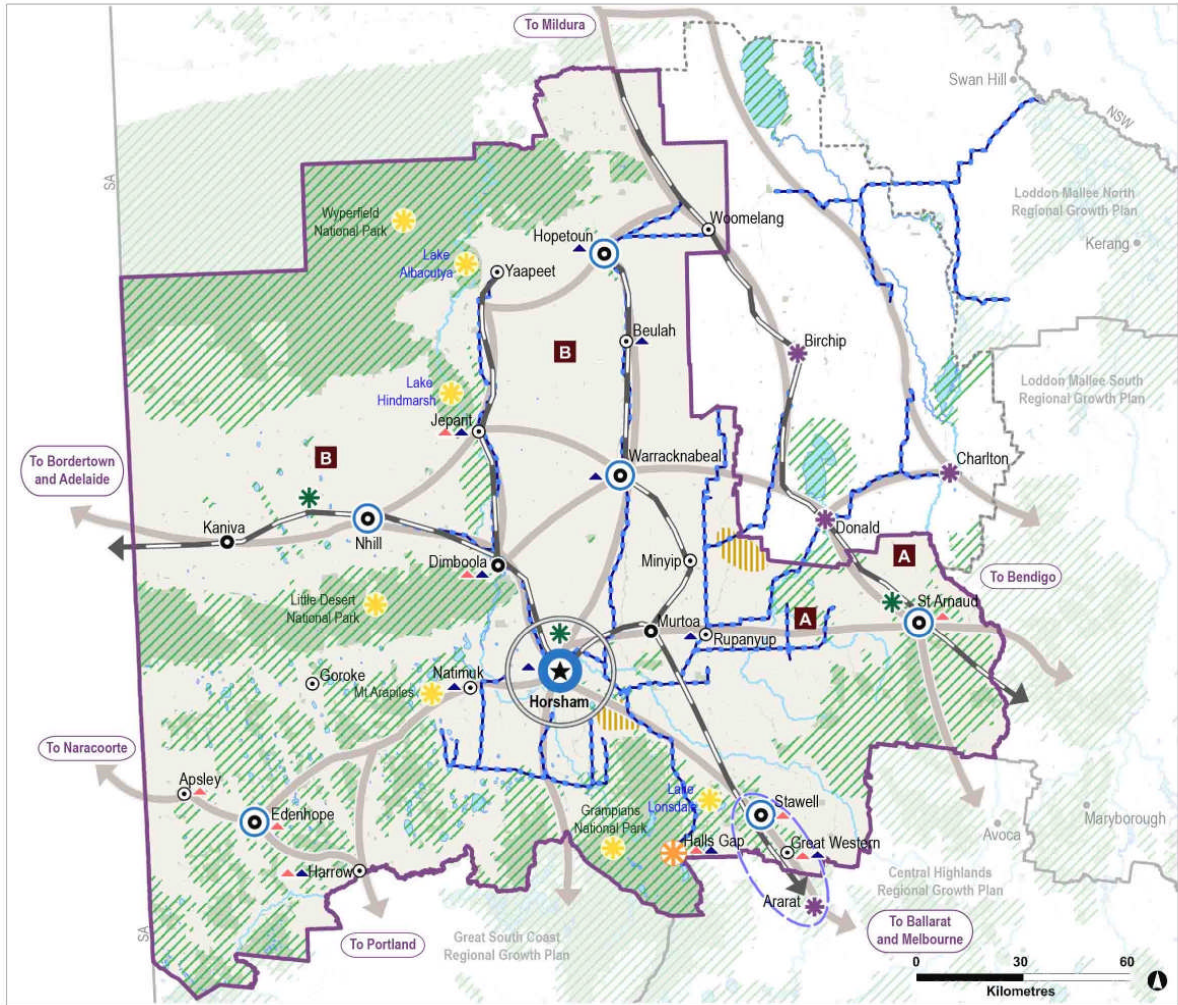
To identify infrastructure required to support growth.

Strategies

Plan for freight and passenger transport to be integrated with land use.

Provide for the expansion of energy supply infrastructure where it is feasible and would support the establishment of new industry or the expansion of existing industry.

Facilitate local energy generation to help diversify the local economy and improve sustainability outcomes.



SETTLEMENT NETWORK

- Horsham - Regional city - Promote growth
- District town
- Town
- Small settlement
- Stawell-Ararat relationship
- Halls Gap - tourism hub
- Key hubs external to the region
- Partner council

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Key road corridor
- Key rail corridor
- Wimmera Mallee Pipeline trunk routes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Preferred location for medium-large piggery and broiler farm intensive agriculture
- Preferred location for medium-large cattle and lamb feedlot intensive agriculture
- Freight and industry gateway
- Mineral sands mining proposal
- Bioenergy cluster
- Key tourism asset

ENVIRONMENT

- Areas containing high value terrestrial habitat
- Public land
- Lakes
- Rivers
- Urban flood considerations⁽¹⁾
- Urban bushfire considerations⁽²⁾

(1) Urban flood considerations are based on existing overlays
 (2) Bushfire considerations may be based on one or more of the following existing overlays, advice from CFA or Regional Bushfire Planning Assessments. Does not include Bushfire Prone Areas.