# **Latrobe**City

# Morwell Activity Centre Plan

Community Infrastructure Assessment



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#### 1 Introduction

This report undertakes a community infrastructure assessment to identify key issues and opportunities associated with community infrastructure and social needs for the Morwell Primary Activity Centre and surrounding areas. This information will assist with the development of the Morwell Activity Centre Plan.

For the purpose of this assessment, the following definition of community infrastructure provided by ARS Research (2008) has been used:

Community Infrastructure is public and private, State, Council and non-Council facilities (e.g., cultural buildings, recreation buildings, passive and active open space) which accommodate community support services, programs and activities (e.g. preschool service, child care, youth services, aged services, community meetings, sporting competition, informal recreation, cultural activities, education activities, emergency services, community support, etc.)

#### 1.2 Methodology

The community infrastructure assessment has largely been undertaken through desktop research and has primarily been informed by:

- An analysis of relevant state government policies associated with community services and infrastructure as well as relevant local level strategies, policies and plans;
- The MACP Planning Context Report (including demographics);
- A review and mapping of the existing community, open space and recreation facilities in the study area and, if not found in the study area, the distance to the nearest facility;
- Consultation with council staff and key agencies where possible;
- Benchmarking against community infrastructure guidelines;
- Gaps Analysis; and
- Identification of key findings.

#### 1.3 Report limitations

Due to budget and time constraints, the community infrastructure assessment for the MACP has been undertaken primarily through desktop analysis of existing local-level policies, strategies and plans, a desktop audit and analysis of benchmarks and a study area tour. As such, there has been no in-depth analysis of existing community infrastructure and its capacity to expand, nor has there been an in-depth analysis of growth projections and community infrastructure needed to accommodate future anticipated growth for the wider Morwell district.

Although some consultation has taken place, additional consultation is required to consider the community's vision and values. These values provide important qualitative information to contextualise the findings from the community infrastructure audit and application of benchmarks.

The endorsed *Public Open Space Strategy* (2013) and *Recreation Needs Analysis* (2017) provide guidance to Council on the current and future provision of open space and recreation facilities, however for context a summary of these facilities has been included in the audit of existing community infrastructure in section 6 of this report.



### 2 What is community infrastructure?

"Community Infrastructure" refers to the facilities, places and spaces that support community members to live healthy and connected lives. This includes community infrastructure that is both publicly (i.e. government) and privately (i.e. non-government, not-for-profit and profit-for-purpose) provided to support community services, programs and activities.

For the purposes of this report community infrastructure has been grouped into the following categories:

- Open Space & Recreation
- · Community and Cultural Facilities
- Early Years
- Primary and Secondary Schools
- Adult/Special Education
- Senior Citizens
- Emergency Services

#### 2.1 Council's Role in Providing Community Infrastructure

Latrobe City Council has a responsibility to protect, improve and promote the health and wellbeing of its community. Council also has a responsibility to ensure the prudent expenditure of public funds. It is recognised that Latrobe City Council performs a range of roles within the municipality regarding community infrastructure, ranging from direct service provider to planner, advocate and partner.

Some aspects of community infrastructure, such as preschool and maternal and child health care services, are delivered by Council based on requirements set by other levels of government, which set funding and spatial requirements for these services. Other programs, such as adult education programs run by the library, may be delivered based on recommendations from Council's four year-plan, or provided based on its understanding of services the community may enjoy or find beneficial.

Community infrastructure facilities owned and services delivered by Latrobe City Council in Morwell CBD include:

- Latrobe City Council Service Centre;
- Morwell Library and Maternal and Child Health Centre;
- Maryvale Crescent Pre School;
- Rose Garden Hall and Meeting Rooms; and
- Latrobe Regional Gallery.



#### 3 Site Context

Morwell is the central town to Latrobe City and is one of three sub-regional retail centres identified in the Latrobe City retail centre hierarchy.

Morwell has two retail centres, the traditional town centre and Mid Valley Shopping Centre further to the east. The traditional town centre is the focus of this plan. The Study Area is identified in Figure 1.

The CBD has retained a relatively compact shape and has a strong grid pattern of wide streets, with Buckley Street to the North, Chapel Street and Hoyle Street to the east, Hazelwood Road and Collins Street to the west forming the main boundaries of the CBD. The Gippsland regional railway dissects the CBD, effectively dividing the centre into two separate precincts: a northern precinct and a southern precinct. Although the two halves are connected by an underpass, the main retailing centre is located south of the railway line while shops on the northern side cater primarily for office and service business. See Figure 2.

The CBD is generally surrounded by residential land to the north, south, east and west. The majority of new residential estates in Morwell are located to the north, north-west and north-east of the town centre.

Morwell, combined with Traralgon, is identified as the primary population centre by the Strategic Framework Plan, serving as the dominant residential, commercial and retail node. Morwell is also a key industrial and government office centre.

Key services and facilities located within the Morwell CBD include (but are not limited to):

- The Latrobe Regional Gallery;
- The Latrobe City Council Headquarters/Service centre;
- Latrobe City Library;
- The Justice Precinct located between Commercial Road and Ann Street which accommodates the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court, Morwell Police Station, Morwell Justice Centre and lawyers/solicitors' offices;
- Sacred Heart Church and Primary School;
- Good Start Early Learning Centre (long day care and preschool);
- The Morwell Centenary Rose Garden;
- Morwell Skate Park;
- The Train Station Precinct & Bus Interchange; and
- Town Common/Playground.

Other significant features surrounding the CBD include (but not limited to):

- Morwell Recreation Reserve which includes, Football, soccer, netball, cricket and croquet club;
- The Erik Luckbe Flora Reserve; and
- Town Common Parklands and Playground.



Figure 1 – Morwell Activity Centre Plan – Study Area





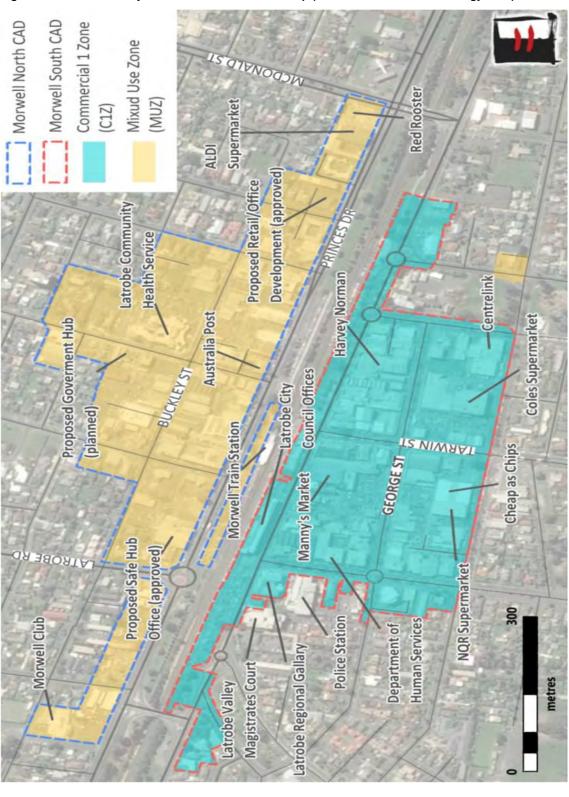


Figure 2 – Morwell Activity Centre Precinct and Zone Map (source: Latrobe Retail Strategy 2019)



# 4 Policy Context

Table 1 bellow outlines the relevant policies, plans and guidelines which have been reviewed in preparation of this strategy.

Table 1 - Relevant polices, plans and guidelines

State Plans & Policies	Absolutely Everyone: State Disability Plan 2017-2020
	Plan Melbourne 2017-2050
	Victoria in Future (VIF) 2019
	Gippsland Regional Growth Plan 2014
	Change and Disadvantage in the Gippsland Region 2011
	Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023
Local Plans & Policies	Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley
	Latrobe City Council Plan 2021-2025
	Latrobe City Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
	2021-2025
	Latrobe City Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) 2016 –
	2020
	Latrobe City Children's Services Plan 2013-2017
	Latrobe City Public Open Space Strategy 2013
	Latrobe City Healthy Urban Design Good Practice Guideline
	2008
	Latrobe City Library Plan 2017-2021
	Latrobe City Older Persons Strategy 2007-2021
	Latrobe City Play Space Strategy 2016
	Latrobe City Council Disability Action Plan 2018-2021
	Latrobe City Cultural Diversity Action Plan 2020-2024
Latrobe Planning	Clause 11 – Settlement (including Latrobe Structure Plan –
Scheme	Morwell 2021)
	Clause 15 – Built Environment and Heritage
	Clause 16 – Housing
	Clause 18 – Transport
	Clause 19 – Infrastructure
Other Resources	Guide to Social Infrastructure Planning 2009
	Future Morwell 2017

#### 4.1 Summary of Policy Directions

Latrobe is the principal service centre for Gippsland that boasts a wide range of health, community and education services. The townships of Churchill, Moe-Newborough, Morwell and Traralgon together form a 'networked city' where each town provides services and facilities to meet the needs of the community. Traralgon and Morwell form the primary population centres in Latrobe, supported by Churchill and Moe-Newborough.



In planning for community infrastructure Council seeks to:

- Anticipate and respond to the needs of existing and future communities through provision of zoned and serviced land for recreation and open space, commercial and community facilities and infrastructure.
- Support a range of health, social, education, cultural and recreational facilities.
- Support hubs of integrated community services.
- Encourage community facilities to locate in or near activity centres and be accessible by public transport.
- Ensure appropriate, affordable and sustainable facilities, services and recreation to support opportunities for greater participation in sports, recreation, arts, culture and community activities.
- Support access for people with disabilities to mainstream services, community-based activities and other government initiatives.
- Co-locate or cluster facilities and services to ensure maximum efficiencies for clients and to respond to best practice service delivery models.
- Ensure facilities are multi-purpose and cater to a range of ages, life stages, users and enable a range of uses.
- Design facilities and services that are inclusive and accessible and incorporate universal design principles. This relates to the physical built form as well as governance models.
- Development of Precinct Structure Plans and Development Contributions plans for new growth areas to ensure:
  - o The delivery of key infrastructure items and economic and employment growth.
  - Encourage a consistent approach to the design and construction of infrastructure across the municipality.
- Contribute to the well-being and independence of older people by providing a range of community services and working in partnership with other organizations to enhance the social support system.
- Design public open spaces so they are accessible and can be used by people of all abilities, ages and interests.
- Ensure that land is set aside and developed in residential areas for local recreational use and to create pedestrian and bicycle links to commercial and community facilities.
- Improve the quality and distribution of open space and ensure long-term protection.
- Ensure that urban open space provides for nature conservation, recreation and play, formal and informal sport, social interaction, opportunities to connect with nature and peace and solitude.
- Ensure open space provision is fair and equitable with the aim of providing access that meets the needs of all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, ability or a person's location.



#### 5 Demographics

#### 5.1 Current and future population of Morwell

The current Morwell population is approx. 13,960 persons, slight population growth is forecast, increasing to approx. 14,770 persons by 2033. As the population grows slowly, its demographic profile will also change, meaning the large proportion of middle-aged people who currently live in Morwell will become a large proportion of older people. The phenomenon of an ageing population is familiar to many towns in Latrobe City and around Australia. Accordingly, planning for community infrastructure will need to adapt to ensure cities and towns such as Morwell can continue to support vibrant populations with diverse needs. This change is also being driven by government policies and corresponding community expectations around inclusive communities.

Residential growth is expected to continue, if land supply matches demand.

Residential development in Morwell is somewhat limited due to land constraints surrounding the town (coal to the south, north and north-west, amenity buffer and bushfire risk to the north-east (Australian Paper) and floodplains to the west.

Although Morwell offers access to services, affordable housing and relative proximity to metropolitan Melbourne by virtue of VLine (regional rail service) and the Princes Highway, the potential for future population growth relies on the following:

- The extent to which property development can work as a catalyst for rejuvenation.
- Land releases and the availability of trunk infrastructure to support development.
- Actively promoting opportunities and attracting new investment.
- Potential investment in 'region shaping' public infrastructure such as high-speed rail.

Population forecasts for Morwell (and the broader Latrobe City) are shown in Table 2 and take into consideration forecast growth rates from the State Government's official population projections *Victoria in Future 2016 (VIF2016)*, which have been rebased to reflect the latest Estimated Residential Population (ERP) release by the ABS (Cat: 3218.0).

Table 2 Future Population Growth Trends 2018-2033 (Latrobe City Retail Strategy 2019)

Category	2018	2023	2028	2033
Population (No.) Morwell Latrobe City Regional Victoria	13,960 75,140 1,490,630	13,970 77,100 1,577,660	14,350 80,350 1,667,570	14,770 83,860 1,761,560
Av. Annual Change (No.) Morwell Latrobe City Regional Victoria		+0 +390 +17,410	+80 +650 +17,980	+80 +700 +18,800
Av. Annual Change (%) Morwell Latrobe City Regional Victoria		+0.0% +0.5% +1.1%	+0.5% 0.8% 1.1%	0.6% 0.9% 1.1%

Source: ABS Estimated Residential Population (Cat: 3218.0) and Victoria in Future 2016 (DELWP)



Figure 3 presents population projections by age and household types from Victoria in the Future (DEWLP) 2016 which have slightly lower population projections.

Population by age Households by type 2016 2026 2036 2016 2026 2036 0-14 2,470 2,100 1,680 Family with children\* 2,170 2,190 2,220 15-29 2,740 2,250 2,190 Couple-only 1,520 1,720 1,920 30-44 2,260 2,500 2,150 Lone person 2,480 2,760 3,090 2,510 45-59 2,780 2,700 Group and other 280 270 280 60-74 2,360 3,020 3,360 Total 6,450 6,940 7,510 1,430 1,850 2,470 75+ \* Includes couples with children & single parent households 4,000 4,000 3,000 3,000 2,000 2,000 1,000 1,000 0 Family with Group and Lone person 0-14 15-29 30-44 45-59 60-74 75+ children\* other ■ 2016 2026 ■ 2036 ■ 2016 ■ 2026 ■ 2036

Figure 3 - Morwell Population projections by age and projected Household types to 2036 (VIF 2016)

By 2033/2036, the population of Latrobe City LGA is expected to reach 83,860, with Morwell taking a population share of approx. 14,700.

Below is a snap shot of key population changes expected for Morwell:

- A slight increase in lone person households is expected, rising from 17.8% in 2016 to 21% of all
  households by 2036. The lone person household type is anticipated to remain the largest household
  type in Morwell by 2036.
- Couples without dependents are forecasted to slightly increase from 10.8% total households in 2016 to 13% in 2036.
- Couple families with dependents are forecasted to slightly decrease from 15.5% of all households in 2016 to 15% in 2036.
- One parent households are forecasted to remain stable between 2016 and 2036.
- The number of people aged under 15 years is forecast to decrease by 11.3% between 2016 and 2036
- A slight decrease is forecasted for the 15-29, 30-44 and 45-59 age groups. These declines represent a combined decrease of 5% between 2016 and 2036.
- The number of people aged over 65 is forecast to increase by 60% between 2016 and 2036, making up 32% of the total Morwell population.



#### 5.2 Social Challenges and Experiences in Morwell

The Dropping Off the Edge Report (2021) prepared by Jesuit Social Services shows Morwell experiences a high level of disadvantage in comparison to other parts of the state. The report indicates the wider town experiences high levels of social disadvantage in the domains of social Distress, Health, Community Safety, Economic, Education, Lifetime Disadvantage and Environment. Affordability and accessibility of services and programs (both Council and other) are important factors in meeting the needs of the community. Particular attention to lack of services should be prioritised and considered as this may continue to perpetuate disadvantage for some.

Community Engagement conducted by Latrobe City in 2021 showed people ranked safety as most important to address, along with health and social connection and the built environment. In the same engagement piece 'a safe place' did not rate highly as to why respondents thought Latrobe City was a great place, with just 6% of participants from Morwell selecting this (Federation University, Collaborative Evaluation Unit, 2021). Social assets and infrastructure in Morwell will need to take this into account and ensure that the safety and health and wellbeing of all is considered within the design and use of any infrastructure.

#### 6 Desktop Audit

#### 6.1 Existing Community Infrastructure

A desktop audit of existing community infrastructure facilities in Morwell has been undertaken. The focus of the audit was on the Morwell CBD (the study area) however it also included facilities in the surrounding Morwell area.

Morwell contains a broad range of community facilities and services. Table 3 and 4 below list the community infrastructure found in the study area and the area surrounding Morwell CBD. Figures 4 and 5 illustrate the current distribution of community infrastructure across Morwell.

Table 3 – Existing Community infrastructure in the study area (Morwell CBD)

Facility Category	Facility
Open Space & Recreation	<ul> <li>Morwell Centenary Rose Garden</li> <li>Morwell Town Common/Playground</li> <li>Morwell Skate Park</li> <li>Morwell Club/Morwell Bowling Club</li> <li>Morwell to Traralgon Shared Pathway</li> </ul>
Community and Cultural Facilities	<ul> <li>The Justice Service Centre</li> <li>Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court</li> <li>The Latrobe Regional Gallery (and meeting rooms)</li> <li>The Latrobe City Council Headquarters/Service centre</li> <li>Latrobe City Morwell Library</li> <li>Historical Society</li> </ul>



	<ul> <li>Morwell RSL</li> <li>Latrobe City Rose Garden Hall and Meeting Rooms</li> <li>The Gathering Place Community Centre (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander)</li> </ul>
Early Years	<ul> <li>Good Start Early Learning Centre (long day care and preschool – 4 Rooms (LDC 12, 12, 16 Preschool 25, at capacity)</li> <li>Maryvale Crescent Pre School (LCC run 27 spaces 1 room @ capacity)</li> <li>Latrobe City Maternal and Child Health (ran at library)</li> <li>Young Parents (LCC ran playgroup ran at library)</li> <li>Gunai Lidj Childcare &amp; Maternal Health (25 places - 3 rooms, also offers before and after school care and school holiday program)</li> <li>Djillay Lidj Latrobe Playgroup (@ the gathering place)</li> </ul>
Government Primary Schools	None
Government Secondary Schools	None
Independent Primary School	Sacred Heart Primary School
Adult/Special Education	<ul> <li>Latrobe Valley Flexible Learning Centre</li> <li>Kurnai Young Parent Program (under 21yrs to complete VCAL- old Commercial Rd Primary School)</li> </ul>
Senior Citizens	<ul> <li>Morwell Senior Citizens (Rose garden)</li> <li>Latrobe Community Health Service (Planned Activity Group)</li> </ul>
Emergency Services	<ul> <li>Morwell Fire Station (under construction)</li> <li>Morwell Police Station</li> <li>CFA District 27 Headquarters</li> </ul>



Table 4 – Existing Community infrastructure in wider Morwell area

Facility Category	Facility
Open Space & Recreation	<ul> <li>Latrobe Leisure Centre (Pool, gym)</li> <li>Morwell Recreation Reserve (Football (Gippsland's AFL Centre for Excellence), soccer, netball, cricket and croquet club)</li> <li>Keegan Street Reserve</li> <li>Morwell Bowls Club</li> <li>Maryvale Recreation Reserve</li> <li>Northern Reserve Morwell</li> <li>Eric Luckbe Flora Reserve</li> <li>Helen Street Reserve Playground</li> <li>Gippsland Immigration Park</li> <li>Kernot Lake/Park/Gardens</li> <li>Ronald Reserve</li> <li>Robertson Street Reserve</li> <li>Fairfield Street Reserve</li> <li>Toners Lane Reserve</li> <li>Morwell Park Netball Centre</li> <li>Crinigan Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Morwell Golf Club</li> <li>Gippsland Sports and Entertainment Park</li> <li>Crinigan Road Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>
Community and Cultural Facilities	<ul> <li>Morwell Mens Shed</li> <li>Club Astoria – German Club</li> <li>Kernot Hall</li> <li>Morwell Performing Arst Centre (Morwell central)</li> <li>Morwell Neighbourhood House</li> <li>Latrobe Youth Space</li> <li>Ronald Reserve Hall (Latrobe Theatre Company)</li> <li>1st Morwell Scouts Hall</li> <li>3rd/4th Morwell Scouts Hall</li> <li>Morwell Sunday Markets (privately owned land)</li> </ul>
Early Years	<ul> <li>Our Place Morwell Central (Maternal and child health – LCC run)</li> <li>Nindedana Quarnook Maternal Health</li> <li>Supported Playgroup Hub (LCC ran at old infant welfare centre Vincent Rd)</li> <li>Morwell Central Playgroup</li> <li>Salvation Army Playgroup</li> </ul>



	<ul> <li>Kylie Early Learning Centre (long day care - 2 rooms. Under 3 yrs – 12 spaces. Over 3 yrs – 22 spaces, at capacity).</li> <li>Good Start Early Learning – Morwell Central (long day care and preschool – LDC 6 room 12,12,12,12,12,33, Preschool (not dedicated kinder) 1 room 33 almost at capacity)</li> <li>Carinya Early Learning Centre (long day care and preschool – LCC run 27 spaces 1 room preschool, 0-2 8 spaces 1 room (at capacity), 2-3 12 spaces (1 space), 3-5 11 spaces – 15 with after kinder care- can also use kinder room for after kinder care)</li> <li>Elizabeth Wilmot Preschool (LCC run 27 spaces 1 room – not at capacity)</li> <li>Parklands Preschool (LCC run 1 room 27 spaces)</li> <li>Mid Valley Kinder &amp; Child Care (LDC 4 rooms – 12, 16, 16, 16. Kinder – 16. Almost at</li> </ul>
	capacity) Also do after school care and vacation care 5-12yr olds)
Government Primary Schools	<ul><li>Morwell Central Primary School</li><li>Morwell Park Primary School</li></ul>
Government Secondary Schools	Kurnai College Morwell
Independent Schools	St Vincent de Paul Primary School
Adult /Special Education	<ul> <li>TAFE Gippsland</li> <li>Gippsland Tech School</li> <li>Berry Street School (Yrs 7-12)</li> <li>Interchange Gippsland</li> </ul>
Senior Citizens	<ul> <li>Morwell East Senior Citizens (and Hall)</li> <li>Greek Orthodox Senior Citizens</li> <li>Latrobe Valley University of the Third Age (U3A - Airlie Bank Homestead)</li> </ul>
Emergency Services	<ul><li>Morwell Fire Station</li><li>Morwell SES</li></ul>



Figure 4 - Existing Community Infrastructure within Study Area



Figure 5 - Existing Community Infrastructure - Surrounding Study Area



#### 6.2 Hierarchy for community infrastructure

Community infrastructure benchmarks have been determined for growth areas of Melbourne by ASR Research (2008). The Latrobe Planning Scheme identifies Morwell (along with Traralgon) as the primary population centre, serving as the dominant residential, commercial and retail node, therefore these growth area benchmarks have been used as a guide for Morwell.

Community infrastructure has different catchments depending on the type of service. For example, primary schools generally have a local catchment, whereas libraries and larger recreation facilities such as an outdoor swimming pool have a regional catchment. Based on ASR Research (2008), a Community Infrastructure Population Hierarchy has been identified which determines appropriate community infrastructure based on population numbers, see Table 5 below.

The Level 2 hierarchy identifies a population of between 10,000 and 30,000 people. As Morwell's estimated resident population for 2033 is approx. 14,770 (Estimated Residential Population (ERP) release by the ABS (Cat: 3218.0) and Victoria in Future 2016) Level 2 has been identified as most relevant to Morwell. However, given that Morwell CBD is a service, commercial and entertainment hub for the broader Morwell community, it is important to consider the higher order facilities such as a library and recreation facilities. Considering both Level 2 and the higher order facilities will therefore ensure that the Morwell CBD continues to cater to the surrounding community while continuing to service residential areas located in and close to the CBD.

Table 5 – Hierarchy for Community Infrastructure

Hierarchy	<b>Provision Ratio</b>	Items
Level 1	Up to 10,000 people	Government Primary Schools (including out of school hours care)/Early Years Facility Level 1 Council Community Centres/ Early Years Facility/Neighbourhood House Local level Active Open Space Local level Passive Open Space (including local level playgrounds) Long Day Child Care Centres Social housing
Level 2	Between 10,000 and 30,000 people	Government Secondary Schools Catholic Primary Schools District level indoor recreation centres Level 2 Council Community Centres/Early Years Facility/Neighbourhood Houses Low Order Tennis Facilities Low Order Youth Facilities Maternal & Child Health (within every second level 1 early years facility) Occasional Child Care (as part of every neighbourhood house and leisure centre) Residential Aged Care
Level 3	Between 30,000 and 60,000 people	Libraries Aquatic Leisure Centres Community Arts Centres Catholic Secondary Schools Higher Order Active Open Space Reserves



		Regional level indoor recreation centres High Order Tennis Facilities Lawn Bowls Facility High Order Dedicated Youth Facilities Level 3 Council Community Centres Level 3 Council and Community Services Health Precincts (DHS Level 2 Community based health precincts – dedicated outreach health precinct sites) Early Childhood Intervention Service PAG facility Delivered meals facility Regional level adventure playgrounds Other independent schools
Level 4	Provision for the entire municipality	Main Council Civic Centre Level 3 Community-based health precincts – Day hospitals that contain main or outreach Community Health Centre site (including Mental Health)3 Synthetic athletics track
Level 5	Provision for two or more municipalities	Highest Order Performance Arts Facility Universities/TAFEs Level 4 Community-based health precincts – Hospitals with community-based health services Regional Parks



Image: Carinya Early Learning Centre, Morwell



#### 6.3 Application of benchmarks

While benchmarks provide an important role in the funding of services and facilities, there are limitations in relying on institutional and industry benchmarks alone in assessing current and future social infrastructure needs. Key issues associated with this approach in the context of Morwell including:

- The application of benchmarks does not consider the role and catchment of community infrastructure, and in a regional catchment Morwell acts as a service centre for nearby towns.
- Benchmarks consider the number of residents as a ratio to the number of facilities, for example 1 school to every 3,000 households. This ratio approach has limited flexibility to consider localised social issues such as income, access to transport, physical and mental ability and English language skills
- Benchmarks typically do not consider how spaces can be used for integrated or multiple purposes spaces or changing delivery models.

Table 6 below provides an overview of community infrastructure benchmarks for the Morwell CBD and surrounds.

Table key:

Sufficient Requires further consideration Additional Space Required

Table 6- Community Infrastructure benchmarks for Morwell (based on ASR Research 2008 & data source ABS 2016 & VIF 2016)

Service Area	Benchmark (ASR Research 2008)	No in Morwell 2016	Est No in Morwell 2033/36	Current Provision	2016 benchmark requirements	2033/36 benchmark requirement
Early Years  Maternal and Child Health	1 service for every 182 babies	486 babies (0-2 yr olds) approx. 55 are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	313 babies (o-2 yr olds) approx. 34 are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	4 Services (includes 2 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander only providers):  • Latrobe City Maternal and Child Health (ran at library)  • Our Place Morwell Central (Maternal and child health – LCC run)  • Nindedana Quarnook Maternal Health  • Gunai Lidj Maternal Health	2.7 Services Required	1.7 Services Required
Playgroup	1 playgroup per 5,000 residents	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	5 Services (includes 1 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander only provider):	2.7 Services Required	2.9 Services Required



				Young Parents     (playgroup ran by     LCC at library)     Supported Playgroup     Hub (ran by LCC at     old infant welfare     centre Vincent Rd)     Morwell Central     Playgroup     Djillay Lidj Latrobe     Playgroup @ the     gathering place     Salvation Army     Playgroup		
Long Day Care	1 place per 6.8 children aged 0-6 years	1,129 (0-6 yr olds)	648 (0-6 yr olds)	5 Centres with total 283 places (including 1 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander only provider with 25 places): Good Start Early Learning Centre x 2 Kylie Early Learning Centre Carinya Early Learning Centre Mid Valley Child Care Gunai Lidj Childcare	166 Places Required	95 Places Required
Preschools/ Kinder	1 30-place preschool room for every 30 (4-year olds)	173 (4 year olds)	108 (4 year olds)	7 Rooms totalling 182 places:	5.8 Rooms Required	3.6 Rooms Required
Occasional Care	3 places per 1,000 children (0- 6 years)	1,129 (0-6 yr olds)	648 (0-6 yr olds)	2 Centres (places vary depending on centre numbers):  Kylie Early Learning Centre	3 Places Required	1.5 Places Required



				Mid Valley Child		
				Care/Kinder		
Outside school hours care	150 places for 1000 children (0- 6 years)	1123 (0-6 yr olds)	648 (0-6 yr olds)	2 Centre (includes 1 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander only provider):  • Mid Valley Child Care/Kinder (Vacation and before & after school care)  • Gunai Lidj Childcare  Note1: Actual place numbers data for the above 2 centres has not	150 Places Required	97 Places Required
Drimon, and 6	Cocondony Co			been made available.		
Primary and S Government	1 school	13,960	14,770	2:	1.5 Services	1.6 Services
Primary School	per 8,000- 10,000 residents	Residents	Residents	Morwell Central Primary School     Morwell Park Primary School	Required	Required
Independent Primary School	1 school per 5,000 households (depending on Catholicity rate)	6450 households (7046 people or 51% identified as being affiliated with Christianity during 2016 census)	7,516 households	Sacred Heart     Primary School     St Vincent de Paul     Primary School	1.3 Services Required	1.5 Services Required
Secondary School	1 school per 18,000 residents	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	Kurnai College     Morwell	0.7 Services Required	0.8 Services Required
Adult/Special						
Adult Education	1 school per 60,000 residents	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	Latrobe Valley     Flexible Learning     Centre     Kurnai Young Parent     Program (under     21yrs to complete     VCAL)     GippsTAFE     Gippsland Tech     School	0.2 Services Required	0.2 Services Required



Services for young people	1 per 10,000 people	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	Berry Street School (Yrs 7-12) Interchange Gippsland (disability education)  Headspace Quantam YSAS CMY	1.3 Services Required	1.4 Services Required
Youth Space	1 per 8,000 people	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	Latrobe Youth Space (Princes Dr)     The Gathering Place – Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (Buckley St)	1.7 Services Required	1.8 Services Required
Senior Citizen Senior	1 per	13,960	14,770	3:	1.3 Services	1.4 Services
groups	10,000 people	Residents (approx. 3,255 aged 65-100)	Residents (est that 4,780 will be aged 65-100)	<ul> <li>Morwell (Rose Garden)</li> <li>Morwell East (Vary St)</li> <li>Greek Orthodox (Elgin St)</li> </ul>	Required	Required
Planning activity group	1 per 40,000- 60,000 people	13,960 Residents (approx. 3,255 aged 65-100)	14,770 Residents (est that 4,780 will be aged 65-100)	Latrobe Community     Health Service     (weekly 16     participants)     Latrobe Valley     University of the     Third Age (U3A –     Airlie Bank     Homestead)	0.2 Service Required	0.3 Services Required
Library	·		·			
Library	1 Library per 30,000- 60,000 people	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	Latrobe City Council Library (Elgin St)	0.3 Service Required	0.3 Service Required
	General Spaces and Services					
Community meeting space (council	1 x 1-20 people venue per 4,000 people	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	Latrobe Regional Art     Gallery     Morwell East Senior     Citizens	3.4 Services Required	3.6 Services Required



venues				Rose Garden		
only)				Meeting Room • Latrobe Leisure Meeting Room		
	1 X 21-50 People Venue Per 8,000 People	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	Latrobe Regional Art Gallery     Morwell East Senior Citizens     Latrobe Leisure Meeting Room	1.7 Services Required	1.8 Services Required
	1 X 51-100 People Venue Per 8,000 People	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	Morwell Senior Citizens Hall (Rose Garden)     Morwell East Senior Citizens Hall     Kernot Hall     Ronald Reserve Hall	1.7 Services Required	1.8 Services Required
	1 X 101- 200 People Venue Per 8,000 People	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	Kernot Hall     Ronald Reserve Hall	1.7 Services Required	1.8 Services Required
	1 X 200+ People Venue Per 20,000 People	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	1: • Kernot Hall	0.6 Services Required	0.7 Services Required
Multi- purpose community centre	1 per 8,000- 10,000 people	13,960 Residents	14,770 Residents	1:  • Morwell  Neighbourhood  House (Beattie Cr)	1.5 Services Required	1.6 Services Required
Neighbourho od House	1 per 10,000 residents	13,960 Residents (354 identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander)	14,770 Residents	2: (including 1 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander centre):  • Morwell Neighbourhood House (Beattie Cr)  • The Gathering Place – Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (Buckley St)	1.3 Services Required	1.4 Services Required
Open Space Summary for Morwell		ummary of ope pace Strategy		rwell as identified through t	he preparation o	of the <i>Latrobe</i>



- Morwell has approx. 160ha of open space.
- The majority of open space sites are classified as Parkland General Use, accounting for 50.7% of all sites and 63.4% of the total hectares available in Morwell.
- There is a relatively high proportion (number and size) of open space sites categorised as Parkland Linear Link (14.1% and 19.0% receptively).
- There are few sites classified as Waterway/Drainage (8 sites or 11.3% of total), which
  account for less than 3% of total hectares provided. The useability of some of these sites for
  community recreation may be limited.
- Sport open space accounts for a small proportion of total open space provision (number and size i.e. 9.9% and 12.3% respectively).
- There is limited provision of Conservation/Environment open space in Morwell (i.e. 4 sites, which account for less than 5.6% of total hectares provided).
- Morwell has less open space (10.72ha/1,000 people) than the average within residential areas of the City (i.e. 17.62ha/1000 people).
- Open space appears appropriately distributed across Morwell. However, there are gaps in linkages connecting to the CBD.
- The future residential growth area north east and west of Morwell Latrobe Road presents a further opportunity for establishment of a District reserve.
- There may be opportunities to extend Waterhole Creek linear pathway to the north (future residential area, north of Crinigan Road), including a connection to Crinigan Bushland Reserve.
- The form of the town is severely constrained by the mining operations to the south of the CBD, which means that growth is, and will continue to be asymmetrical.
- There are opportunities to establish defined walking trails / open space corridors around the town.



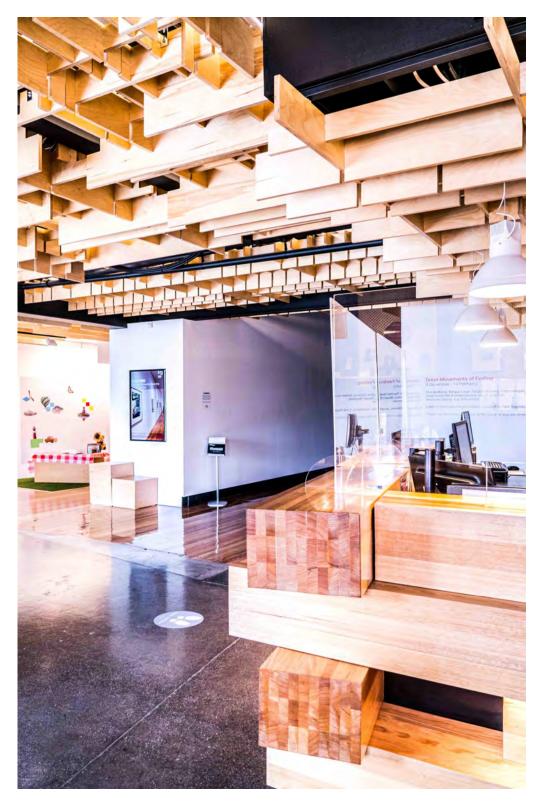


Image: Latrobe Regional Gallery



# 6.4 Key findings from application of benchmarks

Key findings from application of benchmarks to the current and future population of Morwell include:

Service Area	Key Findings
Early Years	<ul> <li>Maternal and child health and preschool/kinder services all meet industry benchmarks. Two of the four services are primarily aimed at the Aboriginal community.</li> <li>Opportunities for occasional care and outside of school hours care appear limited, although additional data collection is required to confirm this as most providers of the service are external to Council.</li> <li>(Note: Some schools run their own before &amp; after school care programs of which data has not been collected).</li> <li>There appears to be an oversupply of long day care than the industry benchmark would</li> </ul>
Primary, Secondary Schools	Primary and secondary schools all meet industry benchmarks, however with only one secondary school in Morwell there is limited choice available for those seeking local secondary education.
Adult/Special Education	<ul> <li>Adult education services meet industry benchmarks along with services for young people.</li> <li>Youth spaces also meet industry benchmarks with one of the two being primarily aimed at Aboriginal youth. Although meeting industry benchmarks youth services are nearing capacity.</li> <li>A new youth space 'Latrobe Youth Space' (purpose-built youth services hub) was opened in 2021, however it was not an</li> </ul>
Seniors Citizens	<ul> <li>additional facility but rather the relocation and expansion of an existing service.</li> <li>Senior Citizen groups and planned activities for seniors meet industry benchmarks.</li> </ul>



Library	Morwell is currently serviced by one library which exceeds industry benchmarks. The library provides core library services as well as informal break-out spaces available to the community. The space attracts users from local and surrounding areas.
General spaces and services	<ul> <li>According to Council's facilities database, a number of general facilities in Morwell are available for public hire and can be used as general meeting spaces. There are costs associated with some facilities.</li> </ul>
	All community meeting spaces generally meet industry benchmarks; however, it was noted that meeting spaces for groups 1-20 people and 101-200 people are almost at capacity. Although larger meeting spaces could be used in these instances it is noted that this is not always practical. In addition, a lot of these small to medium meeting spaces are occupied by regular group bookings which can make it hard for the general public to access them.
	Morwell has two Neighbourhood Houses; The Gathering Place, which is aimed primarily at supporting Aboriginal people and Morwell Neighbourhood House which is also considered the only multi-purpose community centre in Morwell. Given one of the Neighbourhood Houses and the Multi- Purpose Community Centre are one in the same this service is in high demand.
	It should be also noted that there are a range of meeting spaces available within Morwell that are privately owned but can be accessed by the community (fees may be applicable).



## 7 Needs analysis and recommendations

The Morwell area has a stable population, which is projected to grow slightly over the next 10-15 years. Morwell is well serviced by a range of social infrastructure which performs an important role locally as well as servicing the surrounding residents of the district.

The needs analysis and recommendations outlined below are drawn from strategic analysis, demographic analysis, community infrastructure audit, and consultation undertaken in previous steps of this project. The current gaps in community infrastructure are drawn from the synthesis of all of the above activities.

Assessment Criteria	Implications for community infrastructure in Morwell		
Strategic Analysis	<ul> <li>Implications for community infrastructure in Morwell         The focus for Morwell CBD is on creating a liveable and accessible community through improving access to key services and facilities in the CBD. The following social planning principles should inform the activity centre plan:     </li> <li>Community facilities should be co-located with compatible services, to improve access and service coordination and delivery;</li> <li>There is not one area within the CBD that is considered to be the community services hub;</li> <li>Any new community facility should be well connected by walking and cycle paths and be close to public transport connections;</li> <li>Walking and cycle options to existing community facilities should be enhanced to encourage healthy living;</li> <li>Passive surveillance should be encouraged around community facilities and open space;</li> <li>Connections between key assets of Morwell should be enhanced, including connections from the Morwell CBD to the Centenary Rose Garden, Town Common and the Station Precinct;</li> <li>Open space in and around Morwell CBD should be of high quality and have appropriate facilities to encourage community use (i.e. shelter, seats and BBQ areas);</li> <li>Facilities that cater to a range for ages and different community groups should be encouraged;</li> <li>Ensure all assets, infrastructure, events and services are accessible, affordable and inclusive.</li> <li>Flexible community spaces should be incorporated into any new community facility to allow for different uses and</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>allow facilities to adapt to changing community needs; and</li> <li>Improved amenity across the Morwell CBD should be enhanced to encourage greater use of community spaces.</li> </ul>		
Demographics	Morwell  Morwell has a stable population, which is anticipated to grow slightly over the next 15 years.		



	Key findings from the demographic analysis, using 2016 ABS Census and VIF 2016 data, include;		
	•	A slight increase in lone person households is expected, rising from 17.8% in 2016 to 21% of all households by 2036.	
		This may result in a greater need for appropriate housing for smaller household size and appropriate spaces and facilities to encourage social interaction.	
	•	Couples without dependents are forecasted to grow from 10.8% of total households in 2016 to 13% in 2036.	
	•	Couple families with dependents are forecasted to slightly decrease from 15.5% of all households in 2016 to 15% in 2036.	
		This may result in a need for greater social interaction opportunities for professional couples without dependents and improved amenity as couple without dependents may have higher amenity expectations.	
	•	The number of people aged under 15 years is forecast to decrease by approx. 11% between 2016 and 2036. In addition, the number of people aged between 15 and 29 years is forecast to decrease by 15% between 2016 and 2036.	
		This may result in a decreased demand for early year's services, schools and youth facilities.	
	•	A slight decrease is forecasted for the 30-44 and 45-59 age groups. These declines represent a combined decrease of 5% between 2016 and 2036.	
	•	The number of people aged over 65 is forecast to increase by 60% between 2016 and 2036. Making up 32% of the total Morwell population.	
		This is likely to result in a need to increase the number of activities and programs for the older age group and require additional appropriately located and diverse housing to allow for ageing in place and improved walkability by locating housing close to services and facilities.	
Community Infrastructure Audit	•	Morwell is well serviced by a range of social infrastructure which performs an important role locally as well as servicing the surrounding residents of the district.	



- Existing facilities and services are not generally clustered around the CBD which is the usual scenario. Rather facilities and services are dispersed throughout the CBD and surrounds. There are however small clusters or colocated services & facilities specifically located at:
  - Hazelwood Road within the CBD (Justice Precinct and associated services)
  - McDonald Street outside study area (around Latrobe Leisure and Morwell Central School)
  - Princes Drive outside study area (around Kernot Hall, Gippsland Hi Tech Precinct and TAFE)
- Due to the spread of social Infrastructure walkability from residences can be difficult, acknowledging that some areas are better serviced than others. Public transport services are limited however the Latrobe Valley Bus Lines does offer three intertown routes around Morwell which cover a very broad area, enabling most people to reach their desired destination (timetable permitting).
- Existing social infrastructure varies greatly in age and condition. Some assets will soon require renewal and improvement to ensure they are fit for purpose. (It is noted that Kernot Hall will undergo a remodelling over the coming years to become a convention centre and attract more business to the facility).
- Meeting spaces are quite dispersed, with some located in older or repurposed facilities such as community halls spread throughout neighbourhoods.
- There are two Neighbourhood Houses however one is aimed primarily at supporting the Aboriginal community.
   The other, Morwell Neighbourhood House is located in the most northern eastern part of Morwell approx. 3km from the CBD centre (bus service available). This facility also acts as a multi-purpose type facility offering community support, food bank, room hire, shared kitchen, internet access and a full program of activities.
- There is no 'Community Hub' in the Morwell CBD or surrounds, with services/facilities scattered around the Morwell township. Originally the Old Morwell Town Hall operated as a type of multi-purpose building consisting of a 500 seat hall and 100 seat supper room, kitchen and servery, library, infant welfare room and offices for some of the shire officers. The old Morwell Town Hall was converted into the Latrobe Regional Gallery in 1971. The Hall facility was then moved to the new civic complex at the time known as Kernot Hall (around 1980) and remains there today. Kernot Hall is key piece of community infrastructure, having it located outside of the CBD creates a lack of space for events and activities within the town centre, makes access via public transport difficult,



- contributes to limited activity and offerings within the CBD and reduces opportunities for other surrounding businesses to benefit economically.
- Morwell contains a large variety of open space and recreation facilities. These are located both within the Morwell CBD and surrounds. Most larger facilities are located on the peripheries of the town.
- Services and facilities appear to be utilised by local residents as well as people from surrounding townships, both within and outside Latrobe City.

# Community Infrastructure Benchmarks

#### Early Years

All services currently meet industry benchmarks. Based on population projections for Morwell it is not recommended that additional services will be required to service the town to 2033-2036.

Long Day Care and Preschools - It was noted that many long day care and preschool centres are at or nearing capacity and in addition have waiting lists. This could suggest that there are a significant number of residents who live outside of Morwell utilising the services. This could be contributed to the high rate of office and government workers in Morwell who may chose to utilise the services in Morwell for ease of drop of and pick up.

Outside School Hours Care – Opportunities appeared limited, however data collection would be required to make a more accurate assessment against the industry benchmarks.

#### It is recommended that:

- further consultation take place with service providers of long day care and preschool/kinder to monitor rates and future service requirements; and
- that additional data is collected from outside school hours care providers to establish service needs.

#### <u>Primary & Secondary Schools /Adult & Special Education/Youth</u> Services

All services currently meet industry benchmarks. It is not recommended that additional services will be required to service the town to 2033-2036. *However, it is recommended that:* 

• further consultation take place with youth service providers to establish and monitor participation rates and future service requirements.



#### Senior Citizens

Services currently meet industry benchmarks. It is not recommended that additional services will be required to service the town to 2033-2036. *However, it is recommended that:* 

• growth within this demographic be closely monitored into the future and consultation take place with service providers to establish and monitor participation rates and future service requirements.

#### Library

Library services currently exceed industry benchmarks. It is not recommended that additional services will be required to service the town to 2033-2036.

#### General spaces and services

General spaces and services all generally meet industry benchmarks with the exception of multi-purpose community centre. However, at this stage it is not recommended that additional services will be required to service the town to 2033-2036 unless population exceeds projections.

#### Consultation

Consultation by phone and email has been undertaken with a portion of the early years providers and senior citizens service providers. It is anticipated that further consultation will take place as part of the next phase of the project.

The following key points were identified for early years:

- Most long day care and preschool/kinder services were at or nearing capacity. Some also have active waiting lists.
- Only one service provided outside school hours care.
- Only one service offered vacation care
- One service provider is looking to commence an outside school hour care program shortly.





Image: Maryvale Crescent Preschool

#### 7.1 Summary of community infrastructure gaps

On the basis of the community infrastructure assessment it is not considered that additional community infrastructure will be required to service Morwell to 2033-36.

Morwell is generally well serviced with a variety of existing infrastructure; however, it is recommended that some are closely monitored moving forward to ensure these facilities and services meet demands, these include:

- Early Years Long Day Care and Preschool/Kinder;
- Youth Services;
- Senior Citizens;
- Meeting spaces for groups 1-20 people;
- 101-200 person venue in Morwell CBD;
- Neighbourhood House; and
- Multi-purpose Community Centre.

Consideration should also be given, when required, to locate the new neighbourhood house and/or multipurpose community centre within the Morwell CBD. This could also be a great opportunity to co locate some existing community groups and facilities (such as Library) to this location and create a 'Community Hub' within the CBD of Morwell. Consideration should also be given to the inclusion of small to medium meeting space/s as well as a 101-200-person venue space such as a hall within the multi-purpose community centre. A project of this nature could be a key driver in reactivating the Morwell CBD as a destination and generating investor/developer interest.



#### 7.2 Review and monitoring

It is also recommended that Council review the key assumptions, models and actions of this plan in line with the release of new Census data to ensure they are still relevant and reflect the future needs and aspirations of the local community.

#### 8 References and data sources

Latrobe City Council Planning Scheme

Australian Social and Recreation Research Pty Ltd. - Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas, April 2008

Traralgon Activity Centre Plan Background Reports 2010

Public Open Space Strategy (2013) and Recreation Needs Analysis (2017)

Gippsland Regional Growth Plan 2014

Gippsland Regional Plan 2015-2020

Future Morwell 2017

Latrobe City Council Plan 2017-2021

Moe and District Social Infrastructure Plan 2018

Live Work Latrobe Housing Strategy 2019 (MacroPlanDimasi, RMGC & Planisphere)

Latrobe City Council Retail Strategy (Background Research and Analysis) 2019 (Essential Economics Pty Ltd)

Latrobe City Council Retail Strategy (Strategy and Implementation Plan) 2019 (Essential Economics Pty Ltd)

The Dropping off the Edge Report 2021

Latrobe Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

Remplan Community and Economy

(<a href="https://app.remplan.com.au/latrobe/economy/summary?state=Dw4Wfw17quLzNdVsdYaQoOHJHEInD82QHP8M">https://app.remplan.com.au/latrobe/economy/summary?state=Dw4Wfw17quLzNdVsdYaQoOHJHEInD82QHP8M</a>)

ABS Census Data 2016 (https://www.abs.gov.au/)

DELWP Victoria in Future 2016 (<a href="https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/land-use-and-population-research/victoria-in-future">https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/land-use-and-population-research/victoria-in-future</a>)

