

CHAPTER 08

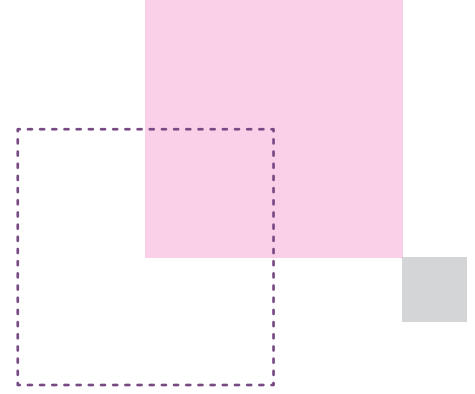
STRONG COMMUNITIES



Plan Melbourne Outcome 5:
Melbourne is a city of inclusive,
vibrant and healthy
neighbourhoods

Plan Melbourne aims to build on the fundamentals of strong, healthy and sustainable neighbourhoods through provision of and improving access to social infrastructure, health and education, open space and the promotion of walking and cycling.





Taking a regional approach to planning will ensure social infrastructure and services reach the widest possible catchment and cross-section of people. Community services, open space, hospitals, educational and cultural institutions, and transport infrastructure will need to keep pace with a projected increase in population of more than 342,000 by 2051 to support a strong community.

Plan Melbourne advocates for the vision of a city of '20-minute neighbourhoods' in which most everyday needs can be met within a 20-minute walk, cycle or local transport trip from home. The Inner Metro Region is well placed to achieve this vision. The region's compact urban structure, accessible street network, extensive public transport and cycling routes and a high number of jobs and services mean the daily needs of many residents are likely to be close to home, and in many instances, less than 20 minutes away.

State of play

Community profile

The Inner Metro Region is a socially and culturally diverse community. Historically, the region has attracted a large proportion of overseas migrants, resulting in a multicultural population. In 2017, the Inner Metro Region accounted for 17 per cent of Melbourne's overseas migration. The cultural composition of Yarra and Port Phillip LGAs largely reflects Victorian and metropolitan averages. Melbourne LGA has a larger proportion of residents born in South East Asia and a lower proportion of people born in Australia compared to the other LGAs in the Inner Metro Region. This is likely due to its concentration of tertiary institutions where overseas students comprise a high number of enrolments.

The Inner Metro Region supports not only a large resident population, but also workers, visitors and students from outside the region. The total daily number of visitors to the region vastly outnumbers the resident population. Residents of the Inner Metro Region have higher life expectancies than residents of metropolitan Melbourne as a whole.

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) ranks local government areas according to their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The 2016 SEIFA rankings for the Inner Metro Region are shown in Figure 21.

Most Inner Metro Region residents are classified as having a high-income level and overall, the region shows high levels of advantage, with Port Phillip ranked as the eighth most advantaged municipality in Victoria. However, clusters of disadvantage are evident throughout the region, particularly close to central Melbourne and within parts of Richmond, South Yarra, North Melbourne and Carlton. These areas reflect the large public housing estates in the region. Homelessness is also a significant issue in the Inner Metro Region, which has almost three times the number of homeless people than the metropolitan average. This is largely due to the concentration of support services located in central Melbourne.

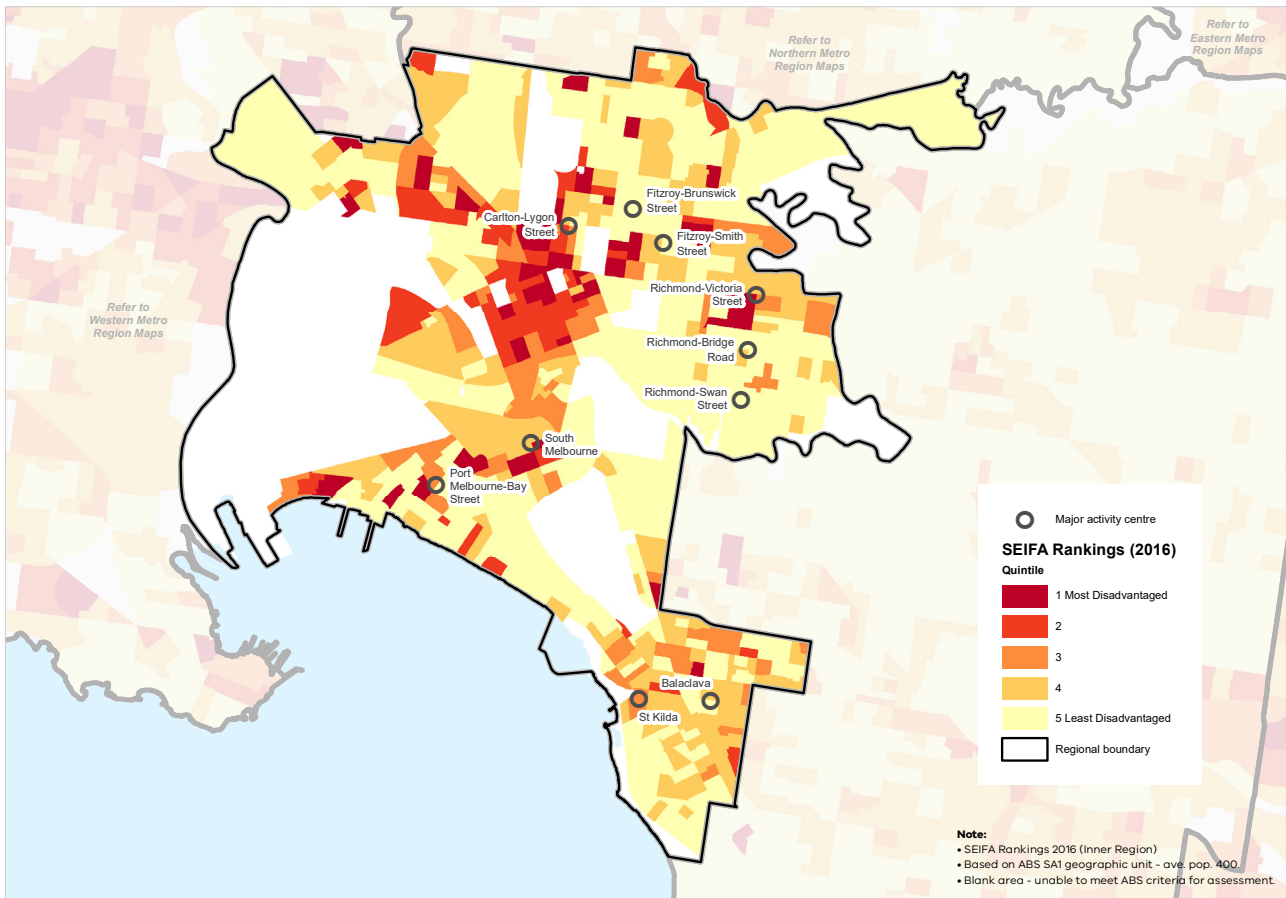
Health and education facilities

The Inner Metro Region supports several clusters of state-significant health and/or education precincts. This includes five of the six specialist tertiary hospitals in metro Melbourne: the Royal Women's Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Royal Victorian Dental Hospital in the Parkville Biomedical Precinct; and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital in the St Vincent's and Australian Catholic University Precinct in East Melbourne. The Epworth Hospital in Richmond supports a cluster of allied health services and the Alfred Medical and Research Precinct in Prahran is also a state-significant precinct.

The Inner Metro Region is home to 1736 Commonwealth-supported aged care sites, 10 private hospitals and nine public hospitals. The Lowitja Institute (Drummond Street, Carlton), a research organisation focused on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, is also located in the region.

The region has 17 university campuses and eight TAFE institutions operating across 12 sites. Major educational institutions include the University of Melbourne, RMIT University and Victoria University. There are also a number of smaller institutions across the CBD, such as the William Angliss Institute and the Australian Institute of Music, or in other parts of the region including the Kangan Institute in Richmond, the Melbourne University horticulture campus at Burnley and the Australian National Academy of Music in South Melbourne.

FIGURE 21. SEIFA rankings (2016) in the Inner Metro Region



The Inner Metro Region has 22 government primary schools and nine government secondary schools. The region is also home to larger and/or specialist secondary schools which attract students from across the region and the state including the Victorian College of the Arts secondary school, Melbourne High School and MacRobertsons High School and the Victorian College for the Deaf.

Compared to other regions, the Inner Metro Region has high worker and visitor populations and a proportionately higher number of apartment dwellers. Visitors, workers and residents require health, education and other community services, in addition to the state-level role the region's facilities play.

The challenges of access to health, education and community services in the Inner Metro Region continue to be around 'whole of life cycle' services for a diverse, growing population particularly for Aboriginal children, those who are homeless or rough sleepers, older residents, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, those at risk of chronic diseases and educational pathways for young people.

Social infrastructure

Social infrastructure includes all of the facilities, services and networks that help people to meet their social, cultural and community needs, in addition to health and education facilities.

The Inner Metro Region is home to a wide range of state-significant cultural, sporting and recreational activities for residents and people from outside the region. Therefore, it is important the social infrastructure needs of residents and workers within the region continue to be met as the population grows.

In terms of sport and active recreation, the region includes numerous major facilities. Victoria's premier sporting precinct, comprising the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), AAMI Park, Melbourne Park tennis complex and Rod Laver Arena, draws a wide audience from across the region, the state, interstate and internationally.

Other major sport and recreation facilities within the region include:

- Marvel Stadium in Docklands
- The Albert Park sports precinct which includes the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC), Victorian State Sailing Centre and the Grand Prix circuit
- Punt Road Oval, Richmond
- Princes Park, Carlton
- Flemington Racecourse
- State Netball Hockey Centre, Parkville.

Many regional open spaces include active recreation facilities such as tennis courts, golf courses and football ovals.

The Inner Metro Region performs a key role in the state's legal and justice system. The region is home to numerous justice infrastructure facilities, with a large cluster of these located around the western end of the Central City:

- The Supreme Court, County Court, Children's Court, Coroner's Court, the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal, and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
- The Melbourne Assessment Prison and Parkville Youth Justice Precinct
- Victoria Police Centre state headquarters
- Two Magistrates Courts, two Community Corrections Locations and two Justice Service Centres.

The Inner Metro Region experiences higher per capita rates of crime, drug offences and youth crime compared to the Melbourne metropolitan average.



Photo credit: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

Regional strengths

- State-level facilities for health, education, recreation and other social infrastructure experience high demand and must cater for a wide range of community needs.
- The region's network of activity centres, many of which are vibrant, accessible community focal points, achieve (or exceed) the principle of the 20-minute neighbourhood.

Regional challenges

- Access to social infrastructure is required for a growing resident, worker and visitor population.
- The design of urban renewal precincts, redevelopment areas and transit-oriented development must embed the principle of the 20-minute neighbourhood.

Directions and strategies

The directions identified to achieve the 2050 vision for the Inner Metro Region in terms of building strong communities and Outcome 5 of Plan Melbourne are:

Direction 20	Plan for major social infrastructure at a regional level to meet the needs of residents, workers and visitors
Direction 21	Support the region's role in delivering state-significant health and education services while providing for the local community
Direction 22	Strengthen the Inner Metro Region's network of 20-minute neighbourhoods

Each direction is implemented through regionally-specific strategies identified in this land use framework plan.

Map 7 shows how strong communities will be enhanced across the Inner Metro Region by 2050 as a result of these directions and strategies, together with Plan Melbourne and other strategies and initiatives as outlined in **Appendix 01**.








MAP 7. Inner Metro Region strong communities 2050





Precincts and Activity Centres

-  National employment & innovation cluster (NEIC)*
-  Central city
-  Major activity centre
-  Central Business District
-  Health & education precinct (state)
-  Health precinct (state)
-  Education precinct (regional)
-  Major recreational facility
-  Regional recreational facility




Transport

-  State-significant road corridor
-  Road network
-  Train station
-  Rail network
-  Strategic Cycling Corridor



Principal Public Transport Network

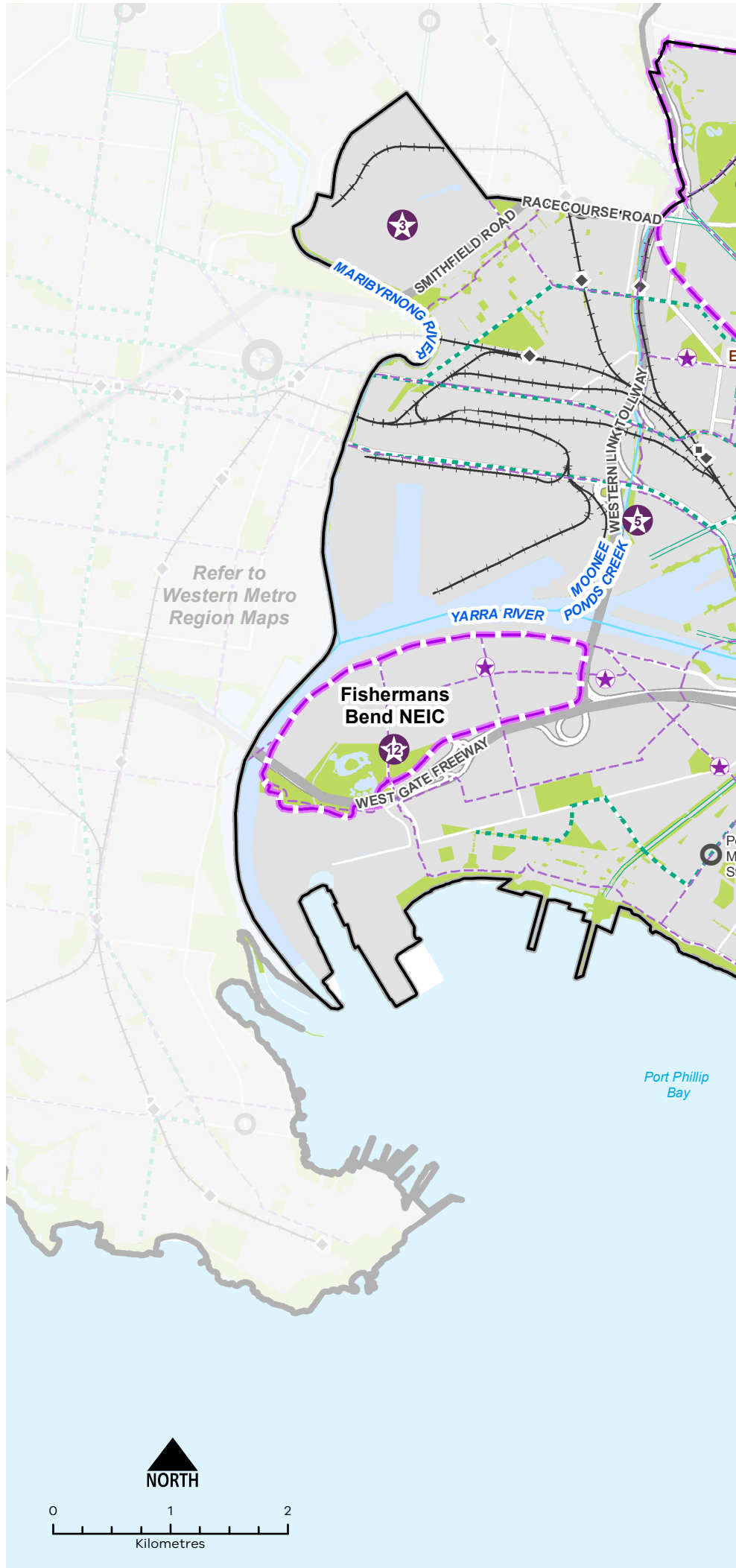
-  PPTN station
-  PPTN interchange
-  Bus
-  Tram

Environment

-  Public open space
-  Waterway
-  Waterbody

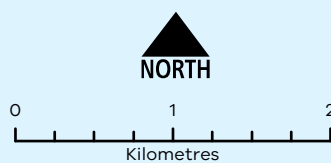
Land use/Administration

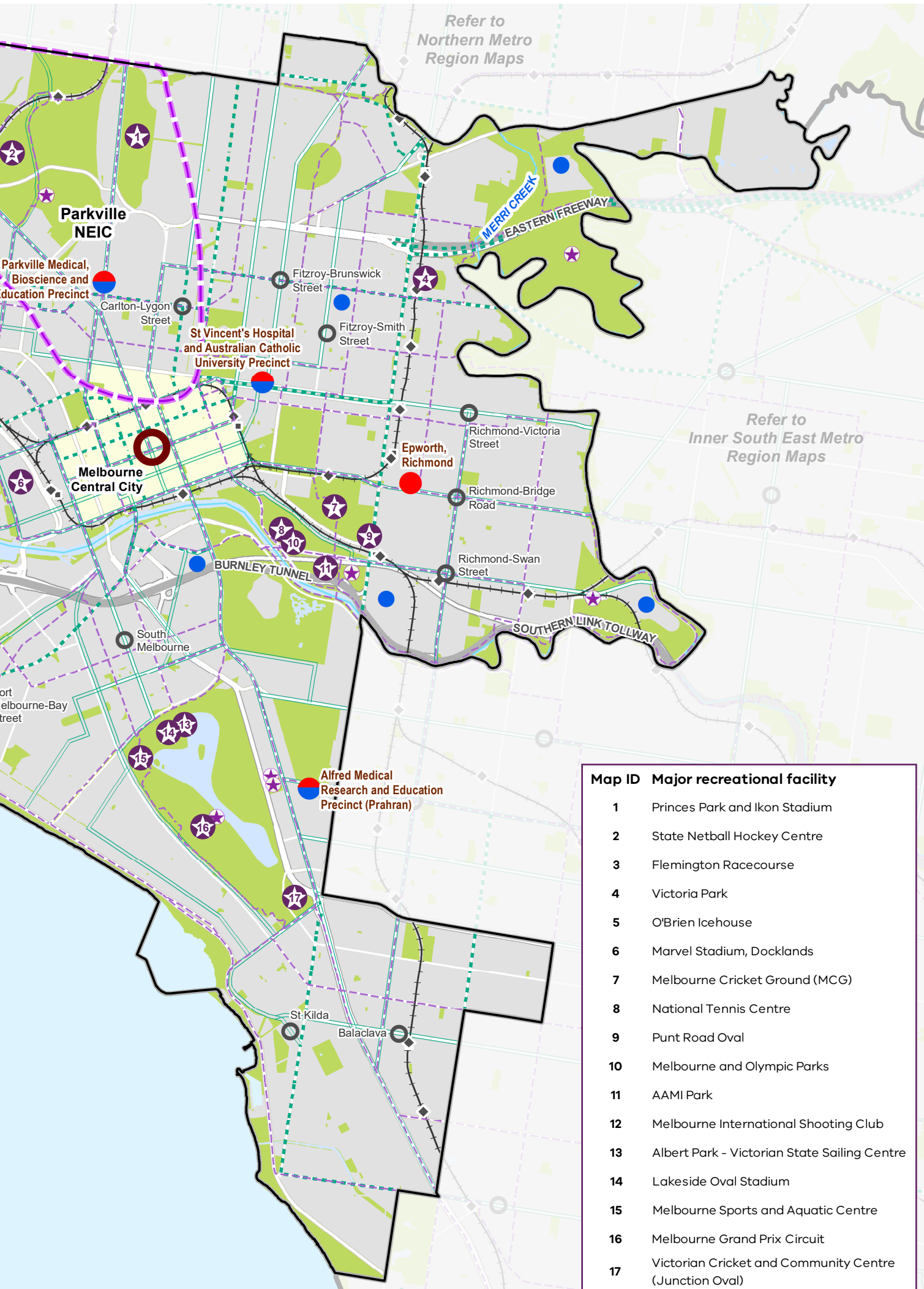
-  Regional boundary
-  Urban area



*NEIC boundary is indicative only and subject to detailed planning.

Note: A regional health precinct is also identified for the new Fishermans Bend Community Hospital, location yet to be determined.





DIRECTION 20.**Plan for major social infrastructure at a regional level to meet the needs of residents, workers and visitors**

The unique nature of the Inner Metro Region will require a different approach to other metropolitan regions when planning for social infrastructure. The region's significant projected growth in its resident population and the number of workers from other regions (currently 449,000 each day) will place greater pressure on existing services and infrastructure. This includes consideration of the region's changing demographics, with an increased proportion of young adults, older residents, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The link between health, wellbeing and nature is reflected in many Victorian Government strategies including the *Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023* and *Active Victoria – A Strategic Framework for Sport and Recreation in Victoria 2017-2021*. Creating healthy living environments, with a high level of urban amenity, access to nature, opportunities for community connection and recreation, and active transport connections, helps foster long-term community wellbeing.

The provision of social infrastructure to support the growing population should be integrated into planning for the Central City, activity centres and urban renewal areas, in addition to planning for housing and employment. This will help alleviate heightened demand on existing social infrastructure and be an integral part of meeting the principle of the 20-minute neighbourhood.

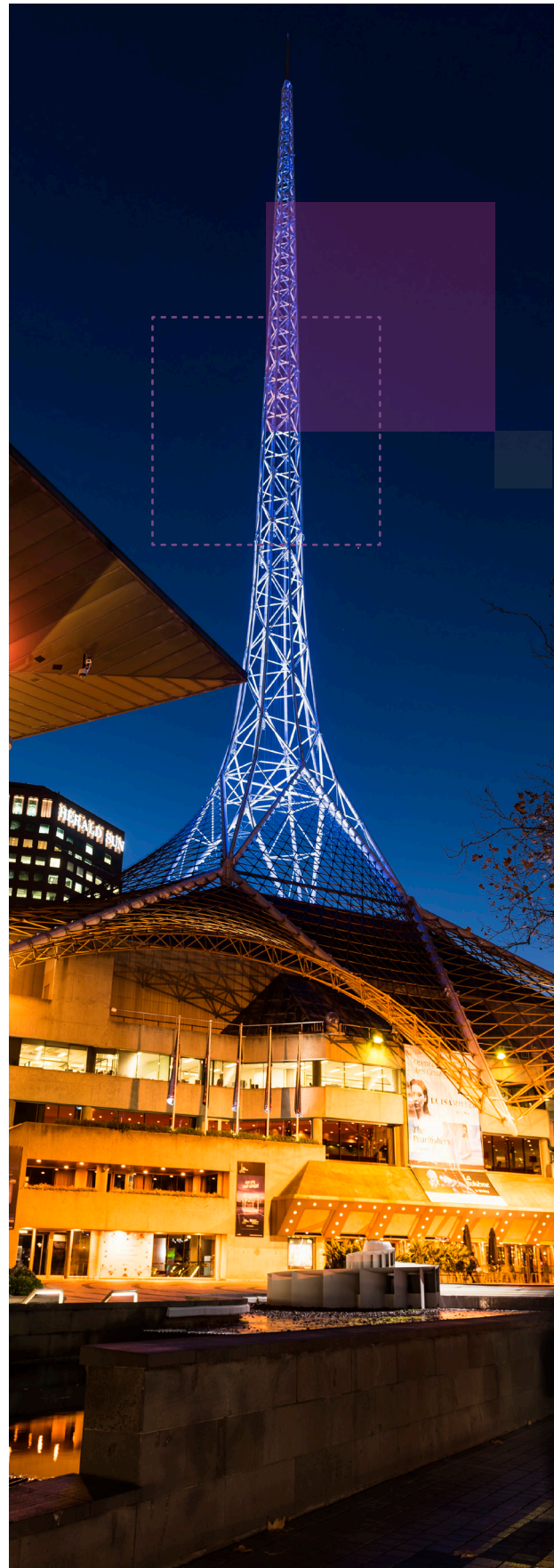
The long-term need for sporting fields and specialist sporting facilities is not currently coordinated at a regional scale. Given the challenges associated with acquiring land and funding infrastructure, there would be significant value in taking a regional approach to planning and delivering these facilities and encouraging broader use of facilities, where possible, to cater for the local population.

Supporting creative and cultural activities also must be factored into the demand for developable land. Integrating creative industries and cultural spaces with other community services in urban renewal areas such as Fishermans Bend, Arden and Macaulay, will support local community connection and sense of place.

Access to social infrastructure to meet the needs of all age demographics is integral to strong and healthy communities including:

- Early years services
- Medical, aged and disability care services
- Education facilities
- Multi-purpose community facilities and regional community hubs
- Arts and cultural facilities
- Libraries
- Open space
- High-quality indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities
- Cemeteries.

- STRATEGY 81.** Review the demand for, and opportunity to, upgrade and expand existing social infrastructure such as libraries or facilities for recreation, health or education, to enable them to be more flexibly and intensively used.
- STRATEGY 82.** Plan for the early delivery of community hubs and other social infrastructure in urban renewal areas to appropriately service their future populations.
- STRATEGY 83.** Encourage planning for major social infrastructure (such as libraries, recreation facilities, cultural centres or community hubs) to be undertaken in conjunction neighbouring regions to maximise co-location of facilities.
- STRATEGY 84.** Locate social infrastructure near activity centres and to be accessible by walking, cycling or public transport.
- STRATEGY 85.** Support regional planning that will provide for a range of sporting and active recreation facilities to meet the needs of the growing population.



DIRECTION 21. **Support the region's role in delivering state-significant health and education services while providing for the local community**

State-significant health and education precincts offer specialised and acute services and facilities, attracting people from across Victoria. They play a critical role in the state's health system. The co-location and dense concentration of hospitals, research facilities and academic campuses within the Inner Metro Region provides significant agglomeration benefits of knowledge sharing and access to skilled workers, and is an important aspect of the region's economy and employment.

A key issue for the Inner Metro Region is to ensure it can continue to perform its vital state role in health and education while providing for the needs of a growing and diversifying regional population.

To accommodate anticipated demand, existing infrastructure will need to be updated or relocated to health and education precincts that encourage synergies between users. Plan Melbourne identifies state-significant health and/or education precincts. Regionally-significant health and/or education precincts (**Table 13**) have a regional catchment, are accessible by a range of transport options and have a specialised economic function. This identification provides opportunities for the agglomeration of ancillary health and education services, retail, commercial and accommodation uses.

Planning from a regional perspective requires coordination between different levels of government to meet all of the community's needs, acknowledging that local councils plan for local infrastructure such as kindergartens, maternal and child health through to aged care, while the Victorian Government plans for state-level services such as government schools and hospitals. Within the Inner Metro Region planning for regional facilities must be considered in the context of limited space and available land, as well as the significant costs to renew older infrastructure.

Prioritising health and education in urban renewal areas will ensure early delivery of these essential services and help establish partnerships between state agencies, local government, developers and research institutions. Facilities such as the new Royal Women's Hospital planned for Arden and the community hospital in Fishermans Bend can create such opportunities.

Co-location of health and education services with other social infrastructure will support greater accessibility and integration of allied facilities. New community hubs can seek innovative approaches to the delivery of community facilities in multi-level, mixed-use developments, given the lack of available land, with easy access to public transport, walking and cycling links. Planning for the needs of at risk and disadvantaged communities should consider the location of health and education services within a 20-minute walk of social and affordable housing.

TABLE 13. State-significant and regionally-significant health and/or education precincts

STATE SIGNIFICANT HEALTH PRECINCT	
Epworth Hospital (Richmond)	
REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT HEALTH PRECINCT	REGIONALLY-SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION PRECINCT
Fishermans Bend Community Hospital (proposed)	Melbourne University (Burnley) Melbourne University (Southbank) Melbourne Polytechnic (Fairfield) Melbourne Polytechnic (Collingwood) Kangan Institute of TAFE (Richmond)
STATE-SIGNIFICANT HEALTH AND EDUCATION PRECINCT	
Parkville Medical, Bioscience and Education Precinct (Parkville) St Vincent's and Australian Catholic University Precinct (East Melbourne/Fitzroy) Alfred Medical Research and Education Precinct (Prahran)	

- STRATEGY 86.** Strengthen the role of health and/or education precincts of the Inner Metro Region by co-locating new health and/or education facilities within these precincts and encouraging an agglomeration of ancillary uses such as primary healthcare, retail and accommodation.
- STRATEGY 87.** Expand the network of health and education facilities and precincts across the region to meet the needs of the growing population. Ensure that these facilities and precincts are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.
- STRATEGY 88.** Support the upgrade of existing health and education infrastructure to encourage more intensive use of those services.
- STRATEGY 89.** Facilitate health and education facilities in major urban renewal precincts as an integral part of the region's social infrastructure network and economy.



Photo credit: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

DIRECTION 22.**Strengthen the Inner Metro Region's network of 20-minute neighbourhoods**

Having easy access from home to key services for day-to-day living has numerous benefits. It helps reduce social exclusion, improves health and wellbeing, promotes a sense of place, and reduces travel costs and traffic congestion thereby reducing carbon emissions. Many parts of the Inner Metro Region are already functioning well as 20-minute neighbourhoods as they are based on historic street patterns developed prior to the advent of car travel, and walkable and well-connected as a result. Some parts of the region exceed the principle of the 20-minute neighbourhood.

There is abundant ground level floorspace within existing activity centres across the Inner Metro Region which allows opportunities for small businesses to meet local shopping and service needs, including providing local employment opportunities. Many of the region's activity centres are well-located on high streets with good access via public transport, walking or cycling.

Planning for major urban renewal precincts, including Fishermans Bend, Arden, Macaulay, and potentially Dynon and E Gate, presents significant opportunities to respond to the principle of 20-minute neighbourhoods. Similarly, the planning and delivery of new or revitalised precincts around transport infrastructure such as the Metro Tunnel stations present opportunities for a place-based response that includes new public spaces and community facilities.

STRATEGY 90. Plan for existing and new activity centres to embed the 20-minute neighbourhood hallmarks, through a place-based, community partnership approach.

STRATEGY 91. Support a consistent designation of neighbourhood activity centres and their role in the network of activity centres across the Inner Metro Region.

STRATEGY 92. Support the role of neighbourhood activity centres to provide a range of retail, community and allied health services to their respective local catchments.

STRATEGY 93. Ensure the planning and design of urban renewal precincts and major transport infrastructure projects maximises opportunities to embed the hallmarks of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

**ACTIONS –
Strong communities**

ACTION 9. Develop a methodology for a social infrastructure strategy for the Inner Metro Region. This would consider social infrastructure such as libraries, multi-use community and recreation facilities, and assess how they can be used more flexibly and intensively. This could be a pilot project suitable for other regions.

