

CHAPTER 08

STRONG COMMUNITIES

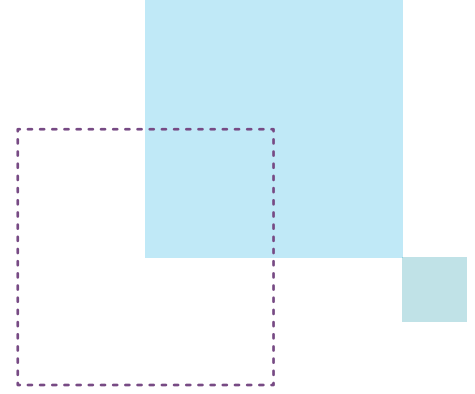


Plan Melbourne Outcome 5:
Melbourne is a city of
inclusive, vibrant and healthy
neighbourhoods

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



Photo credit: Tim Bell Studio



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 over 630,000 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. While parts of the Southern Metro Region which have good access to public and active transport are currently well placed to achieve this vision, it will be more challenging within the more sparsely populated Mornington Peninsula or outer eastern parts of the region.

State of play

Community profile

The Southern Metro Region is a culturally diverse community with 35 per cent of its population born overseas, comparable to the cultural diversity of metropolitan Melbourne as whole.

In 2016, 65.6 per cent of the region's population was born in Australia compared with 63.9 per cent for metropolitan Melbourne as a whole. Cultural diversity varies across the region. For example, 38.3 per cent of Greater Dandenong LGA residents were born in Australia and 31.8 per cent nominate English as their primary language. This contrasts with Cardinia, Frankston and Mornington Peninsula LGAs where between 77 and 81 per cent of all residents were born in Australia, and English is the primary language of more than 88 per cent of residents.

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) ranks local government areas according to their relative socio-economic disadvantage. The 2016 SEIFA rankings for the Southern Metro Region are shown in **Figure 23**.

The most disadvantaged LGA was the City of Greater Dandenong with a score of 896, making it the second most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria. Dandenong is characterised by a high number of new migrants and high levels of public housing.

In 2016 Kingston LGA had the lowest level of disadvantage in the Southern Metro Region with a SEIFA index score of 1044.0, ranking it 16th out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. Mornington Peninsula LGA had a score of 1030.0 ranking it at 21.

Health and education facilities

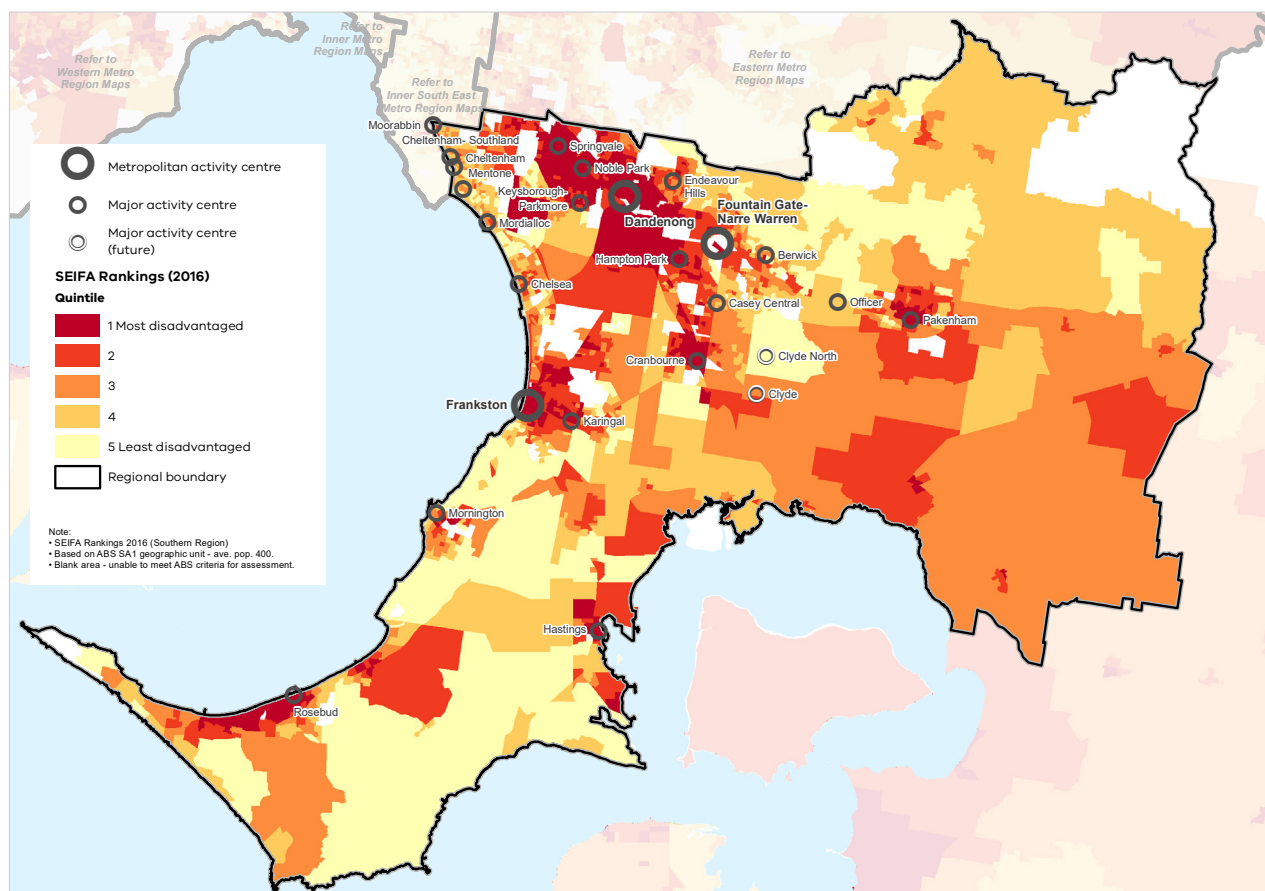
The Southern Metro Region is well serviced by health and education services in the east of the region, which includes the specialised co-location of major health and tertiary educational facilities in state-significant health and education precincts (**Table 14**).

The region has 10 public and 10 private hospitals. In addition to the health facilities noted in, other regionally-significant facilities include Kingston Centre (Moorabbin), Victorian Centre For Mental Health Nunyara Centre (Officer), Kooweerup Regional Health Service, St John Of God Berwick - Gibb St (Berwick), Berwick Surgicare, The Queen Elizabeth Centre (Noble Park), St John Of God Frankston Rehabilitation Hospital, Golf Links Road Rehabilitation Centre and Carinya Residential Aged Care (Frankston) and Peninsula Private Hospital (Frankston).

Expansions of health services in Dandenong and Frankston are anticipated to contribute to greater health outcomes for the regional population. However, there are fewer GP clinics and higher rates of attendance at GP clinics and emergency services than the metropolitan average (DELWP, 2017c, p. 9). Health concerns related to obesity and an ageing population will place pressure on existing services in the region (DELWP, 2017c, p. 9).

In terms of education, the Southern Metro Region also has 150 government primary schools and 37 government secondary schools (DELWP, 2017c, p. 26). There are two tertiary institutions – Monash University in Frankston and Deakin University in Dandenong. Federation University is a dual-sector university offering tertiary and TAFE courses at its Berwick campus. There are two TAFE institutions, Holmesglen and Chisholm, with a total of seven sites across the region. Child and youth education engagement and retention continues to be a focus for the region.

FIGURE 23. SEIFA rankings (2016) in the Southern Metro Region



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.

There are contrasts between established urban areas in Kingston, Dandenong and Frankston LGAs and outer suburbs in Cardinia and Casey LGAs, with the latter experiencing rapid urban development leading to additional services and infrastructure needs.

The Southern Metro Region features a range of cultural, sporting and recreational options for residents. Arts and cultural community facilities include the Drum, Kingston Arts Centre, Bunjil Place and Frankston Arts Centre as well as a range of galleries. These assets are highly valued by residents and visitors.

The Southern Metro Region is home to approximately 50 major and regional level recreation facilities which serve both the local population and visitors, and provide for a wide range of sporting and active recreational opportunities.

Casey Fields is a 70-hectare regional sports complex, located in Cranbourne East, and the largest state-level facility. The Casey Complex,

approximately 2 kilometres to the north of Casey Fields, is a major cultural facility that provides indoor sporting and cultural events. Other major sporting and active recreational assets include the National Water Sports Centre in Bangholme, State Volleyball Centre in Dandenong, State Mountain Bike Course at Lysterfield Park and Moorabbin Oval. In addition, there is a network of regional and local aquatic centres, stadiums, courts and sports grounds (DELWP, 2017c, p. 34).

Racecourses and horseriding are also popular recreational activities within the Southern Metro Region and regional level facilities are located in Mornington, Cranbourne and Balnarring.

The sandy soils of the Southern Metro Region are well suited to golf course construction. Some of the region's 'sandbelt' golf courses are of international renown, including Peninsula, Commonwealth, Kingston Health, Kingswood Country Club and Mornington golf courses.

Regional justice infrastructure within the Southern Metro Region includes three Magistrates' Courts, six Community Corrections Locations and four Justice Service Centres. Family violence and crimes against children continue to be a challenge for community services in the region (DELWP, 2017c, p. 28).

Regional strengths

- In areas such as Dandenong, Frankston and Berwick, co-located health and education facilities are supported by access to existing public transport infrastructure and can accommodate future investment.
- Within growth areas, there are opportunities to secure land and plan for public purposes such as community facilities.
- Regionally-significant health and education precincts present opportunities as hubs for health, education and community services to meet the needs of residents in established and growth areas.
- Hallmarks of 20-minute neighbourhoods can be more easily achieved in the established areas which are well connected by public and active transport modes.

Regional challenges

- There is an uneven distribution of primary health, education and community services to respond to the needs of existing residents and the growing population.
- Providing new or expanded sporting and recreation facilities to service the growing population in the middle ring suburbs is difficult due to land constraints.
- Achieving the hallmarks of 20-minute neighbourhoods in growth areas, where public and active transport connections are dispersed, is an ongoing priority.

Directions and strategies

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

Direction 21	Plan for major social infrastructure at a regional level
Direction 22	Deliver health and education services in strategic locations
Direction 23	Support a network of activity centres to anchor 20-minute neighbourhoods across the Southern Metro Region

Each direction is implemented through regionally-specific strategies identified in this LUFP.






Map 8 shows how strong communities will be enhanced across the Southern 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 8. Southern Metro Region strong communities 2050




Precincts and Activity Centres

-  National employment & innovation cluster (NEIC)[^]
-  Metropolitan activity centre
-  Major activity centre
-  Health & education precinct (state)
-  Health & education precinct (regional)
-  Health precinct (regional)
-  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

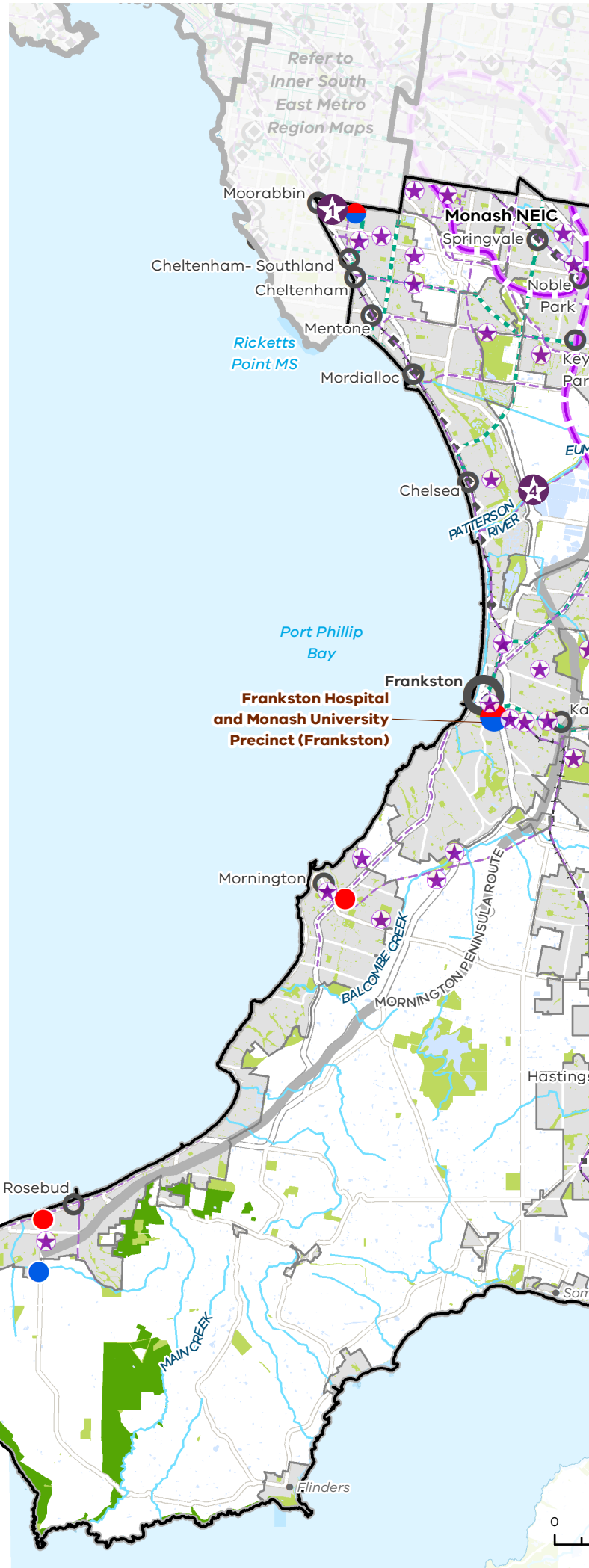
-  PPTN station
-  PPTN interchange
-  Bus

Environment

-  National park/state park
-  Public open space
-  Marine/coastal national parks and reserves
-  Waterway
-  Waterbody

Land use/Administration

-  Regional boundary
-  Growth area
-  Urban area
-  Urban growth boundary

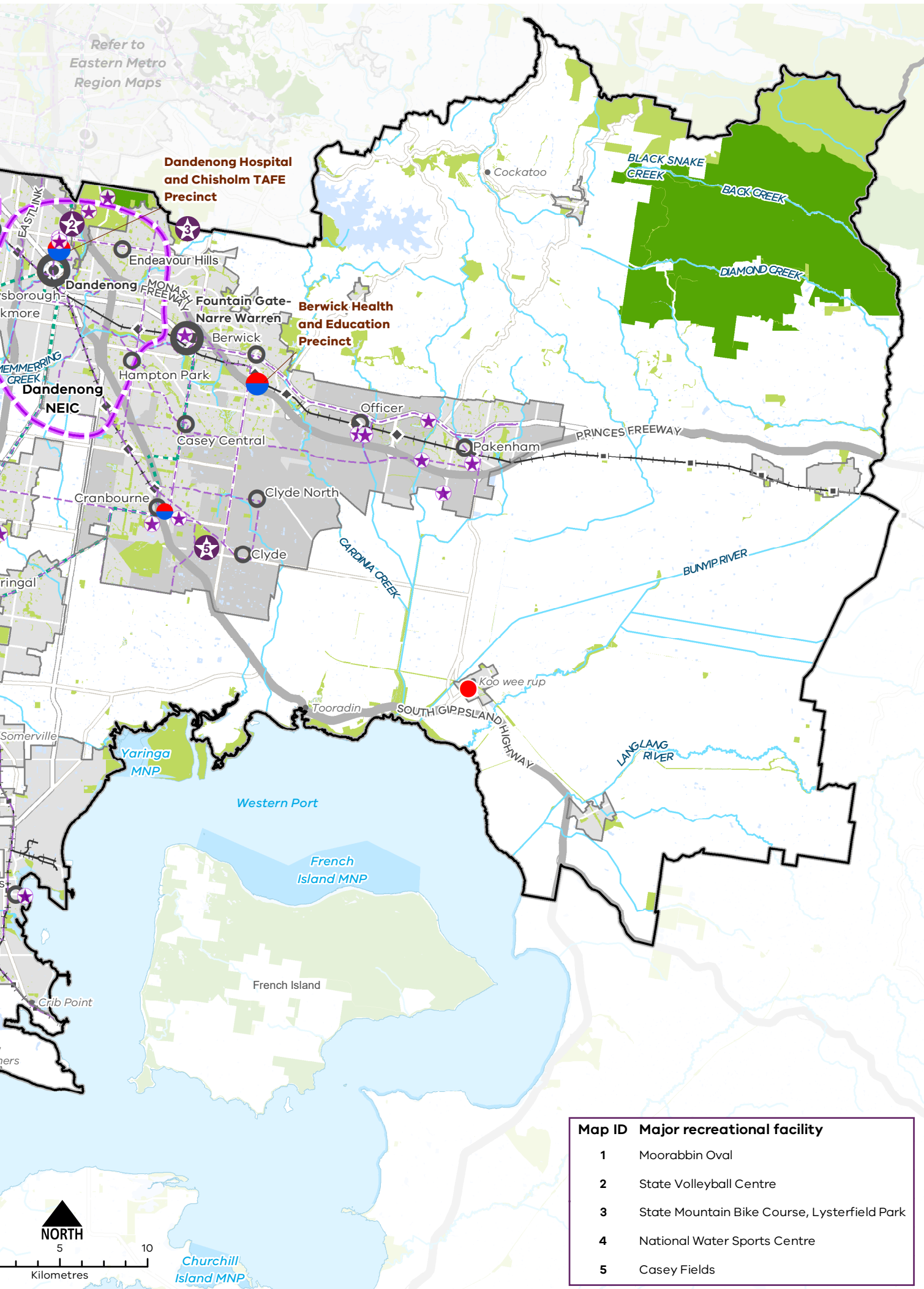


[^]NEIC boundary is indicative only and subject to detailed planning.

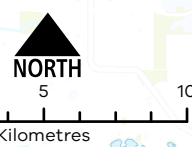
Note:

A regional health precinct is also identified for the new Pakenham Community Hospital, location yet to be determined.





Map ID	Major recreational facility
1	Moorabbin Oval
2	State Volleyball Centre
3	State Mountain Bike Course, Lysterfield Park
4	National Water Sports Centre
5	Casey Fields



DIRECTION 21. **Plan for major social infrastructure at a regional level**

Planning from a regional perspective requires coordination between different levels of government to acknowledge that local councils plan for local infrastructure such as kindergartens, while the Victorian Government plans for state-level services such as government schools.

There is current variation in terms of access to social infrastructure across the Southern Metro Region, with the growth areas on average experiencing higher than anticipated density and household sizes. This is creating demand pressure on existing and planned social infrastructure that will require ongoing monitoring and adjustment to address demand.

There is an opportunity to enhance and diversify the role and activity of regionally-significant health and education precincts as regional focal points for communities in the Southern Metro Region. Planning for social infrastructure should prioritise locations within existing health and education precincts accessible by a range of transport options. This will also help achieve the hallmarks of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Local-scale services, such as maternal and child health through to aged care and cemeteries, should be considered in the precinct planning for growth corridors and on major redevelopment sites (sites to which a PSP applies). Memorial parks can create a garden setting for cemetery services with a landscaped asset for the area.

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.

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, opportunities for community connection and active transport, helps foster long-term community wellbeing.

STRATEGY 65. 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 66. Locate social infrastructure near activity centres and to be accessible by walking, cycling or public transport.

STRATEGY 67. Support regional planning that will provide for a range of sporting and active recreation facilities to meet the needs of the growing population, within existing urban areas and growth areas.

STRATEGY 68. Support the upgrade and expansion of existing social infrastructure to enable it to be more flexibly and intensively used.

STRATEGY 69. Facilitate a regionally coordinated approach to planning for 'whole-of-life-cycle' social infrastructure (excluding schools) for new communities within growth areas.

STRATEGY 70. Encourage utilisation of public land such as school grounds or golf courses for open space, recreation activities or trail connections by providing community access at times and in ways that do not jeopardise their primary purpose.

DIRECTION 22.**Deliver health and education services in strategic locations**

A key issue for the Southern Metro Region is to ensure established and new health infrastructure is appropriately positioned to respond to growing communities, especially in greenfield areas around Cranbourne, Clyde, Pakenham and Officer. Additional residential aged care capacity will be required to provide for an expanding and ageing population in Melbourne's South Eastern Growth Corridor.

In the Southern Metropolitan Region there is an opportunity to connect health and education precincts to develop a regional network of facilities that provide a regional focal point, address gaps in service provision and meet the needs of a growing population. Local neighbourhood services and facilities also contribute to a broader network of health and education provision.

Plan Melbourne identifies state-significant health and/or education precincts to support health and education services that are well served by public transport in a range of locations across Melbourne. Regionally-significant health and/or education precincts in the region (Table 14) 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.

An expansion of the Frankston Hospital will meet the growing needs of the area. Community hospitals will be constructed in Pakenham and Cranbourne to provide access to in-demand medical services closer to home. Community hospitals will provide a broad range of ambulatory hospital, community health and social care services in one place, making it easier for users to receive care closer to home. Following the delivery of these hospitals, an investigation should be undertaken to determine if they meet the service needs of residents of Cardinia, with subsequent planning to support gaps in service provision.

Population growth is also expected to fuel demand for both university courses and vocational training. Continual monitoring and assessment of the capacity of existing infrastructure to meet this need is essential.

STRATEGY 71. Strengthen the role of the health and/or education precincts of the Southern 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 72. Expand the network of health and/or 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 73. Support the upgrade of existing health and education infrastructure to allow for more intensive use of those services.

STRATEGY 74. Ensure the early provision of health and education facilities and precincts in the South Eastern Growth Corridor to support the needs of new communities. Locate these facilities or precincts within or near activity centres to maximise the benefits of colocation with ancillary land uses.

TABLE 14. State-significant and regionally-significant health and/or education precincts

STATE-SIGNIFICANT HEALTH AND EDUCATION PRECINCT	REGIONALLY-SIGNIFICANT HEALTH AND EDUCATION PRECINCT
<p>Frankston Hospital and Monash University Precinct (Frankston)</p> <p>Casey Hospital and Monash University Precinct (Berwick)</p> <p>Dandenong Hospital and Chisholm TAFE Precinct</p>	<p>Cranbourne Integrated Care Centre and Chisholm Institute of TAFE (Cranbourne)</p> <p>Holmesglen Private Hospital and Holmesglen Institute of TAFE (Moorabbin)</p>
	REGIONALLY-SIGNIFICANT HEALTH PRECINCT
	<p>Rosebud Hospital and allied health services (Rosebud)</p> <p>Peninsula Health, the Bays Hospital, Beleura Private Hospital (Mornington)</p> <p>Kooweerup Regional Health Service</p> <p>Pakenham Community Hospital (proposed)</p>
	REGIONALLY-SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION PRECINCT
	<p>Chisholm Institute of TAFE (Rosebud)</p>



Photo credit: Tim Bell Studio

DIRECTION 23.**Support a network of activity centres to anchor 20-minute neighbourhoods across the Southern Metro Region**

All activity centres in the Southern Metro Region play a role in terms of enabling 20-minute neighbourhoods. While neighbourhood activity centres play a local role, larger metropolitan and major activity centres service a wider catchment and play a wider role in terms of providing more local jobs and services.

A varied response will be needed across the Southern Metro Region to create 20-minute neighbourhoods. There is an opportunity to look for more innovative ways to connect people in lower-density suburbs to activity centres, services, recreation and cultural facilities.

A regionally consistent designation of neighbourhood activity centres will enable a network of 20-minute neighbourhoods where gaps in service provision can be identified and planned for, allowing for the prioritisation of investment. This is particularly important where centres straddle regional or council boundaries.

The timely delivery of new infrastructure and services, including a coordinated effort across all tiers of government, will be critical to achieving 20-minute neighbourhoods, including partnerships with private providers to deliver regional-scale infrastructure in growth areas. Place-based planning of local development, services, infrastructure and destinations will maximise the benefits of investment in new transport infrastructure. These opportunities need to be carefully considered as part of the planning and delivery of precincts around the SRL station at Cheltenham Precinct.

A 20-minute neighbourhood pilot program, initiated in 2020, identified place-based planning and community partnerships as an important component of achieving the hallmarks of 20-minute neighbourhoods. Work is underway to develop guidance tools for local councils in designating neighbourhood activity centres.

STRATEGY 75. Plan for existing and new activity centres to embed the 20-minute neighbourhood hallmarks, through a place-based, community partnership approach. This includes new activity centres within the South Eastern Growth Corridor.

STRATEGY 76. Support a consistent designation of neighbourhood activity centres and their role in the network of activity centres across the Southern Metro Region.

STRATEGY 77. Embed the 20-minute neighbourhood hallmarks in planning within the catchment of major infrastructure projects.

STRATEGY 78. Support the role of neighbourhood activity centres to provide retail, community and allied health services to their respective local catchments.

**ACTIONS –
Strong communities**

ACTION 13. Investigate the need for aged care services and facilities and identify planning considerations in their delivery.

ACTION 14. Review the breadth of tertiary education offerings and the location of higher educational facilities to ensure they meet local and regional needs.