

CHAPTER 08

STRONG COMMUNITIES

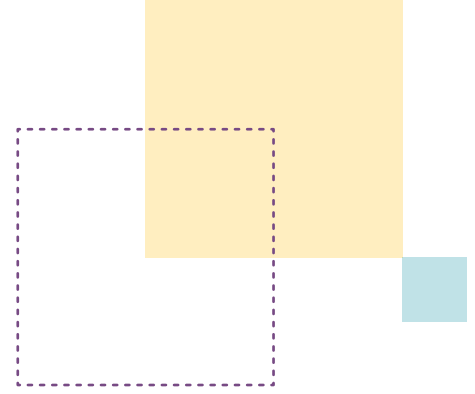


Plan Melbourne Outcome 5:
Melbourne is a city of
inclusive, vibrant and healthy
neighbourhoods

The Inner South East Metro Region has many of the key attributes of strong, inclusive and healthy communities. This plan will ensure it continues to do so by providing community services, open space, hospitals, educational and cultural institutions, and transport infrastructure that keeps pace with a projected increase in population to 784,040 by 2051.



Photo credit: Tim Bell Studio



Taking a regional approach to planning will ensure social infrastructure and open space services the widest possible catchment and cross-section of people. 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.

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 South East Metro Region is well placed to achieve this vision.

State of play

Community profile

The Inner South East Metro Region is a culturally diverse community. Around 46 per cent of the region's population was born overseas, which is 10 per cent higher than the metropolitan Melbourne average. Prevalent countries of origin for people in the region who were born overseas are China, United Kingdom and India, which is similar to metropolitan Melbourne. However, the region has the lowest Aboriginal population of the metropolitan regions of around 1000 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016).

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) ranks LGAs according to their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The 2016 SEIFA rankings for the Inner South East Metro Region are shown in **Figure 18**.

Compared to metropolitan Melbourne, LGAs that make up the Inner South East Metro Region have higher levels of economic advantage. In 2016 SEIFA ranked Boroondara as the municipality with the highest social economic advantage in Victoria, with Bayside, Stonnington and Glen Eira within the top six. This high ranking can be attributed to many factors including almost half of the adults within the region holding a Bachelor degree or higher (47.2 per cent) compared to 27.5 per cent across metropolitan Melbourne. Educational attainment levels are generally indicative of broader socio-economic characteristic and reinforce the relative socio-economic affluence of the region.

Health and education facilities

The Inner South East Metro Region does not contain any state-significant health precincts although many of these within adjoining regions can be easily accessed. This includes Box Hill Hospital, Alfred Hospital, Monash Medical Centre, Epworth Richmond and St Vincent's Fitzroy which are located just outside the region.

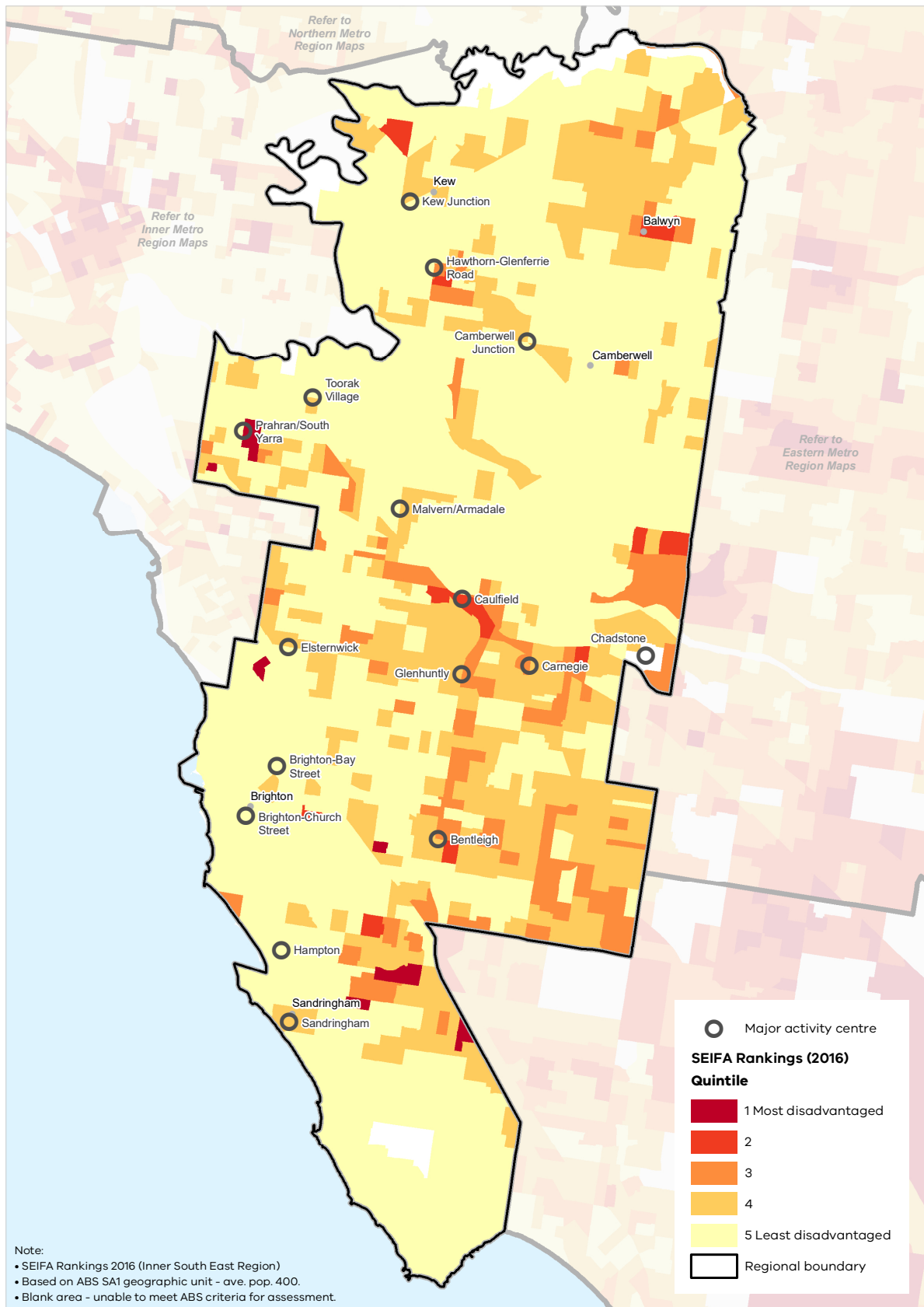
Within the region there are 43 health facilities of different types, both public and private. These include local-scale facilities associated with major hospitals, day hospitals, rehabilitation services and medical centres. Major health facilities include Sandringham Hospital, Epworth Hawthorn, Cabrini Malvern and Caulfield General Medical Centre. These facilities and precincts provide jobs and services to surrounding neighbourhoods and support the development of 20-minute neighbourhoods. Given its relatively small size, the Inner South East Metro Region is well served by a wide range of health facilities.

At a tertiary education level, the region is dominated by Monash University's Caulfield campus and Swinburne University in Hawthorn, both of which are education precincts of state significance. These institutions are close to the Caulfield Major Activity Centre and Hawthorn-Glenferrie Road Major Activity Centre respectively.

TAFE is represented in the Inner South East Metro Region with the Melbourne Polytechnic campus in Prahran and Holmesglen TAFE Chadstone, on the eastern edge of the region.

The Inner South East Metro Region has approximately 52 government primary schools and 13 government secondary schools and also features a range of private schools. Many of the campuses contain individually listed heritage buildings and extensive gardens, complementing the existing streetscapes of this region.

FIGURE 18. SEIFA rankings (2016) in the Inner South East 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.

The Inner South East Metro Region has a diversity of cultural, sporting and recreational facilities.

In terms of sport and active recreation, the region includes the major recreation facilities of the State Fencing Centre (Kew East), Victorian Weightlifting Centre (Hawthorn) and the Gymnastics High Performance Centre (Windsor).

Other regional recreation facilities include sports grounds and complexes, aquatic centres and tennis courts situated in each municipality. The Caulfield Racecourse is an important regional facility and the region is also home to several sand belt golf courses which combined cover an area of 175 hectares.

However, given the growing population, sporting infrastructure and active open space is considered to be at, or close to, capacity.

The end of horse training at Caulfield Racecourse by 2023 will make 23 hectares of Crown land available for public open space and recreation. This area is proposed to be used for both indoor and outdoor sporting and active recreation facilities and to enhance walking and cycling connectivity within the reserve and the region.

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, recreation and active transport is central to fostering long-term community wellbeing.

Regional strengths

- The region is home to two state-level tertiary education campuses and is well serviced by a variety of recreation facilities.
- There is an opportunity to expand and diversify the uses of existing social infrastructure in innovative ways to meet the needs of the community.
- While there is no state health facility within the region, there are numerous regional facilities and good access to state facilities close by.
- The region is well-placed to achieve the hallmarks of 20-minute neighbourhoods, based around its many major and neighbourhood activity centres that cater for a wide range of daily needs and are accessible by public transport.

Regional challenges

- Additional facilities for sport or active recreation will need to be provided to meet the needs of the future population.

Directions and strategies

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

Direction 16	Plan for major social infrastructure at a regional level
Direction 17	Deliver health and education services in strategic locations
Direction 18	Support a regional network of activity centres to anchor 20-minute neighbourhoods across the Inner South East Metro Region

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 South East 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 South East Metro Region strong communities 2050

Precincts and Activity Centres

- Major activity centre
- Education precinct (state)
- Health precinct (regional)
- Education precinct (regional)
- ★ Major recreational facility
- ★ Regional recreational facility

Transport

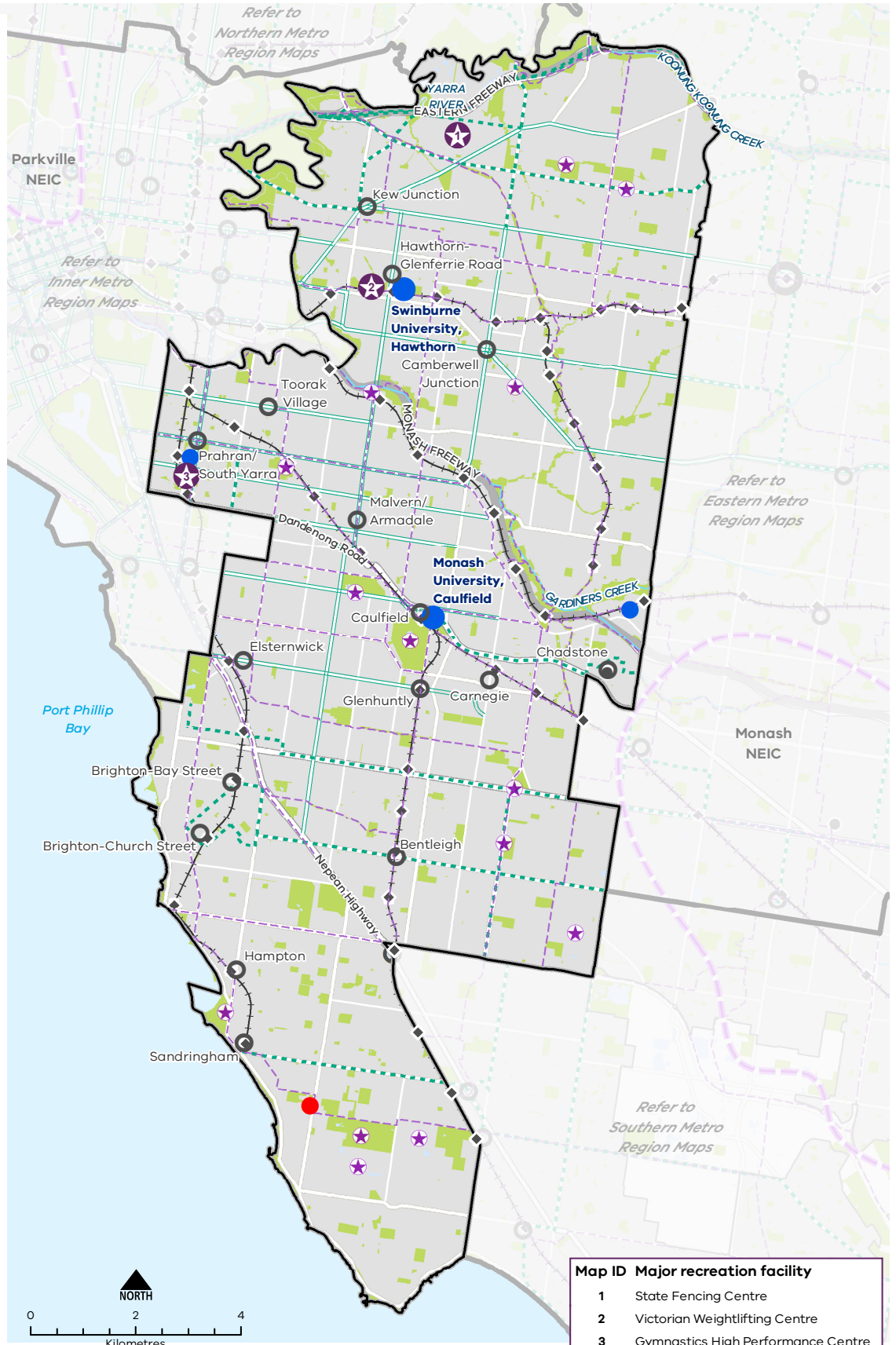
- State-significant road corridor
- Road network
- Train station
- Rail network
- Strategic Cycling Corridors
- Principal Public Transport Network
- ◆ PPTN station
- PPTN interchange
- Bus
- Tram

Environment

- Public open space
- Waterway
- Waterbody

Land use/Administration

- ▭ Regional boundary
- Urban area



DIRECTION 16.**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.

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

- Early years services
- Medical and 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.

The Inner South East Metro Region is currently well serviced by performing art centres, museums, community halls, aquatic facilities, public gardens and outdoor sports grounds. However, many of these assets were designed for a single purpose, require refurbishment and are unlikely to adequately meet the projected future needs of the community. Community infrastructure will need to continue meeting the needs of an ageing population to enable residents to reside in the region.

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.

With significant competition for land, a new approach will be needed to optimise the delivery of community infrastructure while maintaining existing community character and a sense of place.

STRATEGY 48. Encourage planning for major social infrastructure (such as libraries, cultural centres or community hubs) to be undertaken in conjunction with neighbouring regions to maximise co-location of facilities.

STRATEGY 49. Locate social infrastructure near activity centres and to be accessible by walking, cycling or public transport.

STRATEGY 50. Support the upgrade and expansion of social infrastructure to enable it to be more flexibly and intensively used.

STRATEGY 51. 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.

STRATEGY 52. Support regional planning that will provide for a range of sporting and active recreation facilities to meet the needs of the growing population.

DIRECTION 17.**Deliver health and education services in strategic locations**

The Inner South East Metro Region comprises a number of smaller-scale health providers. To accommodate the anticipated demand for health and educational facilities, existing infrastructure will need to be updated or relocated to hubs that encourage synergies between uses. A significant portion of this demand can be accommodated through upgrading, expanding and diversifying existing services in proximity to the PPTN and educational institutions associated with the relevant health providers.

Plan Melbourne identifies state-significant health and/or education precincts. Regionally-significant health and/or education precincts (Table 9) 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 for activity centres, and health and education precincts, should consider their role as part of the broader network of public and private community service providers. Health infrastructure should be planned at a regional level so these facilities serve the widest possible catchment and most appropriate demographic.

STRATEGY 53. Strengthen the role of the health and/or education precincts of the Inner South East 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 54. 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 55. Support the upgrade of existing health and education infrastructure to allow for more intensive use of those services.

STRATEGY 56. Acknowledge and respond to land use interface impacts between health and education facilities and neighbouring uses and utilise site-specific master planning to set clear parameters for future development.

TABLE 9. State-significant and regionally-significant health and/or education precincts

STATE-SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION PRECINCT	REGIONALLY-SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION PRECINCT
Swinburne University (Hawthorn) Monash University (Caulfield)	Holmesglen Institute of TAFE (Chadstone) Melbourne Polytechnic (Prahran)
	REGIONALLY-SIGNIFICANT HEALTH PRECINCT
	Sandringham Hospital

DIRECTION 18.**Support a regional network of activity centres to anchor 20-minute neighbourhoods across the Inner South East Metro Region**

The 20-minute neighbourhood is about 'living locally' and giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle or public transport trip from home. A 20-minute neighbourhood is integral to providing a more cohesive and inclusive community and a vibrant local economy.

The Inner South East Metro Region is well placed to adopt the 20-minute neighbourhood, given its relatively small size, its extensive rail and tram network and the proximity of most residents to activity centres and corridors whether they be of a major or neighbourhood scale. Due to the region's pre-automobile era of settlement, most people live close to transport or an activity centre, making it possible for residents to meet most daily needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle or public transport trip from home.

Major and neighbourhood activity centres are crucial to this vision. These centres serve the immediate needs of the local community by providing small supermarkets, specialised shops, cafés and service businesses. Many activity centres within the Inner South East Metro Region are located close to tram stops or railway stations. Housing strategies prepared by each of the region's LGAs recognise that activity centres, including neighbourhood activity centres, provide opportunities for greater density that underpins the 20-minute neighbourhood principle. Planning for neighbourhood activity centres should support their economic viability while also encourage greater residential development.

The Inner South East Metro Region includes numerous neighbourhood activity centres of varying size and function such as Canterbury Village, Martin Street in Gardenvale, Alma Village, Auburn Village, Murrumbena and McKinnon. Many of these are located close to public transport and provide a retail presence. Place-based planning for new developments will support the retention of the existing character of these centres and provide opportunities for community engagement and partnerships to ensure a sense of place is retained.

STRATEGY 57. Plan for existing and new activity centres to embed the 20-minute neighbourhood hallmarks, through a place-based, community partnership approach.

STRATEGY 58. Support a consistent designation of neighbourhood activity centres and their role in the network of activity centres across the Inner South East Metro Region.

STRATEGY 59. Support the role of neighbourhood activity centres to provide a range of retail, social infrastructure and allied health services to their respective local catchments.

STRATEGY 60. 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 10. Map all schools, golf courses, tertiary campuses and other large land holdings across the region to identify opportunities for shared use agreements of open space/sporting facilities out of hours.