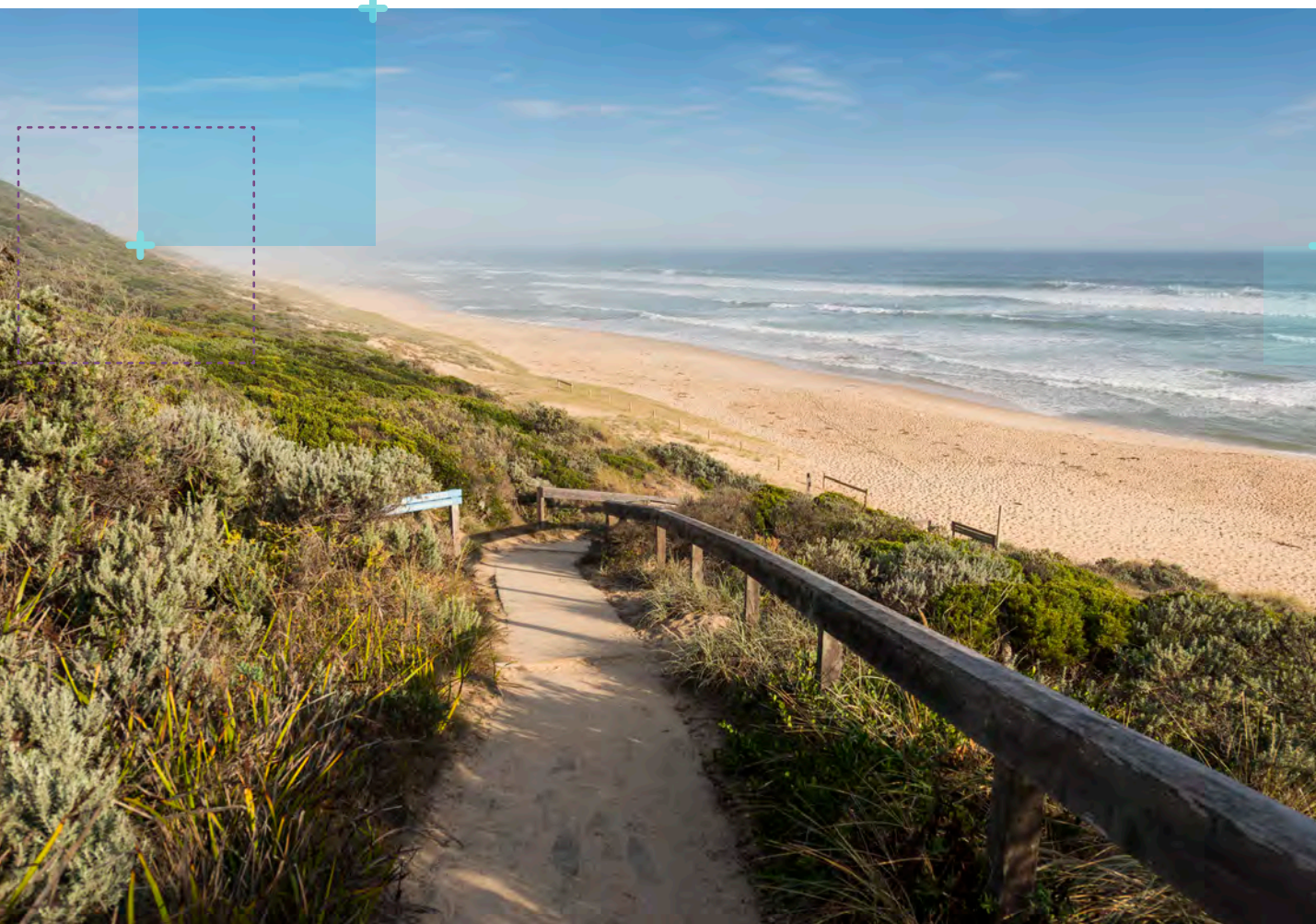


CHAPTER 07 LIVEABILITY



**Plan Melbourne Outcome 4:
Melbourne is a distinctive and
liveable city with quality design
and amenity**

'Liveability' is about the things that enhance people's quality of life. For many years Melbourne has been regarded as one of the world's most liveable cities due to its social and economic stability, diverse communities, distinctive heritage, high level of amenity and the opportunities it provides for a rich social and cultural life.



Plan Melbourne aims to maintain and extend the city's liveability by celebrating its culture, diversity and distinctiveness. The challenge ahead is to design and plan for a future city that protects the best aspects of the natural and built environment, supports social and cultural diversity, and creates a strong sense of place.

The Southern Metro Region is renowned for its distinctive and varied landscapes, which have high amenity, tourism and biodiversity values. The region has high cultural significance for Aboriginal people and a rich post-European settlement heritage. Its regional-scale open spaces include the coastlines of Western Port and Port Phillip bays and the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges. It is important for these natural and cultural values to be protected into the future.

State of play

Landscapes and biodiversity

The Southern Metro Region is defined by its varied and scenic landscapes which extend from the Dandenong Ranges to the coastlines of Port Phillip and Western Port bays. The region includes popular beaches, rolling coastal hinterlands and low-lying swamps and wetlands. Picturesque pastoral lands and mountain foothills feature within the central and northern part of the region. These landscapes are intrinsic to the region's identity, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

The region's key landscapes and biodiversity areas are described in **Table 13**.

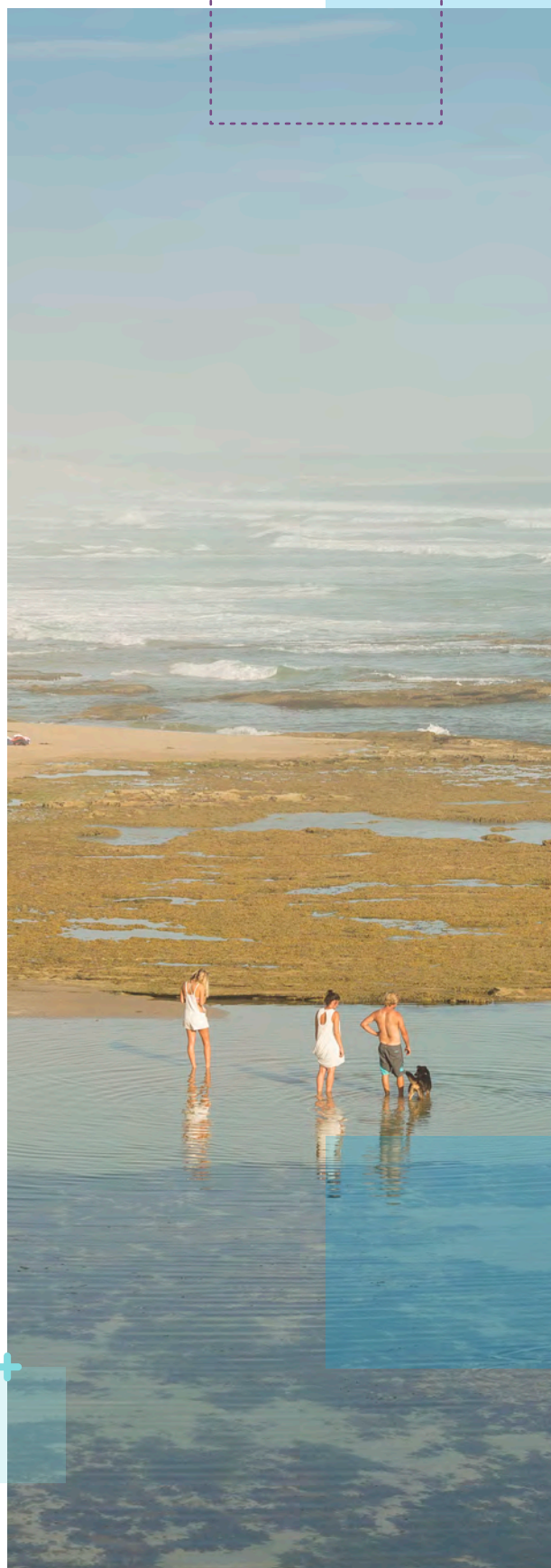


TABLE 13. Key landscapes and biodiversity areas in the Southern Metro Region

LANDSCAPE AND BIODIVERSITY AREA	SIGNIFICANCE, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT
Mornington Peninsula	<p>The entire Mornington Peninsula is designated as a landscape of state significance and protected through a Localised Planning Statement incorporated into the Planning Scheme.</p> <p>Both the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port are included within a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve as a coastal region of vast and relatively undisturbed mudflats with salt marsh vegetation. The area encompasses the LGAs of Mornington Peninsula and parts of Frankston, Casey and Cardinia LGAs.</p> <p>The Mornington Peninsula includes several declared conservation reserves: Mornington Peninsula National Park, Point Nepean National Park, Arthurs Seat State Park, Devilbend Natural Features Reserve and Greens Bush.</p>
Port Phillip Bay and Western Port coastline	<p>The Southern Metro Region includes the largest area of coastline within metropolitan Melbourne. It comprises a mix of suburban beaches, conservation areas and foreshore recreation/tourism areas. The coastline extends across Kingston, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Casey and Cardinia LGAs.</p>
Churchill National Park, Lysterfield Park and Dandenong Police Paddocks	<p>These reserves form an extensive network of open spaces extending through the established urban areas and green wedges of Casey LGA into the Eastern Metro Region. They comprise a mix of remnant bushland and active recreation areas.</p>
Mountain foothills and forests	<p>The region's eastern green wedges include conservation areas around the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges and Great Dividing Range. This includes Kurth Kiln Regional Park, Bunyip State Park and Beenak State Forest, parts of which are located within Casey LGA, extending into the Eastern Metro Region.</p>
Waterways	<p>The Southern Metro Region features a network of creek corridors throughout its green wedges, growth corridor and urban areas. This includes Kananook Creek, Clyde Creek, Cardinia Creek, Gum Scrub Creek, Mordialloc Creek, Dandenong Creek and Toomuc Creek. These waterways provide significant habitat for land and aquatic species and in many places form part of the existing, or potential future, connected open space system.</p>
Wetlands	<p>Western Port supports extensive wetlands which are designated as Ramsar wetlands of international biodiversity significance.</p> <p>Situated on Port Phillip Bay, Edithvale-Seaford wetlands is the largest natural wetland of its type in the Port Phillip and Westernport basins and is designated as a Ramsar wetlands. Tootgarook wetlands is a groundwater-dependent, freshwater wetland.</p>

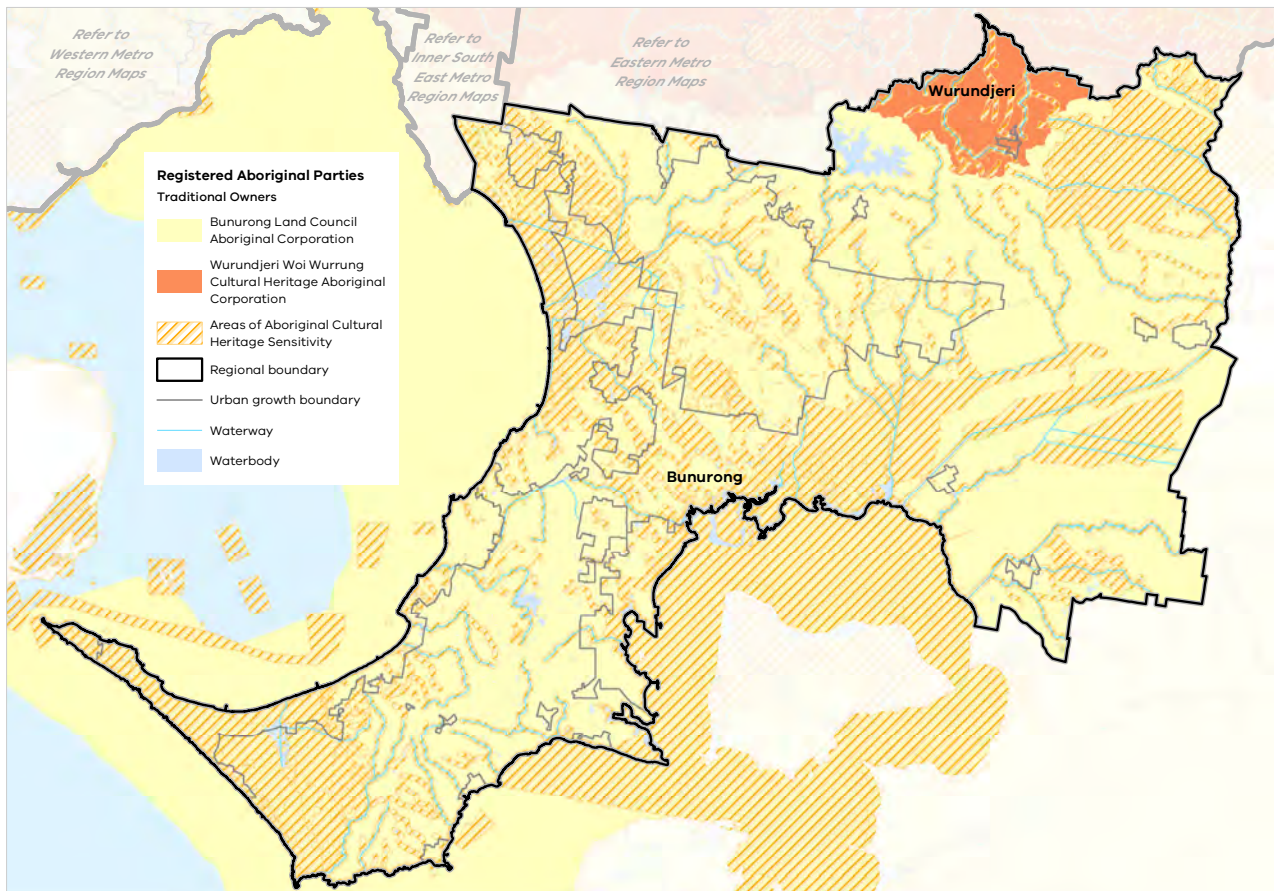
Aboriginal cultural heritage

The lands and waterways that now make up the Southern Metro Region feature places and waterways of cultural significance and continuing connection for Traditional Owners as shown in Figure 20. The Bunurong people, represented by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, is the Registered Aboriginal Party for most of the

Southern Metro Region. The Wurundjeri people, represented by Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, is the Registered Aboriginal Party for a small area in the northern part of the region.

Registered Aboriginal Parties have responsibility to protect cultural heritage assets under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

FIGURE 20. Southern Metro Region Aboriginal cultural heritage



Heritage and visitor places

The Southern Metro Region is characterised by a diverse range of post-European settlement heritage and visitor places. Early settlements appeared along the coastline. Within inland areas the region's rich soils promoted agriculture while forestry also became a major activity. The growth of Melbourne, and particularly the construction of railroads in the second half of the 19th century, promoted the outward expansion of suburban settlement and the development of the region's 'railway towns'. Post-war industrial development and shipping drove economic and employment growth in the 20th century. Today, many of the region's townships along the railway line and the coast are part of the Greater Melbourne urban area.

Heritage protection is provided to individual properties, streets and precincts within the region and these places are integral to its character and identity today. There are over 70 places of state heritage significance listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, as shown in **Map 7**, which include lighthouses, homesteads and pastoral runs, civic halls, train stations, schools and avenues of honour.

The region's natural assets, particularly the coastline and ranges, as well as its history and heritage are major visitor attractors.

Key visitor and community places in the region include:

- Point Nepean National Park, which is a recognised cultural landscape for its Aboriginal cultural heritage values and its quarantine station (the site is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register)
- Historic settlements and tourist townships such as Red Hill, Mount Martha, Portsea, Flinders and Sorrento
- Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, which provides 363 hectares of native and indigenous plants, and is connected by a metropolitan trail to sporting facilities at Casey Fields
- Puffing Billy Railway in the Dandenong Ranges
- Buddhist Temples in Springvale
- Cruden Farm and McClelland Sculpture Park in Langwarrin
- Dandenong Town Hall, constructed in 1890.

Open space and regional trails

Residents of the Southern Metro Region have varying levels of access to open space depending on where they live. Cardinia LGA and Casey LGA provide the highest level of open space, between 80 and 88 square metres per capita, which is much higher than the metropolitan average of 57.5 square metres. Frankston, Greater Dandenong, Kingston and Mornington Peninsula LGAs provide a much lower amount of open space of between 38 and 58 square metres per capita (VPA, 2017). Open space per person within each LGA of the region is shown in **Figure 21** and open space across metropolitan Melbourne is shown in **Figure 22**.

While the quantity of open space is one measure of provision, the function, mix, quality, accessibility and proximity of open space also need to be considered.

Key regional open spaces include the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne Gardens, Clyde Regional Park, Casey Fields, and linear parklands along creek corridors such as Cardinia Creek Parklands. The region also benefits from extensive informal open spaces within its national and state parks and along the coastline.

Additional public open space will be required across the Southern Metro Region to accommodate anticipated population growth. The metropolitan open space strategy *Open Space for Everyone: Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2020* identifies a number of regional open space initiatives for the Southern Metro Region:

- The proposed Frankston to Mornington Parklands will link 1881 hectares of park and reserves between Seaford Wetlands and Mornington
- The Chain of Parks project will, over time, convert historic landfills into a series of linked parks from Moorabbin to Dingley providing a core area of 355 hectares of parkland and over 10 kilometres of linked cycling and pedestrian paths designed to connect Braeside Park and Karkarook Park, and provide secondary trails and links to the surrounding community
- The proposed Clyde Regional Park (120 hectares, co-located with the Melbourne Water retarding basin) and Cardinia Creek South Parkland (508 hectares) will each provide regional open space with active recreation and sporting facilities within this growth area
- Upgrades to the Seaford Wetlands to support environmental protection and public access, including improved walking paths and facilities, landscaping and environmental works.

A review of public racecourses is also proposed, which will examine ways of optimising the public use of this land for other recreational opportunities.



Photo credit: Tim Bell Studio

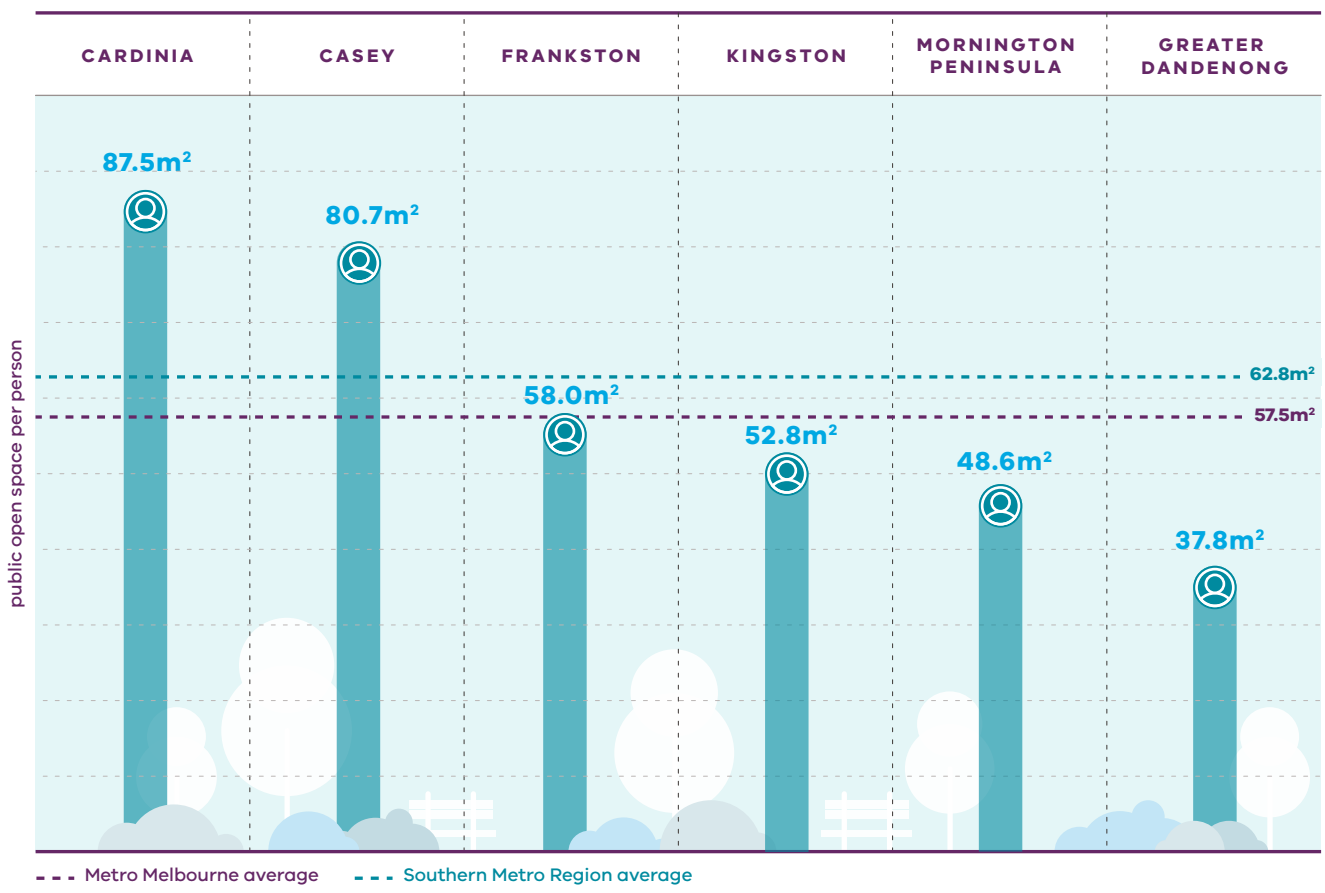
The Southern Metro Region has an extensive network of interconnected trails used by pedestrians and cyclists for commuting and recreational purposes, including horseriding. Trails are located along Eastlink, Peninsula Link and Dandenong Creek. When existing missing links are completed along The Bay Trail, it will provide an off-road network of cycling paths from Kingston to suburbs further afield throughout the north, west and east of metropolitan Melbourne.

Djerring Trail which is a linear parkland with a shared trail connecting Monash Caulfield Campus to the Eastlink Trail in Dandenong.

Local councils within the region have each prepared bicycle and/or pedestrian strategies to prioritise works on existing and proposed bicycle pathways to enhance connections to services throughout the region.

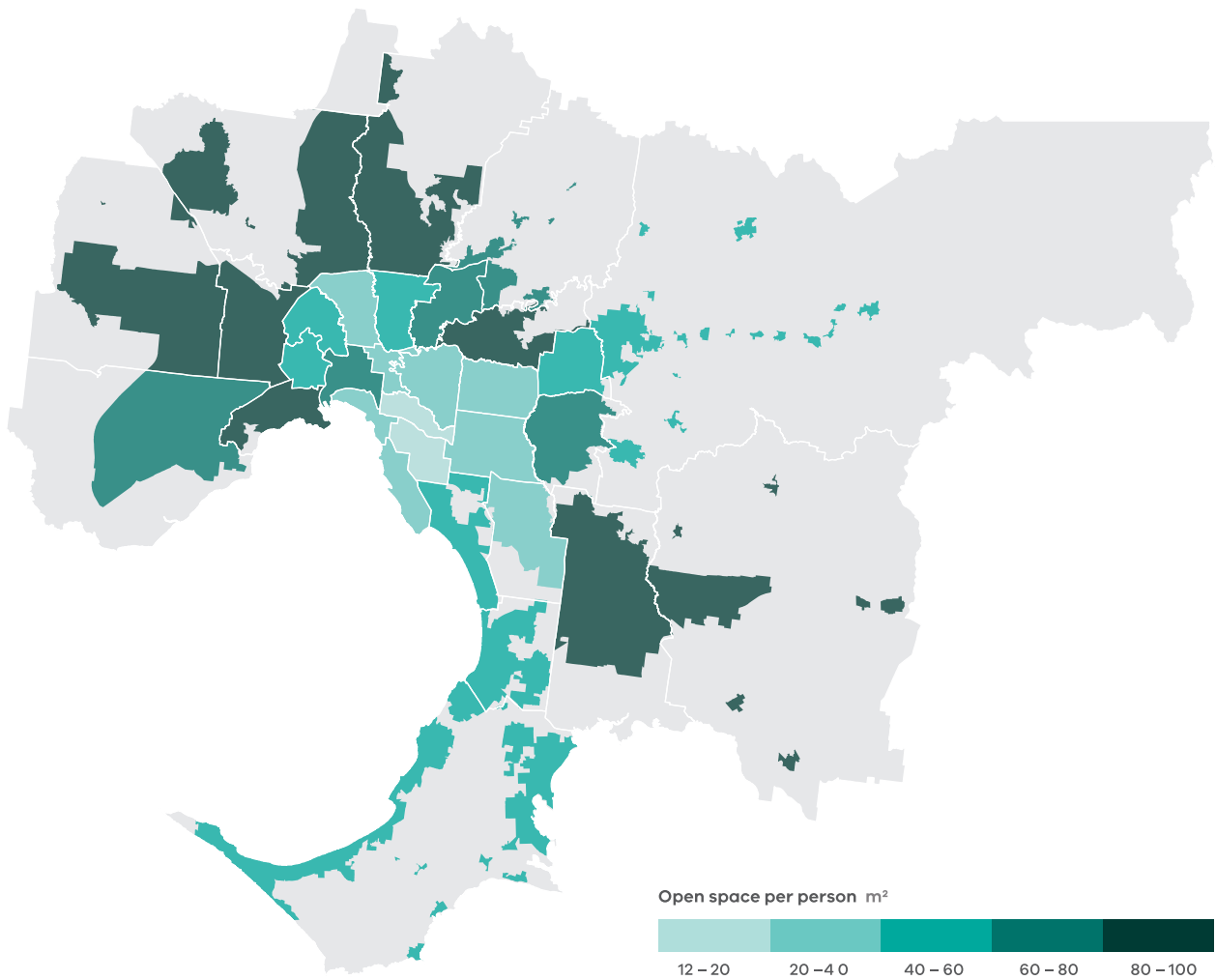
The Caulfield to Dandenong level crossing project has delivered new open space in the form of the

FIGURE 21. Open space per person for Southern Metro Region LGAs



Source: Victorian Planning Authority (2017) *Metropolitan Open Space Network: Provision and Distribution*, State of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.

FIGURE 22. Open space per person for metropolitan LGAs



Source: Data from the Victorian Planning Authority Metropolitan Open Space Network portal, 2016
Note: only areas within the UGB were calculated and mapped in this figure. Areas outside the UGB are shown in grey.

Regional strengths

- The region's distinctive natural character and high value environmental assets include unique wetlands, coastlines, green wedge areas, waterways, and state and national parks.
- Significant opportunities exist for regional collaboration to create open space linkages and biodiversity corridors.

Regional challenges

- There is a need to invest in regional parks, recreation facilities and walking and cycling networks to give people better access to the region's diverse landscapes.
- New open space is required to meet forecast population growth across the region, including within new communities in growth areas and within in some established parts of the region.

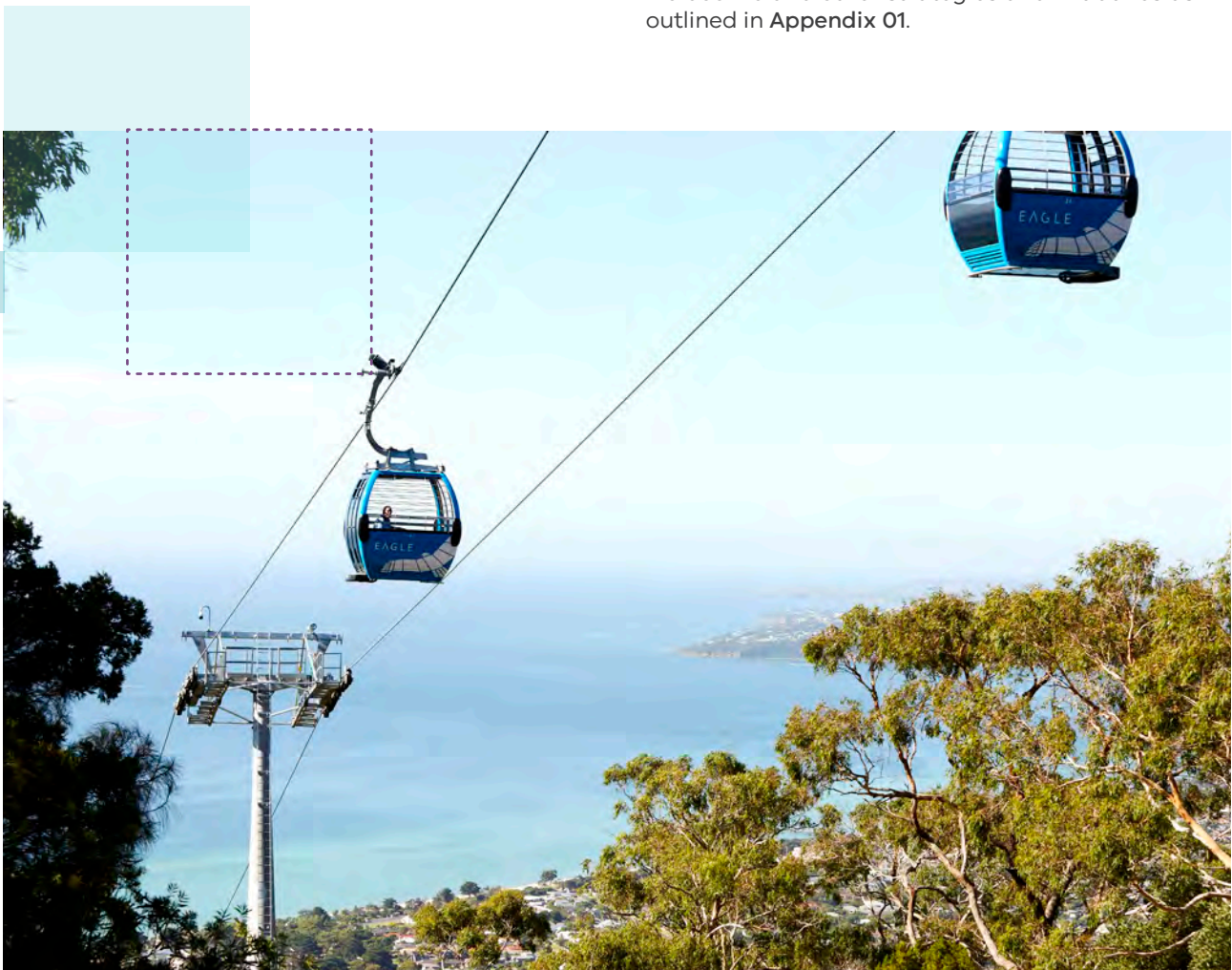
Directions and strategies

The directions identified to achieve the 2050 vision for the Southern Metro Region in terms of Liveability and Outcome 4 of Plan Melbourne are:

Direction 18	Protect and enhance the landscapes and biodiversity of the Southern Metro Region
Direction 19	Strengthen the network of open spaces and trail connections across the Southern Metro Region
Direction 20	Create a legacy of great civic places






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

Map 7 shows how liveability 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 7. Southern Metro Region liveability 2050

Precincts and Activity Centres

-  Metropolitan activity centre
-  Major activity centre
-  Victorian Heritage Register Site
-  Community/tourism site
-  Puffing Billy tourist railway






Transport

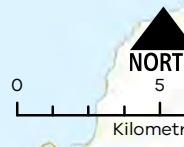
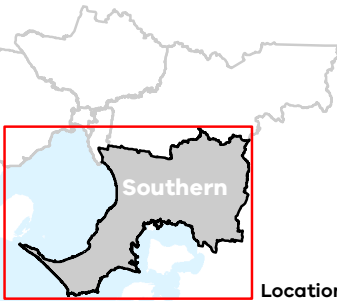
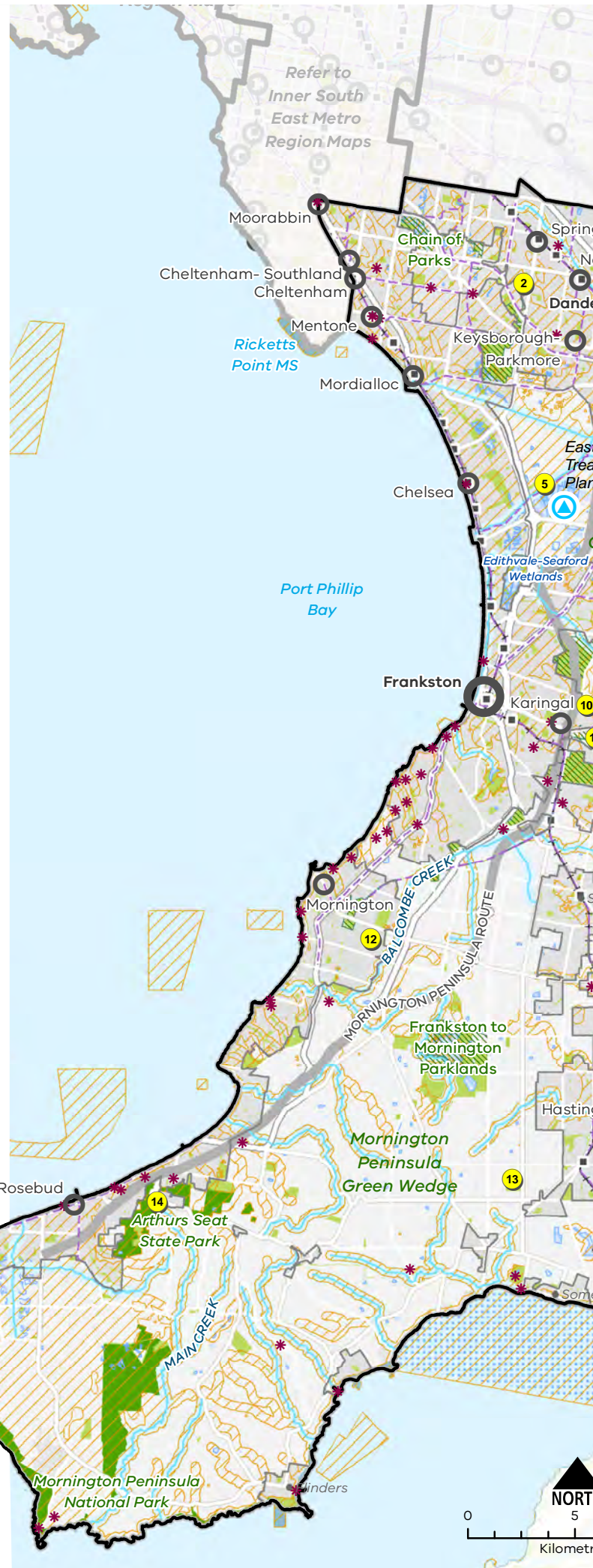
-  State-significant road corridor
-  Road network
-  Train station
-  Rail network
-  Strategic Cycling Corridor

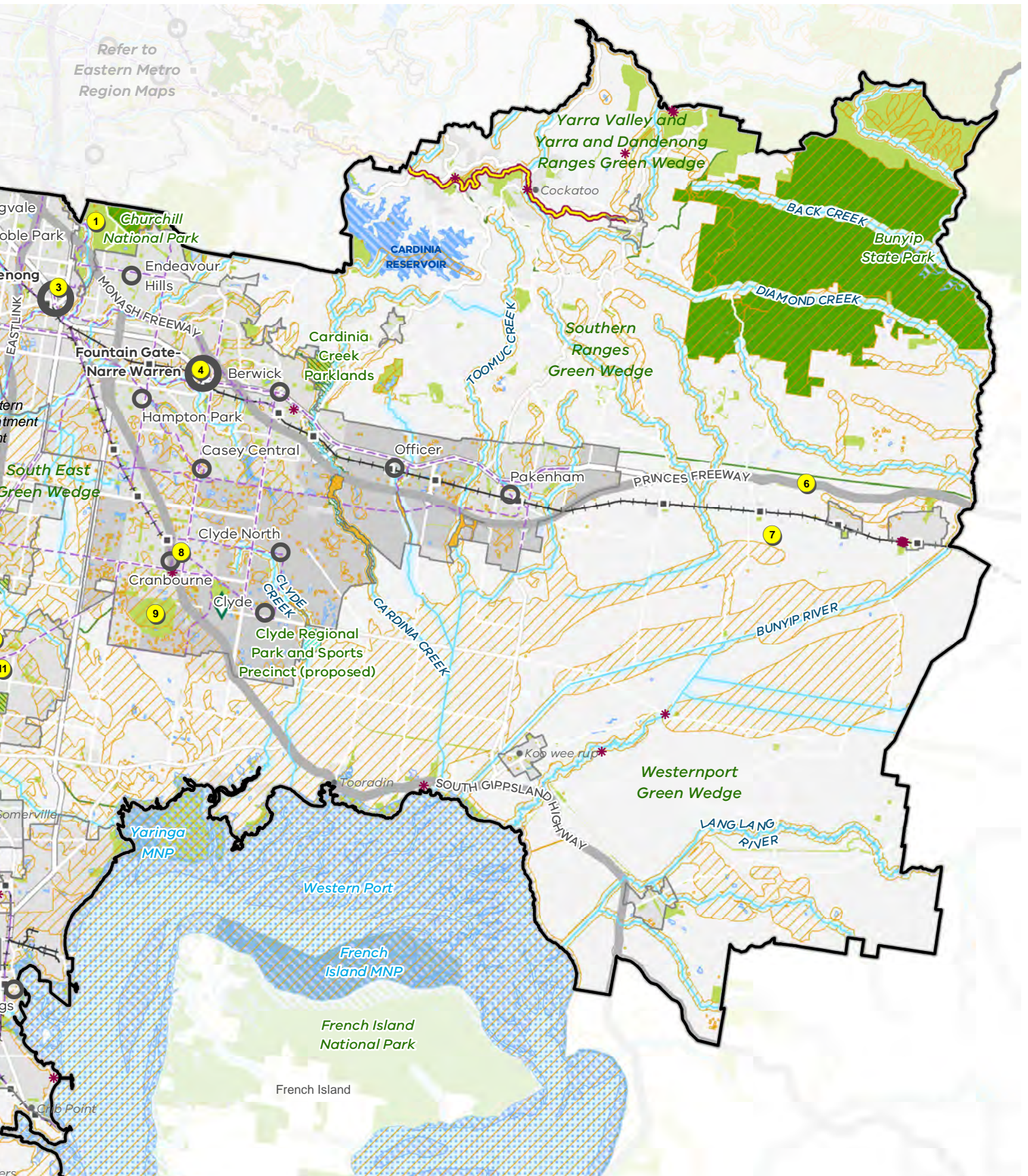
Environment

-  Conservation areas in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
-  National park/state park
-  Regional Park - expanded/improved
-  Regional Park - proposed
-  Future regional active open space
-  Public open space
-  Marine/coastal national parks and reserves
-  Wetlands
-  Ramsar wetlands
-  Waterway and waterway corridor
-  Wastewater treatment plant
-  Reservoir
-  Waterbody
-  Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

Land use/Administration

-  Regional boundary
-  Green wedge land
-  Growth area
-  Urban area
-  Urban growth boundary





Refer to Eastern Metro Region Maps

Map ID	Community/tourism site	Map ID	Community/tourism site
1	Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserves	8	Cranbourne Racecourse
2	Buddhist temple precinct - Springvale	9	Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne
3	Dandenong Market, Indian and Afghan Precincts	10	Langwarrin McClelland Sculpture Park
4	Bunjil Place	11	Cruden Farm
5	National Water Sports Facility	12	Mornington Racecourse
6	Gumbuya World	13	Balnarring Racecourse
7	Pakenham Racecourse	14	Arthurs Seat Chair Lift

DIRECTION 18. Protect and enhance the landscapes and biodiversity of the Southern Metro Region

The landscapes of the Southern Metro Region contribute to its sense of place as well as its liveability, economy, biodiversity and the health and wellbeing of its residents.

Throughout the region, the landscape values of its waterways, wetlands, ridgelines and key view corridors should be protected from the visual impact of development or infrastructure. Many of the key landscapes in the region, such as the Port Phillip Bay, Western Port and Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands, are protected through existing legislation and planning policy. The entire Mornington Peninsula is protected through state policy.

The region's five green wedges (Mornington Peninsula, South East, Southern Ranges, Western Port and the southern part of Yarra, Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges) comprise many places of high landscape amenity and biodiversity value. Planning for the region's five green wedges will aim to ensure that the landscape and amenity values of these areas is retained into the future.

The Melbourne Strategic Assessment is an agreement with the Commonwealth to set aside land with the highest biodiversity values from urban development within Melbourne's growth corridors. These Conservation Areas are listed in the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (2013)* and protected through Commonwealth legislation. Their biodiversity values are managed for the long-term through the precinct structure planning process to preserve their intrinsic conservation and biodiversity values. Preserving conservation areas of a sufficient size to support diverse species (and which are linked to other conservation areas) is often critical to biodiversity outcomes.

Key biodiversity places within the South Eastern Growth Corridor that should be protected and integrated into the planning of new communities are:

- Cardinia Creek Corridor, which supports areas for Growling Grass Frog protection and parts of which are included within the proposed Cranbourne Regional Park
- Clyde Creek Corridor, which also supports areas for Growling Grass Frog
- Habitat for the Southern Brown Bandicoot at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne and nearby areas. Options for the connection between bandicoot populations in RGB Cranbourne and other populations outside

the UGB will be resolved in accordance with the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

- Clyde-Tooradin Grasslands on public land zoned for the railway corridor. The southern end of the Cranbourne line will be established as a conservation area to protect and manage Maroon Leek Orchid and Swamp Everlasting.

Within the region's growth areas, important landscape features should also be protected into the future and incorporated into the design of new neighbourhoods. These include:

- Retention of distant views of the Dandenong Ranges to the north
- Use of the natural drainage system that flows into Western Port to create a network of open spaces that provide visual and/or physical connections through different parts of the landscape. Cardinia Creek, Clyde Creek, Gum Scrub Creek and Toomuc Creek are particularly important in this regard
- Retention of the rural character of areas adjoining the UGB. Planning and design along this interface must ensure activities do not adversely impact the function or amenity of the rural edges
- Incorporation of natural wetlands in the planning of new greenfield neighbourhoods.

The *Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-28* is a shared strategy across Melbourne Water, state and local government, water corporations and the community. It provides direction towards a regional vision for the health of rivers, estuaries and wetlands in the Port Phillip and Western Port region. The strategy has identified a need to review planning protection of environmental and amenity values for waterways, including around wetlands and headwater streams (Melbourne Water, 2018). The strategy has nominated priority waterways for revegetation to improve waterway health and biodiversity values.

The waterways, numerous small tributaries and wetland areas of the Southern Metro Region include areas of cultural heritage and provide habitat for significant native flora, native frog and fish species, and other fauna. Waterways ultimately discharge into Western Port, which requires a high level of control over the quality and quantity of surface water and discharge.

It is important to maintain efforts to support ecosystem resilience in a changing climate including reducing potential impacts from urban uses and providing buffers where possible.

- STRATEGY 55.** Work with Traditional Owners to protect and enhance the region's significant landscapes of coastline, waterways, wetlands, mountain foothills and ranges, forests and rural landscapes for their contribution to biodiversity and liveability.
- STRATEGY 56.** Ensure the design of new buildings within the region's green wedges and growth areas responds to its landscape and biodiversity values and provides adequate buffers from areas of landscape or biodiversity sensitivity, including the rural character of land adjoining the UGB.
- STRATEGY 57.** Retain natural wetlands and natural drainage networks in the planning of new greenfield neighbourhoods to achieve significant liveability and biodiversity outcomes and build resilient, sustainable, and liveable communities.



Photo credit: Tim Bell Studio

DIRECTION 19. **Strengthen the network of open spaces and trail connections across the Southern Metro Region**

Plan Melbourne envisages an integrated network of accessible, attractive and connected parklands, river corridors and green wedge areas, with shared trail networks.

Open Space for Everyone: Open Space Strategy for Metropolitan Melbourne 2020 aims to articulate this vision, by expanding and strengthening Melbourne's network of open spaces, at the local and landscape scales. It focuses on innovation and adaptability to provide a diversity of open spaces that meet the needs of the community while protecting and optimising the region's existing open space assets.

New parklands and recreational trails across the Southern Metro Region will help achieve this vision and provide an integrated open space network to meet the future amenity and recreation needs of the region. These improvements will also play a vital role in preserving the region's natural features, character and heritage, sustaining biodiversity and nourishing healthy waterways. This is an important consideration within the existing urban context, as well as in planning for new communities within growth corridors to ensure high quality liveability outcomes.

Within the South Eastern Growth Corridor, significant opportunities exist to create new active and passive recreation areas to address the open space needs of the broader region. Where possible, new open space should be used to optimise pedestrian access and recreational trail connections, link existing open spaces or open site frontages to a waterway or parkland. Open space should also be a key factor in preserving the ecological, heritage, cultural, recreational and social values across the South Eastern Growth Corridor.

Key open space linkages within the existing network include Clyde and Cardinia creeks and the associated Growling Grass Frog corridor. These, and other waterway corridors, can serve as environmental and recreational connections through growth areas.

The co-location of the Clyde Regional Park with the Melbourne Water retarding basin will help control the quantity and quality of stormwater flows into Western Port and allow the retarding basin to be used for active and passive open space.

Larger open space land holdings, such as golf courses, pipe tracks, easements and land used for public purposes such as schools, universities or cemeteries, may provide opportunities to address open space shortfalls in the region by providing community access at times and in ways that do not jeopardise their primary purposes.

STRATEGY 58. Increase access to a range of quality open spaces and recreational trail connections throughout the region's established areas and growth corridor to meet the needs of the growing population.

STRATEGY 59. Support the regional role of Port Phillip Bay, Western Port and the green wedge areas as major recreational assets and destinations of Melbourne.

STRATEGY 60. Investigate the opportunity to utilise large land holdings, such as golf courses, pipe tracks, easements or school grounds, for open space or trail linkages, where possible.

DIRECTION 20.**Create a legacy of great civic places**

There are many great public spaces and precincts across the Southern Metro Region that are critical to establishing people's mental map of the area and their enjoyment of place. The region's rich cultural heritage and distinctive coastlines and hills provide a strong inspiration for new urban design and placemaking.

Many of the Southern Metro Region's activity centres, both large and small, include well-designed public places that create a strong sense of local identity. This includes:

- Multicultural precincts of Dandenong and Springvale, which include vibrant fresh food markets
- Frankston Metropolitan Activity Centre with its network of busy streets and plazas around the redeveloped station precinct and core retail area, some of which have views to the bay
- Bunjil Place, within the Fountain Gate-Narre Warren Metropolitan Activity Centre, which has a civic, community, cultural role
- Coastal activity centres of Mornington, Mt Eliza, Sorrento and Flinders which have picturesque settings, a village feel and highly valued foreshore spaces.

Creating distinctive places that foster community pride and a sense of place is essential in new design. This includes renewal of established urban areas, construction of new transport infrastructure and when planning for new communities within growth areas. The region's valued heritage and landscapes should be protected, celebrated and integrated into new design as key aspects of regional difference.

In planning for new communities in growth areas, a sense of place will be enhanced through the design of precincts around and orientated to existing landscape or cultural features. This includes waterways, biodiversity corridors, open spaces, views to the Dandenong Ranges and highly valued public places such as Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne.

Major roads and streets can be designed as boulevards or green streets to enhance the sense of place within town centres, gateways or key neighbourhood connections. Design treatment could include wider street cross-sections to allow for canopy tree planting, water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and adequate space within medians for separated pedestrian and cycle traffic.

STRATEGY 61. Protect places and spaces that have high civic or public value, and which contribute to people's understanding, interaction and enjoyment of the region.

STRATEGY 62. Recognise the different layers and aspects of the region's natural features, culture and in the design of new buildings, public spaces, infrastructure and public artwork.

STRATEGY 63. Design the town centre at Clyde North to be integrated with Clyde Creek and its surrounding landscape.

STRATEGY 64. Facilitate the development of Thompsons Road, Clyde North, as a new boulevard and green link through the town centre with high pedestrian and cycling amenity.

**ACTIONS –
Liveability**

ACTION 11. Review local planning schemes to ensure protection and enhancement of the landscape and biodiversity values of the region.

ACTION 12. Develop a plan for a publicly owned and managed network of open spaces and regional trails across the growth corridor, utilising its natural drainage system where possible to link open spaces, biodiversity areas, waterways and urban areas.