

The Whittlesea growth area includes the suburbs of Epping North, South Morang and Mernda. While development in South Morang has been underway for some time, development in Epping North and Mernda is still in the early stages. The growth area:

- has an attractive landscape setting and varied topography, which includes Quarry Hills, Darebin Creek Valley and the nearby Plenty Gorge regional parklands
- includes many environmental assets such as highly significant grasslands, grassy woodlands, remnant vegetation, red gum woodlands, wildlife habitats and river corridors
- is accessible by Plenty Road and High Street and is close to the Metropolitan Ring Road and the Hume Highway
- has major employment areas nearby, with scope for substantial expansion.



ENOUGH ROOM TO GROW

This plan provides enough land:

- for Whittlesea to grow by 40,000–66,500 people
- for the additional 20,000–32,000 households that will need accommodation
- to encourage employment in local businesses and industries to grow to 46,000 jobs.

GREEN SPACES FOR GENERATIONS

Whittlesea has a clean, 'country-like' atmosphere with plenty of open space.

The Whittlesea growth area plan:

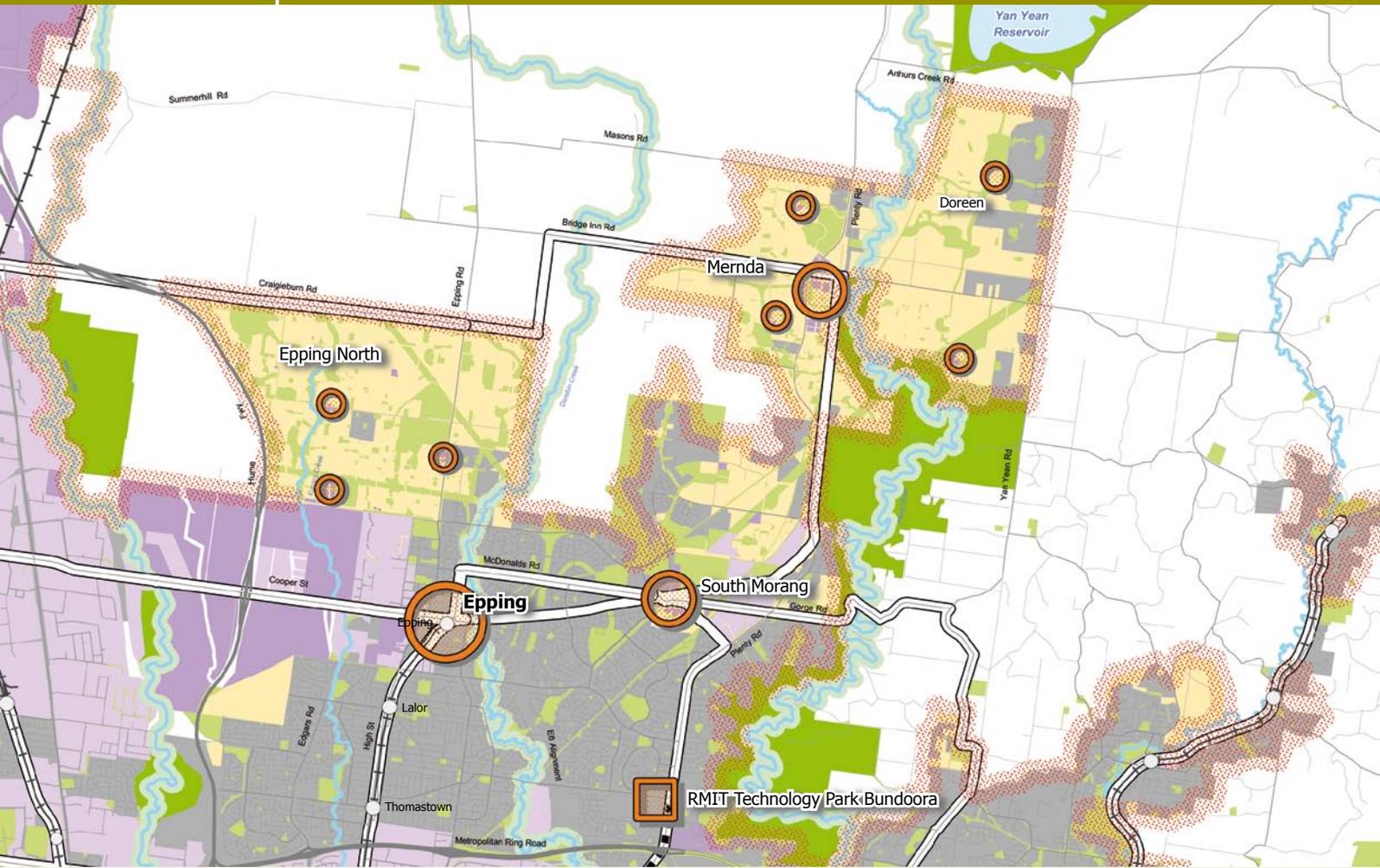
- identifies an extensive open space network and improves the Plenty Gorge parklands and visitor facilities
- allows substantial expansion of the Quarry Hills parklands
- enhances and protects red gum woodlands
- allows for the inclusion of existing resources into a proposed major new park along the Merri Creek that better protects grasslands east of Craigieburn.



A new community enjoys the natural open spaces of Quarry Hills

the many significant natural features of this area will be preserved while still allowing for future residential and industrial development

whittlesea growth area framework plan



legend



approximate scale only

ACTIVITY CENTRES		principal		major		neighbourhood (large)		specialised
URBAN AREA		existing						
RESIDENTIAL		urban land supply						
EMPLOYMENT		existing		proposed				
UGB		urban growth boundary	(refer to approved planning scheme maps for precise location and scale)					
OPEN SPACE		regional significance		local network		significant creeks & buffers		





BETTER ACCESS

Whittlesea is well connected to the city by the Metropolitan Ring Road and the Hume Highway but needs more public transport.

The Whittlesea growth area plan:

- reserves land for future public transport
- allows for the future development of high-capacity public transport services to South Morang, Epping North and Mernda and future expansion of local bus services
- identifies key north-south and east-west links within Whittlesea, including the E6 and Bridge Inn Road.

THRIVING COMMUNITY LIFE

Infrastructure needs to keep pace with expected growth, particularly facilities and services such as hospitals and housing to cater for an ageing population.

The Whittlesea growth area plan:

- allows for extensive commercial, community and residential development around the Epping Transit City that will cater for a large population
- provides for a network of existing and new activity centres at South Morang, Mernda and Epping North
- extends the Cooper Street employment precinct, taking advantage of the Hume Highway and railway corridor and the Somerton inter-modal freight facility.



Mernda Town Centre - an attractive focus for new communities in the Plenty Valley