



AGENDA APPENDIX
Council Meeting
Wednesday 19 March 2014

AGENDA ITEM FOR SEPARATE DISTRIBUTION TO COUNCILLORS AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM DUE TO DOCUMENT SIZE.

THE ITEM IS ACCESSIBLE VIA THE COUNCIL WEBSITE OR BY CONTACTING COUNCIL ON 03 5662 9200.

**E.10 – DRAFT MIRBOO NORTH COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN
2014**

Appendix 1 – Draft Mirboo North Community Infrastructure Plan

Mirboo North Community Infrastructure Plan

March 2014



Draft V1 March

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**Draft V1 March 2014
South Gippsland Shire Council**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mirboo North is the third largest urban settlement in South Gippsland Shire. In 2011 the total population was 2,215. By 2031 the population will have grown to 540 at an average annual growth rate of 1%.

Background and Context

This is the fourth of a series of community infrastructure plans for South Gippsland towns experiencing population growth or population change over the next 20 years. Plans for Korumburra, Leongatha and Nyora have also been developed.

The Mirboo North Community Infrastructure Plan includes a detailed audit of current infrastructure; current and projected demographic information and guides prioritisation for infrastructure over the 20 years.

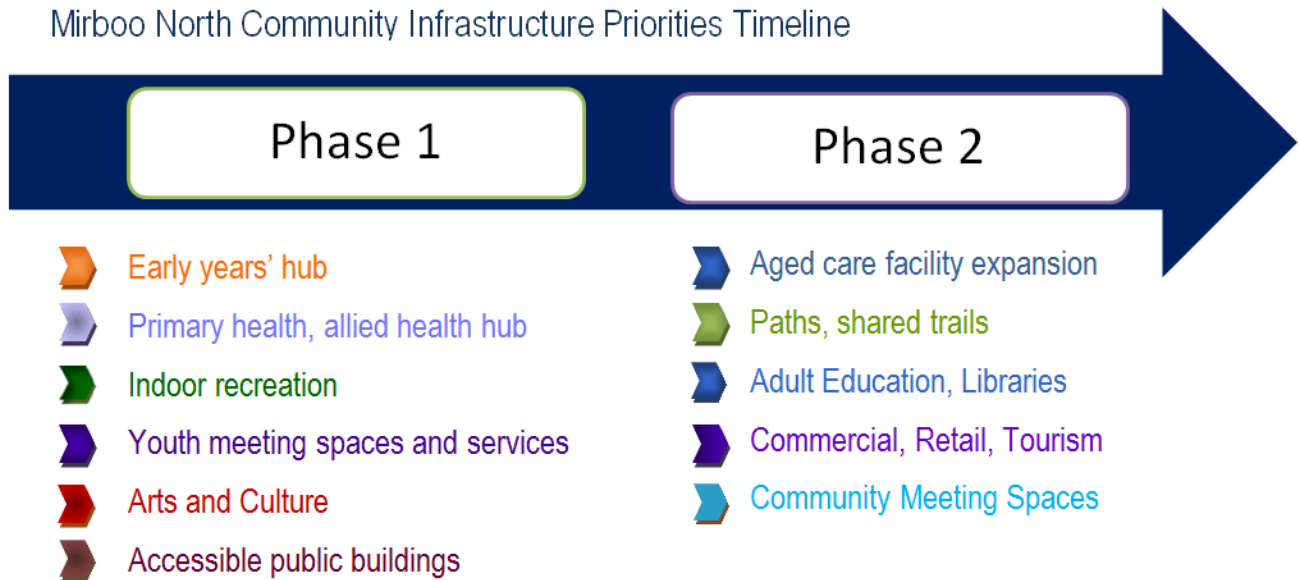
Current and future needs for services and facilities are discussed under 12 topics using existing strategic plans and guides and current best practice examples to make recommendations and priorities for the future. Its use by Council, outside organisations and the community will assist in supporting a coordinated approach to the needs of the Mirboo North community.

The report discusses the community infrastructure needs specific to Early Years, Disability, Older People and Ageing and Youth. Other sections of the report describe community infrastructure which influence the whole community as well as the groups in the community with specific needs. Strategic plans and guides and current best practice examples are referenced to make recommendations and priorities for the future. Its use by Council, outside organisations and the community will assist in supporting a coordinated approach to the needs of the Mirboo North community.



Identified Community Infrastructure Priorities

Mirboo North Community Infrastructure Priorities Timeline



Areas not prioritised for the first phase remain important considerations for future planning and are discussed in full in the main document.

Older People and Ageing

Currently 19.3% of the Mirboo North population is aged over 60 with 13.5% of these people living alone. In the 20 years from 2011 to 2031 there is expected to be an increase of 242 people in this age group. The largest increase in people between 2011 and 2021 is forecast to be people aged 70 – 74, an increase of 40 people.

Recommendations:

- Support active ageing through provision of indoor recreation in facilities that are available during the day and the connection of accessible paths and trails from all residential areas.
- Accessible and varied facilities and services support older people to actively participate in community life and community physical activity and maintain a sense of belonging in their local communities.
- A review of aged care beds in Mirboo North will be required to cater for the increase in frail aged people in the next 16 years.

Early Years

There is expected to be a growth in young families with children resulting in a growth in demand for child care and kindergarten. The number of children under the age of five is expected to increase by 44 children to 195 by 2031.

Recommendations

- Co-location of childcare, kindergarten, maternal and child health services and early intervention services
- Support visiting services such as maternal and child health and immunisation to display a flag or sign to show they are in attendance
- Allocation of play spaces within 400 metres of all residential developments.
- Investigate the purchase of child care centre to provide a fully integrated community hub

Health

Community development priorities for Mirboo North include the development of an integrated health and wellbeing centre. With the doctors clinic needing to move from its current facility this is an opportunity to plan an integrated health service. The community shed also provides a range of mental health and wellbeing activities and events.

Recommendations

- Continue investigation of an integrated primary and allied health and wellbeing centre.
- Continue the provision of mental health and wellbeing events and activities at a variety of community venues including the community shed.

Sport and Recreation

Outdoor sports and recreation facilities in Mirboo North are of a high standard able to provide a range of sports and recreation opportunities. Indoor recreation facilities are located in the schools restricting availability to out of school hours.

Recommendations

- Indoor recreation available to the community through-out the day for active retirees in an existing hall/facility.

Youth

Many young people in Mirboo North attend secondary school and tertiary education outside of the town.

Recommendations

- Indoor areas suitable for youth to meet near Baromi Park
- Youth activities and services outside of school hours including arts and cultural activities
- Safe indoor areas for quiet study, informal meeting with others, youth specific service provision.

Summary

The demographic profile of the Mirboo North community will change over the next 20 years with an increase in retirees, increase in families with young children and a decrease in youth.

Many current aspects of the township of Mirboo North represent best practice including the location of Baromi Park as a central feature of the town with both indoor and outdoor facilities for use by all community members and visitors. The recreation reserve provides a hub for a range of recreation activities. It is important to recognise and retain these features and ensure access, maintenance and enhancement ensure they meet the needs of a larger, older population.

An older population of active retirees will require different community infrastructure that is accessible. While outdoor recreation facilities are suitable for the Mirboo North community, indoor recreation facilities are limited to a stadium at the school which is not available to the general public during school hours. Active retirees require access to indoor recreation facilities during the day.

Planning for a connected footpath network around the town and from residential developments on the edge of town to allow safe pedestrian access for children of young families and older people is needed.

Conclusion

Mirboo North's community facilities are well located and should be retained and maintained to a standard which allows them to be easily accessible by all members of the community. Integrated community facilities and services are a vital component for creating healthy communities that support social inclusion and enhance the wellbeing of residents. Linking new residential developments with existing areas and the town centre will ensure a socially vibrant town centre that provides equitable, accessible facilities and services for everyone in the community and ensure an active older population is supported.

1 INTRODUCTION

Mirboo North is the third largest urban settlement in South Gippsland Shire. In 2011 the total population was 2,215. The population of Mirboo North is expected to increase by 540 people by 2031 at an average annual growth rate of 1%.

While the Mirboo North population is not expected to grow as rapidly as other South Gippsland towns, the demographics of the town are expected to change. It is expected that there will be a small increase of families (0 – 14 years and 25 – 39 years) and retirees (55 – 64 years). There is also expected to be an increase in frail elderly people aged 85 years and over. There will continue to be a loss of young adults to Melbourne for work and education. This change in the demographic profile of the population demands a different focus on the services and facilities in the town.

Community infrastructure includes the public and private facilities and services required to accommodate and support community services, programs, activities and a person's access to them. There are community infrastructure plans developed for Korumburra, Leongatha and Nyora. Venus Bay/ Tarwin Lower will be developed by June 2014.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Guide the development, timing, design and location of community infrastructure over the next 20 years
- Identify and prioritise services and facilities required for an emerging population
- Present key recommendations for community infrastructure that will address needs over the short, medium and long term,
- Develop a plan of possible locations and facilities for identified priorities
- Determine funding sources and timing.

This document will be available for a number of Council actions:

- Negotiate development contribution,
- Inform community planning discussions
- Provide usage needs for detailed plans for new facilities or refurbishment of existing facilities
- Identify current best practice
- Inform strategic planning of the town centre including provision of retail,



- community spaces and services that are easily accessible
- Inform service level planning for Korumburra by Council and other service providers
- Advocate for greater provision of services in Korumburra.

Council is seeking to work in partnership with the community, other agencies and providers to offer an enhanced sense of community identity through the establishment of multi-purpose, shared community infrastructure to promote participation in social, education, arts, sport and recreation activities and programs.

1.2 Integrated Planning

Community Infrastructure Plan supports integrated planning. It draws on key policies and strategies of State and Federal government and Council. It brings together recommendations and actions from existing Council plans and applies them specifically to the needs of Mirboo North.

1.3 Background and Context

With a current population of 2,215 Mirboo North is the third largest urban settlement in South Gippsland Shire sitting in the Strzelecki Ranges on the northern boundary of the Shire. Mirboo North is the principal township in the north eastern area of the Shire. It is located 155km, a 2 hour drive southeast of Melbourne CBD, 25 km from Leongatha and 30km from Morwell.

Linking new residential developments with existing areas and the town centre will ensure a socially vibrant town centre that provides equitable, accessible facilities and services for everyone in the community.



This document describes current and forecast demographics for Mirboo North. Current and future needs for services and facilities are discussed under 12 topics using existing strategic plans and guides and current best practice examples to make recommendations and priorities for the future.

Community infrastructure includes both 'hard infrastructure', and 'soft infrastructure'. Hard infrastructure is the physical built infrastructure that includes facilities and environments; soft infrastructure includes the services, programs, community supports, processes and information which support lifestyle opportunities, a sense of belonging and enhance quality of life. In combination these are essential components of what can make Mirboo North a great place to live, work, play and visit.

Community infrastructure is essential to provide spaces and places for participation in community life and provides opportunities for community building. The Mirboo North Community Infrastructure Plan includes a detailed audit of current infrastructure; current and projected demographic information and guides prioritisation for infrastructure over the

next 5, 10 and 20 years. Its broad use by Council, outside organisations and the community will assist in supporting a coordinated approach to the needs of the Mirboo North community.



2 MIRBOO NORTH CURRENT AND FORECAST DEMOGRAPHICS

The following provides a general description of the demographic profile for Mirboo North in 2014. It relies heavily on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census either directly or through pre-analysed and graphed data prepared by .id Consulting for South Gippsland Shire Council.

With a current population of 2,215 Mirboo North is the third largest urban settlement in South Gippsland Shire sitting in the Strzelecki Ranges on the northern boundary of the Shire. Mirboo North is the principal township in the north eastern area of the Shire. It is located 155km, a 2 hour drive southeast of Melbourne CBD, 25 km from Leongatha and 30km from Morwell.

European settlement dates from the 1870s, with land used initially for timber getting. Population was minimal until the 1880s and 1890s aided by the construction of the railway line from Morwell and dairy farming. The most significant development occurred during the interwar and post war periods. The population increased during the late 1990s as new dwellings were added to the area. The population was relatively stable between 2001 and 2011 a result of small changes in dwelling stock, dwelling occupancy rates and the average number of persons living in each dwelling.

2.1 CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS

2.1.1 Summary

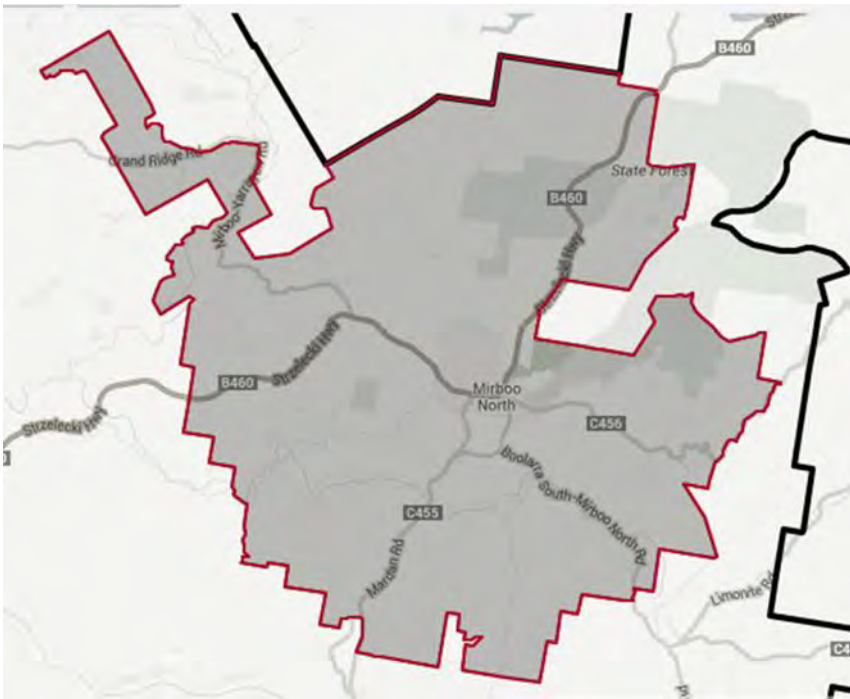
TABLE 1: MIRBOO NORTH DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

| | 2011 | 2006 | Change 2006 - 2011 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| People | 2,215 | 2,201 | +13 |
| Males | 1,110 | 1,078 | +35 |
| Females | 1,103 | 1,125 | -22 |
| Over 18 | 1,515 | 1,488 | +28 |
| All private dwellings | 938 | 921 | +16 |
| Average people per household | 2.6 | 2.5 | +0.07 |

Source ¹

¹ ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting (accessed Jan 2014)

MAP 1: MIRBOO NORTH STATE SUBURB 2011



Source²

2.1.2 **Population**

Currently there are 2,214 people living in 804 private dwellings in Mirboo North with an average household size of 2.56. There are 61 people living in non-private dwellings which include those living in the nursing home and hostel in Mirboo North. There were 134 unoccupied dwellings on census night.

Overall there was an increase of 35 males and a decrease of 22 females from 2006 to 2011. The number of people who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander increased from six in 2006 to 12 in 2011. There was also an increase in people speaking a language other than English of 25 people in the same period.

² ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting (accessed Jan 2014)

FIGURE 1: AGE STRUCTURE 2011



Source³

The graph above shows variation in the age structure in Mirboo North in 2011 to that of South Gippsland. Analysis of the service age groups of Mirboo North in 2011 compared to South Gippsland Shire shows that there was a higher proportion of people in the younger age groups 0 – 17 and a higher proportion of people in older age groups over 60 years compared to Victoria. For Mirboo North 24.5 % of the population were aged between 0 and 17 and 26.3% were aged 60 years and over. In comparison with South Gippsland there are more people aged between 35 and 49 years in Mirboo North and the proportion of people aged over 60 is consistent with the shire as a whole.

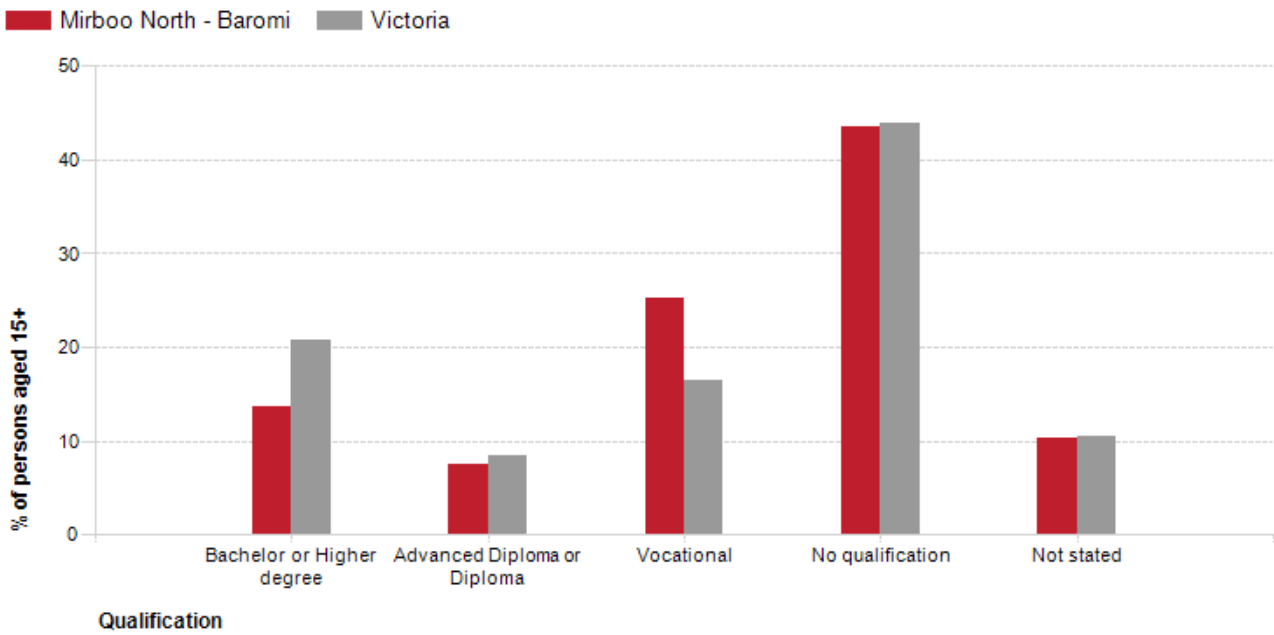
In Mirboo North 4.9% of people speak a language other than English at home. The dominant languages spoken at home, other than English were Italian, with 2.4% (52 people) and German 0.9% (20 people). This is consistent with the Korumburra population where Italian speakers comprise 2.5% of the population. There were 18 people who reported difficulty understanding English.

2.1.3 Education

In Mirboo North there were a higher proportion of people aged 15 and over with formal qualifications (holding a Bachelor / higher degree or Advanced Diploma / Diploma or vocational training (46.4%) compared to Victoria (45.6%). The proportion of people with 'no formal qualifications' in Mirboo North was equivalent to that in Victoria (43%) but lower than that in South Gippsland (49%). The largest changes in the qualifications of the population of Mirboo North between 2006 and 2011 were the decrease of people with no qualifications (90) and increase in people with vocational qualifications (78).

³ ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting.

FIGURE 2 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ACHIEVED 2011



Source⁴

The level of schooling completed by the population of Mirboo North reflects the proportion of farmers and older people in the community rather than the level of schooling of the younger population. The proportion of people with vocational qualifications is also reflective of this. Overall 40% of the Mirboo North population left school at year 10 or below. This is equivalent to the South Gippsland population and higher than Victoria (29%). There were 35.4% of the population completed Year 12 in Mirboo North compared to 33% in South Gippsland and 50% for Victoria. There was an increase of 87 people with Year 12 or equivalent from 2006 to 2011.

2.1.4 **Employment**

The labour force is a fundamental input to domestic production. Its size and composition are therefore crucial factors in economic growth. From the viewpoint of social development, earnings from paid work are a major influence on levels of economic well-being.⁵

There were 1,004 people age 15 and over in the workforce in Mirboo North in 2011 of which 435 were employed part time and 524 employed full time, lower unemployment (2.9%) than Victoria (5.4%). Between 2006 and 2011 there was an increase of 38 people employed in Mirboo North and a decrease of 26 people unemployed. In the same period

⁴ ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting.

⁵ ABS, 1995, *Australian Social Trends 1995*, viewed on 30 November 2012.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/2f762f95845417aeca25706c00834efa/5776C5B40EE1EBC8CA2569EE0015D892?opendocument>

the number of people in the workforce increased by 11 people (1.1%)⁶. South Gippsland also has relatively low unemployment.

Analysis of individual income levels in Mirboo North in 2011 compared to South Gippsland Shire shows that there was a higher proportion of persons earning a high income (those earning \$1,500 per week or more) as well as a higher proportion of low income persons (those earning less than \$400 per week). Overall, 9.2% of the population earned a high income, and 44.3% earned a low income, compared with 6.9% and 40.4% respectively for South Gippsland Shire.

The voluntary work sector is an important part of Australia's economy. The level of volunteering can indicate the cohesiveness of the community and how readily individuals are able to contribute to that community. South Gippsland Shire has a higher percentage of volunteers in comparison to Victoria and Australia. In Mirboo North this is even higher with 33% of the population or 579 people reported doing some volunteer work in the previous 12 months in comparison to 17.7% for Victoria and 29.3% for South Gippsland.

TABLE 2: VOLUNTEER WORK 2011

| Volunteer status | Number in Mirboo North | % | Victoria |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Volunteer | 579 | 33 | 17.7 |
| Not a volunteer | 1,089 | 61 | 74.4 |
| Volunteer work not stated | 114 | 6 | 7.9 |
| Total persons aged 15+ | 1,783 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Source⁷

Industries of employment statistics identify the business of the resident's employer which may be within the town or elsewhere. This reflects both the employment available in the town and district and also the ready access residents of Mirboo North have to places of employment outside the town. In many cases this information better informs the type of employment than the type of occupation.

The three most popular industry sectors for residents of Mirboo North were Health Care and Social Assistance (129 people or 13.4%), Construction (105 people or 10.9%) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (98 people or 10.2%) higher than each of the same sectors in Victoria. In combination these three industries employed 332 people in total or 34.6% of the employed resident population.

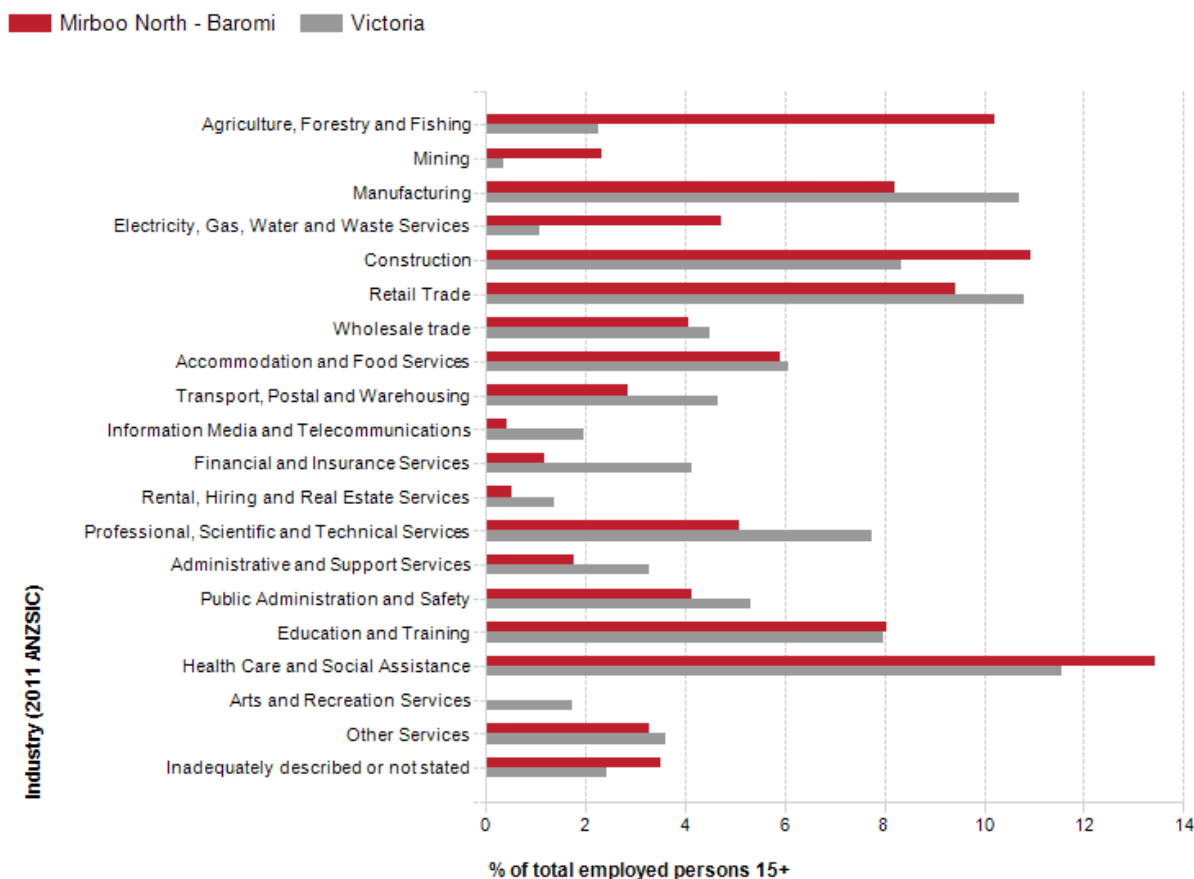
The agricultural industries in Mirboo North, the increase in housing and development in neighbouring towns plus the high vocational training of residents confirms this information. There has been a considerable increase in Mirboo North residents working in the building

⁶ ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

⁷ ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

and construction industry since 2006. There are more technicians and trade workers in Mirboo North than any other occupation. Residents of Mirboo North working in health care and social assistance have opportunities for employment within the town and also at major hospitals in Leongatha and Traralgon.

FIGURE 3: INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT



Source⁸

2.1.5 Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA)

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage (e.g., Indigenous and Separated/Divorced). The average for Victoria and for South Gippsland is 1000. Scores above 1000 are considered relatively advantaged and those below relatively disadvantaged. SEIFA is applied to a geographical area and does not necessarily imply anything about individuals living in the area. The index of relative socio economic disadvantage (SEIFA) is a relative measure and can be represented as the overall town relative to other areas or as areas within a town relative to other areas in the same town.

⁸ ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

MAP 2: MIRBOO NORTH



The table below represents relative SEIFA scores of Mirboo North with other areas. Map 2 shows the relative SEIFA scores within Mirboo North.

TABLE 3: COMPARISON OF DISADVANTAGE MIRBOO NORTH

| Area | 2011 index |
|---|------------|
| Mirboo North – Baromi (combined) | 999 |
| Regional VIC | 978 |
| South Gippsland Shire | 1000 |
| Australia | 1002 |
| Victoria | 1010 |

Source⁹

Mirboo North is ranked 956 on the SEIFA index of disadvantage for the population of 321 living south of Grand Ridge Rd and Baromi Rd with the surrounding area scoring between 896 and 971. Mirboo North sits within a larger area ranking as relatively disadvantaged.

2.1.6 *The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)*

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a measure of how young children are developing in different communities. It is a population measure of children's development as they enter school. The AEDI measures five areas of early childhood development: physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills (school based); and communication skills and general knowledge. Data are collected every 3 years.

⁹ ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

TABLE 4: PROPORTION OF CHILDREN DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE – SOUTH GIPPSLAND

| Local Community | Number of Children | Vulnerable on one or more domains of the AEDI | Vulnerable on two or more domains of the AEDI |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| Mirboo North | 74 | 29.2% | 12.5% |
| Fish Creek/Yanakie and surrounds | 23 | 9.5 | 4.8 |
| Foster and surrounds | 25 | 9.1 | 4.5 |
| Koonwarra/Tarwin Lower and surrounds | 31 | 20.0 | 10.0 |
| Mirboo North and surrounds | 93 | 21.3 | 6.7 |
| Mirboo North and surrounds | 51 | 14.0 | 10.0 |
| Nyora and surrounds | 28 | 21.4 | 3.6 |
| Poowong | 16 | 6.7 | 6.7 |
| Victoria | 57,277 | 20.3 | 10.0 |

Source¹⁰

2.1.7 Internet Connection

There is an increase in the proportion of households with internet connection between 2006 and 2011 (93), however there were still 121 (26%) households with either no internet connection or a dial up connection. There was an increase of 313 households with broadband (ADSL) internet connection in Mirboo North since 2006. A fast internet connection is increasingly required for accessing essential information and undertaking domestic and no-domestic business. Households with dial-up or no internet service can be left behind as business is increasingly being conducted on-line.

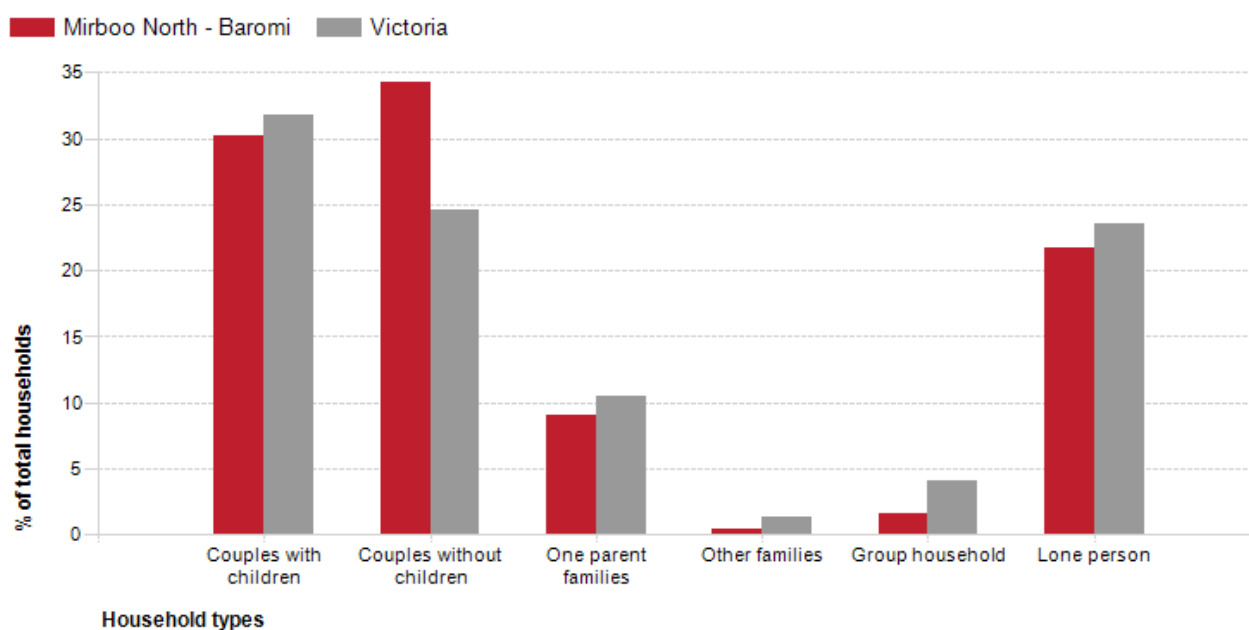
2.1.8 Household and family structure

In 2011 there were 786 households in Mirboo North, a decrease of 16 households since 2006. There are a lower proportion of lone person households (23%) and a similar proportion of larger households (25%) of more than 4 people compared with Victoria. There is a larger percentage of households with 2 people usually resident, 38% compared to 33% and a smaller percentage of households with 1 person usually resident, 23% compared with 25% in Victoria and 26% for South Gippsland.

Overall, 30.1% of total families were couple families with child(ren), and 9.0% were one-parent families, a lower proportion of each family type in comparison with Victoria. There were no major differences in family structure in Mirboo North from 2006 to 2011.

¹⁰ Australian Early Development Index, 2011, *Australian Early Development Index Community Profile*, South Gippsland, p.32, viewed on 30 November 2012, <http://maps.aedi.org.au/profiles/vic/static/reports/26170.pdf>

FIGURE 5: MIRBOO NORTH HOUSEHOLD TYPES



Source¹¹

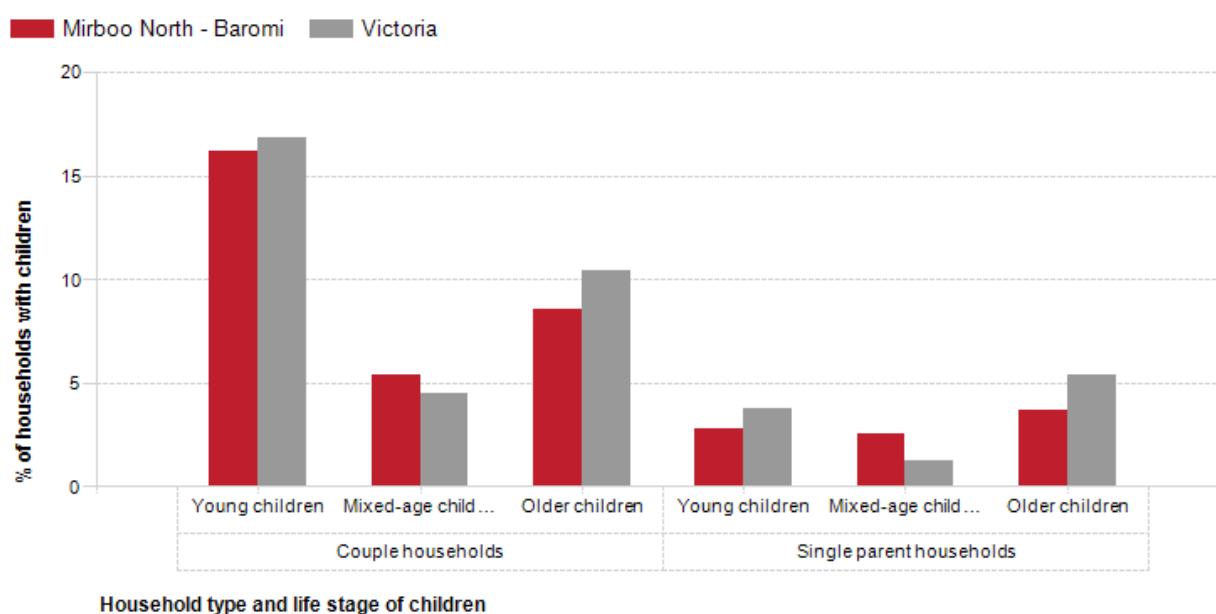
2.1.9 Families with Children

In Mirboo North in 2011 there were 131 couples with young children, comprising 16% of households. Households with children require different services and facilities than other household types, and their needs change as both adults and children age. When many families in an area are at the same stage in their individual lifecycles, it creates a town lifecycle. Knowing where a town is in a cycle of change helps planners make evidence-based decisions about the demand for services both now and in the future.

For households with children in Mirboo North, life stage is based on the age of children in the household. The age of the parent(s) is not taken into account. Young children: Children aged under 15 years only. Mixed age children: One or more children under 15 and one or more children over 15 (must have 2 or more children). Older children: Children aged 15 and over only. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of households with children decreased by 33 households or 9.4%.

¹¹ ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

FIGURE 6: HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN



Source¹²

2.1.10 Number of Cars per Household

The ability of the population to access services, post-secondary education, training and employment is strongly influenced by access to transport. With limited public transport available in Mirboo North the number of motor vehicles per household can be seen as a measure of advantage or disadvantage which impact on the environment and quality of life.

Only 15 households in Mirboo North had no motor vehicles in 2011 (1.9%) in comparison to 30 households (3.6%) in 2006 a reduction of 14 households. Of those that owned at least one vehicle, there was a smaller proportion who owned just one car. In Victoria the number of households with no car is 8.3% and South Gippsland 3.8%.

A bus running from Wonthaggi to Traralgon passes through Mirboo North 3 times a day each way on weekdays approximately 3 hourly. There is also an RSL community bus available to residents of Mirboo North on a limited basis on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday of the month travelling via Dumbalk to Leongatha.

2.2 Dwellings

In 2011, there were 875 separate houses in Mirboo North, 41 medium density dwellings, and no high density dwellings. There are no high density dwellings in South Gippsland at all. In 2011, a total of 85.8% of the dwellings in Mirboo North were occupied on Census night, compared to 71.9% in South Gippsland Shire and 89.0% in Victoria. The total number of dwellings in Mirboo North increased by 16 between 2006 and 2011.

¹² ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

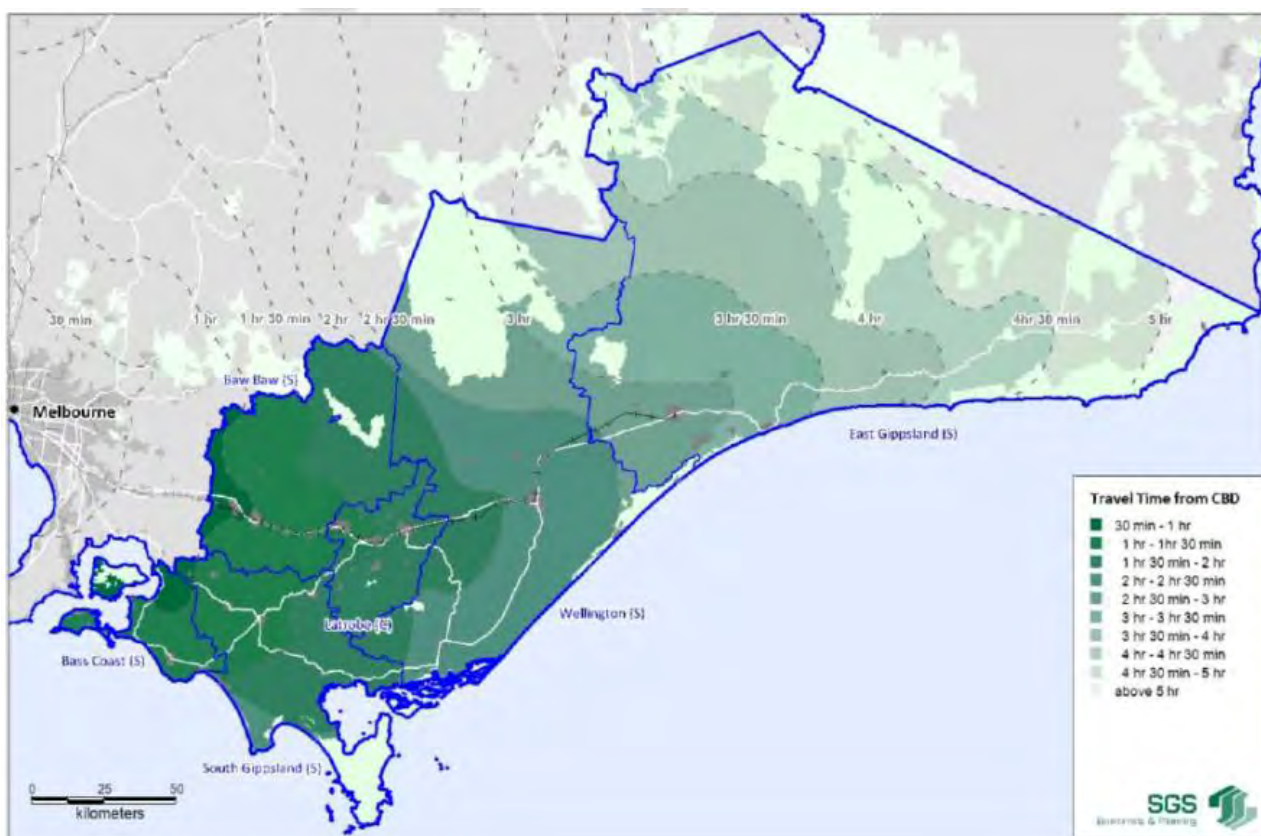
There are a number of possible reasons for vacant dwellings, for example, residents temporarily away (eg. on holiday), dwelling is vacant and for sale, dwelling has just been built and is not yet occupied, or the dwelling is a holiday house which is unoccupied most of the time (particularly in winter when Census is held). Large percentages of unoccupied dwellings may indicate a holiday area, an area with a high population turnover, or a declining area with abandoned dwellings.

2.3 Future population projections

2.3.1 Forecast population summary

From 1996 to 2011 95 % of Victoria's population growth has been within 150km of the Melbourne CBD. It is expected that peri-urban pressures experienced by Warragul and Drouin and Wonthaggi and San Remo will also be experienced on towns in South Gippsland. The Gippsland Regional Growth Plan regional settlement framework directs projected growth to six defined growth nodes. Mirboo North sits midway between between the regional city hub of Latrobe and the regional centre of Leongatha.

MAP 3: TRAVEL TIME FROM CBD



Source: SGS Economics and Planning
Source¹³

¹³ DTPLI Gippsland Regional Growth Plan www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/Gippsland/rgp accessed January 2014.

TABLE 5: FORECAST GROWTH IN POPULATION AND HOUSING SUMMARY MIRBOO NORTH 2011 – 2031

| Mirboo North | Forecast year | | | | |
|--|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2011 | 2016 | 2021 | 2026 | 2031 |
| Population | 2,253 | 2,346 | 2,517 | 2,657 | 2,796 |
| Change in Population (5yrs) | | 93 | 171 | 140 | 139 |
| Average Annual Change (%) | | 0.81 | 1.42 | 1.09 | 1.03 |
| Households | 860 | 933 | 1,010 | 1,067 | 1,128 |
| Average Household Size (persons) | 2.55 | 2.45 | 2.43 | 2.43 | 2.42 |
| Population in non-private dwellings | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 |
| Dwellings | 947 | 1,027 | 1,111 | 1,176 | 1,241 |
| Dwelling occupancy rate | 90.81 | 90.85 | 90.91 | 90.73 | 90.89 |

This summary analyses data for the period 2011 – 2031. The short to medium term is likely to be the most accurate and useful forecast for immediate planning purposes. In 2011 the total population of Mirboo North was 2,253. It is expected to increase by over 400 people to 2,657 by 2021 at an average annual growth rate of 1.66%. This is based on an increase of over 200 households during the period with an average number of people per household dropping from 2.55 to 2.43 by 2021.

The greatest population change for Mirboo North - Baromi is forecast for the period from 2017 to 2021, which is expected to have a net increase of 170 people. This compares with a change of 28.87% in the South Gippsland population in the same period where growth is highest in Nyora, Korumburra and Leongatha.

2.3.2 Drivers of population change

At the township level, the primary drivers of population change are the age structure of the existing population, the housing markets attracted to and away from an area and their associated demographic characteristics (fertility patterns, household types etc.) and the supply of dwellings and mix of housing stock in the area.

Dwelling additions - The addition of dwellings is the major driver of population growth, providing opportunities for new households (such as young people leaving the family home and divorces) or households relocating from other areas. In Mirboo North the forecast land developments and infill opportunities include:

- Josephine Crescent with 22 dwellings available from 2009 to 2019
- Woodland Terrace with 17 dwellings available from 2012 – 2020
- Low to moderate infill of 8 to 16 dwellings per annum.

It is expected that there will be a small increase of families (0 – 14 years and 25 – 39 years) and retirees (55 – 64 years). There is also expected to be an increase in frail elderly people aged 85 years and over. There will continue to be a loss of young adults to Melbourne for work and education.

An increase in the number of frail elderly will require a review of the aged care beds for high and low care in Mirboo North in the next 10 years. Home and community care services and district nursing may also experience demand for additional services to older people at home.

Migration - Migration is one of the most important components of population change. While births and deaths are relatively easy to predict due to reliable age specific behaviour; migration is volatile, often changing due to housing market preferences, economic opportunities and changing household circumstances.

The most mobile age groups in the population are the young adults. They tend to move to attend educational institutions, seek work and express a change in lifestyle. It is for this reason that young people often move the greatest distances and sometimes move against pre-established patterns. Market research has shown that empty nesters are more likely to move to smaller accommodation if appropriate and affordable alternative housing is supplied in the local area that is accessible to established social networks.¹⁴

In Mirboo North the type of housing to suit couples without children and people living alone would ideally be smaller houses with easy access to the town centre and activities. It would be expected that these people may prefer town properties and infill development. Families with children are likely to build on rural living properties to the west and south of Mirboo North.

2.3.3 Forecast age structure

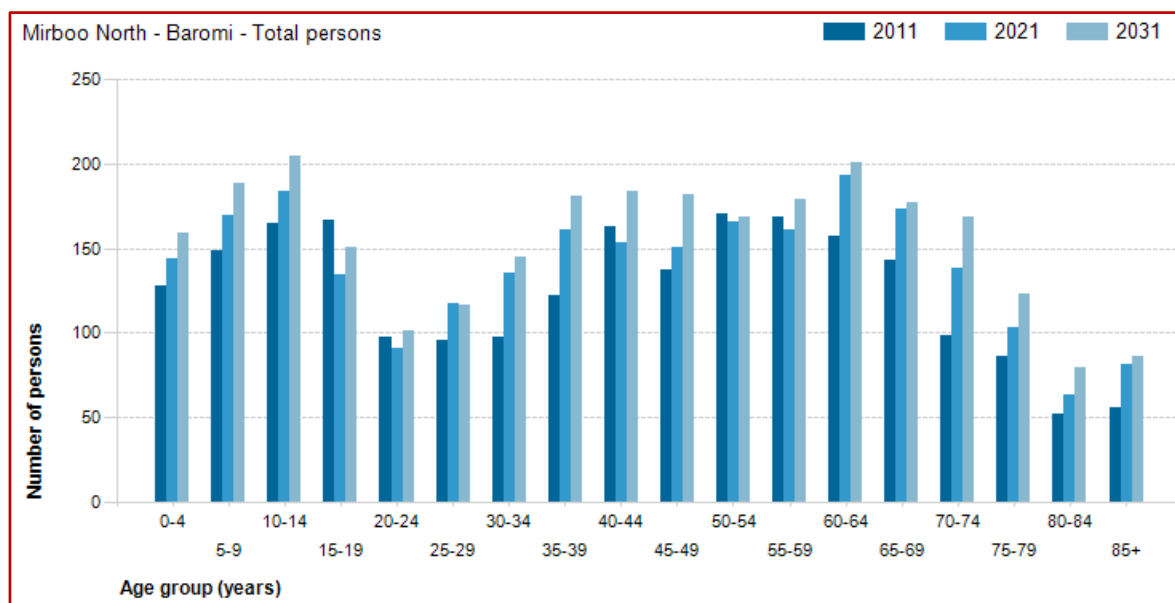
Age structure can be clustered in two ways, five yearly age groups which can be compared from one group to another. Alternatively service age groups can be described. Service age groups cluster the population into age groups which describe the type of service they are likely to require. For example teenagers and young adults between the ages of 12 and 17 years use a range of services including high schools, tertiary institutions and recreational facilities.

In 2011 the most populous age group in Mirboo North was 50 – 54 which accounted for 7.6% of the total population. The age group which is expected to increase the greatest by 2021 are people aged 70 – 74 increasing by 40 people (5.5% of the total population).

¹⁴ ID consulting, 2012, South Gippsland Shire Council Population Forecast, viewed on 24 January 2014, <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=326&pg=5000>

Whilst the proportion of age groups represented in Mirboo North will change, there will be increase in the numbers of the population in all age groups except 15 – 19 year olds to 2031.

FIGURE 7: FORECAST CHANGE IN AGE STRUCTURE 2011, 2021, 2031



Source¹⁵

2.3.4 Forecast household and family structure

In 2011 couples without dependents without dependents were the most common household type in Mirboo North comprising 37% or 322 people. This proportion will remain the same to 2031 increasing by 97 people. The proportion of lone person households is forecast to increase from 22.2% to 24.4% by 2021 and 24.4% by 2031, a total increase of 84 people.

TABLE 6: FORECAST HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY TYPES - MIRBOO NORTH

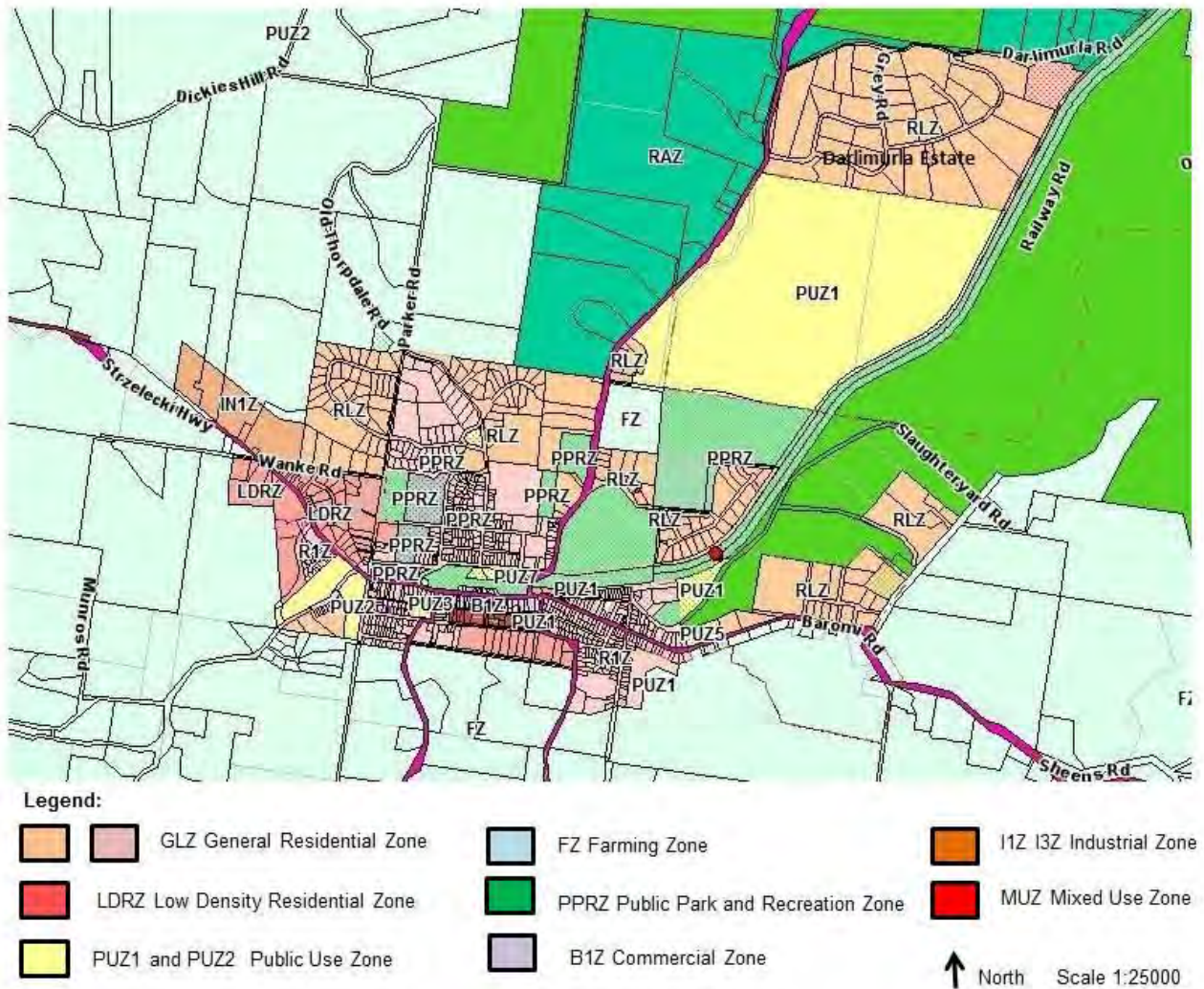
| Household types | 2011 | | 2021 | | 2031 | | Change 2011 to 2031 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|---------------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Couples without dependents | 322 | 37.4 | 380 | 37.6 | 419 | 37.1 | +97 |
| Couple with dependents | 252 | 29.3 | 282 | 27.9 | 318 | 28.2 | +66 |
| One parent family | 72 | 8.4 | 78 | 7.7 | 89 | 7.9 | +17 |
| Other families | 10 | 1.2 | 12 | 1.2 | 12 | 1.1 | +2 |
| Lone person households | 191 | 22.2 | 244 | 24.2 | 275 | 24.4 | +84 |

¹⁵ ID consulting, 2012

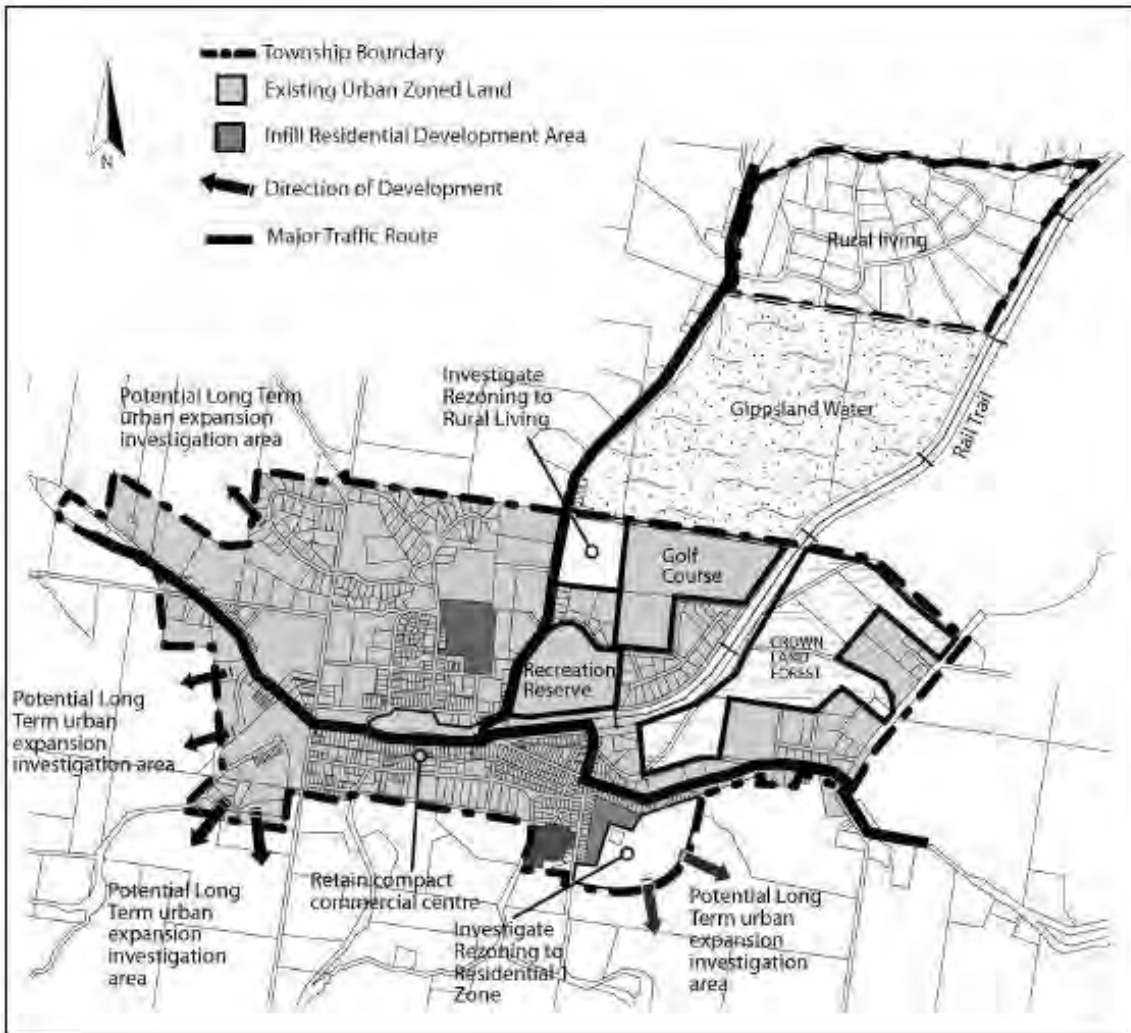
| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Group households | 13 | 1.5 | 14 | 1.4 | 15 | 1.3 | +2 |
| Total | 860 | 100 | 1,010 | 100 | 1,128 | 100 | 268 |

Map 4 shows the existing planning zones in the Mirboo North township. The Darlimurla estate is located to the north east of the town and provides rural living properties. There are also rural living properties closer to the town centre.

MAP 4: MIRBOO NORTH EXISTING PLANNING ZONES



MAP 5: MIRBOO NORTH EXPECTED GROWTH AREA



Source¹⁶

2.3.5 Summary

Whilst the population of Mirboo North is not expected to grow at the same rate as other towns in South Gippsland (Leongatha, Korumburra, Nyora) the people that make up the population is expected to change in the next 20 years. Infill development will see the town centre and adjacent streets to the south become more densely populated. Rural living will continue to be popular with existing rural residential developments continuing to attract new home builders to Mirboo North for lifestyle living.

Overall older couples without children and lone people are expected to be attracted to live in Mirboo North to take advantage of the close, active community and arts opportunities. Whilst these older age groups will comprise a greater proportion of the population, the number of younger families and children will also increase over the same period.

¹⁶ South Gippsland Planning Scheme, Clause 21.15-3 Mirboo North, Mirboo North Structure Plan, November 2004.

3 EARLY YEARS

3.1 Introduction

Mirboo North has a childcare centre licenced for 42 children and kindergarten offering 4 year old kindergarten 30 hours per week. Three year old kindergarten has been provided through the childcare centre since 2012.



The recent discontinuation of management of St Andrews Childcare Centre by Uniting Care Gippsland has resulted in a review of the viability of the centre and community support to continue the service in the town.

3.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

South Gippsland Municipal Early Years Plan 2011 – 2016. The Victorian Government recognises that quality kindergarten services, through engagement of children in high quality learning experiences benefit all children and their families. The Council of Australian Governments national partnership on Early Childhood Education requires all states and territories to provide 15 hours of early childhood education in the year prior to school by 2013 (Universal Access).¹⁷ These programs are to be delivered by four year university qualified early childhood teachers.

Policy and funding information on kindergartens is described in the Victorian kindergarten policy, procedures and funding criteria 2010–12 available from:
<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/earlychildhood/childrensservices/kindergartenpolicycriteria.pdf>.

South Gippsland Early Childhood Services Building Assets Policy Framework March 2013. Provides a framework for how and where new early years facilities are to be provided and existing facilities upgraded. It provides an overview of:

- Current early childhood policy
- Standards and operational requirements
- Current services and facilities
- Guidelines for assessing how and where new facilities are to be provided
- What existing facilities are to be upgraded

¹⁷ Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, *Victorian kindergarten policy, procedures and funding criteria, 2010-12*, March 2010, viewed on 17 October 2012, <http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/earlychildhood/childrensservices/kindergartenpolicycriteria.pdf>.

A range of broader policies influencing the provision of early years services include:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The UN Framework for creating Child Friendly Cities
- Universal Access (preschool program geared at reaching all children the year before they start school)
- National Quality Framework for Early Education and Care services

3.3 Current Provision

3.3.1 Kindergarten

The kindergarten service is co-located with maternal and child health in Ridgeway. The kindergarten is cluster managed by YMCA Ballarat. A 4 year old kindergarten program is offered from the site 30 hours per week. Three year old kindergarten programs have been delivered by the adjacent childcare centre since the end of 2012.

The kindergarten and maternal and child health building was renovated in 2003 and is expected to require refurbishment or major upgrades within 10 – 15 years¹⁸. Kindergarten programs offering longer sessions which can cater for working parents suit the needs of a community where parents often have to travel up to 30 minutes out of the town to work.



3.3.2 Long Day Care / Occasional care and Out of school hours care

St Andrews Childcare Centre is located in the converted Uniting Church Hall. The centre offers long day care, occasional care, out of school hours care and 3 year old kindergarten. The centre is licenced for 42 places and is open weekdays between 7.30am and 6.00pm.

Uniting Care Gippsland ceased the management of the centre in February 2014. In response Council and the community worked together to ensure continuation of the service. The community supported the need for childcare in the town and the Mirboo North Community Foundation provided financial backing to the childcare centre to support its operation prior to new management beginning in April 2014. On a completion of a satisfactory financial viability study, the centre will now be operated by YMCA Bendigo from April 2014.

3.3.3 Family Day Care

Family Day Care is managed by Uniting Care Gippsland. Family day care is available in Mirboo North. Each family day care educator can cater for up to 4 children under

¹⁸ South Gippsland Shire Council (2013) Early Childhood Building Assets Policy Framework

school age and up to 3 school aged children under 12 years. It is reported that new legislative and qualification requirements have become a barrier to recruitment of new family day care educators however an additional family day care educator has recently been recruited in Mirboo North.

3.3.4 Playgroups

The Mirboo North playgroup is a parent run playgroup which meets at the Old Train Station in Baromi Park. The playgroup meets on a Tuesday and Thursday 9.00am – 11.30am.

3.3.5 Other Family Services

Foster care, Child First (child protection), integrated family services for vulnerable children and disability services are provided via services based in Leongatha and provide outreach services across the shire. The West Gippsland Regional Library provides Rhyme Time and Story Time at the Mirboo North library.

3.4 Consultation

The Children's Services Providers Network meets quarterly to discuss current issues, services, enrolments and strategic planning. These meetings provide an opportunity for kindergartens, child care centres, family day care and out of school hours care providers to share best practice, discuss issues or identify areas of need in this sector.

3.5 Future Demand

In 2011, there were 128 children aged 0 – 4 years (5.7 %) of the Mirboo North population 0.6% lower than Victoria. This proportion of 0 – 4 year olds is expected to remain at 5.7% to 2031 with an increase of 31 children over this period.



Playgroup meets at Old Train Station

TABLE 1 EARLY YEARS POPULATION GROWTH 2013 – 2031

| Age/years | Population | | | Increase in number |
|----------------|------------|------|------|--------------------|
| | 2013 | 2021 | 2031 | |
| 0 - 2 | 74 | 82 | 91 | +17 |
| 3 | 31 | 30 | 33 | +2 |
| 4 - 5 | 46 | 64 | 71 | +25 |
| Under 5 | 151 | 176 | 195 | +44 |

The number of children under the age of five is expected to increase by 44 children to 195 by 2031. It will be necessary to plan for early years services to meet the needs of this growing age group.

Working parents usually seek childcare in their home town or in the town in which they work. For Mirboo North residents who work in the town, alternatives for childcare in town are essential as the closest childcare alternatives are at least 25 minutes' drive away in Leongatha.

The co-location of child care, kindergarten, maternal and child health services and early intervention services in represents best practice for integration of children's services in the one area as described in the text box below. Early Years services are currently co-located in Mirboo North providing an ideal existing good practice model. The delivery of maternal and child health services from the meeting room at the library within the same block keep these services together and easily accessed by parents dropping children at childcare and kindergarten.

3.6 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

TABLE 2 GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS EARLY YEARS SERVICES

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Kindergarten | 3-year old kindergarten – 1 place per 3 children aged 3 years 4-year old kindergarten – 1 place per child aged 4 years 1 x 4 year old kindergarten to 10,000 people |
| Long Day Care | 1 centre licensed for 120 places to 8,000 – 10,000 people |
| Family Day Care | Dependent on availability of educators and community demand |
| Playgroup | 1 playgroup to 5,000 people |

Source ¹⁹

¹⁹ Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority, April 2008

Recommendations

Continue support for location of children's services in close proximity. Pedestrian access for parents with prams and children on bicycles should be maintained, particularly new rural living areas on the outer boundaries to the west and south of the town. New developments should prioritise safe pedestrian access between developments and the town centre. Developments with closed courts discourage active transport for community members, particularly parents and children.

Whilst an integrated children's centre is not recommended in the next 20 years in Mirboo North, the co-location of these services are ideal for shared operation of these services by a shared organisation or committee of management. Opportunities for amalgamation of the kindergarten and childcare centre in the future should be encouraged. Provision for upgrade and extension to create a children's services precinct at the existing location is possible.

Best Practice

Integrated children's services provide better outcomes for children and families, particularly vulnerable or hard to reach families. The co-location of services supports community building and local connections, social and economic capital. Integrated children's centres provide a one stop shop for busy parents and parents with multiple needs and reduce confusion for parents about where to seek help providing more comprehensive service delivery. Integrated children's centres can provide a multi-disciplinary approach for professionals with opportunities to transfer knowledge and practices. Service coordination is enhanced resulting in less delay for access to services.

The integration of early years' services can be within one building or a cluster of buildings

Source ²⁰



²⁰ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 'Research and Evidence', in *Integrated Children's services*, last updated 9 March 2011, viewed on 17 December 2012, <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmanagement/integratedservices/research.htm>.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EARLY YEARS SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | MAIN PROVIDER | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL | RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Education: 4 year old kindergarten | Mirboo North Kindergartens | Sessional kindergarten governed by committee of management | Make provision for upgrade and extension to create a children's services precinct at existing locations |
| Long day / occasional childcare | Mirboo North Childcare Centre | Managed by Ballarat YMCA | Make provision for upgrade and extension to create a children's services precinct at existing locations |
| Playgroups | Playgroup at Old Train Station , Baromi Park | Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 – 11.30 | Continue in current site with options for additional groups to meet varied needs of larger community. |

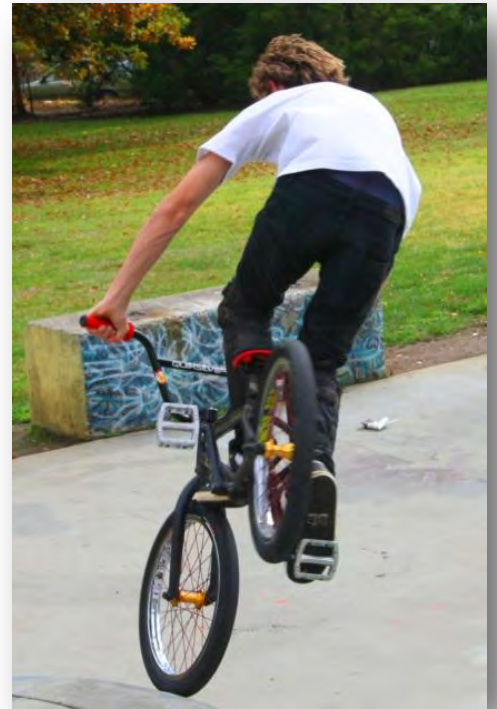


4 YOUTH

4.1 Introduction

The provision of specific infrastructure to allow young people to socialise, engage and recreate in accord with the broader community is important for the overall health and wellbeing of the community.

Mirboo North teenagers and young adults attend schools and tertiary institutions in Mirboo North and in a range of other towns. This increases the need for youth facilities and services catering for the whole youth population that are not only located within the Mirboo North Secondary College.



This chapter describes services and facilities specifically designed and allocated to youth aged between 12 and 19 in Mirboo North. Further discussion of the education and training needs of young people are included in the chapter [Education, Learning and Libraries](#).

Youth services and infrastructure may include youth counselling, youth engagement, youth development, support and advocacy, access and meeting places both indoor and outdoor and information provision.

4.2 Council Plans and Strategies / Government Policy

[South Gippsland Shire Council Youth Policy](#) South Gippsland Shire Council aims to increase opportunities for young people to have input into local government planning, strategy, policy and program decisions via their facilitation of the Youth council.

[Engage, Involve, Create: Victorian Government Youth Statement 2012](#) Describes the ways in which the Office for Youth supports youth through government programs and funding

[Office for Youth](#) The Office for Youth runs a range of programs that youth can become actively involved in. The programs and services are designed to encourage young people to be aware of and get involved in their community.

[Office of Youth Affairs](#) Provides funding to locally delivered services for youth including, but not restricted to Anglicare

[Schools as Community Facilities](#) The Victorian Government has released guidelines designed to help government schools and communities develop partnerships around sharing school facilities. The guidelines discuss the benefit of entering into a sharing

agreement and provide information on the legal framework that surrounds this type of agreement.

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria The peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria

Victoria Police Child and Youth Strategy 2009 – 2013 This investigates the methods to reduce: crime, road trauma and violence and antisocial behavior. It also investigates methods to improve youth engagement and effective diversion processes.

4.3 Current Provision

Currently people aged 12 - 19 years (265) and comprise 12% of the community down from 14% or 287 people in 2006. Many young people move away from Mirboo North for education and work once finished their secondary education.

TABLE 1 PROPORTION OF PEOPLE AGED 12 – 19 YEARS 2011 AND 2006

| Age | 2011 | 2011% | 2006 | 2006% |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 12 | 36 | 2 | 43 | 2 |
| 13 | 28 | 1 | 44 | 2 |
| 14 | 36 | 2 | 38 | 2 |
| 15 | 39 | 2 | 36 | 2 |
| 16 | 30 | 1 | 39 | 2 |
| 17 | 34 | 2 | 33 | 2 |
| 18 | 31 | 1 | 30 | 1 |
| 19 | 31 | 1 | 24 | 1 |
| Total | 265 | 12 | 287 | 14 |

Extensive sports and recreation facilities and clubs cater for young people as part of the broader community. Youth specific organisations include the scouts, pony club and swimming club.

4.3.1 Transport

Gippsland Bus Services and Wilson Bus Lines run 3 services on weekdays and two on weekends through Mirboo North between Traralgon, Leongatha and Wonthaggi. Three of these services connect with VLine services at Leongatha and Morwell and with Moe and Churchill Valley Transport Services at Morwell. Weekly services travelling to Traralgon stop at Mirboo North 7.30am, 10.45am and 2.35pm. Travelling to Wonthaggi they stop at Mirboo North at 10.20am, 1.14pm and 4.30pm. This provides a possible bus service to students travelling to Morwell, Moe or Churchill for secondary or tertiary studies occurring during the hours of a normal school day. A school bus operates between Mirboo North and Leongatha on weekdays.

Cycling within Mirboo North is difficult due to the steep terrain and a lack of bicycle lanes on town roads. Trails through Baromi Park allow access to the skate bowl from all sides of the park.

4.3.2 Youth Council



South Gippsland Shire Council encourages young people to have input into local government planning, strategy, policy and program decisions via the youth council. The main function of the Youth Council is for young people to get together and take an active part in helping youth activity in South Gippsland. Youth Council members range between 12 to 25 years of age. Generally there are about 15 young people on the team from across South Gippsland. Many young people from Mirboo North expressed an interest in participating in a youth council for their local town.

4.3.3 Recreation and Leisure

For a detailed description of recreation and leisure in Mirboo North refer to the sport and recreation chapter in this document.

Mirboo North Skate Bowl is located in Baromi Park in the centre of the town. The bowl is bell shed and was designed as both a skate bowl and amphitheatre. Heights vary from 3ft to 7 ft. The bowl is decorated with graffiti style art work.

There are numerous sporting clubs in Mirboo North most welcoming young members. Many Mirboo North sporting clubs have junior competitions and training sessions. Some clubs in Mirboo North cater primarily for people under 18. The Mirboo North Swimming Club trains at South Gippsland SPLASH. They compete in competition against neighbouring towns in January and February each year and host at least one carnival during this competition period.

The Mirboo North Pony Club meets at the Walter J Tuck Reserve the third Sunday of the month and has around 30 young members. They have a main arena and are building a second arena. Many outside groups use their wash area and disabled ramp before riding the rail trail. A shed has been constructed to store jumps and equipment and the A&P shed is used for shelter if needed.

Mirboo North 1st Scouts meet in the Mirboo North Scouts Hall located adjacent to Walter J Tuck Recreation Reserve with a separate entrance and parking. Scouts aged 10 – 14 meet Tuesday 6.30 – 8.30pm with recruitment for venturers open to people aged 15 – 18 years.



Church youth clubs provide activities to their younger congregation who use church halls and facilities during the week as well as on worship days.

4.3.4 Youth specific health and wellbeing projects

Most youth specific health and wellbeing projects operate through the schools. Mirboo North Secondary College has a chaplain shared with the primary school. Mental health and wellbeing programs and a counselling service are available through the Chaplaincy program.

Joint projects supporting students and parents of Mirboo North Primary School and Secondary Schools have aimed to build a culture of awareness and understanding of mental health issues in the school community. The South Coast Primary Care Partnership has worked in partnership with the school on these projects with the Army of Minds project to run until at least the end of 2014.

The Grainstore has been the venue for youth activities facilitated by Uniting Care Gippsland and Scope conducts a drama group.

4.4 Consultation

In development of the skate bowl extensive discussions have taken place with young people of Mirboo North. The need for further seating and lighting at the skate bowl has been identified.



4.5 Future Demand

The provision of specific infrastructure to allow young people to socialise, engage and recreate in accord with the broader community is important for the overall health and wellbeing of the community²¹.



Since 2006 the population of people aged 12 – 19 (287) has been in decline. This is expected to continue to decline from an estimated 240 in 2013 to 217 people in 2017 before increasing to 260 people by 2031. This reflects the lifecycle of families within the town. There remains a need to provide places where young people can meet which are safe and easily seen and where young people can participate in youth specific programs outside of schools and sporting clubs if they wish.

4.6 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Some states have developed urban design guidelines for children and youth as part of broader youth policies²², as crime prevention strategic planning²³, and to improve safety and inclusion of children and youth in the local community²⁴. Neighbouring Councils with such as Casey Shire Council have developed extensive youth strategies to address needs of their large youth population.

The youth specific urban design guidelines reflect themes of access and circulation, inclusive design, mixed uses (and users), safety and surveillance, separate but visible areas, performance needs and basic services. Below is a summary of these guidelines.

TABLE 1 YOUTH DESIGN GUIDELINES – FOR YOUTH FRIENDLY PUBLIC AREAS

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Access and Circulation</p> <p>Allow for access and circulation on foot, bikes, skateboards or scooters.</p> | <p>Maximise access to public transport.</p> <p>Locate pick up and drop off points as close as possible to public spaces and young people's activities.</p> <p>Bus pick up and drop off points should be well-lit, seating, 10 minute parking, increased public space for school bags, secure</p> |
|--|--|

²¹ NSW Commission for Children and Young People, 2009, *Built 4 Kids: A good practice guide to creating child-friendly built environments*, viewed on 30 November 2012, http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/uploads/documents/Built4Kids_complete.pdf

²² Department Urban Affairs and Planning, 1999, *Urban Design Guidelines With Young People In Mind*, Planning NSW.

²³ R. White, 1998, *Public Spaces for Young People*, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

²⁴ NSW Commission for Children and Young People, 2009.

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>bike storage facilities, positioned in active locations with casual surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Walking and cycling paths which should be well-lit and provide surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Safe, easy to use, connecting routes to youth facilities such as skateboard ramps, basketball courts where skateboards, bikes and scooters can be used.</p> <p>Allow shared use of public areas that are varied, lively and safe suitable for a variety of users or groups.</p> |
| <p>Range of users</p> <p>Integrate rather than segregate young people from the wider community.</p> | <p>Public spaces which are flexible to accommodate wide range of users. Larger spaces and wider paths to accommodate walkers and a wheeled item such as pram, wheelchair, bike or skateboard.</p> <p>Seating in public areas at the edge of footpaths where through movement and access to shops is not blocked, seats can be easily observed. This provides opportunities for watching passers by and hanging out as an activity rather than an obstruction.</p> <p>Youth specific facilities integrated into town centre and positioned where there is passing life and activity at street level possibly in shop fronts.</p> |
| <p>Mix of Uses</p> <p>Encourage range of uses</p> | <p>Encourage range of uses including 'magnets' for young people such as food outlets and cafes.</p> <p>Include a mix of retail, commercial and entertainment as well as government agencies and community services.</p> <p>Encourage residential uses above shop fronts in town centre to facilitate activity, providing youth services and facilities at street level.</p> |
| <p>Making safer places</p> <p>Improve perception of safety in public spaces.</p> | <p>Avoid extensive blank walls at ground level. Active edges such as glazed shopfronts are preferable and provide casual surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Activate the public domain through maximising the number of entries to buildings from the street.</p> <p>Provide adequate lighting to back lanes to support their use as safe shortcuts and pedestrian routes.</p> <p>Landscaping of public spaces should not obscure pedestrian eye-level sight lines or sterilize large areas.</p> |
| <p>The public stage</p> <p>Provide venues for public entertainment and public communication</p> | <p>Design formal and informal spaces for public entertainment.</p> <p>Design street furniture to be multi-functional for both seating and as a stage.</p> <p>Design spaces large enough for a variety of uses/users including markets, public performances, and other community activities.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>Public noticeboards or poster kiosks as a forum for community communication and to control bill posting.</p> <p>Public art to channel youth self-expression and control graffiti via sculptural or walls, murals, paving.</p> |
| <p>Keep public space public</p> <p>Retain free public spaces, open at all times.</p> | <p>Provide spaces in the public realm in addition to any shopping malls or arcades.</p> <p>Keep public spaces uncluttered, simple and flexible.</p> <p>Prevent car parking in public spaces.</p> |
| <p>Separate but visible</p> | <p>Provide skate parks in public areas in locations that are visible to other public spaces users but separate from main paths of movement.</p> |
| <p>Basic services</p> <p>Public services that are discreet but accessible</p> | <p>Co-locate public toilets, sanitary facilities, phones in public areas where they are easy to find, discreet and where surveillance opportunities exist.</p> |

Source²⁵

Best Practice

The best approach to youth-related issues is one which is holistic, community-based and involves young people in the process. As members of the broader community, young people's human rights should be consulted and catered for in relation to community infrastructure including public spaces and service provision. Provision of a diverse range of options, youth services, public transport, formal and informal means of participation and inclusion, development of competencies, clear guidelines and codes of conduct all support the rights of young people.

Recommendations

With many people 12 - 19 travelling out of Mirboo North for secondary and tertiary education, there is an increased need for youth specific facilities and services which can be accessed outside of school hours. While many youth specific services are provided by schools including Mirboo North Secondary College, sporting and recreation clubs provide the few opportunities for all young people of Mirboo North to come together outside of school.

Opportunities for young people outside of sport and recreation could be provided in public facilities such as The Grainstore, or Old Train Station where they can be close to the skate bowl

²⁵ R. White, 1998 *Public Spaces for Young People*, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

and the shops. Baromi Park provides public outdoor space to accommodate the needs of all community members and provides good access for pedestrian and those on bikes, scooters and skateboards. The provision of further lighting near the skate bowl and extending the use of the skate bowl as an amphitheatre will make it attractive to a broader range of youth and families not just those interested in skating.

The addition of an indoor facility available to youth would provide for quiet study, informal meeting with other young people, youth specific service provision or waiting for lifts from parents or friends are needed close to the town centre. Undercover, well lit, easily seen meeting places would allow young people to socialize safely within the town.

Community art and cultural activities provide new skills, networks and strengthen the community. Arts bring together a diversity of people in the community and can provide the skills and media through which issues and visions can be presented to others in an engaging way. Arts activities benefit both the participant and the artist and can involve a broad range of media. Community art activities for young people in Mirboo North provide are a powerful way of engaging young people in the community who may not come together through education or sport.²⁶

TABLE 2: YOUTH SPECIFIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES – CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | MAIN PROVIDER | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL | RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED |
|---|----------------------|---|--|
| Youth specific outdoor recreation | Council | Skate bowl Baromi Park Sporting clubs – swimming club, pony club, | Provide undercover seating and lighting Support pony club to investigate funding for clubrooms with kitchen Continue swimming pool working group |
| Youth specific indoor meeting spaces | Scouts | Scout hall used for scouts The Grainstore previous youth activities The Old Train Station | Current scout halls could be investigated for more general youth meeting space. Investigate suitable buildings for future youth activities including The Grainstore, Old Train Station or Scout Hall. |
| Study spaces | Mirboo North Library | Library as study space for quiet student study after school. | Use additional meeting rooms attached to library for youth space to allow discussion and IT activity space. Continued allocation of study space within library. |

²⁶ Department of Victorian Communities (2006) Strengthening local communities – Arts in Community Settings, Arts Victoria

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Public Realm | Skate bowl | Skate bowl in Baromi Park | Provide lighting and undercover seating at skate bowl. Investigate indoor venue within Baromi Park for youth drop in centre. |
| Youth services | Youth specific services in Mirboo North | Delivered in schools. | Youth services delivered in the general community outside of school hours as well as through schools. Consider youth access clinic as part of new health and wellbeing centre |
| Arts activities | Community | Few youth specific activities – skate bowl has art featured | Arts and cultural activities are a powerful way of engaging young people in the community who may not come together through education or sport. |



5 OLDER PEOPLE AND AGEING

5.1 Introduction

Currently 19.3% of the Mirboo North population is aged over 60 with 13.5% of these people living alone. In the 20 years from 2011 to 2031 there is expected to be an increase of 242 people in this age group. The largest increase in people between 2011 and 2021 is forecast to be people aged 70 – 74, an increase of 40 people.



A review of aged care beds in Mirboo North will be required to cater for the increase in frail aged people in the next 16 years.

For the purpose of this project aged care services include:

- Retirement villages
- Residential Aged Care (low and high care)
- Aged care public housing
- Home and Community Care (HACC) (Assessment services, home care, personal care, respite, property maintenance, meals on wheels and community transport)
- Senior Citizens Centres
- Planned Activity Groups, one on one respite and community outreach programs

5.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

South Gippsland Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016 (AAP) Focuses on addressing issues that older residents have said are important in enabling them to participate in the community as they age.

South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWB) 2013 - 2017 is a key strategic document which is a legislative requirement for all Local Governments under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The MPHWB Plan contains actions and measures to improve the health and wellbeing of the whole community including older residents and those with a disability.

5.2.1 Broader Policies

Gippsland Regional Dementia Plan 2011-2014 (Department of Health) Lifestyle strategies including preventative initiatives such as participating in regular physical activity, leisure and social activities can reduce the risk of developing dementia. This plan has been

developed in recognition of the prevalence of dementia across Gippsland which is expected to increase in the next ten years.



Gippsland HACC Diversity Plan is a strategic population planning initiative that supports and encourages Home and Community Care service delivery which is responsive to and respectful of the specific characteristics of the person seeking services.

The Living Longer Living Better aged care reform package provides \$3.7

billion over five years. This reform gives priority to providing:

- More support and care in the home
- Better access to residential care
- More support for those with dementia
- Strengthening the aged care workforce

Community Common Care Standards are applicable to the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program, Community Aged Care Packages level 1 – 4 based on needs and the National Respite for Carers Program. There are three standards:

- Effective Management
- Appropriate Access and Service Delivery
- Service User Rights and Responsibilities

The Home and Community Care (HACC) Program is Victoria's principal source of funding for services that support frail aged people, younger people with disabilities, and carers. In Victoria the program supports over 275,000 frail older people and people with disabilities. HACC is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments and provides priorities for funding of HACC services.

The Active Service Model is a quality improvement initiative that focuses on promoting capacity building and restorative care in community care service delivery. The goal of the Active Service Model is to assist people in the HACC target group to live in the community as independently and autonomously as possible. The goal of this initiative is to ensure that clients are able to gain the greatest level of independence they can possibly achieve, and equally, that they can be as actively involved in making decisions about their life as they can be – such as the type of services they receive and the goals they wish to achieve.

The Aged Care Act 1997 guides the provision of services including community packaged care programs—the Community Aged Care Packages (CACP), the Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) and the Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia (EACHD) programs.

Victorian Government Residential Aged Care Policy 2009 describes the Victorian Government role in supporting accredited residential aged care providers.



5.3 Current Provision

Services for older people in Mirboo North are provided in purpose built facilities, community meeting places and in the home. Council provides home and community care to frail older people and their carer's. Many older residents are unable to readily leave the home to access the services they need. Carer support services are also provided by a number of other providers under a

brokerage system funded by a variety of

sources including but not limited to Human Services, Home and Community Care, Department of Veterans Affairs and Traffic Accident Commission.

Home and Community Care (HACC)

Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides basic support services to frail older people, people with a disability and their carers assisting them to live independently. Assessment is required for a person's eligibility. Eligibility is based on a person's current health and wellbeing, their priority of need and availability of services. An officer visits the client, their family and other networks to develop a Care Plan reflecting their needs and goals.

Council provides HACC Services to eligible community members in all areas of South Gippsland. Latrobe Community Health Service provides a HACC response unit, linkages packages and veteran's home care. Gippsland Southern Health Service provides district nursing, allied health, palliative care.

TABLE 1: HACC SERVICES

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Home Care | Home care assists clients to maintain a safe, healthy and hygienic home environment. Assistance may include tasks such as vacuuming, sweeping and washing floors, cleaning bathrooms and toilets, changing bed linen, basic shopping and assistance with paying bills and banking. |
| Personal Care | Personal care services provide support to people who have difficulty with daily personal care tasks such as showering, dressing, meal preparation and application of pressure stockings. |
| Respite Care | Respite enables carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities. Individual respite requirements are discussed and time spent during respite is based on activities that are meaningful and of interest to the client. |
| Meals on Wheels | Provides nutritious and diet specific meals delivered to client's homes by volunteers. Menu choice on a 5 week cycle, each meal includes a soup, main meal, sweet (or fruit/yogurt) and juice. Meals are delivered to people living in Mirboo North, Korumburra, Mirboo North |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| | and Foster townships. Clients living outside these townships can arrange collection of frozen meals. |
| Community Transport | Assistance with transport aims to support individuals where no other form of transport is available, for activities such as medical appointments or shopping. The program is supported by Council, with the provision of Council owned cars and buses, and volunteers who complete the driving. |
| Home Maintenance | This program provides basic assistance to clients with the maintenance of their home to ensure a safe and secure environment such as installation of ramps, rails and gutter cleaning. |

5.3.1 *Community Aged Care Packages*

Community aged care packages are provided by service providers external to Council that bid for government funding to deliver services or provide private services on a user pays basis to case managed clients. Currently Community Aged Care packages are provided by Bapcare, Benetas and Calvary Silver Circle and Villa Maria to people with ongoing care needs. These services are flexible depending on the client's needs and may include case management, personal care, transport, home care, shopping, laundry, respite carer support, after hours support, medical referral to other services, home and garden maintenance and access to social activities.

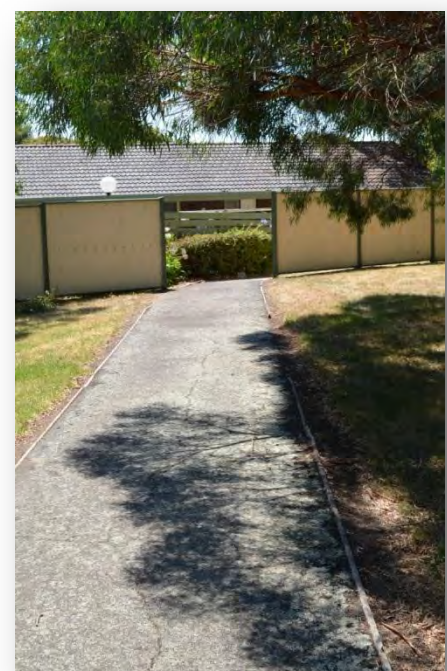
5.3.2 *Carer Support and Respite Services*

Council provides carer support via their HACC services. Bapcare, Benetas, Calvary Silver Circle, Villa Maria, Latrobe Community Health Service and Mental Illness Fellowship also provide support to carers of frail aged. Support includes in home respite, helping with leisure activities for the carer, day programs, camps weekends and accommodation support and short term residential respite and study assistance for the carer.

5.3.3 *Residential Aged Care and Housing*

Residential aged care is provided by government and non-government providers. In Mirboo North Strzelecki House is managed by Aged Care Services Australia. It is a 60 bed facility with 30 high care and 30 low care beds available and 1 respite bed.

The Office of Housing has a cluster of units specifically for older people located in Couper Street on the north east corner of Baromi Park. Pedestrian access via paved path is through Baromi Bark to shops and services. There has been support to develop a community garden for these residents in past years but this is not open to the general public.



South Gippsland Shire Council Home and Community Care includes the provision of respite and transport to eligible clients.

5.4 Consultation

The South Gippsland Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016 included extensive consultation in its development. Methods of consultation included:

- Surveying 1200 residents (with a 20% response rate)
- Community forums, contact with local community groups, information to Home Community Care clients, partnership input from health services and council officers

The South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 was developed with extensive consultation across the South Gippsland community and with service providers via interview, focus groups, print and online survey. It included discussions with the Mirboo North community during this consultation period.

5.5 Future Demand

Currently 19.3% of the Mirboo North population is aged over 65 with 13.5% of these people living alone. In the 20 years from 2011 to 2031 there is expected to be an increase of 242 people in this age group. The largest increase in people between 2011 and 2021 is forecast to be people aged 70 – 74, an increase of 40 people.



While over 65s are more active and independent than in the past, it is from 65 years of age group and older that people require more services due to deterioration of health including vision and mobility.

TABLE 2: POPULATION MIRBOO NORTH FORECAST OVER 65

| Year | Number of people over 65 | Percentage of whole population |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2013 | 435 | 19.3% |
| 2021 | 558 | 22.2% |
| 2031 | 634 | 22.7% |

Source²⁷

²⁷ ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2006 Forecast* analysed by id Consulting.

“The level of participation in the community is often dependent on the level of physical and cognitive ability of people. Maintaining health and wellbeing as we age is therefore integral to continuing participation.”²⁸

Identified Models for Delivery

Increasingly government funding supports people remaining in their own home with supports provided to continue living independently.

Even, wide paths connecting residential areas with passive recreation spaces, sporting facilities, health services, community centres, library and cultural areas are needed to encourage older people to participate in activity. Developers of age specific developments need to consider pedestrian access to community facilities and shops for future residents.

Council currently contributes approximately 17% of the cost of the HACC program with the remainder funded through State Government and service fees charged to clients. It is anticipated that Council's contribution will remain at that level unless Government Policy commitments change.

Current settings and modes of delivery will continue. The level of service provision is likely to change over the next couple of decades in response to people living longer and managing chronic disease in their own homes. Aged services provision will become more diverse extending into partnerships with health services. One such area could include supporting people with specific conditions such as Dementia. While services provided in the home will experience increased demand with a growing older population, the need for residential aged care will also increase

Within Mirboo North the current supply of small accessible housing close to the town centre is likely to also meet this need. A recent development of 13 lots adjacent to Strzelecki House provides access to healthy and community services within walking distance.

Infill development to the south of Ridgeway would meet the needs of people of retirement age and older. These lots are close to shops and services and with continuous footpath connection to the health services, library and shops would allow these residents to remain active as they age in their own homes.

The Senior Citizens Club meets in Baromi Centre, a purpose built centre located in Baromi Park and close to the main street shops. The centre has recently been refurbished with new kitchen and is available for hire.

Residential aged care – The Victorian Government residential aged care policy 2009 states that low care is increasingly a less favoured option with older people choosing to stay at

²⁸ South Gippsland Shire Council, *Active Ageing Plan 2012-2016*, p.1, South Gippsland Shire Council, viewed on 25 July 2012, http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/files/AppE.1_Active_Ageing_Strategy.pdf.

home for as long as possible with government support. Government community care policies and programs have promoted and supported people to remain in their own homes. While data shows there is less demand for low level care, demand for high level care is increasing. If the supply of residential high care services fails to meet this increased demand there will be greater pressure on Victoria's community care, sub-acute and acute service system. The current provision of residential aged care services by government and non-government providers will meet expanding need for residential aged care services to ensure residential aged care remains an option for the ageing Mirboo North community. Moving into residential aged care within one's home town allows easy continued interaction with family and friends.



5.6 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns. Provision of services and facilities for older people should consider availability of accessible public facilities within a town the size of Mirboo North located in the central business district.

The following planning criteria have been applied by State Government in growth areas to define provision of aged care services:

TABLE 3: AGED CARE SERVICES GROWTH PLANNING CRITERIA

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Residential aged care | 88 places per 1,000 residents aged 70 and over |
| Respite care | 1 respite / planned activity group per 40,000 to 60,000 people |
| Meals on Wheels | 1 dispatch centre per 40,000 to 60,000 people |
| Senior Citizen's Centre | Provision to meet in 1 large multi-purpose meeting place per 8,000 – 10,000 people |

Recommendations

An increase in the number of frail elderly will require a review of the aged care beds for high and low care in Mirboo North in the next 10 years. Home and community care services and district nursing may also experience demand for additional services to older people at home.

Multi-purpose community facilities where a range of services and activities are offered provide a central meeting area for community interaction for people who are increasingly living independently in their own homes. The opportunity to get out of the house to meet with others becomes increasingly important as people age and increasingly live alone.

For those people in residential aged care, their connection with the community and integration with community social structure is beneficial. Residential aged care services that provide a range of supports and ongoing linkages ensure the continued wellbeing and involvement of their residents with the broader community including those older people living independently and younger generations.

All new developments whether in town or at the edge of town must be connected to the town centre, health services and library. There is a need for pedestrian networks to provide shared access for wheeled mobility scooters on with even surfaces, gutters and road crossing points. Footpaths from all residential areas will allow older residents to remain active and healthy as they age and remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible. The pedestrian networks also need to be accessible by all users and encourage older people and people with disabilities to come into the town centre to access services provided there.

Working with existing businesses within the town centre to increase accessibility for all will encourage independent movement around the town centre.

New residential developments in Mirboo North should attract sufficient developer contributions to ensure continuous provision of pedestrian access that includes off road mobility scooter and wheelchair access.

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF CURRENT AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

| Service / Infrastructure type | Main provider | Current Service and Facility model | Recommended Service and Facility model to meet future need |
|---|--|--|---|
| Home and Community Care (HACC) | South Gippsland Shire Council Veterans Affairs | In home care provided via intake and assessment criteria to determine eligibility. Specific service for veterans | Continue current model of delivery with increased advocacy for funding to meet need to Dept Health |
| Personal Care Packages | Baptcare Benetas Calvary Silver Circle | Eligibility assessed via intake system. Service provided in the home | Current service model expanded to meet population need limited by funding allocation |
| Carer and respite support services | Latrobe Community Health Service Baptcare Benetas Mental Illness Fellowship | Eligibility assessed via intake system. Service provided in the home | Current service model expanded to meet population need limited by funding allocation |
| Residential Aged Care | Aged Care Services Australia | Strzelecki House 30 x high care beds 30 x low care beds 1 x respite bed either high or low care | Expansion of both high and low care residential aged care is to be expected with the ageing population. |



6 DISABILITY AND DIVERSITY

6.1 Introduction

Mirboo North has a diverse community with lower than average Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (0.5%) and a higher proportion of people with disabilities (7.2%) than South Gippsland and regional Victoria.

Whilst services to support cultural diversity are located in Latrobe Valley or Leongatha these areas are around 20 minutes travel from Mirboo North.

Many services for people with disabilities are provided to Mirboo North residents in the home and those who are more able travel to Leongatha or Latrobe Valley for services. Employment support services for people with disabilities endeavour to source opportunities for work in the client's home town where possible, however the range of job opportunities is limited in smaller towns such as Mirboo North.

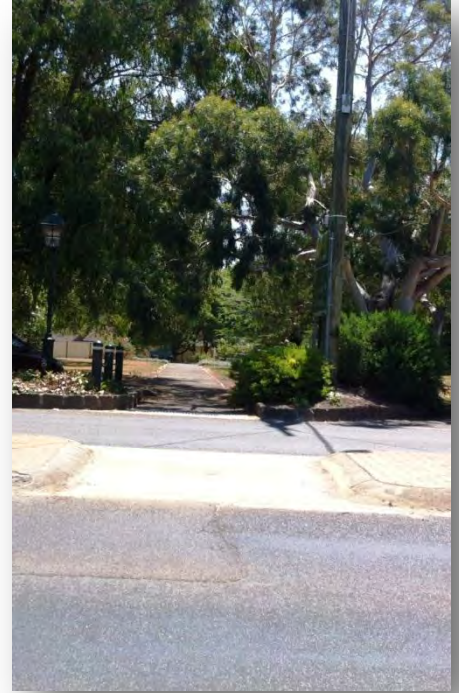
For the purpose of this project this chapter includes:

- Diversity within the Mirboo North population
- Disability Assessment
- Aged Care Mental Health Service
- Day programs
- Home and Community Care (HACC) (Assessment services, home care, personal care, respite, property maintenance, meals on wheels and community transport)

6.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

South Gippsland Disability Action Plan (DAP) works to improve the way Council services respond to the needs of people with disabilities, their families and carers and service providers. At a strategic level, the plan seeks to foster a community and partnership approach towards building a more inclusive community, in which people with a disability have increased opportunity to participate in their community and make meaningful choices about their lives.

South Gippsland Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016 (AAP) Focuses on addressing issues that older residents have said are important in enabling them to participate in the community as they age.



South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWB) is a key strategic document which is a legislative requirement for all Local Governments under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The MPHWB Plan contains actions and measures to improve the health and wellbeing of the whole community including residents with a disability. The plan must be developed within 12 months of a Council election and is effective for 4 years.

Gippsland HACC Diversity Plan 2012 – 2015 is a strategic population planning initiative that support and encourages Home and Community Care service delivery which is responsive to and respectful of the specific characteristics of the person seeking services.

Gippsland Home and Community Care (HACC) Aboriginal Plan 2012 - 2014

Victorian State Disability Plan 2013 – 2016 The plan provides a direction across the Victorian Government so that all government policies, programs, services and infrastructure are able to take full account of people with a disability, their families and carers.

The Disability Act 2006 and the Disability Regulations 2007 replaced the Intellectually Disabled Persons' Services Act 1986 and Disability Services Act 1991. The Disability Act (Victoria) provides for a whole-of-government response to the rights and needs of people with a disability and a framework for the provision of high quality services and supports for people with a disability.

Federal (Disability Discrimination Act 1992) and State (Equal Opportunity Act 2010) Legislation stating that it is against the law to discriminate on the grounds of disability.

6.3 Current Provision

Population Diversity

TABLE 1 MIRBOO NORTH POPULATION DIVERSITY 2011

| Population | Number | % | South Gippsland Shire % | Victoria |
|---|--------|------|-------------------------|----------|
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population | 9 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| Australian born | 1,853 | 83.7 | 84.3 | 68.6 |
| Speaks a language other than English at home | 110 | 4.9 | 3.5 | 23.1 |
| People needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability | 159 | 7.2 | 5.3 | 4.8 |

Ancestry

The majority of the Mirboo North population are Australian born, with 0.5% identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. The ancestry of the remaining population in Mirboo North is mostly British and European. The top countries of birth for people living in Mirboo North were the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany. In Mirboo North 4.9% of the population speak a language other than English at home with the dominant language Italian with 2.4% or 52 people speaking this language at home. There were 18 people (0.8%) in Mirboo North who stated in the Census 2011 that they did not speak English well or not at all.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in South Gippsland comprises people from across Australia with very few with South Gippsland ancestors. The land of South Gippsland is accepted as being approximately 30% Gunai/Kurnai traditional land, and 70% Boonwurrung traditional land. Of the 3 indigenous groups living in the Shire there is no one Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP), with whom to establish strong working relationships.

Disability

'Disability' is an umbrella term for any or all of the components: impairment, activity limitation and participation restriction, as influenced by environmental factors. Impairments are 'problems in body function or structure such as significant deviation or loss'. Activity limitations are 'difficulties an individual may have in executing activities'. Participation restrictions are 'problems an individual may experience in involvement in life situations'²⁹ Disabilities can be categorised as intellectual, psychiatric, sensory/speech, acquired brain injury and physical/diverse. Physical/diverse disabilities are the most commonly reported disabilities.

Disability statistics for the Mirboo North population relate directly to need for assistance due to a severe or profound disability with 159 people or 7.2% of the population needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This is based on subjective assessment self-reported in the 2011 Census. There are a relatively high number of people aged under 60 who need assistance due to disability (34) in comparison with South Gippsland and Victoria. Overall in comparison with Victoria (4.8%), Mirboo North has a higher proportion of people with disabilities needing assistance (7.2%). It would be expected that more people with disabilities live in the larger towns of South Gippsland rather than smaller more remote areas to access services and facilities with greater ease.

In Mirboo North of the 159 needing assistance, 51 people were aged over 70 years. This reflects the increased disability people experience as they age. Further details regarding aged care and the older population of Mirboo North is described in a separate chapter of this document.

²⁹ WHO (World Health Organization) 2001a. International classification of functioning, disability and health. Geneva: WHO p 7 - 10.

Dementia

Dementia describes the symptoms of a large group of illnesses including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, alcohol-related dementia, AIDS-related dementia and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Symptoms include loss of memory, intellect, rationality, social skills and normal emotional reactions.



Dementia is not a normal part of ageing. Most people with dementia are older, but it is important to remember that most older people do not get dementia. Dementia can happen to anybody, but it is more common after the age of 65 years. People in their 40s and 50s can also have dementia.

"Dementia is considered to be the leading cause of disability in older Australians aged 65 years and over. It is the fastest growing source of major disease burden, and is projected to overtake coronary heart disease in relation to total wellbeing costs by 2023. Within two decades, dementia is expected to become the third greatest source of health and residential aged care spending."³⁰

Prevalence of dementia within South Gippsland is shown in the table below, showing an increase in prevalence of nearly 36% in the next ten years. (Data from Access Economics: Projections of dementia prevalence and incidence in Victoria 2010 – 2050, Victoria in Future 2008 as published in the Gippsland Dementia plan 2011-2014.)

TABLE 2 PREVALENCE OF DEMENTIA IN SOUTH GIPPSLAND

| | 2010 | | 2015 | | 2020 | | Change in dementia prevalence 2010-2020 % |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---|
| | No of people | Percent of LGA | No of people | Percent of LGA | No of people | Percent of LGA | |
| South Gippsland | 424 | 1.5 | 524 | 1.8 | 622 | 2.1 | 35.8 |

Source ³¹

Disability support

Residents of Mirboo North access disability support services in the home or travel to Leongatha and Latrobe Valley for day activities, education and employment programs.

Disability support increasingly involves the person with a disability to have more flexibility and control to choose the support they receive. Support packages are funded by the Department of Human Services to assist a person to meet their disability support needs.

³⁰ Department of Health (Gippsland), 2011 Gippsland Dementia plan 2011-2014

³¹ South Gippsland Shire Council Diversity Plan 2012 - 2015

Outreach support provides up to 15 hours per week of home and community support to people with a disability to assist them to live independently.

The Victorian Aids and Equipment Program provides people with a permanent or long term disability with subsidised aids, equipment, home and vehicle modifications.

Community life and jobs support is provided through a range of programs and approaches. Young adults are supported through a transitioning program providing support to young people with a disability who want to pursue further education, training and employment. Specialist disability employment services are also available.

People with disabilities also live independently or with others in shared accommodation that is not specifically designated for people with disabilities.

Carer and family support

Carer and family support is available for families of children with a disability and carers of adults with a disability living in Mirboo North. Respite support provides short-term breaks for carers of people with a disability and families. Short-term breaks can be overnight, or during the day, breaks can be in-home, in residential settings, with another family, out in the community or other flexible arrangements. Flexible Support Packages provide a range of supports for people with a disability and their families. Individual Support Packages provide flexible funding, based on planning, to suit the particular needs of people with a disability. 'Family Options' provides short term and long term alternative family placements for people with a disability who are unable to live with their own family.

Service Provision

Offices for many community and care services for people with disabilities are located in Leongatha and include Yooralla Firstbase, Anglicare, Gippsland Southern Health Service, Department of Human Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Uniting Care Gippsland, Salvation Army and Villa Maria. These organisations provide services in Mirboo North to clients who meet certain age, ability and funding criteria.

There are a range of disability support services provided in Mirboo North in community facilities. Yooralla runs pottery in the Community Shed and Scope leads a drama group in the Grainstore.

Many disability services in Mirboo North are provided in in the home. Carer support services are also provided by a range of providers under a brokerage system funded by a variety of sources including but not limited to Department of Human Services, Home and Community Care, Department of Veterans Affairs and Traffic Accident Commission.



Individual Support Packages are funded by Department of Human Services, Disability Services. Support packages are allocated to a person for assistance with meeting their disability support needs. The funds may be used to buy a range of supports chosen by the person to help achieve their goals. This may include individual and/or group based supports such as a day service. An Individual Support Package can help people to continue to live in the community by providing supports to live as independently as possible; strengthen relationships with family, friends and other community members, and participate in the community. Individual support packages are available to people living in Mirboo North.

Home and Community Care (HACC) provides basic support services for people with disabilities and their carers, assisting them to live independently. Assessment is required for a person's eligibility and is focused on the older community. Eligibility is based on a person's current health and wellbeing, their priority of need and availability of services. South Gippsland Shire Council provides Home and Community Care Services to eligible community members in Mirboo North. Latrobe Community Health Service provides a HACC response unit, linkages packages and veteran's home care.

A table describing the services provided to Mirboo North residents is provided below.

TABLE 3: HACC SERVICES

| Service | Definition |
|---------------------|---|
| Home Care | Home care assists clients to maintain a safe, healthy and hygienic home environment. Assistance may include tasks such as vacuuming, sweeping and washing floors, cleaning bathrooms and toilets, changing bed linen, basic shopping and assistance with paying bills and banking. |
| Personal Care | Personal care services provide support to people who have difficulty with daily personal care tasks including showering, dressing and application of pressure stockings. |
| Respite Care | Respite enables carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities. Individual respite requirements are discussed and time spent during respite is based on activities that are meaningful and of interest to the client |
| Meals on Wheels | Provides nutritious and diet specific meals delivered to client's homes by volunteers. Each meal includes a soup, main meal, sweet (or fruit/yogurt) and juice. Meals are delivered to people living in Mirboo North. Clients living outside these townships can arrange collection of frozen meals. |
| Community Transport | Assistance with transport aims to support individuals where no other form of transport is available, for activities such as medical appointments or shopping. The program is supported by Council, with the provision of Council owned cars and buses, and volunteers who complete the driving. Mirboo North RSL has a community bus. This bus was funded in April 2013 by the Mirboo North Community Foundation to install a new electronic step to assist people to access the bus more readily. |
| Home Maintenance | This program provides basic assistance to clients with the maintenance of their home to ensure a safe and secure environment such as installation of ramps, rails and gutter cleaning. |

Disability Services

Group services, employment services and education for people with a disability are available in Mirboo North. Additional services are provided to clients in Mirboo North by services based in other areas.

TABLE 4 DISABILITY SERVICES AVAILABLE IN MIRBOO NORTH

| Service/s | Organisation/s |
|--|--|
| IN MIRBOO NORTH FACILITIES | |
| Yooralla Firstbase brings clients to Mirboo North Community Shed weekly to participate in pottery | Mirboo North Community Shed Yooralla First Base |
| Mayhem facilitated drama group at the Grainstore weekly. | Scope |
| IN THE HOME | |
| <p>Range of services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preschool Field Officer - offers support to children with additional needs and their families to assist inclusion into State funded Kindergarten Programs including children with a disability, koori children and children with a non-English speaking background. - Rural Access Worker - works with local groups and organisations, businesses and the broader community to strengthen the community's capacity to provide support to people of all abilities and their families. - Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee – provides strategic and practical advice to Council on matters related to access, inclusion and disability. - Home and Community Care – see Table 1 below The Home and Community Care team have a Diversity Plan to guide the provision of suitable services to the full range of clients access HACC services. - Issue parking permits for people with disabilities, applications for multi-purpose taxi program, a 50% reduction in taxi fares to assist people unable to use public transport independently because they are frail, aged or have permanent disabilities. - Volunteer visiting service for the aged and for those with disabilities. | South Gippsland Shire Council |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provides a range of services and support to people in South Gippsland with a disability. This includes individual support packages, education, recreation, aid and equipment, community connections, independent living skills, individualised support and pre vocational training. Occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech pathology, community health care, generalist counselling, disability support and day programs are also provided. - Individual programs include gaining access to educational courses, sporting and recreational groups and finding employment. | Yooralla FirstBase |
| <p>Specific in home services</p> <p>Extended aged care at home packages for the aged and people with disabilities</p> <p>District nursing, allied health, palliative care, home based withdrawal for alcohol and other drugs. Subcontracted to provide linkages and EACH packages in the home</p> | Villa Maria Gippsland Southern Health Service |
| <p>Specialist facility</p> <p>60 bed facility providing low and high care with nursing and allied care. One respite bed is available in low or high care.</p> | Strzelecki House |

| Service/s | Organisation/s |
|--|--|
| <p>Respite Services Shared family care, respite accommodation funded by Department of Human Services – out of home care for infants and children aged 0 – 6 with developmental delay or 6 – 17 with intellectual disabilities. Respite accommodation for children and young people up to 18 years old with intellectual, sensory or physical disabilities or autism spectrum disorders. Host program and family choices programs.</p> | <p>Funded by Department of Human Services Anglicare Interchange Gippsland</p> |
| <p>Employment services Specialised employment service providing placement, training and support in the open labour market for young people and adults with disabilities and particularly people with mental health conditions. Work solutions has 4 Mirboo North clients transitioning to work. One Mirboo North resident is employed in Leongatha and usually Yooralla has around 2 in their employment program from Mirboo North.</p> | <p>CRS Australia Ostara Australia, Employment Innovations Work Solutions Yooralla</p> |
| <p>Provide information about deaf and hard of hearing to service providers and general community. Advocates to ensure that those who are deaf and hard of hearing can access services equally.</p> | <p>deafaccess</p> |
| <p>Funding for people with disabilities. Range of funding and services for people with disabilities including community care and housing, eligibility assessment according to the Disability Act 2006, individual support packages, educational and vocational support and disability employment service.</p> | <p>Department of Human Services</p> |
| <p>Self Help and Advocacy Provide advocacy and support to individuals with disability and are based in Morwell. New Wave Self Advocacy is an advocacy support service for people with disability by people with disability. Self-help and support group – support and information for people who are providing disability care for friends and relatives including children and adults.</p> | <p>Gippsland Disability Advocacy South Gippsland Carer's Group</p> |
| <p>Psychiatric support programs Psychiatric disability rehabilitation support service for young people and adults 16 – 64 who have serious enduring or recurring mental illness and associated psychiatric disabilities. Home based outreach support program. Housing and support program. Psychiatric disability program – outreach support for young people and adults 18 and over with psychiatric disabilities to support independent living skills.</p> | <p>SNAP Gippsland Salvation Army Social Housing Service</p> |

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Support Services

Services and supports to people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island descent and people of culturally and linguistically diverse communities are based in Bass Coast with service provision into South Gippsland. Gippsland Multicultural Services is located in Morwell a 30km, 25minute drive from Mirboo North. Gippsland Multicultural Services Inc. is a community based organisation, assisting migrants and refugees in Gippsland through the provision of a range of services and programs that support the settlement and ongoing participation of our diverse communities in the Gippsland region.

Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation delivers a range of health and community development services to the indigenous and wider community population. A health clinic in Morwell delivers primary health care programs, social and emotional wellbeing programs and community enterprise and engagement initiatives.



Interpreter services are generally accessed by appointment or over the phone using TIS National a free interpreting service to non-English speaking Australian citizens or other providers on a fee for services basis including Victorian Interpreting and Translating Service and Interpreter Line. Interpreter services are available for people who are deaf to communicate with hearing people using Auslan (Australian sign language) as outlines above.



6.4 Consultation

The Disability Action Plan 2013 – 2016 has been developed by Council with input from the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee. This plan outlines practical and strategic activities that will be undertaken by Council across four key areas, as designated by the Disability Act. As such, the Plan addresses the barriers to participation by people with disability and seeks to achieve tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against persons with a disability.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan for the next period, 2013 – 2017 includes extensive consultation across the South Gippsland community and with service providers via interview, focus groups, print and online survey. The Plan and associated annual implementation plan was adopted by Council in June 2013. There will be opportunities to review the plan and evaluate strategies annually.

Telephone interviews were undertaken with key five disability service providers to discuss current service provision and to enquire any future infrastructure needs.

6.5 Future Demand

As the South Gippsland population ages the number of people reporting need of assistance in Mirboo North will increase. Services can expect to experience an increase in demand. The self-directed approach adopted by the Department of Human Services allows people with disabilities to take charge of the planning, design and implementation

of services and supports they need. Traditional funded disability supports will remain but increasingly this will include informal supports, community supports that all people use and the existing funded disability supports. Community supports including recreation providers, training providers and social groups will need to prepare to be inclusive of people with a variety of disabilities who select to be part of their group or service.

Between 2006 and 2011 there was a smaller proportion of people living in Mirboo North who were born overseas with 28 people having arrived in Australia since 2006. Overall 82.5% of the overseas population arrived before 2001 and 9.9% arrived during or after 2006. In the same period there has been an increase in people born in Italy and Germany and a decrease in people born in the United Kingdom.

There has been an increase of 27 people who reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. Between 2006 and 2011 there was a significant change in the number of people needing assistance in the age group 20 – 59 with numbers dropping from 45 to 24 in this age group. The 2011 census indicates an increase of 5 people in the older 60 – 64 age group but this does not account for the complete difference of 21 people in the 4 years since the previous census.

6.6 Industry Benchmarks and Trends



Disability standards, legislation and policy seek to ensure that people with disabilities have the access they need to live, work and participate in their communities. These standards include:

- Disability standards for accessible public transport – providers and operators of public transport must comply with these standards that set out the minimum requirements for access by people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- Disability standards for education – these standards aim to ensure that students with disabilities are able to access and participate in education and training free from discrimination, and on the same basis as other students.
- Disability standards for premises – these standards aim to give people with disabilities better access to a wider range of public buildings. Many of these standards are incorporated into the Building Code of Australia and include guidance on bathrooms, kitchens and paths of travel that are capable of being adopted in any development.

Infrastructure Design Manual was designed to document and standardise Council requirements for the design and development of municipal infrastructure. It provides greater clarity and consistency for consultants, developers and residents who need to

know more about the rules, regulations and standards for new infrastructure when developing land. It aims to expedite Council engineering approvals and ensure that minimum design criteria are met in regard to the design and construction of municipal infrastructure regardless of whether it is constructed by Council or a developer.

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) was enacted by the Federal Government to promote fairness and equity for people with a disability and to ensure that people who have a disability have the same rights and level of access to opportunities and services as other members of the community. The DDA makes it unlawful to discriminate in the provision of goods, services or facilities, against people on the basis that they have, or may have a disability.

A national disability insurance scheme (NDIS) will allow people with significant and permanent disability to choose the support they need and how that support is provided. This scheme, DisabilityCare Australia has been launched in four sites in Australia, the full scheme is rolled out nationally by July 2019. DisabilityCare will provide an information and referral service to help people with disability access mainstream, disability and community supports.

The self-directed approach

The self-directed approach means that the person with a disability is at the centre and, to the extent that they are able, in charge of the planning, design and implementation of the services and supports they need.

People can consider who is best able to provide those supports. This includes informal supports, community supports that all people use and, where needed, funded disability supports.

The self-directed approach means the person is at the centre of decision-making in relation to:

- planning based on their expressed goals and disability-related support needs
- deciding what supports they need and who will provide them
- knowing how much funding they are allocated, managing it wherever possible and being able to take it with them if they change services or where they live
- taking responsibility for their decisions.

Source³²

³² Department of Human Services <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/disability> accessed 30 July 2013

Recommendations

The Grainstore is used weekly for the facilitated drama group Mayhem. Around 25 clients of Scope with a range of disabilities access this facility weekly. An access door in the side of the facility currently allows access with a portable ramp. The provision of this portable ramp is not sustainable. An undercover ramp with veranda is required to make this side door fully accessible for wheelchairs.



The Grainstore side entrance

Services and community activities for the older population in Mirboo North are varied and inclusive. Due to the smaller proportion of the younger population with disabilities it is difficult to recommend the delivery of new specific services in the town as each person's needs are different.

A development of 13 lots adjacent to the aged care facility has allowed the construction of housing which is ideal for older retirees. These lots allow access to health services, community services and the town centre. Affordable housing for all the community with particular inclusion of indigenous families, older couples and people with disabilities of all ages should be catered for. Larger family homes out of town are not as suited to these groups who may not have access to transport. For people with children of school age, affordable housing close to the education precinct would allow children to walk to school and parents to access the shops on foot if they do not own a car.

An investigation of the needs for the higher than average proportion of people with disabilities is required to determine the need for supported residential accommodation for younger people or independent living units.

More independent living units located close to shopping and community services would suit people with disabilities and older people looking to downsize their housing. Streets to the south of Ridgeway including Giles Street and Burchell Lane have many vacant lots which would make ideal sites for future unit development.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF CURRENT DISABILITY SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

| Service / Infrastructure type | Main provider | Current Service and Facility model | Recommended Service and Facility model to meet future need |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Services to the home | South Gippsland Shire Council Gippsland Southern Health Service Villa Maria and others West Gippsland Regional Library Anglicare | Home and Community Care (HACC) District Nursing Extended aged care home packages Housebound library service Home care 0 – 17 year olds | Continued services in response to increased demand |
| Respite & Carer Support Services | South Gippsland Shire Council Anglicare Gippsland Southern Health Service Latrobe Community Health Service | Respite services via HACC Respite children 0 – 17 Children up to 18 years Children of parents with mental illness Respite aged and people with disabilities | Increased service provision in response to increased demand |
| Accommodation | Department of Housing Department of Human Services Gippsland Southern Health Service Salvation Army | Rental housing Accessible housing for aged and people with disabilities Housing including emergency housing | Age appropriate, accessible accommodation for range of needs. |
| Education and Employment | Yooralla FirstBase CRS Australia Ostara | Employment assistance – young people over 18 Disability employment service Disability employment service | Ongoing services with increased advocacy to local businesses for support |
| Accessible facilities | South Gippsland Shire Council Business premises owners | Access to Council facilities Infrastructure Design Manual Access to premises for retail, business, recreation | Assets maintained to standards. New roads and paths support access for all Ensure access for all into shops and offices |
| Town paths, parking, and access | South Gippsland Shire Council Business premises owners | Public paths, trails, car parks, roads Private car parks | Implement Safe Healthy Active Communities recommendations Ensure parking also suitable for people with additional mobility needs. |
| Supporting diversity | Community Shed | Government funding for eligible migrants | Consider further support to self-help groups with diverse interest |

7 ARTS AND CULTURE

7.1 Introduction

Mirboo North hosts regular events that showcase the range of arts in the town and district. There are a range of arts related groups in the town catering for a variety of interests and needs.



The delivery of arts and cultural activities promotes South Gippsland Shire as a destination, attracts visitors, engenders community pride and strengthens the connection between the arts community and Council. Community and tourism events are described in the South Gippsland Economic and Tourism Strategy.

7.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Arts Victoria is pursuing policy initiatives that support the contribution of arts and culture to liveability and competitiveness. Investment in cultural precincts, along with support for vibrant and diverse arts programming statewide, are two ways of enhancing the reputation and attractiveness of Victoria as a place in which to live, work and invest.

7.3 Current Provision

Mirboo North hosts regular events throughout the year that showcase the artistic talent of the community. The annual Mirboo North Art Show and ArtyGras festival attracts more than 3,000 visitors to the town over a weekend in May and features the work of more than 100 exhibiting artists, musicians, dancers and performers.

The Mirboo North Arts Council organises regular events throughout the year. During 2013 this included the Arts Victoria funded Café Culture Series, a series of 4 events presented at Bena, Mirboo North and Toora. Other events include the screening of around 4 films per year and music events. These events are held downstairs in the Mirboo North Brewery.

Also coming under the Mirboo North Arts Council is Vocal Nosh, a community event where people gather to sing and eat together for pleasure, for community, for connections and making music. Vocal Nosh is held in the Grain Store.

Mossvale Park is located on the Strzelecki Highway 11km from Mirboo North toward Leongatha. Mossvale Park has a sound shell which is used for a number of music festivals and concerts through the year. Mossvale Park has a children's playground, barbeques and a rotunda and ample car parking.

The community directory lists many local community organisations with active volunteers supporting a broad range of activities and service clubs.

Council is an active member of Creative Gippsland and support arts and cultural events across South Gippsland. Creative Gippsland is a collaborative partnership of Council officers responsible for arts and culture in each of the 6 Gippsland Shire Councils. Each member supports their own network of artists, performers, galleries and venues. It is also supported by Regional Arts Victoria's Wellington-based Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO). A range of festivals and events are on offer across a variety of venues in Gippsland throughout the year.

Council facilitates an Arts Network which provides an opportunity for members to discuss cultural events and celebrations and explore possible opportunities to work together. Meetings are held in Mirboo North, Leongatha, Korumburra and Foster.

7.4 Future Demand

The strong existing arts focus in Mirboo North is expected to attract likeminded people moving to the town. The diversity of arts and cultural activity in Mirboo North is expected to expand with the growth of the population.

The variety of existing groups and events allows for growth in group membership and extension into a greater variety of groups. Meeting spaces in Mirboo North including the Grainstore provide space for a range of arts activities.

Baromi Park is a central point in Mirboo North where outdoor markets, events and festivals can be held. This area is supported by the Grainstore, town hall and Baromi centre as indoor facilities with capacity for large indoor activities with kitchen facilities. The recreation reserve can be used for indoor and outdoor events outside of sporting activity and provides two ovals and a social club room and kitchen.

Outdoor music festivals will continue to increase in popularity. While Mossvale Park provides a suitable venue for these events, public transport does not regularly pass the park. Some event organisers have provided bus transport from neighbouring towns but this is not the case for all concerts and festivals provided at Mossvale Park. Mirboo North has two open spaces within easy reach of the town Dedication of open space within the town



would allow open air concerts and festivals to be accessible to more people.

7.5 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Best Practice

Cultural infrastructure includes people and organisations, technology and places and buildings. “People and organisations, with their skills, expertise and experience, sometimes referred to as ‘soft infrastructure’, are critical to cultural infrastructure...” (Cultural Infrastructure Directions 2012-2014, p.2) Technology enables innovation and artistic practice. Different forms of technology contribute to the wide range of cultural and artistic work. Arts and cultural activity happens in many different ways and in varied places.

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are often not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns.

TABLE 1: GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR ARTS CENTRES

| | |
|--|--|
| Regional Arts Centre | 1 per municipality – closest Warragul Regional Arts Centre |
| Co-located Performing Arts Centre | 1 to 40,000 – 60,000 people |
| Community Arts Centre | 1 to 40,000 – 60,000 people |
| Multi-purpose Community Centre | 1 to 40,000 – 50,000 people – high level |
| Multi-purpose Community Centre | 1 to 8,000 – 10,000 people – low level |

Recommendations

Continue to improve Baromi Park for use across the year and for outdoor arts and cultural events. Prioritise the maintenance of the Town Hall and Baromi Centre for their convenience to Baromi Park. Review the use of the Grain Store as an arts and event space in order to channel effort and funds to facilities in Mirboo North which are most useful and used regularly.

In the next 20 years

In the next 20 years it is likely that Mirboo North will increase the number of arts activities provided in the town for residents of the town and district. Current facilities will be able to adequately cater for this need. Larger events attracting people from a broader area such as the ArtyGras festival and Great Victorian Bike Ride may, in the future require a combination of

facilities to accommodate the range of activities offered. They will attract more participants, will occur more frequently and place greater demand on infrastructure in the town. Careful planning for these events should ensure that current infrastructure will support arts and cultural events for the next 20 years.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED ART AND CULTURE IN MIRBOO NORTH

| Service / infrastructure type | MAIN PROVIDER | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL | RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED |
|---|---|---|--|
| Buildings: Town Hall Baromi Centre Grainstore Mirboo North Brewery Recreation Reserve Social Clubrooms | Council Private business Rec Reserve Committee | Music, event space Event space Music, event space Music, film, event space Event space outside of sport seasons | Priority for indoor facilities adjacent to Baromi Park for event extension. Review current use of Grainstore against maintenance of facility Keep rec reserve facilities separate from calculations for art events |
| Outdoor festival / music space: Baromi Park Mossvale Park | Council Council | Park with variety of infrastructure suitable for outdoor events sound shell | Infrastructure as per community plan Use skate bowl as amphitheatre more often Public transport to Mossvale Park |
| Technology | Not yet extensively available in Mirboo North | Private business provides technology to enhance art and cultural activities from outside of the town. | Investigate proposed permanent screen in brewery for screening of films. Investigate technology as a creative medium. Use technology for preservation and sharing of cultural materials. |
| People and organisations | Skills, expertise and experience of the people of Mirboo North is rich and varied | Skills and expertise of community is directed via individual community groups and organisations. | Continued community support for arts and culture. Seek funding to provide opportunities for skills and professional development that contributes to supporting creativity in the local community. |

8 COMMERCIAL, RETAIL AND TOURISM

8.1 Introduction and Definition

Mirboo North has a diverse mix of successful businesses. Manufacturing, large and small scale agribusiness, retail, hospitality and tourism are well represented within the town. There are a range of retail businesses including cafes, specialty stores and food outlets. Industries include automotive, industrial, agricultural, building and professional.



8.2 Policy and Council Plans and Strategies

South Gippsland Council Plan 2013 – 2017 To work with the business community to support existing businesses, diversify employment opportunities and to attract new businesses is a key goal in the Council plan.

South Gippsland Shire Council Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2012 – 2017 aims to build on South Gippsland's economic strength to enhance the economic wellbeing and quality of life of its residents.

Mirboo North Structure Plan 2004 Provided a framework to guide land use and development for 15 years. Recommendations from special interest groups provided recommendations on infrastructure, environment, community services and facilities, sport and recreation, arts and culture and tourism.

Tourism Victoria: 2020 Tourism Strategy This strategy focuses on industry wide, strategic issues across both the tourism and events sectors. Through seven priority areas, the 2020 Tourism Strategy outlines how Tourism Victoria, working with key stakeholders, will implement identified actions to realise the potential of the tourism market.

8.3 Current Provision

8.3.1 Retail

Mirboo North has a broad range of retail businesses along the main street, Ridgeway. The town has a broad range of retail food providers including an independent supermarket, hotel, brewery, bakeries, a butcher cafes, and takeaway stores. Cafes, bakeries and restaurants provide a variety of options for eating out.

Services including a post office, community bank, Mirboo North Times newspaper, Real Estate, pharmacy, bookkeeping, travel are provided within the main town centre. Most of Mirboo North's shops and cafes are open seven days a week.

8.3.2 *Industry and commercial*

Agricultural, automotive, building, plant hire and light industry are represented in Mirboo North. The rural hinterland surrounding Mirboo North is used mainly for dairy and beef farming with some potato, maize and onion growing. Automotive businesses include a service station, RACV roadside service and a farm machinery business.

There are two industrial precincts in Mirboo North. One precinct is located at the western entrance to the township while the other is located in the centre of the town and contains the Grand Ridge Brewery and other commercial enterprises. An area south of the commercial town centre is zoned for the purpose of a range of residential, commercial, industrial and other uses.



8.4 **Tourism**

Mirboo North is located on the Strzelecki Ranges, 2 hours from Melbourne and readily accessible from Leongatha and the Latrobe Valley. It is the only town on the Grand Ridge Road tourist drive. The Strzelecki Highway and Grand Ridge Road brings driving visitors to Mirboo North where they access the parks, trails and reserves in the town or the range of cafes. The bookstores, craft and homewares stores contribute to the range of attractions in the town.

Mirboo North features a number of annual events drawing large crowds for further detail see the arts and culture chapter of this document. More than 1,700 cars travel through Mirboo North on the Strzelecki Highway everyday providing potential for further growth in tourism. Visitors to the town can stay in bed and breakfast accommodation or a motel attached to the hotel.

There is a tourism information outlet through the service station providing brochures and information on Mirboo North and the broader area.

8.5 Consultation

At a workshop held to develop the Mirboo North Structure Plan (2004) special interest groups were established comprising a number of interested local residents to provide more detailed information and recommendations to assist in the preparation of the Mirboo North Structure Plan. The final version of this plan will again invite input from the community via community meetings, workshops, one to one discussions and written submissions.

A special interest group was established to investigate priorities for tourism. A range of tourism related projects and ventures were outlined to support tourism growth and associated employment opportunities in the town. Streetscape improvements, traffic, promotion, accommodation, larger convention centre and a billboard were identified.

8.6 Future Demand

8.6.1 Retail

There will be continued support to new businesses wishing to establish in Mirboo North. The staple retail businesses required to support a town the size that Mirboo North will become by 2031 will be able to meet the community needs.

Many residents of Mirboo North leave the town for work in Leongatha and Latrobe Valley

accessing many specialty shops and sourcing groceries in the town in which they work.

New retail development in the town is likely to reflect the needs of the visitors to the town and the artistic community and will draw more visitors to the town.

There will be continued demand for stores and cafes to be open 7 days per week as many customers come from outside the town and will continue to do so.

8.6.2 Industry and Commercial

Light industry and commercial development in Mirboo North will serve current agricultural needs. Access to the Latrobe Valley and South Gippsland via the Strzelecki Highway from Mirboo North allows industrial and commercial businesses ready access points from the town.



8.6.3 Tourism

The existing attractions in Mirboo North provide a momentum for the establishment of further tourism opportunities in the town. Mirboo North will remain a popular destination for people seeking a scenic drive, forest walk, cafes, art and craft or festivals.

Accommodation options in the central town area would allow visitors to walk to the attractions available in the town. Bed and breakfast accommodation will continue to meet the needs of the current tourist to the town. At times when accommodation reaches capacity a shared arrangement between providers would allow cross promotion resulting in visitors still able to stay in Mirboo North and therefore wish to return.

Current community planning working groups are not currently prioritising retail, industry or tourism. The swimming pool working group recognises that viability of the pool will require promotion of the area beyond the town centre.

Recommendations

Tourism will continue to increase in Mirboo North. In order to be responsive to this increase, retail, food and accommodation facilities will be needed. Retail outlets which cater for locals and visitors to the town will be ensured year round business rather than catering for the narrower tourist market alone. New residents in Mirboo North are likely to move to the town for the art, craft, cafes and bushwalks and will therefore access local retail stores on a regular basis.

There has been interest from the community to provide a tourist information outlet in Mirboo North, specifically brochures describing scenic drives from Mirboo North. This should be self-managed by the designated outlet. Brochures can be made available from the Visitor Information Centres to be ordered in advance and collected for distribution in Mirboo North.

Whilst there is limited industrial land available in the town suitable for large scale expansion of industry, there remains opportunity to continue provision of service for agriculture and export.



TABLE 8-1: CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED RETAIL AND TOURISM SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | MAIN PROVIDER | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL | RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Retail | A range of retail stores include a supermarket, hotel, cafes, bakeries, butchers, post office, bank, nursery, art and craft stores. | Independently managed and owned businesses | Continue independent management and ownership. Continue weekend opening hours. |
| Tourism | Hotel, Grand Ridge Brewery, Grand Ridge Road, forest walks and rail trail, festivals, cafes, accommodation | Private providers Public park and road maintenance – state and local government | Increased retail and 'in town' accommodation Vacancy sharing between accommodation providers during peak periods |
| Industry | Light industrial, agricultural, automotive and plant hire. | Industrial zoned land has a mix of uses and is not suitable for large scale expansion. | Review current industries and potential for expansion prior to promotion of growth in this area. |



9 COMMUNITY MEETING SPACES

9.1 Introduction

Mirboo North has a broad range of meeting spaces managed by Council, the community and commercial organisations which are available for local community use. The Community Shed is owned by the Mirboo North Community Shed Cooperative. The Mirboo North Brewery hosts a range of community events in its downstairs meeting room including music and movie nights.



9.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

- Department of Education and Training (2005) *Schools and Community Facilities, Melbourne*
- Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission, (2009) *Getting it Together: An Inquiry into the Sharing of Government and Community Facilities*
- Department of Planning and Community Development, (2010a) *A Guide to Delivering Community Precincts*
- Department of Planning and Community Development (2010b) *A Guide to Governing Shared Community Facilities*

9.3 Current Provision

The Mirboo North Community has access to a good supply of spaces for meetings and events for current and future use. Large indoor meeting rooms including the town hall and senior citizens centre are located adjacent to Baromi Park in the middle of town allowing combined indoor and outdoor events.



As with other larger towns in South Gippsland, schools also have space for community meetings outside of school hours by arrangement. A venue specifically used for youth activities over a number of years now has limited use but is in an accessible position in the town centre. Many other meeting rooms/venues in the town are not at capacity.

9.3.1 Community meeting rooms

While many community meeting rooms in Mirboo North are already used by a variety of community groups, there are still opportunities to increase use of most facilities. A recent audit of community facilities in Mirboo North identified a broad range of meeting rooms listed at the end of this chapter. Some meeting rooms are part of another complex such as the community hall, maternal and child health or the ambulance buildings.

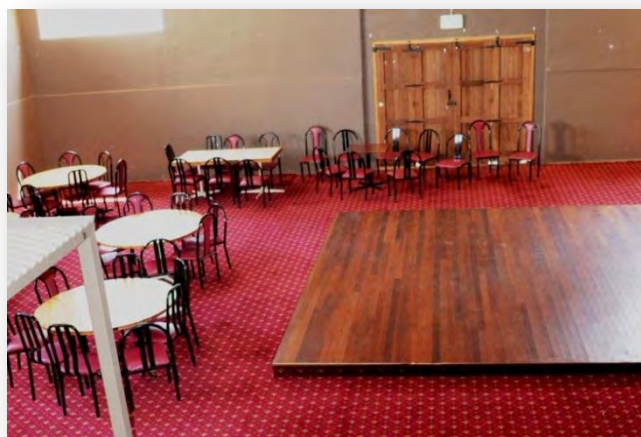


Meeting rooms in Mirboo North are managed by incorporated community groups, Section 86 committees of management, sports clubs, churches, private businesses and Council. Detailed mapping of current meeting rooms in Mirboo North indicates there are many meeting spaces that are under-utilised.

Schools in Mirboo North enhance the supply of larger halls and gymnasiums for community use out of school hours. School gymnasiums and halls are available for sports, dancing and music activities by the wider community.

Council owned buildings providing community meeting spaces include the shire hall and offices, scout hall, tennis building, recreation reserve clubrooms, railway reserve community centre, senior citizens centre (Baromi Centre), preschool, library and maternal and child health centre.

Churches have smaller meeting rooms and good quality kitchens available for use. The availability of church meeting rooms can be limited due to funerals and other church services. The senior citizens centre (Baromi Centre) in Mirboo North is located within Baromi Park and is available for use for meetings and events. It has a refurbished kitchen available for use.



Clubrooms provide community meeting spaces limited to use outside of sporting competition times. This includes the recreation reserve clubrooms, golf club, tennis building and scout hall.

Maternal and Child Health Services in Mirboo North are delivered on Thursdays in a room adjacent to the Mirboo North library. During library opening hours this meeting room is readily available for community use.

The Mirboo North Community Shed is owned and operated by the Mirboo North Community Shed Cooperative. It houses a community kitchen, pottery shed and men's shed and a variety of meeting rooms which can be sectioned off into smaller areas depending on need including a broadband for seniors internet kiosk / computer room. There is considerable space available for storage of materials for future works. Outside there are 3 small raised vegetable beds. This facility has had around 1500 different people who used the facility in the last 12 months.



9.4 Consultation

An audit of Mirboo North social community infrastructure undertaken in November 2013 included consultation with the Mirboo North community. Community members provided additional meeting rooms previously unlisted. Details from this audit are included in the table below.

9.5 Future Demand

9.5.1 Community meeting rooms

With regular maintenance, current community meeting rooms in Mirboo North should meet community needs for the next 20 years. Many halls and meeting rooms have commercial grade kitchens which provide opportunities for catering and cooking activities. The increase in the population over the next 20 years will require a review of the use of current facilities, cost of maintenance and the demand on community groups and council to manage buildings.

9.5.2 Barriers to efficient use of meeting rooms

Barriers to efficient use of meeting rooms are applicable to all towns including Mirboo North and may include:

- Lack of knowledge within broader community regarding cost, access and booking arrangements for current meeting rooms
- Perception by outside user groups that meeting rooms such as the Senior Citizens meeting rooms or Sporting club rooms are limited to use by those groups only

- Committees of management reluctant about sharing use and management of their meeting rooms due to risk of damage or cleaning costs
- Physical access of older buildings restricts use by older people and people with a disability
- Cost for use of some meeting rooms can be prohibitive for some groups
- Church based meeting rooms often have good quality meeting rooms, halls with stages and kitchens but are unavailable at short notice if there is a funeral
- Disrepair of some meeting rooms
- Lack of community capacity to manage rooms
- Insurance costs a deterrent to groups to make the rooms available for hiring

9.6 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns. The following should be considered as a guide only.

TABLE 1: GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR MEETING ROOMS

| | |
|---|--|
| Level 1 Meeting Space for Community Activities (local government, schools, churches, private-for-profit) | 1 - 20 people (30m ²) 21 – 50 people 51 – 100 people 101- 200 people (400m ²) |
| Level 3 Community or Government Secondary College | 200+ people (400m ²) |

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Recommendations

Support the consolidation of public facilities within Mirboo North to provide greater efficiency for buildings used for meetings. The Social Community Infrastructure Committee will review the supply of Council facilities in the town and via the Social Community Infrastructure Project support the Mirboo North community to identify the facilities which best suit their needs for the next 20 years.

The provision of facilities for single group use is inefficient and costly for maintenance. Combined use of halls and meeting rooms provides increase income for hire fees and increased opportunities for interaction and partnerships between user groups. A broader range of users results in a greater group from which to invite participation in committees of management. A committee of management which is representative of all users of a facility can

³³ Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

be drawn from a larger group and has potential to represent a greater selection of the community in both age and skills.

The efficient use of facilities may be assisted by a shared booking system for community meeting rooms. Whether the community or council manages this booking system needs investigation.

The land and facilities including the town hall, library, kindergarten, childcare and proposed health and wellbeing centre presents an opportunity to develop an activity hub for Mirboo North for community services. The town hall has capacity to house a range of users on a regular basis including meeting rooms and offices.

Continued use of sporting clubrooms, the community shed and commercial venues will ensure the growing population will be able to meet for the variety of purposes which attract people to live in Mirboo North.

Best Practice

There has been an increasing trend over recent years towards the aggregation of community infrastructure in activity hubs. An activity hub may be an existing meeting room or hall used by a variety of community groups and clubs.

Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas (2008) describes the objectives of hubs to:

- Meet the functional needs of communities
- Provide a vibrant focal point for community life by offering a diverse range of community service providers
- Provide for the co-location of services and clubs to enable the sharing of resources, increase the level of service integration and encourage greater resident utilization and participation
- Enable residents to more easily and freely access services and participate in community activities
- Provide for the co-location and integration of facilities to optimize the use of land and support infrastructure such as car parks and pavilions, reduce car travel, encourage social interaction, reduce maintenance and enhance sustainability.

Source³⁴

³⁴ Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008

10 EDUCATION AND LEARNING AND LIBRARIES

10.1 Introduction

Mirboo North has a primary and secondary school located on the same site to the west of the town centre. The Mirboo North Library is a branch of the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation and is located on Ridgeway the main road in Mirboo North. Adult education is provided via the library and community shed.



The infrastructure types described in this section are:

- Primary schools
- Secondary schools
- Libraries
- Adult and post-secondary education

Kindergarten and Childcare is described in the Early Years chapter of this document.

10.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Schools as Community Facilities The Victorian Government has released guidelines designed to help government schools and communities develop partnerships around sharing school facilities. The guidelines discuss the benefit of entering into a sharing agreement and provide information on the legal framework that surrounds this type of agreement.

People Places – A guide to public library buildings in New South Wales 2000 (3rd edition) The West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation has adopted a service model based on the NSW benchmarks.

10.3 Current Provision

10.3.1 Schools

Mirboo North Primary School and Secondary School are co-located within walking distance of the town centre on the Strzelecki Highway. The Primary School had 266 students enrolled in 2013 and around 16 teaching staff. The Secondary College had a student enrolment in 2013 of 361 students and 33 teaching staff. In recent years both schools have worked together to build a new shared administration building and library as well as securing the services of a chaplain to support students from both schools. The college also enjoys an excellent relationship with all our neighbouring primary schools.

TABLE 1: MIRBOO NORTH SCHOOLS AND STUDENT NUMBERS

| SCHOOL NAME | SCHOOL TYPE | SECTOR | NUMBER OF STUDENTS |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Mirboo North Primary School | Primary (P- 6) | government | 266 |
| Mirboo North Secondary School | Secondary (7 – 12) | government | 361 |

Source³⁵

Mirboo North residents seeking Catholic and independent education need to travel to Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College or Cairo Christian School in Leongatha. Some students access secondary school Kurnai College, Churchill. South Gippsland Specialist School located in Leongatha provides education for people with mild to severe learning disabilities.

10.3.2 Library

The Mirboo North Library is located on Ridgeway and is open Tuesdays, 11am – 6pm, Wednesdays, 2pm – 5pm, Thursdays 2pm – 8pm and Saturday 9.30am – 1pm. The activities of the WGRLC are supported financially by the Victorian Government, and by member Shire Councils: South Gippsland, Baw Baw and Bass Coast. The Mirboo North Library was refurbished using a Living Libraries grant in 2004.

The library service is provided through a Service Agreement between the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation (WGRLC) and South Gippsland, Baw Baw and Bass Coast Shire Councils. Libraries offer the space, resources and programs to support learning opportunities for all. In addition to providing free internet connection and loans, the Mirboo North Library offers eReader and tablet classes Baby Rhyme Time and Story Time. The Mirboo North library is co-located with the Maternal and Child Health Centre whose consulting room is available for meetings outside of consulting times. Over the whole of its catchment the West

Gippsland Library currently has 38% of the population as members and aims to reach 40% of the population as members by 2015.³⁶

The report Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries; A study of socio economic value of libraries (2011) indicates current spending in Victoria on library services is \$36 per person per year.³⁷ This report highlights Victorian public libraries return \$3.56 for every \$1 spent.



³⁵ Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, My School website www.myschool.edu.au accessed 6 Dec 2013

³⁶ West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation, *Library Plan 2012 - 2016*

10.3.3 Adult and community education

Adult and community education in Mirboo North is mainly delivered through the community shed and library. The community shed, located in Birchell Lane offers a variety of classes including pottery, cooking, community kitchen, health promotion, broadband for seniors and a Men's Shed workshop. There is a dedicated computer room for broadband for seniors within the community shed.



10.3.4 Post-secondary education

Post-secondary education is available at GippsTAFE campuses in Morwell, Yallourn or Leongatha and Community College Gippsland in Leongatha or Morwell. Federation University, Churchill, 30 minutes-drive from Mirboo North provides undergraduate, postgraduate, off-campus and alternative pathways. Monash University's Gippsland Medical School is also located at Churchill providing graduate medical training to students from across Australia.

South Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN), located in Leongatha work to assist those at risk of making poor transitions from compulsory schooling to the next stage of their lives and careers. Young people from Mirboo North are supported by the LLEN.

10.4 Consultation

The Mirboo North community has identified a number of community driven priorities as part of community planning activities. Education is not a priority at this stage.

10.5 Future Demand

Secondary school students aged 10 to 14 years olds will remain one of the most populous age groups in Mirboo North for the next 20 years comprising 7.3% of the population to 2031.

The number of people aged over 60 is expected to comprise 30% of the population by 2021 and remain at that proportion through to 2031. The age groups expecting the greatest growth are people aged 70 – 74 which is expected to increase by 40 people and account for 5.5% of the total population.

The education and training needs of this older population will be in demand in the next 16 years with lifelong learning a strong focus. Ready connection to fast internet would support education and training for all ages in Mirboo North. The community shed is the ideal location for continuing education for all ages and specifically the older adult population.

³⁷ SGS Economics & Planning, 2011, *Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries*, State Library of Victoria, p.3.

10.5.1 Schools

In Mirboo North between 2011 and 2021, the number of persons aged under 17 is forecast to increase by 46 (8.4%), and will comprise 23.5% of the total population. The majority of growth will be in primary school aged children to 2031 bringing the number of students aged 5 – 11 years to 271. This is an increase in this age group of 58 people from 2011. The impact on the primary school facilities of the equivalent of 3 classes across the school should be investigated.

The number of secondary school aged students (12 – 17years) is not forecast to grow from by 2021. An increase of 19 in this age group is expected by 2031 bringing the total number of 12 – 17 year olds to 223 from 204 in 2011. This small growth in the secondary school aged residents is unlikely to impact on school facilities as many students attend secondary schools in Churchill and Leongatha and will continue to do so.

10.5.2 Library

The library is a place of learning for many residents. Courses in orientation to electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones are provided in libraries. Space for a book collection as well as electronic resources will continue to be required. The library will continue to be a meeting place for people and an area where research, study and relaxation can take place.

There is currently no staff workspace nor meeting space which can be readily observed by library staff. The maternal and child health waiting room is not suitable without supervision due to the confidential records kept in the adjacent maternal and child health consulting room.

10.5.3 Adult and community education

The community shed provides an ideal location for a range of adult education opportunities. Within the community shed the kitchen provides opportunities for community cooking activities and education programs whilst the men's shed provides different opportunities. The range of activities provided in this facility caters for a broad range of needs in the community.



10.6 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population

requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns. The following planning criteria have been applied by State Government in growth areas to define provision of education services:

10.6.1 Schools and Adult Education

TABLE 2: SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY HOUSE GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

| | |
|--|--|
| Primary Schools | 1 school to 8,000 – 10,000 people = 1 primary school / 3,000 households |
| Catholic Primary School | 1 school to 18,000 people |
| Secondary Schools | 1 school to 25,000 – 30,000 people = 1 secondary school / 9,000 households |
| Catholic Secondary School | 1 school to 58,000 people |
| Independent non-government school - | 1 school to 40,000 people |
| Government Specialist School | 1 school to 55,000+ people |
| Library | Provide library services from facilities that are centrally located, highly visible, close to activity centres and compliant with National standards (People Places 2012) as a minimum. Include the provision of community meeting spaces and incorporate the recommendations of the Statewide Library Building Audit. |

Source³⁸

Best Practice

International, Commonwealth and state policy direction encourages the development of integrated hubs which support the co-location and/or integration of services. These can include education hubs, sporting hubs or community hubs. Hubs provide multiple spaces clustered together on one site servicing the neighbourhood / district / sub-region / region.

Multi-use facilities allow different people to meet and interact and create a focal point for activity. They bring people together and build a sense of place. They increase efficiencies in the built form and provide better return on infrastructure costs by enabling multiple service providers to share facilities over and increase range of hours.

Source³⁹

³⁸ Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

³⁹ S Rossiter, 2007, *Feasibility Study of Community Hubs for the Parramatta Local Government Area- Briefing Paper*, Elton Consulting, Bondi Junction.

Recommendations

Schools

The co-location of primary and secondary schools in Mirboo North provides the best practice model for school education with the administration of schools sharing the reception area. Large facilities such as gymnasiums and sports courts can be used by all students. The gradual



increase in primary school aged children over the next 16 years will require constant review of the potential enrolments. This may be difficult with many pre-school aged children attending child care and kindergarten services outside the town but wishing to attend primary school in Mirboo North. Maternal and child health services may be able to provide information of pre-school aged children accessing their services at all centres from the Mirboo North postcode.

Adult Education

There are opportunities to share and coordinate adult education across a range of venues within Mirboo North. Some community members prefer certain venues over others and individual needs should be accommodated for where possible, however offering some types of training in the library and others in the community shed could consolidate provision of specialised meeting and learning spaces. The library provides Wi-Fi and could provide small group or individual study opportunities for people seeking quiet space and discussion space. Larger forums and training requiring wet space such as art and crafts, cooking and woodwork could be provided by the community shed. Developing both areas to meet all training needs is not efficient in a town where both the library and community shed are well equipped and accessible.



Library

Expansion of the library to the side road would allow the inclusion of meeting rooms and office space. The replacement of the slatted ceiling in this renovation would allow better heating and

cooling and improved protection for the book collection. Living Libraries grants are available for library improvements such as these.

Technology

The introduction of the National Broadband Network will assist in the advancement of on-line learning and remotely delivered education, particularly in post-secondary education. This will provide opportunity to link secondary school virtual classrooms maximizing staffing across schools and increasing subject availability at VCE and VCAL level. Distance education will be enhanced by faster upload and download internet speeds.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EDUCATION AND LEARNING SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | MAIN PROVIDER | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL | RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Mirboo North Primary Primary School | DEECD land and building maintenance | Co-location and shared facilities with secondary school | Continue on current site with consideration of gradually growing student population |
| Mirboo North Secondary College | DEECD – land and building maintenance | Co-location and shared facilities with primary school | Continue current model |
| Mirboo North library | West Gippsland Regional Library | West Gippsland Regional Library is funded by 3 local governments and state government. | Continue at current location with opportunity to use meeting room in absence of maternal and child health |
| Mirboo North Community Shed | Community Shed cooperative | Converted pasta factory owned by community shed cooperative | Continued provision of programs to meet community needs |

11 HEALTH SERVICES

11.1 Introduction

Health and wellbeing was identified as a priority during public forums held in Mirboo North in 2012. As a result a community working group has been developing a model to expand mainstream medical and health service delivery in the town. The aim is to develop a health and wellbeing hub.



11.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Health services in Mirboo North are provided by public and private health providers. The Victorian Government is responsible for delivering a wide range of health services to the community. This is achieved through planning, policy development, funding and regulation of health service providers and activities which promote and protect Victorians' health, including:

- Health care services through public hospitals, community health services, ambulance services, dental services and public mental health, drug and alcohol services
- Residential and community care for older people, support and provide assistance to enable people to function independently in their own homes, positive ageing programs, healthy and active living programs and seniors cards
- Health promotion and protection through emergency management, public health and related preventative services, education and public health regulation

The Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012 – 2022 Rural and Regional Plan provides the blueprint for the planning and development priorities for the Victorian healthcare system. The plan addresses the health system; workforce recruitment, development and training; service integration and governance.

The Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011 – 2015 provides a framework and priorities for preventative health. The plan aims to *'improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians by engaging communities in prevention, and by strengthening systems for health protection, health promotion and preventative healthcare across all sectors and all levels of government.'*⁴⁰ The plan has nine priority areas and four priority settings in which to work. These are local communities and environments, workplaces, early childhood and education settings and health services.

⁴⁰ Department of Health, 2011, *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011-2015*, Prevention and Population Health Branch, Melbourne, p1

The Gippsland Regional Plan is a long-term strategic plan that aims to manage the emerging challenges in the Gippsland region to shape a successful future. Priority 6, Health and Wellbeing is one of 10 priority areas and identifies the need to expand health services and facilities in response to Gippsland's population growth, which has increased employment opportunities in the health sector.⁴¹ In addition to the further development of health services the plan recognises the importance to maintain a focus on health promotion. Within this challenge it is important to support the development of infrastructure and programs that will support greater levels of participation.

Support networks exist for primary and community health in Victoria. These include Primary Care Partnerships which are a State funded voluntary alliance of health organizations. They work in partnership with health promotion, service coordination and integrated chronic disease management. Council and Gippsland Southern Health Service provide services in Mirboo North and are members of the South Coast Primary Care Partnership, delivering shared projects that support the South Gippsland and Bass Coast communities.

Gippsland Medicare Local is an organization that supports integrated provision of private, primary health in Gippsland. General practices and private allied health providers are supported in service provision and training by the Gippsland Medicare Local which is primarily funded by the Australian government.

11.3 Current Provision

Council services funded by the Department of Health include Home and Community Care (HACC), Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and immunisation to Mirboo North. Council HACC services are described in Aged and Disability section of this report.

11.3.1 Immunisation

Immunisation services are provided by Council and medical centres for all of the community according to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines. Council provides immunisation services in the Maternal and Child Health Centre in the library complex, Brennan Street from 9am – 9.30am on the first Wednesday of the month. In addition to monthly sessions the Council immunisation service provides both high school and workplace immunisations and also provides education to the community. Medical centres provide immunisations by appointment.

11.3.2 Maternal and Child Health

Maternal and Child Health Services are provided from the library complex, Brennan Street on Thursdays 8.30am – 4.30pm. An Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program is available via referral from the Maternal and Child Health nurse. Families most likely to benefit from this program are mothers with post-natal



⁴¹ Gippsland Regional Plan Project Control Group, 2010, *Gippsland Regional Plan*, p16

depression, significant parent/infant bonding issues, teenage parents, mothers with physical or intellectual disabilities, families with multiple births or other special needs.

11.3.3 *Mirboo North Medical Centre*

The Mirboo North Medical Centre operates Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm from a clinic in Giles Street. Services are provided to the adjacent aged care facility. There are currently two doctors providing services at the clinic and aged care facility. There is currently a waiting list of three weeks for one doctor and one week for the other. There is a feasibility study in progress for expansion of the medical centre.

11.3.4 *Mirboo North Community Health Services*

Gippsland Southern Health Service provides community health services from a small centre at 71 Ridgeway on Mondays and Fridays. Services include nursing, women's health and podiatry.

11.3.5 *Allied Health*

Some allied health services provided in Mirboo North are delivered within the aged care facilities, Strzelecki House and Grandview Lodge and include podiatry and dietetics.

A range of district nursing services are provided by GSHS in the home. District nursing services provide aged, frail and housebound residents to monitor health and assist with administering medication. Health promotion programs focusing on access to healthy and affordable food are delivered across the GSHS catchment including the Mirboo North community.

Private health service providers include allied health and alternative and complementary therapies. These include psychology and physiotherapy.

A pharmacy is located in Ridgeway and is open weekdays and Saturday mornings.



11.3.6 Consultation

The Mirboo North community planning process was initiated within the community through two public forums held in 2012. A project to investigate the development of a new health and wellbeing centre was a high priority. A project team comprising health service providers and community members is currently preparing to survey local health service providers, exploring potential sites for a health and wellbeing centre and seeking funding for a feasibility study. A consultant has been appointed to complete a feasibility study following funding received from the Mirboo North Community Foundation.

Recognition of existing health promotion efforts by a number of groups in the community were recognised by this group, however additional health promotion and wellbeing activities were well supported.

A previous study undertaken on behalf of Mirboo North Community Care in 2009 was conducted to provide a greater understanding of the community's profile and current and future service needs. It identified issues and opportunities relating to health service delivery and health infrastructure in the town. Some recommendations from this report have now been achieved and many circumstances changed in the last 5 years.



11.3.7 Future Demand

An increase in all population groups with particular growth in people under 17 and people over 65 years indicates a need for a range of health services in the town.

Primary health services provided by the general practitioners are currently stretched to attend to both the 60 bed aged care facility and the community. There is currently a waiting list of three weeks for one doctor and one week for the other. This will increase immediately with any growth in the community, particularly in young families or older people.

The number of persons aged under 17 is forecast to increase by 46 (8.4%), and will comprise 23.5% of the total population. The majority of growth will be children aged 5 – 11 years to 271 people by 2031.

This is an increase in this age group of 58 people from 2011. Children aged under 11 years are prone to childhood illnesses which often require regular visits to a local doctor. Maternal and Child Health Services may expand to another day or half day in response to demand whilst immunisation services may extend to an hour visit per month.

The number of people aged over 60 is expected to comprise 30% of the population by 2021 and remain at that proportion through to 2031. The age groups expecting the greatest growth are people aged 70 – 74 which is expected to increase by 40 people and account for 5.5% of the total population. The health needs of an older population become more complex as people age. Many specialist services are available at Leongatha Hospital or Latrobe Regional Hospital. Within the town increased capacity for GP services will be required. An increase in aged care beds will also be in demand.

11.4 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

The population of Mirboo North have access to Latrobe Regional Hospital (40 minutes) and the new Leongatha Hospital (20 minutes) within access of the town. The community has a high level of access to acute health services compared to other communities.

Community and allied health services need to be accessed regularly by people of all ages and their location in a town such as Mirboo North allow services to be provided to the population of the surrounding district as well as people living in the town.

The location of a pharmacy in the town provides medications and pharmacist advice on an ongoing basis, a great back up to local health services.⁴²

Recommendations

The completion of the Health and Wellbeing Centre feasibility study will inform the best model for the provision of health and wellbeing in Mirboo North. There is a need to attract additional doctors to the town to increase the capacity of the clinic to service appointments from the general community and provide medical services to the aged care facilities.

One venue where a range of allied health services are delivered by a range of providers is a best practice model, particularly for a town the size of Mirboo North and is an ideal modern alternative to the Bush Nursing Hospital. Health focused self-help groups are currently on the increase, a health and wellbeing centre is a perfect venue for these groups to meet. Heart health groups may combine healthy eating and walking with social networking.

Professional support for people with chronic disease includes both individual and group activities and often requires enough space for presentations or practical activities. Combining these activities with the Community Shed where health promotion activities are already a focus would allow healthy eating activities in the kitchen or use of the meeting spaces.

⁴² Aged, Community and Mental Health, 2000, *Literature Review of Effective Models and Interventions for Chronic Disease Management in the Primary Care Sector*, Department of Human Services

Maternal and Child Health and Immunisation

Allow for a flag or sign to be displayed when visiting services are in attendance. This flag would be displayed outside the library or early years' services. The location of maternal and child health services and immunisation located near community facilities catering for young children allows easy access by parents dropping their children at kindergarten or childcare. In Mirboo North the location of the children's services in the same block as the library and maternal and child health rooms provides access to all services with off street parking available next to the town hall.

Home based care

Home based care and support services will be required to plan for an increased demand for services it cater for an increase in the older population and more people remaining in the home. As more people approach old age and develop self-management skills to manage chronic disease they will remain independent and continue living at home. Health provision costs can be expected to move from acute settings such as hospitals into community and outreach service settings. Advocacy for funding in these areas should be strongly supported.

Strzelecki House and Grandview Lodge Aged Care Facility

A range of aged care will be a continuing need in Mirboo North as the population of people over 70 years increases in the next 16 years. Further studies will be required to assess the need for further aged care facility beds at Strzelecki House and Grandview Lodge as previous studies revealed many facility residents were not from Mirboo North.



TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED HEALTH SERVICES FOR MIRBOO NORTH

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | MAIN PROVIDER | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL | RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED |
|--|---|--|--|
| Community health Allied health Counselling Visiting specialist services | Strzelecki House Gippsland Southern Health Service Mirboo North Community Shed | Podiatry, dietician Podiatry Office space for visiting specialists and counselling | Feasibility study for expansion of medical facility to include allied health |
| District nursing service | Gippsland Southern Health Service | Home visit | Current service model expanded to meet population need limited by funding allocation |
| Private General Practice | Mirboo North Medical Centre | Stand alone clinics 2 GPs | Preferably 3 – 4 GPs required for aged care and community |
| Immunisation | South Gippsland Shire Council | Mirboo North maternal and child health rooms monthly Secondary school as scheduled | Continue with expectation current 30 minute x once a month may increase to 1 hour with demand. |
| Maternal and child health | South Gippsland Shire Council | Thursdays 8.30am – 4.30pm | Maintain current provision |
| Private allied health and complementary health | Range of private providers | Private consulting in home offices/facilities | Current model |



12 LAW AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

12.1 Introduction and Definition

Councils are required under Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 to undertake municipal emergency management, response, recovery and relief activities that include:

- Establishing a municipal emergency management planning committee (MEMPC)
- Facilitate the development and maintenance of an emergency management plan by this committee and to allow its audit
- Appoint a municipal emergency resource officer to coordinate the use of council resources for emergency response and recovery.

All emergency services are provided by the public sector with support from community organizations and individuals. The fire services property levy funds the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and Country Fire Authority (CFA) and is collected with Council rates under the Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012.

This section describes law and emergency services in Mirboo North including:

- Ambulance
- Fire
- Police
- State Emergency Service
- Legal services
- Council responsibilities

12.2 Policy and Relevant Council Documents and Plans

South Gippsland Emergency Management Plan Version 1.6 April 2013 - To ensure the South Gippsland community will have appropriate management strategies in all emergencies the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) has prepared a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) in accordance with the requirements of Section 20(1) of the Emergency Management Act 1986. The aim of this Plan is to detail the agreed arrangements for the prevention of, the response to, and the recovery from, emergencies that could occur in the South Gippsland Shire as identified in Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act, 1986. There are 3 sub plans to this plan in South Gippsland including:

- Municipal Fire Management Plan 2013/2016

- Heatwave Plan
- Pandemic Plan and
- Flood Emergency Plan version 1.4 Feb 2012 - 2015

Ambulance Victoria Draft Strategic Plan 2013-2016 The strategic plan sets the direction for our organisation over the coming years to meet the challenges of an evolving environment and the Victorian community's need for a high-quality ambulance service.

Victoria Police Blue Print 2012 – 2015 This plan describes planned police service delivery through the 5 key areas of effective service delivery, improved community safety, working with stakeholders, achieving through our people and developing our business.

Victorian State Emergency Service Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015 The plan reflects the reform agenda outlined by the Victorian Government's White Paper outlining the future direction for emergency management in Victoria. The White Paper was released in December 2012.

12.3 Current Provision

All emergency services are provided by the public sector with support from community organizations and individuals. The fire services property levy funds the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and Country Fire Authority (CFA) and is collected with Council rates under the Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012. Councils are required under Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 to undertake municipal emergency management, response, recovery and relief activities that include:



- Establishing a municipal emergency management planning committee (MEMPC)
- Facilitate the development and maintenance of an emergency management plan by this committee and to allow its audit
- Appoint a municipal emergency resource officer to coordinate the use of council resources for emergency response and recovery.

The fire services property levy funds the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and Country Fire Authority (CFA) and is collected with Council rates under the Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012.

12.3.1 Ambulance - Ambulance Victoria

State Government funded service. A new Ambulance Station is now operational. Two fully qualified, permanent ambulance officers are supported with community drivers during day light hours. The community drivers are then on call over night. Currently there are 6 community drivers. This



number will increase in the near future with four new community drivers currently being trained.

The new Ambulance station has a large enclosed garage for two Ambulances. The garage has been specifically built to power any configuration of power sources needed in an emergency. The Ambulance Auxiliary raises funds to support additional items such as wiring, a water tank and a ducted vacuum system. The building has been designed to grow with the community.

12.3.2 Fire - Mirboo North Country Fire Brigade (CFA)



This is a voluntary on-call service to town and district. The CFA station is located in Grandridge Road within the town boundary.

12.3.3 Police - Mirboo North Police

State Government funded service. Mirboo North station is a 16 hour station staffed by one sergeant and one constable. This station is associated with the Wonthaggi Police Station, a 24 hour station.

12.3.4 State Emergency Service

There are two SES locations in South Gippsland, the closest service to Mirboo North is located in Watson Street Leongatha the other is in Foster. They provide support to Police, Ambulance and the CFA. During major events such as flooding or severe storms, the SES works closely with both South Gippsland Shire Council and Bass Coast Shire Council and other emergency services. The SES is an accredited road rescue unit and is part of the Victorian SES Road Rescue Network.

12.4 Future Demand

Emergency service demand will increase in Mirboo North as a result of the population increase in the town. With a new police station and new ambulance branch the capacity to increase police and ambulance services as the population grows is provision of staffing rather than built infrastructure.

An increase in people aged over 60 is likely to place increased demand on ambulance services within the town with an increase in provision of more qualified permanent staff becoming a necessity in the next 15 years.

Mirboo North Fire Brigade is currently located on an adequate site for current services. There are significant bushfire risks associated with forested areas adjacent to the town which must be considered in residential expansion in the area. The Country Fire Authority (CFA) relies on volunteers to provide the fire fighting service to the town and district. South Gippsland Shire has a higher proportion of the population who are volunteers. The increase in the population also provides opportunity for an increase in volunteers with the CFA.

12.5 Industry benchmarks and trends

The key criteria for determining the need for facilities are population size and the capacity of nearby stations or units to satisfy area demands and meet response times. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns.

The following general standards apply to the provision of emergency services in growth areas and metropolitan areas:

TABLE 1 GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

| | |
|---|---|
| Emergency Services Precinct Police, Fire, Ambulance, SES | 1 per 40,000 people |
| Police Station | 1 station per 37, 037 (metropolitan Melbourne) |
| CFA | 1 station per 14, 739 (growth area average) |
| Ambulance Victoria | 1 per 56,583 residents (growth area average) |
| SES | 1 per 108,866 (metropolitan Melbourne) 45 volunteers per unit |

Source⁴³

Best Practice

In the past most emergency services have been located in standalone facilities. More recently, where circumstances allow, emergency services precincts with fire, police, ambulance and SES facilities have been developed. With new facilities for Police and CFA already in place an emergency services precinct is unlikely in Mirboo North.

Recommendations

Goal provision levels for emergency services should ensure appropriate response time outcomes are achieved (ASR Research 2008).

Short response times for ambulance in Mirboo North is influenced by the area the Mirboo North ambulance is required to service. Increased service provision in other South Gippsland towns such as that proposed for Korumburra has potential to reduce local response times for the growing Mirboo North community. Similar consideration for Foster could be beneficial for the whole Shire.

An increase in older people living at home will place increased demand on emergency ambulance services. Older people are at greater risk of time critical health incidents requiring timely emergency ambulance such as cardiac and pulmonary events. Ambulance services meeting the need for a more localised community will allow more effective response times.

Overall emergency service provision to meet the needs of a growing community requires regular review taking into account both the town population and surrounding farm population. Current facilities in Mirboo North will meet the needs of the community for the next 20 years.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EMERGENCY SERVICE AND LAW SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | MAIN PROVIDER | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL | RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED |
|--|----------------------|---|--|
| Ambulance | Ambulance Victoria | 24 hour roster: 2 paramedics, 6 community drivers | Increase in fully qualified paramedics to increase ambulance service to a greater population |
| Police | Victoria Police | 16 hour station 1 sergeant 1 constable | Extend service hours in response to need and efficiency in next 10 - 15 years. |
| Mirboo North Country Fire Authority | CFA | Volunteer service to urban and rural fires and road traffic accidents | Adequate with ongoing volunteer human resources |

13 OPEN SPACE, STREETS, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

13.1 Introduction

There are opportunities to enhance quality and refine the form and function of open space to better reflect population changes and community needs. Council

acknowledges that the design of quality open space within residential and commercial areas provides health, lifestyle, social, economic and environmental benefits. Active by Design principles are incorporated in the Infrastructure Design Manual and South Gippsland Planning Scheme and guide the allocation of infrastructure benefitting public health and wellbeing.



This chapter describes:

- Open space
- Playgrounds
- Paths and Trails
- Community gardens
- Public realm
- Transport

Outdoor sports and recreation facilities including ovals, playing fields and courts, indoor sports and recreation and aquatic facilities are described in a separate chapter entitled Recreation and Leisure

13.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Australian Government Active Urban Design Protocols 2011.

Heart Foundation of Australia (2009) Blueprint for an Active Australia.

South Gippsland Shire Council Asset Management Strategy 2013 This strategy assesses adequacy of the current status of asset management practices and establishes a long term framework that is necessary to address the gap between current status and the desired status in asset management.

South Gippsland Shire Council Open Space Strategy 2007 analyses the open public space available in South Gippsland, for the purpose of long term strategic planning acquisition

and development of future reserves and facilities, and in order to provide a basis for Council policy and decision making.

South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012 – 2016 This plan aims to ensure that the older residents of our community participate in community life and are valued for their knowledge, wisdom and life experiences



South Gippsland Shire Council Paths and Trails Strategy 2010 The aim of the 2010 Strategy was to review the status of the bicycle and walking facilities in the South Gippsland Shire and to identify the work required to provide an improved network of bicycle, walking and horse riding facilities within the municipality.

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008(SGSC Recreation Plan): Volume 4 Implementation Plan provides the strategic directions for future planning of recreation

facilities in South Gippsland Shire. The Recreation Plan established a profile of programs and services, and recreation facilities, analyses recreation demand to 2028, and determines priorities for recreation services and facilities to increase participation in leisure and sport.

Victorian Government Urban Design Charter promotes the 12 key aspects of good urban design: structure, accessibility, legibility, animation, fit and function, complementary mixed uses, sense of place, consistency and variety, continuity and change, safety, sensory pleasure and inclusiveness. The expectation is that when these principles are collectively present, the certainty of creating well used, valued, memorable places is assured.

South Gippsland Shire Council Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan provides a strategic direction for a range of organisations and communities of South Gippsland for the implementation of priorities and strategies toward creating an environment which supports the health and wellbeing of the community. It includes objectives to support active communities through provision of environments which encourage walking and cycling.

South Gippsland Open Space Strategy 2007. This strategy provides an analysis of open space including recreation facilities, content for policy provision, development levy contributions and local areas planning and remains a relevant document for current community infrastructure planning in Mirboo North.

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008 The Recreation Plan established a profile of programs and services, and recreation facilities, analyses recreation demand to

2028, and determines priorities for recreation services and facilities to increase participation in leisure and sport.

- Proposes an off-road trail route linking new subdivision north of the bowling green to the schools and town centre.
- Preservation of trees including those along rail trail

South Gippsland Shire Council Paths and Trails Strategy 2010 This strategy reviews the status of the bicycle and walking facilities in the shire and identifies the work required to provide an improved network of bicycle, walking and horse riding facilities within the shire.

This plan identifies a range of recommendations for Mirboo North including:

- Shared paths and footpaths linking new subdivisions to the town centre
- Upgrading of existing paths in Baths Road Reserve
- Crossings, line marking and signage.

Mirboo North Structure Plan 2004 This strategy includes recommendations from Special Interest Groups comprising community members. A Special Interest Group (SIG) on Sport and Recreation provided key issues and recommendations on Open Space for future residential subdivisions. This references open space recommendations as follows:

- Open space must be a compulsory component for each new residential subdivision.
- Consideration should be given to the provision of appropriate walking and cycling connections around the township
- Investigate the requirements for bicycle and pedestrian paths in and around the township
- Ensure bike paths are allocated when development occurs
- The provision of additional footpaths within the township between key community assets/recreation areas and the commercial area are supported.
- Provision of open space in the township of at least 5%

The recommendations of the Recreation Plan, Open Space Strategy and Mirboo North Structure Plan are still relevant for Mirboo North today and in the next 20 years and should be used in reference for future planning for sport, recreation, open space, streets, parks and playgrounds.

13.3 Current Provision

13.3.1 Open space

The South Gippsland Recreation Plan 2007 identifies open space in Mirboo North in the categories of open parkland, bush land forest or paved piazza/courtyard. Areas classified as highway reserve, drainage and floodway or water reserve so should not be counted in calculation of open space for passive recreation. The main areas of open space for passive recreation are Baromi Park, Baths Road Reserve, the Grandridge Rail Trail and paved public areas associated with the Town Hall, Library or Baromi Centre (senior citizens

centre). Out of town on the Strzelecki Highway the Lyrebird Forest Reserve includes the Lyrebird Forest Walk a one and a half hour walk (4.4km) through bush land.

Baromi Park is located in the centre of Mirboo North along the former railway reserve. Baromi Park has open areas of grass, walking paths, treed areas as well as community buildings. A skate bowl, senior citizens centre, barbeques, a rotunda and toilets make this an accessible area to the centre of town.

Baths Road Reserve is accessible from the car park opposite the town hall or from the swimming pool in Baths Road. It features an unusual spring-fed water fern plant community known as the King Fern Gully and about two kilometres of walking tracks.

The Recreation Reserve provides open space close to the centre of town that contributes to passive recreation opportunities as well as formal sports as described in the Sport and Recreation chapter.

13.3.2 Paths and trails

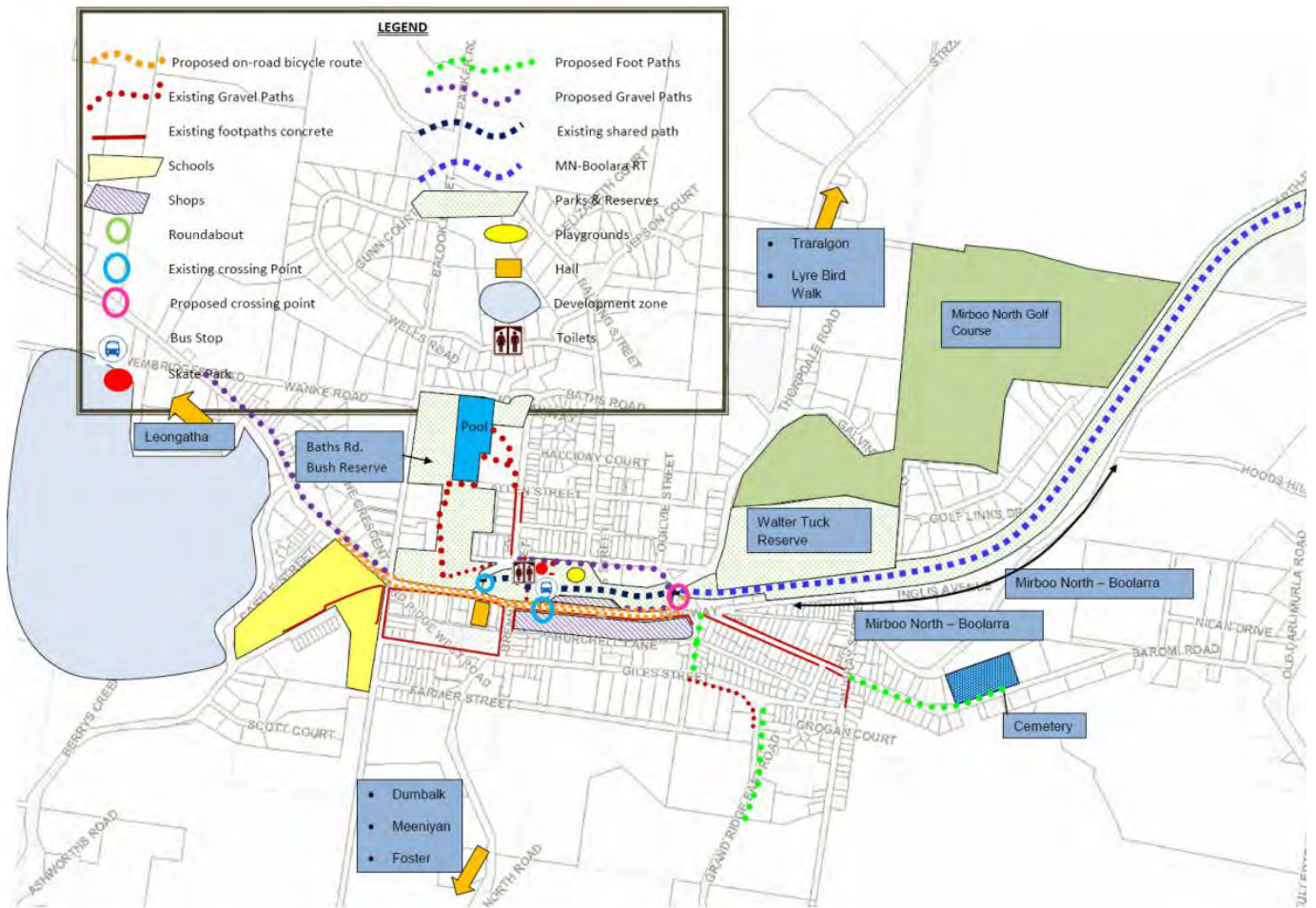
In recent years Council has undertaken a footpath construction program where there were no footpaths or disconnected sections of footpath that has resulted in an increase in footpaths in many residential streets in Mirboo North.

A shared path from new development areas north of the bowling club to the school crossing and into town is now complete. Pedestrian access from the new residential area behind the school and bowling club to the town centre is limited with blind courts with no pedestrian easements present.

The Paths and Trails Strategy 2010 refers to a need to provide access to the Grandridge Rail Trail from Baromi Park to increase wayfinding to the start of the trail. There is now a sign marking the beginning of the rail trail near the toilets at the western end of Baromi Park.



FIGURE 1: MIRBOO NORTH PROPOSED AND EXISTING TRAILS AND PATHS



Source⁴⁴

13.3.3 Playgrounds and parks

There are two parks with children's play equipment located in Baromi Park and Inglis Avenue and a skate bowl in Baromi Park. Baromi Park is classified a regional park and Inglis Avenue a local park.

13.3.4 Public Realm

This report defines the public realm as the connections and spaces between destinations. The public realm includes the natural and built environment used by the general public on a day-to-day basis such as streets, shopping centres, parks and public infrastructure. Some aspects of privately owned space such as the bulk and scale of buildings, or gardens that are visible from the public realm, can also contribute to the overall result.



⁴⁴ Mirboo North Structure Plan (2004), South Gippsland Shire Council

The location of Baromi Park bordering the main street of Mirboo North provides a place for community activities for all ages. The location of the Old Train Station and Senior Citizens Centre, barbeque facilities, playground and rotunda in Baromi Park bring activity to the park on a regular basis.

Paved areas at the front of the town hall, library and childcare centre provide hard surface public area in the town.

13.3.5 Transport

Gippsland Bus Services and Wilson Bus Lines run 3 services on weekdays and two on weekends through Mirboo North between Traralgon, Leongatha and Wonthaggi. Three of these services connect with VLine services at Leongatha and Morwell and with Moe and Churchill Valley Transport Services at Morwell. Weekly services travelling to Traralgon stop at Mirboo North 7.30am, 10.45am and 2.35pm. Travelling to Wonthaggi they stop at Mirboo North at 10.20am, 1.14pm and 4.30pm. This provides a possible bus service to students travelling to Morwell, Moe or Churchill for secondary or tertiary studies occurring during the hours of a normal school day. A school bus operates between Mirboo North and Leongatha on weekdays.

Cycling within Mirboo North is difficult due to the steep terrain and a lack of bicycle lanes on town roads. Trails through Baromi Park allow access to the skate bowl from all sides of the park.

13.4 Consultation

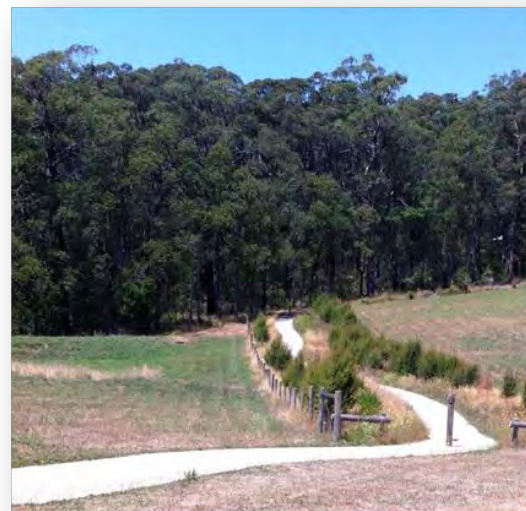
Community planning forums held in 2012 identified work to be done in Baromi Park including a Baromi Park Master Plan, outdoor sound shell, sheltered seating near the playground, basketball half court, toilets at the east end, skate bowl lighting, walking and rail trail links and outdoor exercise equipment.

Key recommendations included in the South Gippsland Open Space Strategy, Recreation Plan and Paths and Trails Strategy were gained from extensive community consultations.

The Mirboo North Structure Plan 2004 drew its recommendations from six community special interest groups. The sport and recreation group rated the provision of open space in new developments as a high priority at the time of subdivision. Consideration to the provision of walking and cycling connections were also given a high priority.

13.5 Future Demand

With an increase in older adults, more accessible parks, paths and open space will be required. The older age group will be more likely to be more unstable on their feet, experience increasing vision impairment and use mobility aids such as walkers, sticks, mobility scooters and wheelchairs. Improvements to access will also benefit people of all ages with physical disability. Paths provided should be wide and flat where walkers, cyclist and mobility scooters can pass safely. As a larger proportion of the aged population cease driving, the provision of suitable paths for walking becomes increasingly important.



Families are expected to increase the most in the next 20 years resulting in an increase in the number of children travelling to schools and requiring safe access for walking and cycling particularly from new housing developments developed on the boundary of the town. Any new developments more than 400 metres from the town centre should include open space for passive and active recreation and access via shared path to the town centre.

Council's role is to work closely with the land development industry and other providers to deliver a diverse range of open space functions and opportunities conveniently located to serve each residential community.

13.6 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Applying simplified open space planning standards such as an “area to population” ratio (i.e. 4ha per 1000 people), or a percentage of land area, or allowing developers to determine what open space shall be provided have been shown as ineffective in delivering a diversity of high quality open spaces opportunities which serve the majority of residents. A range of different open space types suitable for a variety of uses and benefits should be provided. The allocation of open space should not count encumbered land or waterways but consider their use to extend and connect public open space to make the best use of local natural features.

The Open Space Planning and Design Guide (June 2013) and the Open Space Strategies Practice Note 70 (July 2013) provide a hierarchy of open space requirements to be considered in assessment of open space. Consideration of the type of open space required for the size and purpose of a town should be considered as well as location of open space types within a town.

TABLE 1 OPEN SPACE GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Neighbourhood level passive open space reserves</p> | <p>Small parks are required within 150 – 300m. Requirement of the subdivision act where 5% of a developable subdivision as an open space contribution or via the local planning authority stipulating open space contribution between 5% and 10%</p> |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|--|
| | Approximately 2% of all land is required just to provide a park of 1ha within 400 – 500m of all dwellings. Additional land is required to compensate for barriers such as rail, creek and industrial land plus arterial roadways that form barriers to pedestrian movement. ⁴⁵ |
| Neighbourhood level passive open space reserve Level 1 | 1ha within 400 – 500 metres of residential dwellings Amalgamate 1ha parcels to form larger more functional reserves on a case by case basis |
| Level 2 | 3ha to 4ha within 2 kilometres of all residents. Equivalent to 5.43% of residential land area. Regional public open space where available along streams and permanent water bodies. |
| Higher order passive open space reserves | Linking People and Spaces: A strategy for Melbourne's open space network |



Recommendations

Baromi Park provides an ideal hub in the centre of Mirboo North and provides a link to the Baths Road Reserve and Grandridge Rail Trail. Baromi Park should retain its central focus for the town and a masterplan developed to ensure all aspects of the park and neighbouring land are considered in future planning. The open space afforded by Baromi Park, Baths Road Reserve, the Grandridge Rail Trail and more formal recreation areas such as the recreation reserve and golf club provides a broad range of social, health, environmental and economic benefits to individual and to the community as a whole.

Smaller local parks should provide space to kick a ball informally or for children to run and play but should be connected with a network of off road pedestrian and cycle ways that are safe and wide enough for mobility scooters to negotiate with ease.

⁴⁵ Department of Planning and Community Development, *Victorian Planning Provisions* (clause 56.04) on 24 October 2012, <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/vpps/>

The South Gippsland Open Space Strategy 2007 the Recreation Plan: Volume 4 Implementation Plan and the South Gippsland Paths and Trails Strategy 2010 all identify the need for pedestrian and cycle access across Mirboo North and provide guidance on the allocation of developer contribution funds to this infrastructure in the town.

Best Practice

Healthy by Design

Sutherland, E and Carlisle R (2004) Healthy by Design: an innovative planning tool for the development of safe, accessible and attractive environments Vol. 18(11–12) NSW Public Health Bulletin

Key design principles

- ✓ Connectivity
- ✓ Environments for All People
- ✓ Mixed Density
- ✓ Mixed Land Use
- ✓ Parks and Open Space
- ✓ Social Inclusion
- ✓ Supporting Infrastructure
- ✓ Active Transport
- ✓ Aesthetics
- ✓ Safety and Surveillance

Open space

Open space required to serve new residential developments should be supplied in developable land, separate to, but abutting land required for drainage/retention, preservation of native vegetation or heritage values. The nature of any open space contribution shall therefore be expressed as a percentage of the developable area. Encumbered land is not taken as open space to satisfy the demand for sport, or social /family recreation functions but may be used to enhance connection between areas of open space.

Where there is no social /family recreation space within 400m Council will seek to take a minimum 5% (unless negotiated separately between Council and developer) of land subdivided as open space, or an equivalent cash contribution, as specified by the South Gippsland Planning Scheme and/or Subdivision Act 1988 (s18).

Paths and Trails

The recreation reserve is popular for informal recreation including walking or jogging. A walking trail around the perimeter of the recreation reserve and adjacent golf club would extend jogging and walking opportunities in the town.

Paths and trails through Baromi Park will provide alternative connections through the town which are safe, inviting opportunities for social inclusion, non-motorised movement and access to open space for all community members. Where these connections intersect existing facilities, seats and lights will provide opportunities to rest and talk with others. People out walking around the town enhance the current impression of safety reported by the local community. Care should be taken in the development of walking paths through Baromi Park to ensure areas large enough for events and kick to kick are retained.



Playgrounds and parks

The range of parks currently available in Mirboo North provide for a variety of uses and needs. In new residential developments children’s playground equipment need not be provided in all areas. Play spaces can be encouraged without providing play equipment. Small parks can be treed areas with seating and lighting which provide for unstructured social family activity.

Public Realm

Baromi Park provides a central and flexible public meeting place for pedestrians and with a good path network provides social, community activity on an as needs basis.

Public Transport

A bus shelter is required in close proximity to the bus stop in Mirboo North. This shelter should be designed to suit the surroundings and may be environmentally or historically sensitive. Community investigation of the bus stop style and capacity to suit the town will be necessary.



TABLE 2: OPEN SPACE, PARKS, PLAYGROUND, PATHS AND TRAILS MIRBOO NORTH CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | TOTAL NUMBER | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL | RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Parks | 3 | Baromi Park Baths Road Reserve Inglis Street Park | Local parks within 400m of dwellings in all new developments. Pedestrian access from all residential areas to other town parks. |
| Paths and Trails | | Grandridge Rail Trail Baths Road Reserve Paths within Baromi Park | Jogging /cycling trails around existing recreation reserve. Walking/cycling trails from new residential developments to schools and town centre. |
| Playgrounds | 2 | Baromi Park Inglis Street Park Skate bowl | Playgrounds in new residential areas within 400m of houses. Half-court basketball court in Baromi Park near skate bowl Children’s playground at recreation reserve |
| Public Realm | | Baromi Park Forecourt at Town Hall area | Master plan for Baromi Park |
| Transport | | Gippsland Bus Services and Wilson Bus Lines run 3 services on weekdays and two on weekends through Mirboo North between Traralgon, Leongatha and Wonthaggi | Bus stop is required for shelter of travellers. Environmentally or historically sensitive design. |



14 SPORT AND RECREATION - INDOOR AND OUTDOOR

14.1 Introduction

The following infrastructure types assessed in this section are

- Indoor sports and recreation
- Outdoor sports and recreation including sports fields and ovals and hard surface courts.
- Swimming pools

Open space, streets, parks and playgrounds for non structured active and passive outdoor activity are described in a separate chapter.

14.2 Council Plans and Strategies / Government Policy

South Gippsland Shire Council Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan provides a strategic direction for a range of organisations and communities of South Gippsland for the implementation of priorities and strategies toward creating an environment which supports the health and wellbeing of the community. It includes objectives to support active communities through provision of environments which encourage walking and cycling.

South Gippsland Shire Council Aquatic Strategy 2012 – 2013

South Gippsland Shire Council Paths and Trails Strategy 2010

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008

The Recreation Plan established a profile of programs and services, and recreation facilities, analyses recreation demand to 2028, and determines priorities for recreation services and facilities to increase participation in leisure and sport. This plan recommends

- For the recreation reserve committee to investigate the possibility of using the A & P society shed for an indoor sports training centre
- Address the design and maintenance to the entrance to the recreation reserve
- Apply for funds to upgrade the tennis courts and seal around the hall
- Investigate a two court stadium in conjunction with schools
- Investigate outdoor swimming pool.

South Gippsland Open Space Strategy 2007 This strategy provides an analysis of open space including recreation facilities, content for policy provision, development levy



contributions and local areas planning and remains a relevant document for current community infrastructure planning in Mirboo North.

Mirboo North Structure Plan 2004 This strategy includes recommendations from Special Interest Groups comprising community members. A Special Interest Group (SIG) on Sport and Recreation provided key issues and recommendations including:

- Recreation reserve access
- Allocation of camping and caravan park at reserve or swimming pool

South Gippsland Shire Council Asset Management Strategy 2013 This strategy assesses adequacy of the current status of asset management practices and establishes a long term framework that is necessary to address the gap between current status and the desired status in asset management.

14.3 Current Provision

The north of Mirboo North is served by an 18 hole golf course and the Walter J Tuck Recreation Reserve with two sporting ovals, netball courts, tennis courts and a pony club. The schools have a hockey field. A bowling club is located to the south west of the town. An outdoor swimming pool includes a nine lane, 25 metre outdoor pool and two wading pools.

Indoor recreation takes place in a school based gymnasium, town hall and RSL hall. Group fitness activities are also provided by private providers in their own facilities.

The private, public and community sectors all have a role in providing for sport and recreation. Some sport and recreation opportunities can be operated at a profit and may be provided by the private sector. The community is the major provider of sport and recreation in Mirboo North and it relies on the contribution of volunteers on committees of management and community clubs. These clubs and section 86 committees play an important role in assisting Council with asset management and maintenance responsibilities.

Please refer to table 2 which describes the type of indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities in Mirboo North.

14.3.1 Indoor sports and recreation

The schools have the only indoor basketball court where Tae Kwon-do is also conducted. The golf club, bowling club and recreation reserve have social clubrooms. The football club, netball courts have change rooms.



14.3.2 Outdoor sports and recreation

The Walter J Tuck Reserve is one of few in the South Gippsland Shire that has two full sized grounds at the one site. The provision of two grounds adds to the viability of clubs and opportunities to accommodate the smaller sports and large clubs each season. It has recreation reserve accommodates 4 tennis courts, a children's playground, two pony club ménages and various buildings.



The Mirboo North Pony Club meets at the Walter J Tuck Reserve the third Sunday of the month and has around 30 young members. They have a main arena and are building a second arena. Many outside groups use their wash area and disabled ramp before riding the rail trail. A shed has been constructed to store jumps and equipment and the A&P shed is used for shelter if needed.

Buildings include the tennis club, soccer club and netball club change rooms, the A&P pavilion and the social clubrooms.

There is good support for walking for health groups in Mirboo North which meet weekly to walk together. These groups do not require club rooms or buildings but benefit from the path networks in Mirboo North.

14.3.3 Aquatic facilities

Mirboo North swimming pool is located in Baths Road and is one of 5 outdoor pools in South Gippsland. The Mirboo North outdoor pool is a seasonal facility servicing the local community and surrounding districts during the warmer months of the year. There is a 9 lane 25 metre lap pool and two children's pools. Mirboo North has been priorities to receive renovation in the next 10 years.⁴⁶

14.4 Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Mirboo North and district communities in the development of the Aquatic Strategy, Recreation Plan; Open Space Plan and Paths and Trails strategy via town meetings and household surveys.



Entry Recreation Reserve

⁴⁶South Gippsland Shire Council Aquatic Strategy 2012 - 2016
<http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/Files/AquaticStrategy2011.pdf>

A community consultation on the draft Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland July 2011 received over 860 individual submissions and three joint submissions containing 2500 names. As a result of the strong response from the community, the strategic direction was altered to reflect that Council will plan for the operation, maintenance and capital replacement of all the existing aquatic facilities including Mirboo North.

There is strong support for the retention of the Mirboo North pool on its current site. As a result of community planning forums a working group was developed which will focus on the future of the Mirboo North swimming pool, investigating options for multipurpose facilities associated with a swimming pool with preference for retaining the pool at its current site.

A community working group is investigating making the entrance from the Strzelecki Highway to the recreation reserve safer.

14.5 Future Demand

It is expected that there will be a small increase of families (0 – 14 years and 25 – 39 years) and retirees (55 – 64 years). There is also expected to be an increase in frail elderly people aged 85 years and over. There will continue to be a loss of young adults to Melbourne for work and education.

Junior sport and opportunities for recreation for primary school aged children will be in greater demand in the next 20 years. Between 2011 and 2021, the number of persons aged under 17 is forecast to increase by 46 (8.4%), and will comprise 23.5% of the total population. The majority of growth will be in primary school aged children to 2031 bringing the number of students aged 5 – 11 years to 271. This is an increase in this age group of 58 people from 2011.

There is not expected to be as greater growth in 12 – 17 year olds with an increase of 19 expected by 2031. Provided interest in sports continues in these age groups, under 18 teams and pony club membership can be retained.

An increase in retirees will require consideration for sport and recreation options for people aged over 60.

14.6 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. While general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns, consideration of the sub-regional role of Mirboo North needs to be considered when planning for future growth.

Recommendations for growth areas are to provide a minimum of 2ha of active open space excluding golf courses per 1,000 people. This is to be distributed between active open space reserves, tennis facilities, lawn bowls with more detail provided below.

TABLE 1 RECREATION GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

| | |
|---|---|
| Indoor aquatic /fitness centre | 1 centre for every 40,000 to 50,000 people |
| Double court indoor recreation centre/stadia | 1 centre for every 20,000 – 30,000 people |
| Neighbourhood active open space | 1 area of 8ha in size to provide for two sports ovals per 6,000 people |
| Neighbourhood reserve pavilion | 1 per 6,000 people or per designated active recreation reserve |
| Tennis | 1 x court per 2,500 people 1 x 2 court free to the public tennis court no pavilion per 25,000 to 35,000 people 1 x 6 – 10 court complex per municipality |
| Netball | 1 outdoor netball court per 3,500 people; 1 x double court netball court per 16,000 people 1 x 8 court complex per 50,000 people Maximise use of school sites where possible |
| Lawn Bowls | 1 x 4 green facility for 40,000 people |
| Passive open space | 0.7 to 1ha of passive open space per 1,000 people or 300 – 400 households 205 to 4ha passive open space per 2km radius |
| Bicycle / Pedestrian Trails | As per Active by Design guidelines |

Source⁴⁷

Recommendations

Indoor sports and recreation

There is a shortage of Indoor facilities for sport and recreation in Mirboo North available at all times of day. Current indoor basketball courts are located at the school and are well used during the day. With an increase in retirees, indoor recreation facilities that are available during the day are required. Investigation of existing indoor facilities may provide an existing alternative which could be dedicated for these activities.

⁴⁷ Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

Outdoor sports and recreation

The Walter J Tuck Reserve provides two good sized playing fields for traditional sports in Mirboo North and will continue to meet the needs of the growing population in the next 20 years. Young people will continue to leave the town for education and work with young families returning to the town with primary school aged children.

Whilst people aged between 30 – 50 make up many traditional sporting teams, there will need to be increased opportunities for sports for people aged over 60 years. Currently golf and bowls are available for this age group but retirees moving to Mirboo North may demand a greater variety of outdoor sports and recreation such as croquet greens.

Walking trails within the town centre and the rail trail will continue to provide recreational space for older people's walking groups in Mirboo North.



Aquatic facilities

The Mirboo North Swimming Pool Master plan will inform work by the community working group for the swimming pool to investigate potential to increase use of facilities located at the pool by ensuring they are multipurpose and useable throughout the year by groups not wishing to swim. Research has shown that people over 40 years of age are not high users of outdoor pools and that new demand is being placed on



providing warmer water areas as well as pools suitable for therapy and older adult exercise. Older people will continue to travel to SPLASH in Leongatha for warm water activities such as aqua movers and lap swimming throughout the year. An increase in families and children under 12 will result in continued use of the Mirboo North pool during the warmer months.

TABLE 2: OUTDOOR SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN MIRBOO NORTH

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | TOTAL NUMBER | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL | RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED |
|---|---------------------|--|--|
| Playgrounds with equipment | 3 | Playground Baromi Park, Inglis Street, Skate bowl, Baromi Park | Future residential development to include a children's playground within 400 metres of all residential areas connected with pedestrian access. |
| Golf club | | Mirboo North Golf Club | Continued model |
| Lawn bowls greens | 2 | Synthetic greens and club house. XX members and pennant and social competitions. | Current model allows for expansion of the club on the current site to increase playing days to more days of the week. |
| Indoor courts/ gymnasium | 1 | At schools | Additional indoor recreational facility required. Investigate existing community facilities. |
| Outdoor courts - netball, | 8 | At recreation reserve 2 x netball courts with change rooms | Continue with current model. Consider playground at recreation reserve to support parents with children who are playing sport. |
| Playing fields – football | 2 | Recreation reserve – 2 ovals used for football, soccer and cricket. Including 1 turf wicket and practice nets. | Continue with current model with working group to continue investigation of entry to the reserve. |
| Tennis Courts | 4 | At recreation reserve | Continued maintenance |
| Off road paths for walking and cycling | | Grandridge Rail Trail Baths Road Reserve Lyrebird Walk | Investigate signage to all walking paths and walking map to Mirboo North walks. |
| Skate parks | 1 | Skate bowl located at Baromi Park | Provide shelter and seating at the skate bowl. Investigate proposal of lighting. |
| Swimming pool | 1 | Outdoor 9 land 25m pool, and 2 toddlers pools | Continue investigation of extending multiuse of pool facilities outside of summer. |
| Pony Club | 1 | At recreation reserve one arena and another being constructed. Disabled access | Assist club to source funding to develop clubrooms with kitchen |

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