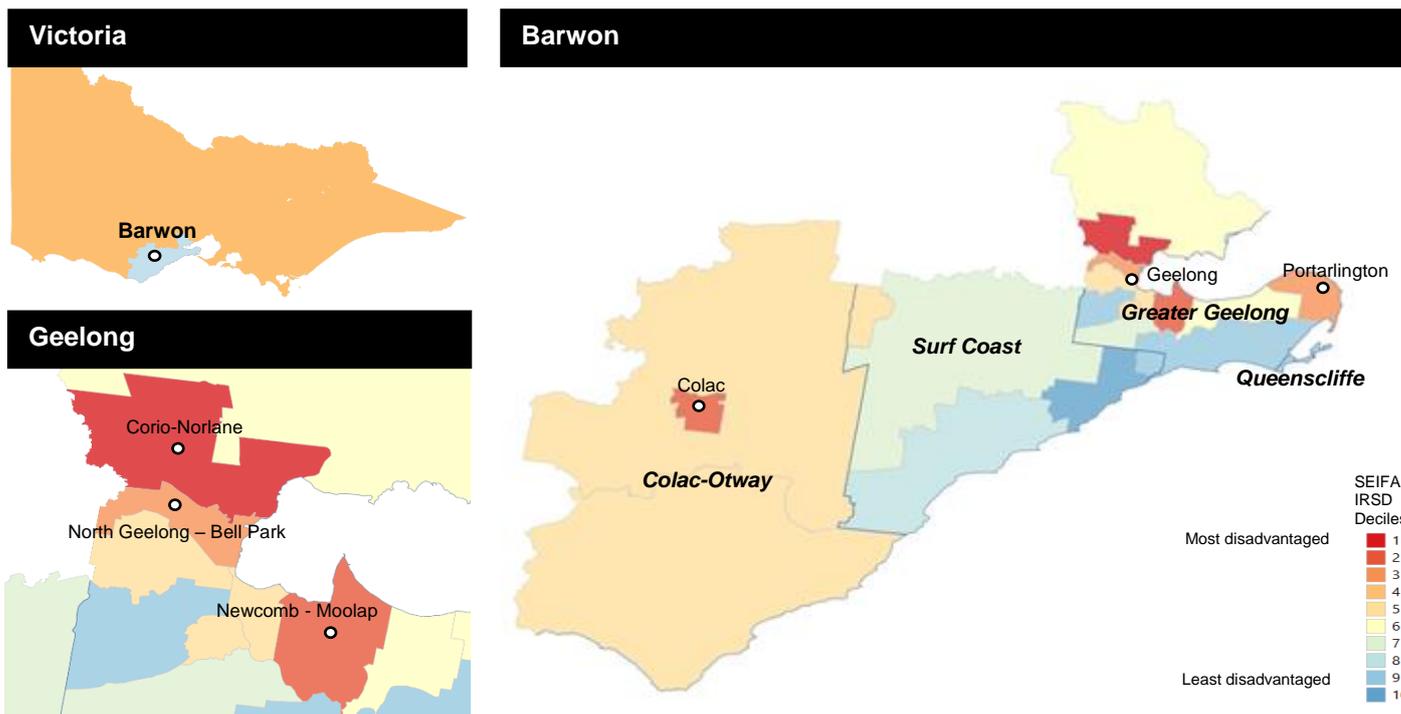


Infrastructure Victoria is investigating infrastructure investment in regional Victoria that builds on the economic strengths of a region, or that reduces disadvantage, primarily through providing greater access to services and economic opportunities. This fact sheet is focussed on reducing disadvantage, and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying framework for reducing disadvantage through infrastructure.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide evidence that will inform the problem definition for each of Victoria's nine regions through consultation with stakeholders. The project has a specific focus on **areas that experience relatively high levels of disadvantage** (ranked in the bottom 30% of the index of Socio-Economic Disadvantage, SEIFA) and this fact sheet provides **indicators showing poor outcomes for key demographic groups living in these areas**.

Infrastructure Victoria invites key stakeholders and service providers to make submissions that provide evidence on which infrastructure could make a difference in reducing disadvantage for the region.



The maps show a visual representation of the Barwon region based on Index of Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (SEIFA IRSD) data (2016). The red and orange shaded areas represent areas of high relative disadvantage.

About the Barwon Region

The Barwon region is 9,000 square kilometres in extent (4 per cent of Victoria) and is a diverse region consisting of urban, peri-urban, rural and coastal areas. The southern part of the region forms part of the south-eastern Australian coastline, extending from Cape Otway to the heads of Port Phillip Bay at Queenscliffe. The northern part of the region borders the urban fringe of Melbourne and the Central Highlands. The east of the region is predominantly rural and borders the Great South Coast region at Lake Corangamite. Barwon consists of one major regional centre in Geelong which is Victoria's second largest city.

Barwon comprises four Local Government Areas: Greater Geelong, Surf Coast, Colac Otway and Queenscliffe.

The Barwon region is one of Victoria's more central regions, occupying the central south of the state. Much of the north eastern part of the region, including Geelong, is within Melbourne's peri-urban fringe and is home to many commuter communities. The Barwon region's population and economy are largely influenced by the benefits and pressures associated with being adjacent to Melbourne's peri-urban fringe.

Source: Aither Barwon Regional Profile, March 2019

Aboriginal Communities in Barwon

Infrastructure Victoria acknowledges the Barwon region includes the traditional lands of the Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung peoples and comprises important cultural heritage assets. The lands of the Eastern Marr people are located in the south, to the south-west of Colac, and continue into the Great South Coast Region where they are predominantly located. The lands of the Wadawurrung people are in the region's north east, encompassing the Greater Geelong LGA and south to Anglesea.

Across the Barwon region Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) play a central role in the provision of services and the promotion and protection of Aboriginal people's rights. This includes health, housing, law and justice, child and family welfare, child development, education, land management and heritage protection services and assistance. The Aboriginal population across Victoria is growing rapidly creating significant demand pressures on Aboriginal and other services in the region. To find out more about Aboriginal land and communities, services and regular cultural activities in the region see the Deadly Story website deadlystory.com

Infrastructure Victoria is interested to understand if there are infrastructure solutions for this region that can address disadvantage and help build health and prosperity for Aboriginal people.

Disadvantage in the Barwon Region

Places of high disadvantage in the Barwon Region include suburbs and townships within the City of Greater Geelong (eg North Geelong, Corio, Norlane, Newcomb, Moolap and Portarlington) as well as the town of Colac.

While almost all of these disadvantaged areas are experiencing population growth, they also generally feature an older population than the Victorian average. While Corio – Norlane has a slightly younger population, it also has a high proportion of older people living alone. These suburbs and towns also feature almost a much higher proportion of people with a disability compared to the Victorian average. The unemployment rate in Corio Norlane is significantly higher than the Victorian average, almost double. The labour force participation rate in Portarlington and St Leonards is low, this is likely a reflection of the large proportion of older population residing in these coastal towns.

Childhood education is an area of challenge in some areas, with almost a quarter of the children commencing primary school in Corio, Norlane, Newcomb and Moolap being developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains.

Households in Corio, Norland and Colac have significantly less access to the internet when compared to the Victorian average.

Demographics

Below is a selection of demographic statistics for the region. Evidence shows that for some key population groups (such as young children, students leaving school, older people, people with disabilities), if access to services is improved it can improve their life outcomes. For this reason, IV is focussing additional attention on a number of vulnerable groups.

LGA	Greater Geelong				Colac-Otway	
SA2 [UCL town]	North Geelong - Bell Park [North Geelong, Bell Park]	Newcomb - Moolap [Newcomb, Moolap]	Corio – Norlane [Corio, Norlane]	Portarlington [Portarlington – St Leonards]	Colac [Colac]	Victorian Average
Remoteness classification	Regional city			Regional town	Regional centre	
Population	14,629 ↑	14,595 ↓	26,347 ↑	7,401 ↑	12,250 ↑	5,926,624 ↑
0 – 4 years old	6%	5%	6%	4%	6%	6%
5 – 14 years old	10%	10%	13%	8%	12%	12%
15 – 24 years old	11%	13%	16%	7%	12%	13%
25 – 64 years old	49%	50%	49%	45%	48%	53%
Over 65	23%	22%	15%	36%	22%	16%
Over 75 Living Alone	24%	31%	34%	29%	33%	27%
Requires assistance with daily living	7%	9%	8%	8%	8%	5%
Disability pension (15 - 64)*	7%				9%	5%
Aged pension*	70%				65%	63%
Single parent families	20%	24%	31%	14%	18%	15%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Low English proficiency	5%	1%	5%	1%	1%	4%
Social housing*	5%				3%	4%

Sources: ABS Census, PHIDU

↑↓: Population change between 2011 and 2016

* Statistics are taken from the LGA that the town sits in

Outcomes

Below are a range of indicators that demonstrate the types and levels of disadvantage for key demographic groups in the region's most disadvantaged areas. See the Appendix for further information on indicators.

LGA	Greater Geelong				Colac-Otway	
SA2 [UCL town]	North Geelong - Bell Park [North Geelong, Bell Park]	Newcomb - Moolap [Newcomb, Moolap]	Corio - Norlane [Corio, Norlane]	Portarlington [Portarlington - St Leonards]	Colac [Colac]	Vic Average
Place-based disadvantage						
SEIFA IRSD Decile (1-10)	3	2	1	3	2	5
ICT Indicator						
No Internet Access	27%	27%	30%	25%	29%	17%
Transport						
Public Transport access*	77%				41%	51%
No Car	9%	9%	13%	5%	8%	8%
Early Years/Children						
Kindergarten enrolment*^	97%				95%	93%
Developmentally vulnerable children	9%	23%	24%	18%	13%	10%
Children in jobless families*	12%				11%	11%
Young People						
School leavers (14 - 25 years old) not in labour force/training/education	5%	6%	6%	4%	4%	3%
Early school leavers (20 - 30 years old) not finishing year 12	25%	32%	39%	31%	36%	17%
Health						
GP per 1,000 population*	1.2				1.2	1.2
Life expectancy - male*	79.1				78.3	79
Life expectancy - female*	83.7				83.7	84
Poor dental health*	5%				4%	5%
Satisfaction with health*	84%				84%	84%
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population*	27.9				28.9	28.5
Mental health clients per 1,000*	11.3				15.7	14.5
Households						
Rental stress	12%	14%	17%	12%	9%	9%
Homelessness per 1,000*	2.9				2.8	3.3
Crime						
Offence rate per 100,000*	9,097				7,161	7,422
Economic & Financial						
Government support as main income source*	34%				29%	26%
Unemployment rate	7%	7%	13%	8%	4%	7%
Labour participation rate	54%	52%	48%	40%	55%	60%
Individual income under \$400/week	27%	26%	32%	29%	24%	25%
Young people receiving unemployment benefit*	4%				4%	3%
People receiving unemployment benefit long term*	5%				5%	4%

■ 2 standard deviations from state average (~bottom 2.5%) ■ 1 standard deviation from state average (~bottom 16%)

*Statistics are taken from the LGA that the town sits in ^May be more than 100 per cent due to enrolments from outside the local population.

The Victorian Government, through Regional Development Victoria, has established Regional Partnerships as part of a process for regional stakeholders such as local councils, business and community leaders to engage with Victorian government departments to highlight regional challenges and opportunities.

IV has drawn on initial consultations with stakeholders in the region, including the Regional Partnerships, to develop our understanding of the regions' concerns about infrastructure-related issues that could be impacting on regional disadvantage.

What we have heard from Barwon stakeholders:

1. There is a need for better high speed broadband to address the digital divide being experienced in Barwon when compared to Melbourne for schools, households and businesses.
2. There is a lack of social and affordable housing to meet demand in Barwon, and in the areas where these housing options exist there is poor access to services. The current housing stock is unable to meet existing needs, resulting in 2 500 people on the Barwon social housing waitlist.
3. Ageing infrastructure in the region's key cities are contributing to public safety and amenity issues in the area.
4. There are significant barriers in achieving educational results for those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with significant numbers of students disengaged from school and not finishing year 12, compounded by a lack of support facilities for students and their families.

▶ Next steps

Infrastructure Victoria is now taking submissions from interested stakeholders. Please go to the [IV website](#) to make your submission.

The submission template includes the following questions.

- ▶ Have we captured the main issues of disadvantage in your region? If not can you provide further evidence?
- ▶ Can you provide evidence of an infrastructure barrier that is contributing to poor outcomes in this region? This could include (among other things) barriers related to:
 - transport,
 - access to digital services, and
 - need for new/upgraded facilities.
- ▶ Do you have ideas for infrastructure solutions to address disadvantage in your region, or exceptional examples of what's working well that could be duplicated in other areas?
- ▶ Can you provide us with business plans, service plans, program evaluations or other evidence to support your suggested solution?

Submissions close 7 February 2020.

Appendix: Outcome Data Measures

Table Measure	Full Measure	Source
Place-based disadvantage		
SEIFA IRSD Decile	Socio economic indicator (Socio-economic index for areas, index of relative disadvantage). Deciles are calculated from the SEIFA IRSD scores. The scores are split into 10 groups, or deciles, ranked 1 to 10. The first decile represents bottom 10% of the SEIFA scores while the tenth decile represents the top 10% of the SEIFA scores. ABS Catalogue 2033.0.55.001	ABS
ICT Indicator		
No internet access	% households with no access to internet - 2016 Census	ABS
Transport		
Public transport access	% population that has access to public transport - Objective counts and proximity to trains/bus/ferry - 2016 Census	ABS
No car	% households with no car - 2016 Census	ABS
Early Years/Children		
4 year old Kindergarten enrolment	% first year children enrolled in kindergarten - VCAMS 4-year old participation data	Data.Vic
Developmentally vulnerable children	% children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains - 2009-2018 Public Data Table SA2	AEDC
Children in jobless families	% children aged less than 15 years in jobless families - Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA - 2018: Families	PHIDU
Young People		
Early school leavers (15 – 24 years old) not in labour force/training/education	% school leavers (did not complete grade 10 or above), 15 – 24 years old, not in the labour force and/or further education/training (vocational or higher education) – 2016 Census	ABS
Early school leavers (20 – 30 years old) not finishing year 12	% school leavers (that left school before completing year 12), 20 – 30 years old – 2016 Census	ABS
Health		
GP per 1000 population	Number of General Practitioners per 1,000 population - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Life expectancy - male	Life expectancy (years) male - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Life expectancy - female	Life expectancy (years) female - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Poor dental health	% people reporting poor dental health - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Satisfaction with health	% population who were mostly or completely satisfied with their health (inverse of estimated number of people aged 15 years and over with fair or poor self-assessed health (modelled estimates) -- Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA – 2014-15	PHIDU
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population	Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (Potentially Preventable Hospitalisation) separations for all conditions per 1,000 population) - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Mental health clients per 1,000	Mental health (registered clients per 1,000 population) - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Households		
Rental stress	% households with rent payments greater than or equal to 30% of household income - 2016 Census	ABS
Homelessness per 1,000	Homeless people (estimated) per 1,000 population - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Crime		
Offence rate per 100,000	Offence rate per 100,000 population; objective crimes against the person in public or property (total crime rate) - Victorian Crime Statistics by LGA – Research Paper, August 2018	DPS
Economic & Financial		
Government support as main income source	% estimated number of people aged 18 years and over who had government support as their main source of income in the last 2 years (2014) - Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA - 2018: Personal and financial stressors (modelled estimates)	PHIDU
Unemployment rate	% unemployment rate - 2016 Census	ABS
Labour participation rate	% labour participation rate - 2016 Census	ABS
Individual income under \$400/week	% individual income under \$400 per week - 2016 Census	ABS
Young people receiving unemployment benefit	% young people aged 16 to 24 receiving an unemployment benefit - Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA - 2018: Income support recipients	PHIDU
People receiving unemployment benefit long term	% people receiving an unemployment benefit long-term - Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA - 2018: Income support recipients	PHIDU