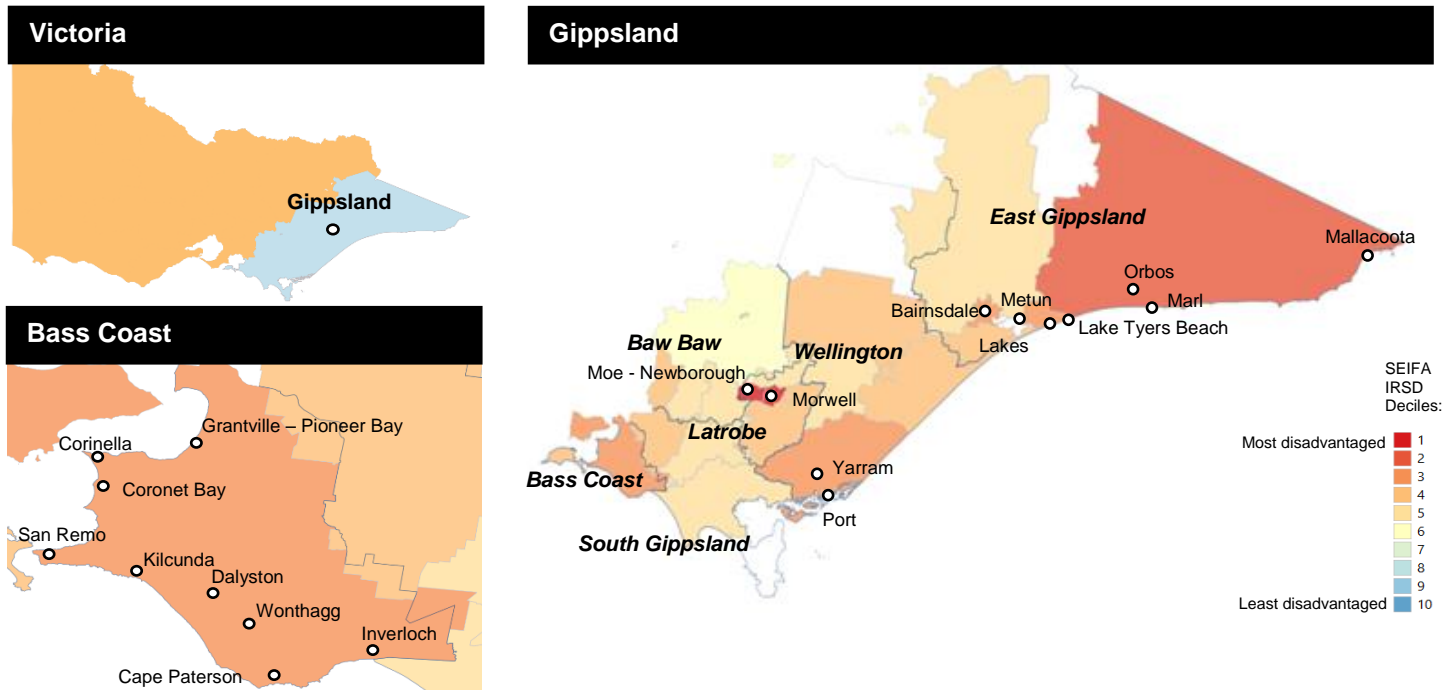


Infrastructure Victoria is investigating infrastructure investment in regional Victoria that builds on the economic strengths of a region, or that reduces disadvantage, primarily through providing greater access to services and economic opportunities. This fact sheet is focussed on reducing disadvantage, 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 Gippsland 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 Gippsland Region

Gippsland is 41,600 square kilometres (covering 18 per cent of Victoria) and is characterised by several distinct areas. The western part of the region extends to the south-eastern edge of Melbourne and includes the towns of Warragul and Drouin. The eastern part forms the southern extent of the Australian eastern seaboard, with Bairnsdale the main regional centre. The City of Latrobe LGA (Latrobe LGA), with the large population centres of Moe, Morwell and Traralgon, is the regional hub and is in the western portion of the region.

The Gippsland region comprises six Local Government Areas: Latrobe, East Gippsland, South Gippsland, Wellington, Bass Coast and Baw Baw.

Gippsland is one of five regions that border metropolitan Melbourne, which has a strong influence on the region's population and economy. The areas in the west are within Melbourne's peri-urban fringe which experience population and associated development pressures, including on some of the region's landscapes, agricultural, waterway and other environmental assets. In comparison, the eastern areas of the region are dominated by national parks with smaller established towns, lower population growth and therefore fewer associated development pressures.

Source: Aither Gippsland Regional Profile, March 2019

## Aboriginal Communities in Gippsland

Infrastructure Victoria acknowledges the Gippsland region includes the traditional lands of the GunaiKurnai people and comprises important cultural heritage assets. The lands of the GunaiKurnai people include Port Albert in the south, east along the coast to Marlo, and encompasses Mount Buller and the Alpine National Park.

Across the Gippsland 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](http://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 Bass Coast and Latrobe:

Disadvantage in Bass Coast and Latrobe is primarily centred on the towns of Moe and Morwell, which have SEIFA scores in the lowest 10 per cent for the state.

The series of towns in the Wonthaggi – Inverloch area are also disadvantaged, though to a lesser extent (bottom 30 per cent of SEIFA). These towns have older populations and young people with poor rates of year 12 completion and a higher proportion of school leavers not in education or learning compared to Victorian averages. They also have more welfare recipients and lower levels of workforce participation than the state average.

Moe and Morwell have a range of poor indicators, and are experiencing falling population numbers. Unemployment is high and many young people's futures are precarious; many children are developmentally vulnerable and live in jobless households, and a large proportion of school leavers are not in work or learning.

## Demographics – Bass Coast and Latrobe

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	Bass Coast	Latrobe		Victorian Average
SA2 [UCL town]	Wonthaggi - Inverloch [Cape Paterson, Corinella, Coronet Bay, Dalyston, Grantville - Pioneer Bay, Inverloch, Kilcunda, San Remo, Wonthaggi]	Moe - Newborough [Moe - Newborough]	Morwell [Morwell]	
Remoteness classification	Regional towns	Regional city		
Population	22,228 ↑	16,550 ↓	13,811 ↓	5,926,624 ↑
0 – 4 years old	5%	5%	6%	6%
5 – 14 years old	11%	11%	11%	12%
15 – 24 years old	9%	13%	12%	13%
25 – 64 years old	47%	49%	49%	53%
Over 65	28%	22%	22%	16%
Over 75 Living Alone	28%	32%	31%	27%
Requires assistance with daily living	7%	9%	10%	5%
Disability pension (15 - 64)*	9%	10%		5%
Aged pension*	70%	73%		63%
Single parent families	16%	24%	26%	15%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	1%	2%	3%	1%
Low English proficiency	1%	1%	2%	4%
Social housing*	2%	7%		4%

Sources: ABS Census, PHIDU

↑↓:: Population change between 2011 and 2016

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

## Outcomes – Bass Coast and Latrobe

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	Bass Coast	Latrobe		
SA2 [UCL town]	Wonthaggi - Inverloch [Cape Paterson, Corinella, Coronet Bay, Dalyston, Grantville - Pioneer Bay, Inverloch, Kilcunda, San Remo, Wonthaggi]	Moe - Newborough [Moe - Newborough]	Morwell [Morwell]	Vic Average
<b>Place-based disadvantage</b>				
SEIFA IRSD Decile (1-10)	3	1	1	5
<b>ICT Indicator</b>				
No Internet Access	24%	28%	30%	17%
<b>Transport</b>				
Public Transport access*	37%	20%		51%
No Car	6%	11%	12%	8%
<b>Early Years/Children</b>				
Kindergarten enrolment*^	96%	101%		93%
Developmentally vulnerable children	9%	16%	40%	10%
Children in jobless families*	14%	19%		11%
<b>Young People</b>				
School leavers (14 - 25 years old) not in labour force/training/education	5%	5%	9%	3%
Early school leavers (20 – 30 years old) not finishing year 12	37%	38%	38%	17%
<b>Health</b>				
GP per 1,000 population*	1.2	1.4		1.2
Life expectancy – male*	79.4	76.9		79
Life expectancy – female*	84.4	82.2		84
Poor dental health*	7%	4%		5%
Satisfaction with health*	85%	80%		84%
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population*	30.9	33.4		28.5
Mental health clients per 1,000*	15.7	17.7		14.5
<b>Households</b>				
Rental stress	11%	11%	13%	9%
Homelessness per 1,000*	1.8	2.4		3.3
<b>Crime</b>				
Offence rate per 1,000*	6,895	17,866		7,422
<b>Economic &amp; Financial</b>				
Government support as main income source*	33%	38%		26%
Unemployment rate	7%	12%	14%	7%
Labour participation rate	48%	50%	46%	60%
Individual income under \$400/week	28%	29%	29%	25%
Young people receiving unemployment benefit*	5%	7%		3%
People receiving unemployment benefit long term*	7%	9%		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.

## Disadvantage in Wellington and East Gippsland

Disadvantage in Wellington is concentrated in the more remote, southern towns of Yarram and Port Albert. East Gippsland has a cluster of towns consisting of Lakes Entrance, Tyers Beach, Metung, and the regional centre of Bairnsdale which serves as a regional hub. To the far east are the remote towns of Mallacoota, Marlo and Orbost which have declining populations and low rates of households with internet connections.

These areas all feature very low year 12 completion rates, lower workforce participation rates and higher levels of long term unemployment benefits.

## Demographics – Wellington and East Gippsland

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	Wellington		East Gippsland		Victorian Average
SA2 [UCL town]	Yarram [Port Albert, Yarram]	Bairnsdale [Bairnsdale]	Lakes Entrance [Lake Tyers Beach, Lakes Entrance, Metung]	Orbost [Mallacoota, Marlo, Orbost]	
Remoteness classification	Regional towns	Regional centre	Regional towns	Regional towns – remote <sup>^</sup>	
Population	5,309 ↑	14,726 ↑	9,917 ↑	6,453 ↓	5,926,624 ↑
0 – 4 years old	4%	6%	4%	4%	6%
5 – 14 years old	10%	12%	10%	11%	12%
15 – 24 years old	9%	11%	8%	8%	13%
25 – 64 years old	50%	46%	46%	48%	53%
Over 65	26%	25%	32%	28%	16%
Over 75 Living Alone	31%	31%	28%	30%	27%
Requires assistance with daily living	7%	7%	7%	6%	5%
Disability pension (15 - 64)*	8%		11%		5%
Aged pension*	68%		70%		63%
Single parent families	13%	18%	14%	15%	15%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	1%	4%	2%	5%	1%
Low English proficiency	0%	1%	0%	0%	4%
Social housing*	3%		4%		4%

Sources: ABS Census, PHIDU

↑↓: Population change between 2011 and 2016

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

<sup>^</sup> remote - over 60 minutes from a regional city or centre

## Outcomes – Wellington and East Gippsland

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	Wellington		East Gippsland		
SA2 [UCL town]	Yarram [Port Albert, Yarram]	Bairnsdale [Bairnsdale]	Lakes Entrance [Lake Tyers Beach, Lake Entrance, Metung]	Orbost [Mallacoota, Marlo, Orbost]	Vic Average
<b>Place-based disadvantage</b>					
SEIFA IRSD Decile (1-10)	3	3	3	2	5
<b>ICT Indicator</b>					
No Internet Access	27%	26%	25%	32%	17%
<b>Transport</b>					
Public Transport access*	27%		21%		51%
No Car	5%	7%	5%	7%	8%
<b>Early Years/Children</b>					
Kindergarten enrolment* <sup>^</sup>	93%	86%			93%
Developmentally vulnerable children	10%	18%	12%	15%	10%
Children in jobless families*	12%		13%		11%
<b>Young People</b>					
School leavers (14 - 25 years old) not in labour force/training/education	3%	4%	4%	6%	3%
Early school leavers (20 – 30 years old) not finishing year 12	41%	35%	40%	42%	17%
<b>Health</b>					
GP per 1,000 population*	1.3		1.2		1.2
Life expectancy – male*	78.4		78.4		79
Life expectancy – female*	83.1		83.3		84
Poor dental health*	6%	8%			5%
Satisfaction with health*	81%		84%		84%
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population*	31.1	36.2			28.5
Mental health clients per 1,000*	14.8		15.3		14.5
<b>Households</b>					
Rental stress	6%	12%	10%	6%	9%
Homelessness per 1,000*	2.9		3.2		3.3
<b>Crime</b>					
Offence rate per 1,000*	8,069		8,901		7,422
<b>Economic &amp; Financial</b>					
Government support as main income source*	32%		32%		26%
Unemployment rate	7%	6%	7%	9%	7%
Labour participation rate	50%	50%	46%	40%	60%
Individual income under \$400/week	30%	23%	29%	31%	25%
Young people receiving unemployment benefit*	5%	7%			3%
People receiving unemployment benefit long term*	6%	8%			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 Gippsland stakeholders:

1. Communities are very concerned about poor public transport connections between Gippsland towns and to and from Melbourne.
2. Many towns in Gippsland are geographically remote and face issues with digital connectivity.
3. People in Gippsland experience high levels of family stress, mental health and family violence which place pressure on health and support services. This highlights that communities need to be able to access these services.
4. The dispersed population across the large geography of the Gippsland region makes it challenging to provide integrated transport solutions to enable young people to access tertiary education once they have finished school.

## ▶ 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 Friday 7 February 2020.

## Other areas in the Central Highlands region with below average SEIFA rankings.

Towns in SEIFA Decile of 4						
Region	LGA	UCL (Town)	SA2	SA2 Population in UCL	SEIFA IRSD Score	SEIFA IRSD Decile
Gippsland	Bass Coast	Cape Woolamai	Phillip Island	1675	986	4
		Cowes	Phillip Island	4944	986	4
		Newhaven	Phillip Island	374	986	4
		Rhyll	Phillip Island	486	986	4
		Smiths Beach	Phillip Island	227	986	4
		Sunset Strip	Phillip Island	456	986	4
		Surf Beach - Sunderland Bay	Phillip Island	764	986	4
		Ventnor	Phillip Island	646	986	4
		Wimbledon Heights	Phillip Island	372	986	4
	Baw Baw	Drouin	Drouin	11889	981	4
		Longwarry	Drouin	1531	981	4
	East Gippsland	Eagle Point	Paynesville	843	987	4
		Newlands Arm	Paynesville	627	987	4
		Paynesville	Paynesville	3378	987	4
		Raymond Island	Paynesville	552	987	4
	Latrobe	Boolarra	Churchill	551	983	4
		Churchill	Churchill	4567	983	4
		Traralgon	Traralgon	25479	981	4
		Traralgon South	Churchill	524	983	4
		Yinnar	Churchill	607	983	4
	South Gippsland	Korumburra	Korumburra	3639	978	4
		Nyora	Korumburra	704	978	4
		Poowong	Korumburra	362	978	4
	Wellington	Briagolong	Maffra	590	982	4
		Golden Beach - Paradise Beach	Longford - Loch Sport	442	977	4
		Heyfield	Maffra	1516	982	4
		Loch Sport	Longford - Loch Sport	809	977	4
		Maffra	Maffra	4317	982	4
		Sale	Sale	13507	969	4
		Stratford	Maffra	1856	982	4
		Wurruk	Sale	970	969	4

## Appendix: Outcome Data Measures

Table Measure	Full Measure	Source
<b>Place-based disadvantage</b>		
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
<b>ICT Indicator</b>		
No internet access	% households with no access to internet - 2016 Census	ABS
<b>Transport</b>		
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
<b>Early Years/Children</b>		
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
<b>Young People</b>		
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
<b>Health</b>		
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
<b>Households</b>		
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
<b>Crime</b>		
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
<b>Economic &amp; Financial</b>		
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