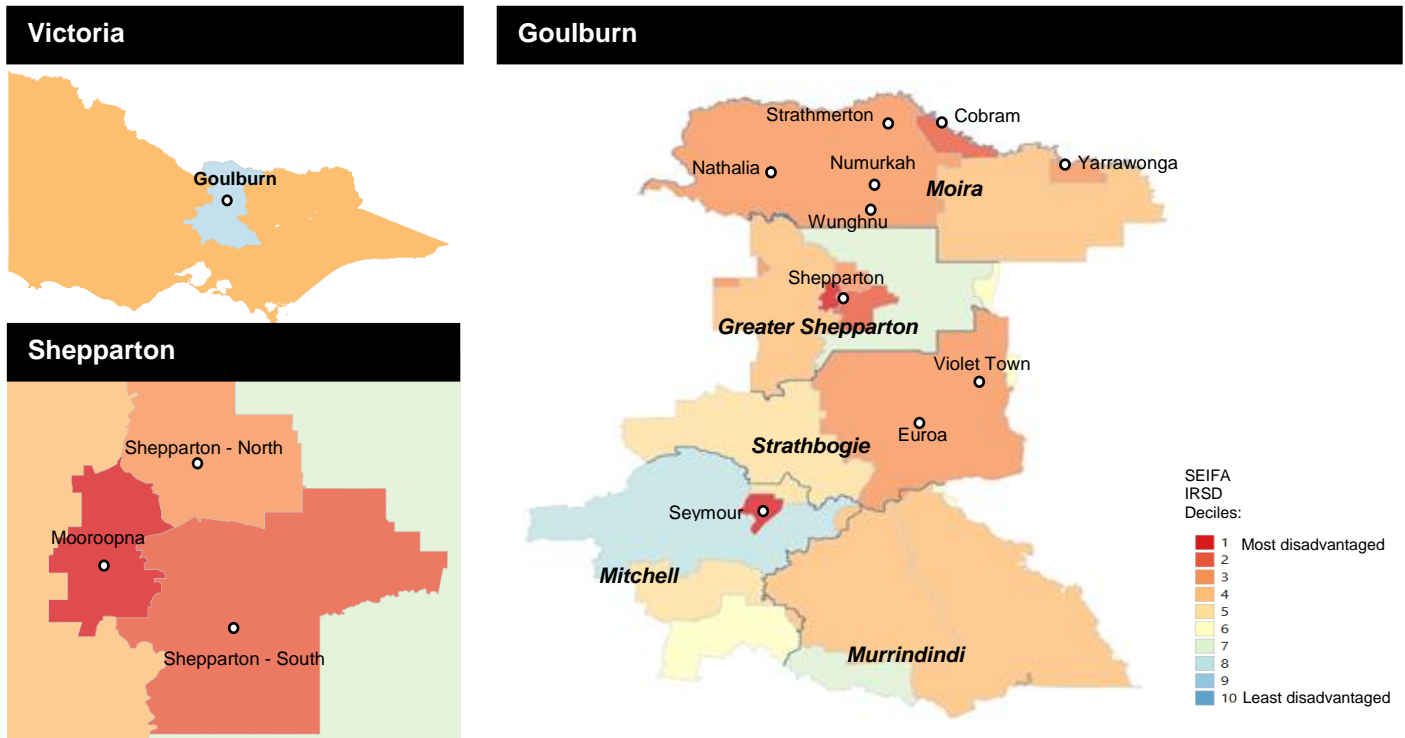


Infrastructure Victoria is investigating infrastructure investment in regional Victoria that builds on the economic strengths of a region, or that reduces disadvantage, primarily through providing greater access to services and economic opportunities. This fact sheet is focussed on reducing disadvantage,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

The Goulburn region is part of the broader Hume region and is approximately 16,520 square kilometres (covering 7 per cent of Victoria) and has several distinct areas. The southern part of the region extends to the fringe of Melbourne and includes the towns of Kilmore and Wallan. The northern part of the region forms part of Victoria's border with New South Wales along the Murray River. The regional City of Shepparton is the primary urban centre in the Goulburn region. Other smaller urban centres such as Kilmore also play an important role within the Goulburn region.

Goulburn comprises the five Local Government Areas: Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie, Mitchell and Murrindindi.

Goulburn is one of five regions that border metropolitan Melbourne, which has a strong influence on the region's southern population and economy. Some areas in the south 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 northern areas of the region are dominated by rural areas with smaller established towns, lower population growth and therefore fewer associated development pressures.

Source: *Aither Goulburn Regional Profile, March 2019*

## Aboriginal Communities in Goulburn

Infrastructure Victoria acknowledges the Goulburn region includes the traditional lands of the Taungurong and Yorta Yorta peoples, and comprises important cultural heritage assets. The lands of the Taungurong people are located in the south and those of the Yorta Yorta people are in the north from Euroa to the Victorian-New South Wales border.

Across the Goulburn 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 Mitchell and Moira

Seymour located in the Shire of Mitchell is experiencing population decline and is one of the most disadvantaged towns in Victoria. A higher than Victorian average proportion of households did not have access to the internet in 2016. Outcomes for young children are poor with a much higher than average proportion of children commencing school vulnerable on two or more domains. The proportion of 14-25 year olds not in learning or work is more than double the state average.

The Shire of Moira comprises a number of towns such as Cobram, Numurkah, Nathalia, Yarrawonga that are experiencing disadvantage. These towns have aging populations with almost three quarters of older people receiving the age pension. They have a number of poor health outcomes including a significant proportion of people reporting having poor dental health and a much higher proportion of people with preventable hospitalisations.

## Demographics – Mitchell and Moira

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	Mitchell		Moira		Victorian Average
SA2 [UCL town]	Seymour [Seymour]	Cobram [Cobram]	Numurkah [ Nathalia, Numurkah, Strathmerton, Wunghnu]	Yarrawonga [Yarrawonga]	
Remoteness classification	Peri-urban town	Regional town	Regional towns	Regional town	
Population	6,332 ↓	6,345 ↑	12,265 ↑	7,929 ↑	5,926,624 ↑
0 – 4 years old	5%	6%	5%	6%	6%
5 – 14 years old	10%	12%	13%	12%	12%
15 – 24 years old	13%	10%	12%	9%	13%
25 – 64 years old	50%	45%	49%	43%	53%
Over 65	22%	27%	21%	31%	16%
Over 75 Living Alone	30%	31%	25%	26%	27%
Requires assistance with daily living	7%	8%	6%	7%	5%
Disability pension (15 - 64)*	6%		9%		5%
Aged pension*	68%		73%		63%
Single parent families	25%	16%	16%	15%	15%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Low English proficiency	1%	2%	0%	0%	4%
Social housing*	4%		3%		4%

Sources: ABS Census, PHIDU

↑↓: Population change between 2011 and 2016

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

## Outcomes – Mitchell and Moira

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	Mitchell (S)		Moira (S)		
SA2 [UCL town]	Seymour [Seymour]	Cobram [Cobram]	Numurkah [Nathalia, Numurkah, Strathmerton, Wunghnu]	Yarrowonga [Yarrowonga]	Vic Average
<b>Place-based disadvantage</b>					
SEIFA IRSD Decile (1-10)	1	2	3	3	5
<b>ICT Indicator</b>					
No Internet Access	28%	30%	26%	27%	17%
<b>Transport</b>					
Public Transport access*	28%		24%		51%
No Car	11%	7%	4%	6%	8%
<b>Early Years/Children</b>					
Kindergarten enrolment*^	93%		92%		93%
Developmentally vulnerable children	18%	11%	8%	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	7%	4%	4%	4%	3%
Early school leavers (20 – 30 years old) not finishing year 12	34%	34%	36%	38%	17%
<b>Health</b>					
GP per 1,000 population*	1.2		1.1		1.2
Life expectancy – male*	78.7		76.4		79
Life expectancy – female*	83		84.1		84
Poor dental health*	6%		11%		5%
Satisfaction with health*	84%		83%		84%
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population*	23.2		35.6		28.5
Mental health clients per 1,000*	15		15.4		14.5
<b>Households</b>					
Rental stress	11%	9%	5%	10%	9%
Homelessness per 1,000*	2.9		2.7		3.3
<b>Crime</b>					
Offence rate per 100,000*	9,993		6,826		7,422
<b>Economic &amp; Financial</b>					
Government support as main income source*	30%		34%		26%
Unemployment rate	7%	6%	4%	5%	7%
Labour participation rate	49%	48%	57%	49%	60%
Individual income under \$400/week	26%	27%	26%	25%	25%
Young people receiving unemployment benefit*	3%		4%		3%
People receiving unemployment benefit long term	5%		6%		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 Strathbogie and Shepparton

The local government area of Strathbogie includes the towns of Euroa and Violet Town which are experiencing disadvantage. The City of Greater Shepparton is growing and also experiences high levels of disadvantage. While Euroa has an older population, Shepparton's is slightly younger than state average. There is a higher than state average proportion of Aboriginal people living in the City of Greater Shepparton, particularly in Mooroopna.

For young children living in Shepparton and Mooroopna, a large proportion of children commence school vulnerable on two or more domains. A much higher than Victorian average proportion of young people in the City of Greater Shepparton have not completed year 12. The Shepparton crime rate is higher than the state average.

## Demographics – Strathbogie and Greater Shepparton

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	Strathbogie		Greater Shepparton		Victorian Average
SA2 [UCL town]	Euroa [Euroa, Violet Town]	Mooroopna [Mooroopna]	Shepparton - North [Shepparton, Shepparton - North]	Shepparton - South [Shepparton, Shepparton - East]	
Remoteness classification	Regional towns		Regional city		
Population	6,275 ↑	7,937 ↓	18,603 ↑	23,137 ↑	5,926,624 ↑
0 – 4 years old	4%	6%	7%	7%	6%
5 – 14 years old	10%	12%	13%	14%	12%
15 – 24 years old	8%	12%	13%	13%	13%
25 – 64 years old	47%	49%	51%	49%	53%
Over 65	30%	21%	16%	17%	16%
Over 75 Living Alone	30%	29%	28%	28%	27%
Requires assistance with daily living	8%	8%	6%	6%	5%
Disability pension (15 - 64)*	9%		8%		5%
Aged pension*	66%		68%		63%
Single parent families	15%	24%	20%	17%	15%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	1%	7%	3%	3%	1%
Low English proficiency	0%	1%	3%	5%	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 – Strathbogie and Greater Shepparton

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	Strathbogie		Greater Shepparton		Vic Average
SA2 [UCL town]	Euroa [Euroa, Violet Town]	Mooroopna [Mooroopna]	Shepparton - North [Shepparton, Shepparton - North]	Shepparton - South [Shepparton, Shepparton - East]	
<b>Place-based disadvantage</b>					
SEIFA IRSD Decile (1-10)	3	1	3	2	5
<b>ICT Indicator</b>					
No Internet Access	26%	28%	21%	22%	17%
<b>Transport</b>					
Public Transport access*	12%		54%		51%
No Car*	4%	8%	7%	6%	8%
<b>Early Years/Children</b>					
Kindergarten enrolment*^	88%		94%		93%
Developmentally vulnerable children	6%	32%	18%	21%	10%
Children in jobless families*	12%		17%		11%
<b>Young People</b>					
School leavers (14 - 25 years old) not in labour force/training/education	6%	5%	4%	5%	3%
Early school leavers (20 – 30 years old) not finishing year 12	30%	38%	26%	30%	17%
<b>Health</b>					
GP per 1,000 population*	0.8		1.4		1.2
Life expectancy – male*	78.4		77.9		79
Life expectancy – female*	82.8		83.8		84
Poor dental health*	7%		3%		5%
Satisfaction with health*	81%		81%		84%
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population*	30.9		30.8		28.5
Mental health clients per 1,000*	14.6		19.4		14.5
<b>Households</b>					
Rental stress	5%	11%	11%	10%	9%
Homelessness per 1,000*	1.7		5.7		3.3
<b>Crime</b>					
Offence rate per 100,000*	4,834		12,278		7,422
<b>Economic &amp; Financial</b>					
Government support as main income source*	30%		33%		26%
Unemployment rate	5%	8%	6%	7%	7%
Labour participation rate	51%	53%	58%	55%	60%
Individual income under \$400/week	27%	25%	22%	25%	25%
Young people receiving unemployment benefit*	3%		6%		3%
People receiving unemployment benefit long term*	5%		7%		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 Goulburn stakeholders:

1. Goulburn has large numbers of registered mental health clients and reports of psychological distress. The region has gaps in the supply of and access to mental health, alcohol and drug treatment services and facilities.
2. There is a critical shortage of specialist Residential Aged Care Facilities.
3. Education services are difficult to access, perpetuating family cycles of lower engagement with education.
4. The region has a chronic shortage of social and affordable housing which is needed for homes for the higher rates of unemployed people.

## ► 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 Goulburn region with below average SEIFA rankings.

Towns in SEIFA Decile of 4					
Region	LGA	UCL (Town)	SA2	SA2 Population in UCL	SEIFA IRSD Decile
Goulburn	Greater Shepparton	Merrigum	Shepparton Region - West	422	4
		Murchison	Shepparton Region - West	753	4
		Tatura	Shepparton Region - West	4052	4
		Toolamba	Shepparton Region - West	351	4
	Moirā	Bundalong	Moirā	319	4
		Katamatite	Moirā	212	4
		Tungamah	Moirā	328	4
	Murrindindi	Alexandra	Alexandra	2422	4
		Buxton	Alexandra	232	4
		Eildon	Alexandra	737	4
		Hazeldene	Yea	275	4
		Marysville	Alexandra	342	4
		Yea	Yea	1169	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