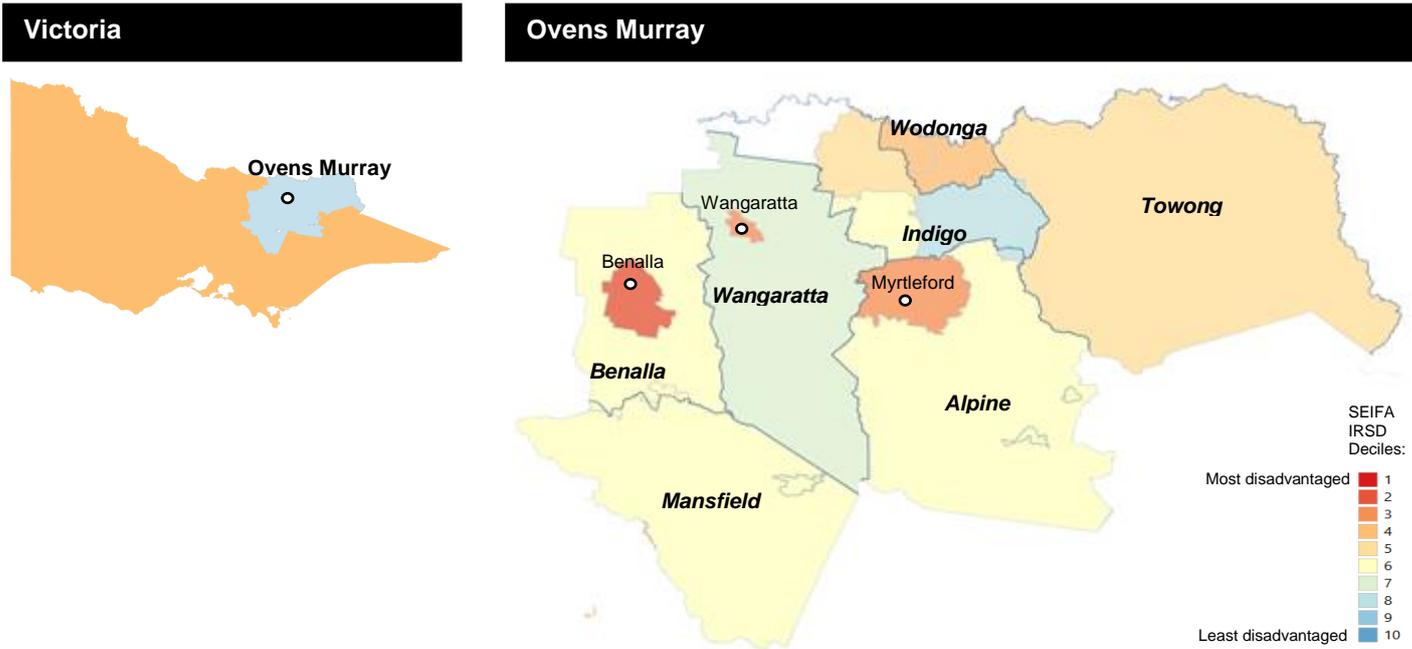


Infrastructure Victoria is investigating infrastructure investment in regional Victoria that builds on the economic strengths of a region, or that reduces disadvantage, primarily through providing greater access to services and economic opportunities. This fact sheet is focussed on reducing disadvantage,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

The Ovens Murray region is part of the broader Hume region and is approximately 32,764 square kilometres in extent (10 per cent of Victoria) and is characterised by several distinct areas. The southern part of the region extends to Lake Eildon and its surrounds. The northern reaches form part of the New South Wales-Victorian border along the Murray River, with Wodonga and its twin New South Wales town of Albury (they are most commonly referred to as Albury-Wodonga) as the main regional centre in the far north of the region. The region consists of three regional centres, these being Wodonga, Wangaratta and Benalla.

The Ovens Murray region comprises seven Local Government Areas: Alpine, Benalla, Indigo, Mansfield, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga City

The Ovens Murray region does not border metropolitan Melbourne and has higher self-containment than other regions due to this distance. Melbourne therefore does not influence the region to the same extent as other regions (though there are still a number of strong linkages and influences). The region's major centres are all located in the northern half of the region with the south being populated by smaller established towns, such as Mansfield. Being outside Melbourne's peri-urban fringe, the region is not exposed to the associated development pressures that affect region's adjacent to Melbourne's peri-urban fringe

Source: Aither Ovens Murray Regional Profile, March 2019

Aboriginal people in Ovens Murray

Infrastructure Victoria acknowledges the Ovens Murray region includes the traditional lands of the Taungurong and Yorta Yorta peoples, and comprises important cultural heritage assets. The land of the Taungurong people spans the south western Ovens Murray region. a portion of the land of the Yorta Yorta people lies in the Ovens Murray region, while a larger section is in the Goulburn region and New South Wales. The land of the Yorta Yorta people in the Ovens Murray region includes the Warby-Ovens National Park, and the riverine plains of the Goulburn Broken Catchment near Chiltern.

Across the Ovens Murray 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 Ovens Murray Region

Places of high disadvantage in the Ovens Murray Region include the regional town of Myrtleford, the regional centre of Benalla and the regional city of Wangaratta. Benalla is the most disadvantaged town in the region, falling into the bottom 20 per cent of SEIFA across the state, and also faces the additional challenges of a declining population and a well above average population aged over 65.

All three towns have relatively high rates of students not completing year 12, and also have higher proportions of households without internet at home.

Benalla also features an above average level of children who are developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains, as well as a low participation rate in the labour force and high rates of welfare.

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	Alpine	Benalla	Wangaratta	
SA2 [UCL town]	Myrtleford [Myrtleford]	Benalla [Benalla]	Wangaratta [Wangaratta]	Victorian Average
Remoteness classification	Regional town	Regional centre	Regional city	
Population	4,634 ↑	10,330 ↓	18,715 ↑	5,926,624 ↑
0 – 4 years old	4%	5%	6%	6%
5 – 14 years old	11%	11%	12%	12%
15 – 24 years old	10%	11%	11%	13%
25 – 64 years old	50%	46%	52%	53%
Over 65	25%	28%	20%	16%
Over 75 Living Alone	25%	30%	30%	27%
Requires assistance with daily living	7%	8%	7%	5%
Disability pension (15 - 64)*	6%	10%	8%	5%
Aged pension*	71%	70%	68%	63%
Single parent families	14%	19%	19%	15%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	1%	2%	2%	1%
Low English proficiency	0%	0%	1%	4%
Social housing*	2%	5%	5%	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	Alpine	Benalla	Wangaratta	
SA2 [UCL town]	Myrtleford [Myrtleford]	Benalla [Benalla]	Wangaratta [Wangaratta]	Vic Average
Place-based disadvantage				
SEIFA IRSD Decile (1-10)	3	2	3	5
ICT Indicator				
No Internet Access	27%	27%	26%	17%
Transport				
Public Transport access*	3%	41%	47%	51%
No Car	5%	8%	8%	8%
Early Years/Children				
Kindergarten enrolment*^	106%	87%	93%	93%
Developmentally vulnerable children	9%	16%	4%	10%
Children in jobless families*	6%	17%	11%	11%
Young People				
School leavers (14 - 25 years old) not in labour force/training/education	3%	3%	4%	3%
Early school leavers (20 – 30 years old) not finishing year 12	39%	36%	34%	17%
Health				
GP per 1,000 population*	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2
Life expectancy – male*	78.5	78.4	79.2	79
Life expectancy – female*	84.8	83.2	83	84
Poor dental health*	5%	5%	4%	5%
Satisfaction with health*	81%	85%	83%	84%
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population*	29.2	31.7	28.8	28.5
Mental health clients per 1,000*	19.1	26.3	23.7	14.5
Households				
Rental stress	7%	10%	11%	9%
Homelessness per 1,000*	3.5	2.2	4	3.3
Crime				
Offence rate per 100,000*	3,825	9,530	8,185	7,422
Economic & Financial				
Government support as main income source*	30%	33%	31%	26%
Unemployment rate	5%	6%	5%	7%
Labour participation rate	56%	53%	58%	60%
Individual income under \$400/week	27%	26%	23%	25%
Young people receiving unemployment benefit*	3%	5%	4%	3%
People receiving unemployment benefit long term*	4%	6%	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 Ovens Murray stakeholders:

1. Public transport connectivity to and from Ovens Murray, as well as within the region, is unreliable and infrequent for the dispersed population.
2. Ovens Murray does not have a single large centrally located regional centre with a concentration of educational options, serviced by good transport links – rather it has a relatively limited higher education offer distributed across multiple locations.
3. Lack of available accommodation to attract health care and tourism staff to live in the region.

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 Ovens Murray region with below average SEIFA rankings.

Towns in SEIFA Decile of 4					
Region	LGA	UCL (Town)	SA2	SA2 Population in UCL	SEIFA IRSD Decile
Ovens Murray	Indigo	Corowa - Wahgunyah (Wahgunyah Part)	Rutherglen	1024	4
		Rutherglen	Rutherglen	2113	4
	Wodonga	Albury - Wodonga (Wodonga Part)	West Wodonga	14382	4
			Wodonga	20748	4
		Baranduda	Wodonga	1757	4

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