



JUNE 2010

# CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN



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## Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan – Chair’s Foreword

The Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan is a clearly articulated framework designed to best position the region to 2030 and beyond. It is a collaborative achievement of the Central Highlands’s eight municipalities and the successful result of the region’s local government partnership with State Government and business representatives.

The Plan is a clear, concise snapshot of the Central Highlands, and details the key strengths and immediate and long-term challenges facing the region.

Most importantly, this key strategic document identifies a clear direction for this leading Victorian region and the agreed actions that will help to achieve the collective vision.

The Plan is a vehicle for the collective aspirations of the communities across the region. The plan highlights the critical role played by the thriving towns and communities of the Central Highlands region, and is built upon the foundation of Ballarat as the regional service hub for those communities. For the first time, the many needs and ambitions of the entire region have been strategically integrated into a working vision.

Through regular meetings of the Central Highlands Regional Mayors’ and CEOs’ Forum and the Grampians Regional Management Forum, the eight municipalities have engaged in honest and open discussion on a diverse range of regional challenges.

The Forums are a collection of progressive, innovative local government members who understand the value of working together on important issues that cross municipality lines. Each Council brings to the table an intricate knowledge of their individual municipality and together, the Forums have developed a collective understanding of the wider issues facing the Central Highlands and regional priorities for future development.

The Forums will play a critical role in ensuring that the Strategic Plan is regionally driven, implemented on a cooperative basis and delivered at a regional and local scale.

The municipalities of the Central Highlands region have developed a united vision for the future and are committed to delivering on common goals, projects and infrastructure designed to preserve the unique lifestyle of the region, while driving sustainable growth.

The Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan provides a roadmap for State and Federal Government investment. It is a compelling, well researched proposal for investment in the region and clearly documents innovative projects that are ready for immediate funding. The initiatives have been structured to ensure that each individual project contributes to the overarching vision.

The Victorian Government’s regional strategic planning process for municipalities is a natural framework for the Central Highlands. It recognises the region’s total product whilst acknowledging the unique individual strengths of each municipality.

The Plan not only articulates the needs of local government, it successfully incorporates the priorities of the wider Central Highlands community. It is the direct result of considerable stakeholder consultation, including valuable input from leaders in regional industry, as well as business and community partners.

The Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan is a dynamic framework that will support the existing regional lifestyle and drive successful development for the next 20 years. It is a detailed map that will guide the Central Highlands in its continuing role as a major contributor and leading region of Victoria well into the future.

We look forward to collectively delivering on this plan as we move forward.

Judy Verlin

Chair, Central Highlands Regional Mayors’ and CEOs’ Forum



The Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan has been prepared by:

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## 1. Introduction

The Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan (CHRSP) forms part of the Regional Strategic Planning Initiative that is being coordinated by Regional Development Victoria and is reporting to a Ministerial Committee.

Eight local government areas form the Central Highlands region:

- Ararat Rural City Council
- Ballarat City Council
- Central Goldfields Shire Council
- Golden Plains Shire Council
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Northern Grampians Shire Council
- Pyrenees Shire Council

The region covered by the CHRSP is shown on Map One on the following page.

The CHRSP deliberately focuses on regional scale directions and actions. The plan therefore does not deal with specific local issues nor does it promote strategies and actions where they are matters that are generally shared across regional Victoria.

The plan is seeking to lead change so as to build a stronger region.

The CHRSP provides an analysis of the issues affecting the region; the key drivers of change, the major challenges confronting the region and the comparative advantages that the Central Highlands Region offers over other regions in Victoria.

The Plan sets out a vision that is designed to best position the Central Highlands to 2030 and beyond

so as to provide a productive, sustainable and liveable region for its people.

The CHRSP sets out a series of integrated strategic directions and actions that are designed to implement the vision. The directions and actions build on the region's capacities and strengths so as to advantage the region, regional Victoria and the whole of the state. The scope of the Strategy Plan must be to drive substantial change across and within the region. This will not be possible unless the Plan is fully embraced and a series of bold decisions made and followed through.

In developing the CHRSP the approach that has been taken is that there is little to be gained by merely listing a set of aspirational targets without reference to the realities of the region. The strength of a plan at the regional scale is to base it on a realistic assessment of the issues and challenges facing the region. Merely listing a series of initiatives and projects that have already been agreed to by Councils, government departments, organisations and agencies is not a plan for the future.

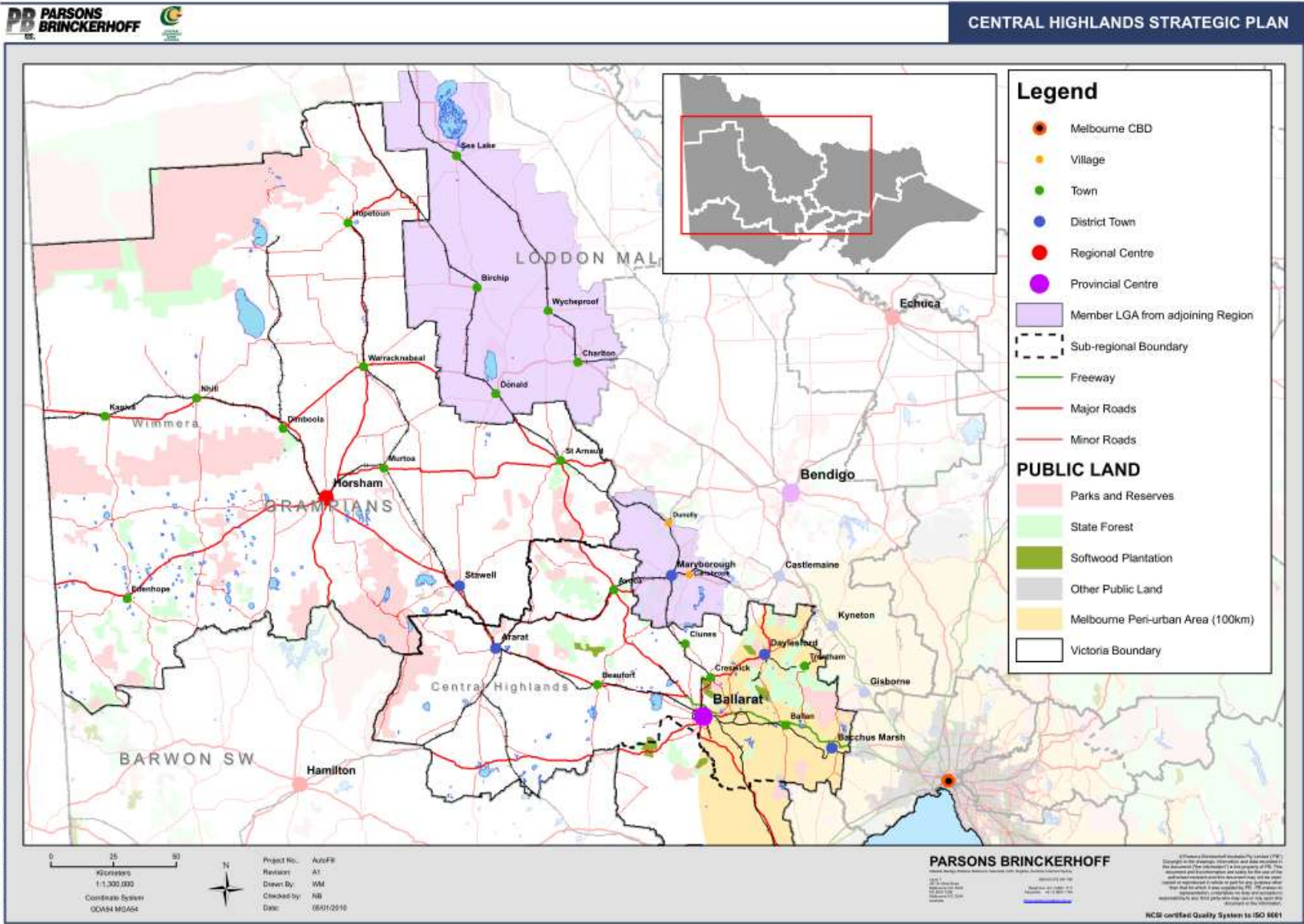
To have any effect the Plan must be bold, propose new directions, actions and projects, and cause and lead change across the region so as to bring about substantial improvements.

The Plan has been endorsed by each of the eight local governments in the Central Highlands. It therefore represents a strong regional partnership with all Councils committed to agreed directions and actions.

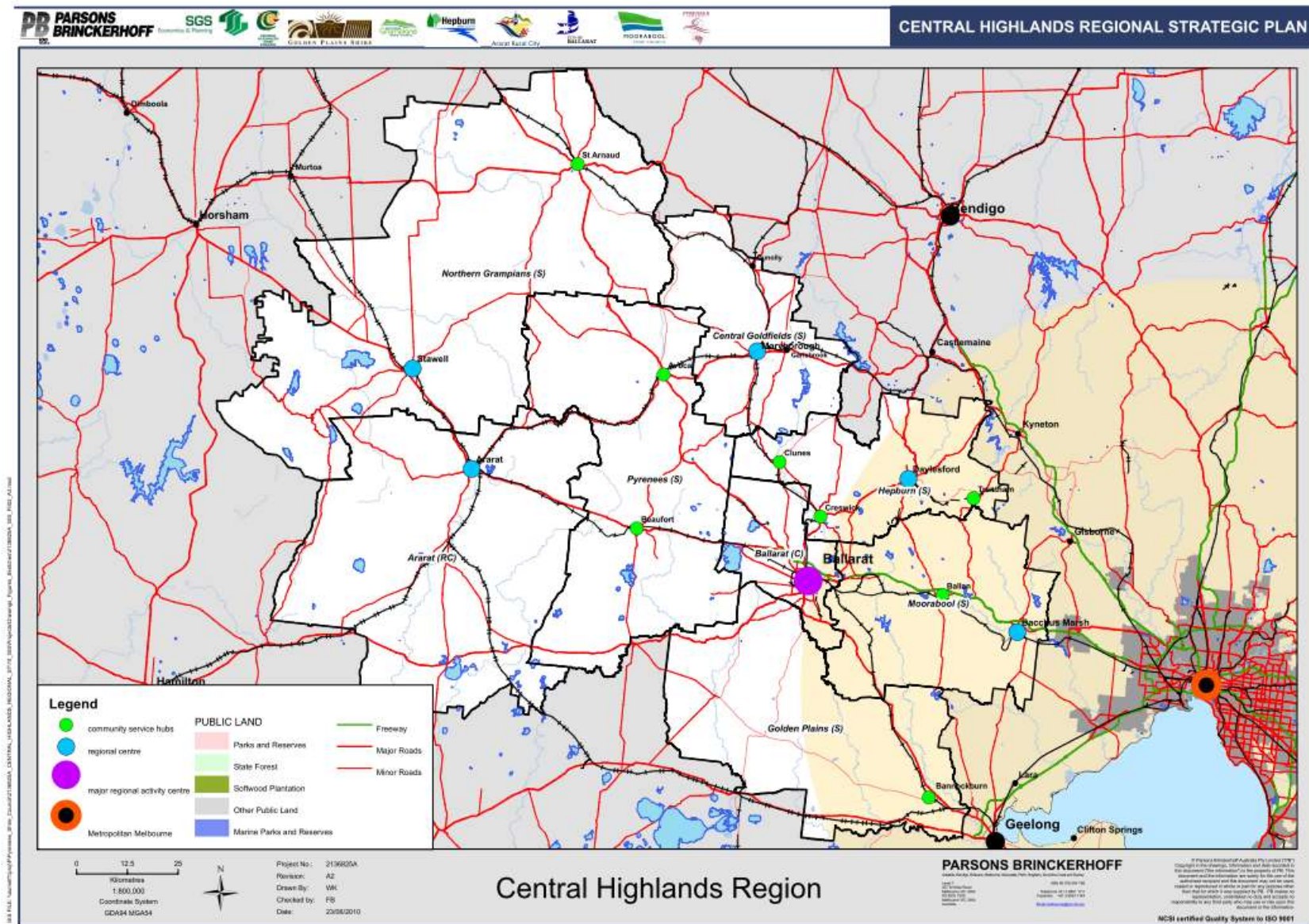
This Plan does not represent a final fixed plan or position. The Plan will continue to be refined and developed in response to the evolving regional agenda and the development of ideas.



Map One: The Central Highlands Region



Map Two: The Central Highlands Region





## 2. The Central Highlands Region

### 2.1 Major Attributes

The major attributes of the Central Highlands region are:

- sustained population growth
- located on the east-west transport corridor connecting Melbourne, western Victoria and Adelaide
- large areas within Melbourne's peri urban influence and network
- adjoining the western metro area, the site of major current and future infrastructure investment and much of Melbourne's population growth
- the major concentration of Australia's gold mining heritage
- Victoria's best developed and integrated regional higher education and training system network
- regional Victoria's strongest concentration of IT and computing services and capacity
- some of Victoria's most productive soils and quality horticultural growing conditions
- a restructuring economy embracing new opportunities in such areas as IT, advanced manufacturing, education and tourism
- Ballarat - Victoria's third largest urban area

### 2.2 Key Characteristics

The region is home to about 200,000 people. The population has been growing over the last decade at about 1% per annum. On current growth rates the state government's projections indicate that the region's 2006 population figure will increase by 50,000 people over the period to 2026. Over 30,000 people more will be in Ballarat and some 7,000 to 8,000 in both Golden Plains and Moorabool Shires. Table One lists the *Victoria in Future* population projections for the region.. Population growth is focused in the eastern third of the region, part of the peri-urban area of Melbourne, and principally in Ballarat and Bacchus Marsh, the state's largest population centre immediately outside the metropolitan area.

Many parts of the region are viewed as a sustainable living alternative to Melbourne and other regions. Map Three on the following page shows the relative level of net movement in or out of the region between the 2001 and 2006 censuses. A substantial part of the region's growth results from the region's attractive rural landscapes, quality heritage, national parks, environmental features and strong network of cities and towns that provide highly liveable places that people are shifting to.

The region's employment base is strong and diverse; a result of strong traditional economies based on agriculture and manufacturing, government administration and regionally based services such as education and health, which also deliver to areas outside the region. The region's industries, settlements, movement of people, tourists and freight within and through the region have supported the development of infrastructure and are driving the demand for significant improvements.

The region's location astride a major national road and rail corridor is linked to other key nodes such as the Melbourne and Avalon airports, the Melbourne and Geelong ports and the State's major freight handling facilities. Movement and access along the regional transport spine between a series of key hubs has been enhanced by increased public transport services, major road improvements and a greater focus on interconnection with centres that access the corridor. Adjoining the metropolitan area means that the region and particularly Ballarat is able to readily capitalize on Melbourne's population and employment growth, and increased levels of investment and infrastructure provision. Further planned investment is to occur in this part of the rapidly expanding metropolitan area.

Melbourne's metropolitan growth corridors require new employment and community facilities. The Central Highlands region adjoins the western corridors and suburbs and has the advantage that its major cities and network of existing towns already have a well developed structure of employment and facilities in place.

The region's concentration of IT and computing facilities, together with a highly trained workforce and advanced education network, mean that the Central Highlands is better equipped than other region to take on innovative programs. Such programs can demonstrate how services can be delivered by IT into rural areas and act as pilot programs for the whole state.

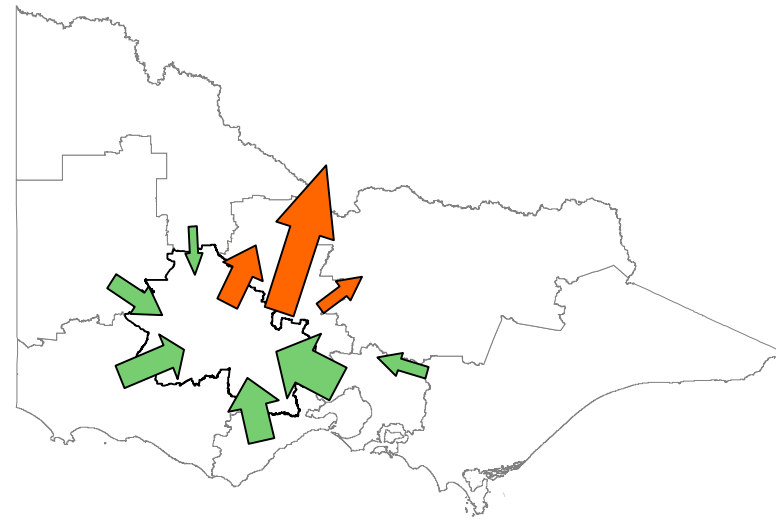
***The Central Highlands is strategically located, strongly endowed and well positioned to continue to be a major contributor to Victoria and a leading region of the State well into the future.***

**Table One: Population Projections, Statistical Local Area, Central Highlands Region 2006 - 2026**

SLA Name	2006	2026	Change	AAGR
Ararat (RC)	11,653	12,178	525	0.2%
Ballarat (C) - Central	34,300	37,799	3,499	0.5%
Ballarat (C) - Inner North	29,910	46,076	16,166	2.2%
Ballarat (C) - North	1,018	1,241	223	1.0%
Ballarat (C) - South	23,209	33,635	10,426	1.9%
C. Goldfields (S) - Maryborough	7,611	7,912	301	0.2%
C. Goldfields (S) Bal	5,128	5,529	401	0.4%
Golden Plains (S) - North-West	7,739	9,672	1,933	1.1%
Golden Plains (S) - South-East	9,338	14,705	5,367	2.3%
Hepburn (S) - East	7,501	9,160	1,659	1.0%
Hepburn (S) - West	6,734	7,999	1,265	0.9%
Moorabool (S) - Bacchus Marsh	16,593	23,319	6,726	1.7%
Moorabool (S) - Ballan	6,211	7,690	1,479	1.1%
Moorabool (S) - West	3,641	3,701	60	0.1%
N. Grampians (S) - St Arnaud	3,519	2,992	-527	-0.8%
N. Grampians (S) - Stawell	8,811	7,988	-823	-0.5%
Pyrenees (S) - North	3,388	3,488	100	0.1%
Pyrenees (S) - South	3,384	4,494	1,110	1.4%
<b>Central Highlands Region</b>	<b>189,688</b>	<b>239,579</b>	<b>49,891</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

Source: VIF 2008 Population Projections

**Map Three: Net Population Movement 2001-2006 Central Highlands Region**



### 3. Comparative Advantages, Drivers, Issues and Challenges

#### 3.1 Introduction

This section sets out the change management agenda that the Region and the Plan need to pursue in order to continue to be a major contributor to Victoria and a leading region of the State well into the future.

The Central Highlands has substantial comparative advantages over other regions across Victoria. These advantages provide the basis for a comprehensive strategy of critical actions to be implemented by the region's local governments in partnership with the State government.

The region is well placed to address the core issues and challenges that will confront the Central Highlands over the period to 2030 and beyond. These issues centre on: water; land use; energy; transport; identity and population growth; economy, jobs and workforce needs; access to services; and regional governance.

#### 3.2 Major Comparative Advantages

The region's comparative advantages are numerous. They strategically position the Central Highlands relative to other regions. They also provide a substantial basis upon which the region can partner with the state and federal governments.

Ballarat in particular will need to progressively restructure its role and relationship with Melbourne so as to capitalise on its proximity and connections to Melbourne. Ballarat can provide an alternative to other new metropolitan activity centres that need to build their infrastructure, services and jobs from a low base.

Ballarat will continue to strengthen its role as the regional 'capital' and increase its critical population mass by expanding its comprehensive set of high order health, education, retail, business and recreational services which will in turn improve the economic robustness and liveability of the whole region. There are further opportunities to use the liveability of the region and the IT cluster at the Ballarat Technology Park to support the regionalisation of additional state government functions and agencies.

Growth will occur throughout much of the region based on new private sector investment, expansion of services such as the new passenger rail service to Maryborough, one off developments such as the new 350 person prison at Ararat (which will generate over 450 jobs in construction and 150 once completed), an expanding tourist base associated with key features such as Daylesford-Hepburn Springs' focus on health and wellbeing, the outstanding natural and indigenous heritage features of the Grampians National Park, wineries in areas such as the Pyrenees and Great Western and the growing continuing attraction of many towns and rural living areas for households seeking new lifestyle opportunities.

Fundamentally the region's comparative advantages revolve around the following three core elements that link to regional sustainability, productivity and liveability.

##### 1. Sustained population growth, compactness, proximity to Melbourne and existing strong cities and towns.

- Sustained population growth based on liveable communities able to attract and support people who relocate from Melbourne and elsewhere.
- Very close proximity to most of the major public and private infrastructure investment that is occurring in metropolitan Melbourne.

- An existing compact region of well-established, highly liveable cities, towns and villages, many within commuting distance of Melbourne and Ballarat, that each possess ready-made facilities.
- ##### 2. A regionally based education and training network with regional Victoria's major IT and computing employment cluster linked to a strong resilient economy built around Victoria's third largest city.
- Regional Victoria's only integrated regionally based education and training system with a network of campuses across the region.
  - Regional Victoria's strongest concentration of IT and computing jobs and services
  - A regional city with sufficient mass and sustainable growth to ensure that services will be delivered at a regional scale and that the economy has sufficient depth to be able to diversity and adapt to a globally competitive setting
- ##### 3. Outstanding Built and Natural Heritage
- The region boasts Australia's major concentration of nineteenth century architecture, heritage and sites associated with the world's largest gold rushes.
  - Natural assets such as the Grampians National Park complement this substantial comparative advantage together with the close proximity of the region to Melbourne and international tourist entry points.
  - This advantage not only forms the backbone of a tourism and recreation economy but also contributes to the attraction of the region as a highly liveable place.

The region's comparative advantages are substantial. It is evident that a strong basis exists for sustained future growth and the development of an even more resilient economy.

The Central Highlands region is in a prime position to make a major contribution to the overall prosperity of Victoria while increasing its level of regional resilience and wealth. Driving and implementing a regionally driven agenda based on its comparative advantages will embrace the following elements;

**3.2.1 Population Growth, Proximity to Melbourne and the Existing Settlement Network**

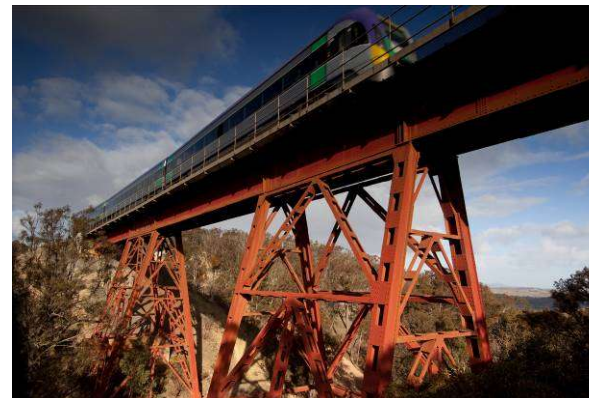
The growth of Melbourne and its proximity presents a major opportunity that can be built upon.

The rapidly growing population in the Melbourne metropolitan area is increasingly being focused in the western sector. This provides substantially greater opportunities to link the Central Highland regional economy with Melbourne compared to other regions.

Proximity to Melbourne potentially advantages the Central Highlands region comparatively to most other regions. The region is on the western edge of the metropolitan area. Upgraded road and rail services have positioned this region to readily link to where much of Melbourne's investment is taking place. The region, particularly the eastern third including Ballarat, has better proximity and access to Melbourne's port facilities, airports, major industrial, storage and distribution clusters than any other region in Victoria. Workforce destinations show a diverse range of places. Table 2 sets out the percentage of regional residents working in various locations defined by statistical local areas. Importantly some of the workforce commutes outside of the region for work. The significance of

the central area of Ballarat as a workforce destination is clearly evident.

Much of the region has well-established cities, towns and villages that provide services, facilities, local and regional employment and strong, liveable environments and communities, all relatively closely located to Melbourne. Managed population growth in this region is a realistic alternative to urban sprawl in Melbourne that requires expensive upfront services and infrastructure, and resource intensive, contrived attempts to create community wellbeing and identity.



**Table Two: Destination of Central Highlands Resident Workers**

	<b>Work Destination</b>	<b>% of Central Highlands Residents</b>
1	Ballarat (C) - Central	24.98%
2	Ballarat (C) - Inner North	15.90%
3	Ballarat (C) - South	7.65%
4	Ararat (RC)	5.61%
5	N. Grampians (S) - Stawell	4.44%
6	No fixed address	4.23%
7	Moorabool (S) - Bacchus Marsh	3.79%
8	C. Goldfields (S) - M'borough	3.69%
9	Hepburn (S) - East	2.69%
10	Hepburn (S) - West	1.63%
11	N. Grampians (S) - St Arnaud	1.62%
12	Golden Plains (S) - South-East	1.60%
13	Moorabool (S) - Ballan	1.26%
14	Pyrenees (S) - North	1.16%
15	Corio - Inner	1.16%
16	Melton (S) Bal	1.09%
17	Geelong	1.08%
18	Pyrenees (S) - South	1.04%
19	Wyndham (C) - North	0.96%
20	Melbourne (C) - Remainder	0.94%
21	Melbourne (C) - Inner	0.93%

Source: ABS Journey to Work

### 3.2.2 A Regionally Based Education and Training Network with an IT and Computing Employment Cluster

The integration of higher education and vocational training at the regional scale together with a coordinated network of facilities and services across the region and into the Wimmera through the University of Ballarat is unique among Victoria's regions. In the Central Highlands region the University has campuses at Ballarat, Ararat and Stawell.

This combination of assets places this region at a substantial advantage and at the forefront in its capacity to readily roll out national and state priorities. In particular the region can, with appropriate funding support, deliver on the identified and articulated needs of lower socio economic populations, dispersed rural residents and specific focus groups such as the indigenous community, immigrants and those needing skills enhancement.

The region is well served by this concentration and expertise to take advantage of the roll out of the national broadband network. Existing models for the delivery of education, and potentially health and other services using IT, can be relatively easily replicated across much of the region, and the region can be used as a case study with pilots for the whole of regional Victoria.

This regional advantage is supported by Ballarat's economy and by Victoria's major regional employment cluster in IT and computing through the University of Ballarat, the Ballarat Technology Park and the substantial presence of firms such as IBM. The Central Highlands region is not only positioned to deliver at a regional scale but can make a substantial contribution to the state's comparative strengths.

To this strength in the region and Ballarat specifically is the added presence of a second university – a campus of the Australian Catholic University, together with regional Victoria's strongest concentration of private secondary education providers.

Complementing these institutions and facilities in the region is the Northern Metropolitan Institute of TAFE's Ararat campus located at Aradale and central to a premier wine growing area. The campus facilities accommodate up to 120 students, focusing on the practical aspects of wine making and vineyard management on its 28 hectare vineyard.

At Creswick the Faculty of Land and Environment at the University of Melbourne supports teaching and the School of Forest and Ecosystem Science, which undertakes extensive research in forestry resource conservation, forest industries and molecular biology.

### 3.2.3 Built and Natural Heritage

Although this Plan has a regional focus the reality is that Victoria's nineteenth century gold rush heritage, which is centred in this region, is of world significance. Nowhere else in the world is there such a concentration of built and on ground evidence of the major gold rushes that swept across the world's settler societies in the nineteenth century.

Gold was first discovered in the Central Highlands region. The majority of the goldfields and the built heritage from this era are found in the Central Highlands region and the heritage extends into other regions to the north and east.

The recent announcement that Victoria would seek World Heritage listing for the diggings area at Castlemaine, which forms part of Australia's only National Heritage Park, is representative of the scale and importance of the Victorian goldfields region. The story of the gold rushes and the rich legacy it has left behind in the buildings, the mining relics and the cities, towns and villages, together with aspects such as the Chinese presence on the goldfields, positions this region with a world class comparative advantage.

Gold, its story and its heritage across the region links small towns in the east of the region such as Blackwood and Steiglitz with the larger regional centres of Ararat, Ballarat, Daylesford, Maryborough and Stawell and with the myriad of towns and villages across the region such as Avoca, Beaufort, Clunes, and Creswick, extending to places like Mafeking in the Grampians and St Arnaud in the northwest.

Gold and the opening up of the Central Highlands region is associated with much that epitomises Australia's national heritage with events such as Eureka Stockade, the eight hour day movement, the concept of industry awards, Cobb and Co transport, the railways opening up of western Victoria, the early attempts at reticulated water systems, the development of mechanics institutes and the school of mines, reading rooms – the forerunners of libraries, the hospital network, the recreation facilities and live theatres, the industrial heritage of the goldfields, and Chinese mining heritage. The major cities across the region - Ararat, Ballarat, Maryborough and Stawell, were at the forefront of national innovation as were many of the smaller towns. Much of Australia's cultural history and early social, engineering, industrial, and community invention arose on the goldfields.

Goldfields heritage binds much of the region and positions it on the national stage like no other asset.

The CHRSP seeks to capitalise on the scale and importance of this heritage but this should not be at the expense of the foundation that exists, and has been developed on the nature based and environmental experience, offered by the region. Indeed it can add to and strengthen these aspects and in many respects will rely upon this strong base to underpin much of the emerging tourist product and services that will be needed.

### 3.3 Key Drivers of Change

In part the region's comparative advantages reflect the key drivers of change that are found within the Central Highlands or are imposed by external factors. In some cases these drivers could potentially disadvantage the region, while others can be better utilised and capitalised on to the advantage of the region. The major trends and forces that are impacting on the region are driving change. These drivers are discussed in the following section within the context of the challenges that the region faces.

#### 3.3.1 Proximity and Access to Melbourne

Melbourne's economy and the scale of its current and projected population growth will continue to drive many aspects of this region. The influence of Melbourne is likely to spread further west across the region. These changes have the potential to overshadow parts of the region. This may manifest itself as an increasing dependency and loss of identity for parts of the region.

The continuing attraction of many parts of the region as locations sought by persons seeking to relocate from Melbourne and elsewhere is likely to be a continued strong driver of a changing population and a new restructuring regional economy.

High quality, high-speed road and rail connections to Melbourne and key transport and employment hubs will be further enhanced with future planned improvements that will continue to support the region's capacity to take advantage of its proximity to Melbourne. Places such as Ballarat and Bacchus Marsh are best positioned because of proximity and transport services to take advantage of their relationship with Melbourne.

This proximity to Melbourne is a strong driver for tourism and recreation. High value, natural and goldfields heritage assets that are in close proximity and easy access for major domestic and international markets will support opportunities for further investment.

#### 3.3.2 Transport Upgrades

The road and rail east - west transport spine across the region with the further planned improvements to the Western Highway, such as the duplication of the Western Highway from Ballarat to Stawell (funded by Auslink). The VicRoads project scope is to include in the construction the bypasses of Trawalla, Buangor and Great Western and to plan (but not to construct) the bypasses of Beaufort and Ararat. The ultimate construction of these critical aspects of infrastructure will strengthen the region's comparative advantage against other regions in the State.

The provision of passenger rail services linking Maryborough to Ballarat increases the capacity of significant communities to attract population and to link better with Ballarat and in turn to Melbourne.

Consequently further upgrading of infrastructure and services that connect along and to that east-west spine will facilitate greater access and convenience for many residents and businesses across the region.

#### 3.3.3 The Changing Composition of the Population

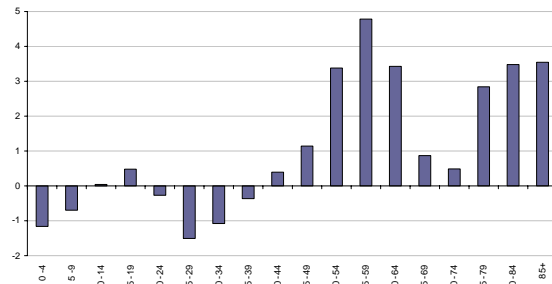
Similar to many parts of the nation the increasing proportion of aged persons will challenge the capacity of the region. In particular this will be seen in the provision of and access to services, the ability to address mobility and the composition of the workforce that relates to an aged population.

The relative compactness of the region, the links to the east west transport spine of service provision hubs and the potential capacity to take advantage of coordinated and integrated services is likely to drive and support substantial new and innovative means of delivering services.

Models of provision such as co-locating and integrating all primary care services and general practitioners to increase the capacity for early diagnosis and intervention are emerging. They are a critical opportunity to be implemented so as to provide early detection and the amount of time people spend in hospital.

Changing population and household composition and an ageing population are driving the demand for new and innovative housing types and forms. Generally these types and forms of housing are not being delivered to the market at the rate and range that is projected to be needed. As Figure One shows the growth in the number of persons in various age cohorts between 1996 and 2006 has been concentrated in older age cohorts.

**Figure One: Central Highlands Region - Average Annual Change: Age Cohorts 1996-2006**



### 3.3.4 Use of IT and Broadband to Deliver Services

The region is exceptionally well placed with its existing strengths and capacity in IT and computing capacity compared to the rest of regional Victoria. The region can more readily roll out new models for an array of service provision than any other region. That service provision can extend across education, training, health services, information provision, skills upgrading and their integration and effective delivery at the regional and local level and to urban and rural areas.

The accelerated roll out of broadband in this region is needed to deliver those services at the earliest possible date. This region can better provide the trained workforce and network services to demonstrate how services can be provided effectively to meet a network of urban centres and rural settlements.

### 3.3.5 Changing Demands on the Natural Resource Base

Access to sustainable, readily available, high volumes of locally sourced water for domestic, industrial and irrigation use has challenged the region. The region is now in a position where it needs, at a regional scale, to examine the significant opportunities that exist for water re-use, storm water harvesting and improved management of irrigation and underground supplies.

Urgent action is required particularly in the case of highly productive, irrigation dependent, horticultural areas that support substantial employment particularly at the Werribee River flats at Bacchus Marsh.

Demand management and improved capacities to sustainably manage available water supplies need to be further embedded into the region's communities and businesses.

The Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project in the western sector of the region has generated opportunities - some 100GL/yr of water has been saved from evaporation and seepage. This is providing for new investment in agriculture and food production, viticulture, industry and mining in this region, which in turn underpins further investment.

The region possesses considerable areas of highly productive soils that support a strong horticultural sector. The growing of food in the region supplies local communities and the whole state, as well as local industries that employ a substantial workforce. Food production from the region can be considerably enhanced and the region has the transport infrastructure to get products to markets and ports.

Many areas of highly productive soils are under competing pressures. These pressures arise from stressed water supplies together with demand for rural living. Many of them are in areas of high rural amenity landscapes. They are often near towns with high value heritage assets that are proving to be attractive to 'tree changers' and retirees for residential living.

Significant opportunities have already been identified to enable this region to generate energy because of the concentration of exposed high wind areas. These locations have the capacity to generate a substantial amount of power in the region. In addition recent analysis of the potential to use the region's increasing capacity to supply biomass in relative proximity to urban areas has raised the prospect of the region being able to generate significant amounts of energy and contribute to the state grid.

With climate change many areas particularly in the western third of the region are now more conducive to substantially increased grains and oilseeds production, this has significant implications for storage and transport of product.

Similar to many parts of the state the threat of bushfire is considerable. Planning for future urban growth and housing demand will need to factor in greater attention to bushfire potential.

Opportunities for intensive animal production that can provide for buffers and supply of feed have been identified by local governments, particularly in parts of the western area of Golden Plains Shire. Land uses in these areas need to be managed so as to protect these potential regional scale assets.

### 3.3.6 Increasing Emphasis on Liveability

Across regional Victoria the capacity of a region to present itself and its cities, towns, villages and rural areas as attractive supportive place to live is increasingly competitive. For this region the comparative advantages centre on:

- relative proximity to Melbourne,
- the location of a large, well serviced regional centre in terms of education and health,
- strong regional road and rail capacity,
- outstanding built and natural heritage, recreational opportunities, arts and cultural riches and
- a wide variety of places to live, with the region's network of small towns and villages linked to rapidly growing centres.

### 3.4 Issues

This section identifies particular issues that impact on the capacity and resilience of the region.

#### 3.4.1 Population

Population growth is strong, but it is unevenly distributed across the region.

- Generally the eastern third of the region, including Ballarat, is experiencing strong sustained population growth, which is generally in contrast with the situation in the western two thirds of the region.

- The strong growth of the population in that part of the region and particularly in Ballarat is to some extent at the expense of other parts of the region.
- Many young persons leave the region for education and training, and for employment.
- The ageing of population produces significant challenges in the current and future provision and delivery of facilities and services.

Without active intervention and effective strategies there is no sign that these trends will change in the foreseeable future or that the impacts of the disparities that result from this situation will lessen. Indeed the gap that has emerged is likely to widen further. An aggressive strategy and set of actions based on managing and facilitating changes in the way the region is planned and confronts issues will be required to tackle these issues.

#### 3.4.2 Economy

Many of the traditional economic strengths, assets and capabilities of the region are unlikely to be able to provide the same continuing assured level and stable base for future growth, investment and prosperity.

- Agriculture is still a major industry in the region despite the fact that the proportion employed has declined. The Central Highlands region produces about 8% of Victoria's agricultural output and will continue to be a major element of the region's economy.
- Historically strong industries and wealth generators such as traditional forms of manufacturing, that have been dominant across much of the region, have in recent years declined in their relative role and significance. It can no longer be assumed that they and agriculture will automatically be major

drivers of the future economy and the generation of jobs. Other employment areas will become increasingly significant.

- Growth in manufacturing will depend on taking up innovation opportunities as well as the existing strengths in IT and computing, a skilled workforce and the educational and training support systems.
- The Stawell Gold Mine, the state's biggest gold mine, has been operating for over 30 years and employs 240 people directly and a large range of contractors. There are other gold mines operating in the region and there are considerable prospects for further mining, particularly in the western sector for copper and mineral sands. Mining fosters considerable demands for manufacturing, mining machinery and equipment. The nature of the mining industry and the scale of its operation mean that it often has a substantial social and economic impact on a community.





**Table Three: Employment Projections, 2006 – 2026, Central Highlands Region**

Industry	2006	2026	Change	AAGR
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	5,087	5,239	152	0.1%
Mining	835	975	140	0.8%
Manufacturing	9,679	9,648	-31	0.0%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	546	687	141	1.2%
Construction	5,476	9,437	3,961	2.8%
Wholesale Trade	2,253	1,811	-442	-1.1%
Retail Trade	9,216	13,188	3,972	1.8%
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	4,834	6,544	1,711	1.5%
Transport and Storage	2,885	4,692	1,806	2.5%
Communication Services	1,686	3,034	1,348	3.0%
Finance and Insurance	1,527	1,656	129	0.4%
Property and Business Services	4,084	6,045	1,961	2.0%
Government Administration and Defence	4,294	5,977	1,683	1.7%
Education	6,562	9,036	2,475	1.6%
Health and Community Services	9,317	15,293	5,976	2.5%
Cultural and Recreational Services	1,482	3,090	1,609	3.7%
Personal and Other Services	2,651	4,445	1,794	2.6%
<b>Central Highlands Region</b>	<b>72,413</b>	<b>100,798</b>	<b>28,385</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

Source: SGS Economics and Planning

AAGR: Average Annual Growth Rate



As Table Three indicates projections of the likely numbers of persons in various employment categories for the region for the period 2006 to 2026 indicate that the growth will be likely to be greatest in manufacturing, health and community services, retail, education and construction.

Tourism has traditionally been important in the region. A strong viticulture industry in a number of locations, many of which have national prominence, and a strong network of tourist facilities and services provide a good base. Ballarat with Sovereign Hill, the Grampians National Park and Australia's major spa district at Daylesford-Hepburn are nationally well known. But the region lacks an attraction that establishes a strong national identity.

New change management strategies are needed that build Heritage Tourism with Tourism Victoria's well-developed Nature Based Tourism strategy so that the region can experience the significant benefits that will flow from increased visitation particularly from international tourists.

In particular, the goldfields and the authentic cities, towns and villages of the early gold rush within the region represent a rich but underdeveloped tourism product. Nature based recreation and indigenous heritage tourism exemplified by the Grampians National Park, which receives over 1.4 million visitor nights and over 700, 000 day visitors per year, and leisure associated with health and wellbeing exemplified by the Daylesford – Hepburn Springs attractions, are on the rise worldwide. The strategy will be to bring these diverse but related elements together.

In the overall context of regional Victoria the Central Highlands has a significantly diverse economy. This positions the region well to drive investment and enhance the resilience of the Central Highlands economy overall.

### 3.4.3 Mobility

Transport demands and requirements across the region are growing, particularly movement of freight and grains, and access for the region's residents, especially those in more remote areas.

- Road upgrading priorities, particularly north – south routes are not clear.
- The east - west transport spine has been substantially upgraded in infrastructure and services and more improvements are scheduled, but facilities and services to access this corridor need further work.
- Substantial improvements are particularly needed in the provision of improved north - south movement capacity, especially for freight and the transporting of grain.
- Projections of the increase in freight moved on roads are up to 2.5 times current levels by 2030. This will place a massive burden on existing networks. This will really impact on the capacity of local government where it has an extensive network of local roads that are needed to support the carrying of agricultural products particularly grain. Community and industry expectations will be strong that the capacity and facilities will exist when required. This will have implications for issues around safety and impacts on towns and communities.

### 3.4.4 Housing

The range of housing options available across the region does not match the current and projected needs of many households.

- Much of the type, form and location of residential areas and new housing being built in the region is working against the likely future needs of many households. Household sizes are getting smaller, single person households are increasing and households are often structured differently to traditional forms and sizes. These changes have implications for the supply of relevant forms of housing.
- New urban development and residential layouts across the region do not necessarily support the provision of cost effective and sustainable transport systems.

### 3.4.5 Health

The cumulative impacts of an ageing population and the limited capacities of many people to financially or physically avail themselves of the means to access services and facilities creates disparities and disadvantages that are likely to become wider.

- Convenient access to the network of existing health services across the region is critical for the region's residents particularly those who are aged and those in smaller centres and rural areas.
- Five of the nine local government areas in Victoria that have the lowest life expectancy are in this region. While there is a range of reasons for this, presumably one major reason is low levels of early detection and intervention in major illnesses.

- There are increasing needs, because of cost pressures, to support aged people staying in their homes longer rather than accessing expensive hospital stays. Policies to support aged people to remain in their own homes need to be supported by enhanced programs and support services.
- The Region overall has a low socio-economic ranking (ABS -SEIFA Index). There is a close correlation between low levels of household wealth and poor health outcomes (including low life expectancy).
- There are difficulties in recruiting and retaining skilled and experienced health and medical staff particularly in smaller centres.
- Many people, especially those in smaller towns and rural areas, the aged, and those who lack mobility or access to private transport and IT and communications, have a high dependency on accessing services and facilities distant from where they live.
- Co-location and integration of primary health care services is providing a better model for the delivery of services.
- There is an increasing need to link and integrate primary health care with general practitioners and hospital care. Opportunities to do this are particularly important to serve the needs of people in rural areas and the smaller towns and cities that service them.

#### 3.4.6 Education, Training and Workforce

The region's economy is changing and the future workforce needs are not well articulated. This has particular issues in respect to recruitment, retention, education and training.

- The University of Ballarat and its network of campuses, a campus of the Australian Catholic University and major private secondary colleges support Ballarat and the region with a very strong level of higher, TAFE and secondary education provision.
- Despite this presence of facilities loss of young people from the region for education and training is still significant particularly from smaller cities and towns and rural areas.

#### 3.4.7 Natural Resource Base

Climate change, declining water assets both surface and ground, and stressed river systems and habitats, all place pressure on an overtaxed natural resource base.

- The region's past access to readily available reliable water supplies is no longer assured. A large range of bodies is responsible for managing the region's water resources.
- Large areas of the region particularly in the metropolitan peri-urban area are open potable water catchments supplying Ballarat, Geelong and western Melbourne.

- The Wimmera-Mallee pipeline project has demonstrated that regional scale action can significantly address regional scale water management issues and deliver benefits to communities across that region. This has considerably strengthened the water supply capacity in towns and communities and provided opportunities for agriculture, viticulture and new food production in the western parts of the region.
- Prolonged drought has significantly impacted on major water bodies that have developed and supported substantial recreation and leisure activities and employment based on these assets. This has reduced the attractiveness of tourist locations and impacted on some people's perceptions of the liveability of the region. The recent announcement to restore water levels in Lake Wendouree should be the forerunner of a series of initiatives to support strategic water facilities where they are linked to the recreation and tourist industry and community assets.
- The regional attribute of significant areas of highly productive soils, such as the Werribee River flats at Bacchus Marsh, the Moorabool River valley near Bannockburn and the volcanic soils to the north and east of Ballarat support horticultural production. These areas are stressed in terms of access to irrigation, surface and underground water.
- The region possesses significant areas of important environmental and biodiversity assets, National Parks and extensive public land areas. Large areas of privately owned land also contain significant natural resource assets such as remnant vegetation including native grasses.

### 3.4.8 Peri-urban Impacts

Large parts of the region and its population are linked closely with the economy of Melbourne. Many people are (too) dependent on or heavily reliant on their proximity to Melbourne for work, goods and other services.

- The growth and development of Melbourne may impact detrimentally on the region's high levels of liveability, which are in many cases in distinct contrast to characteristics of Melbourne.
- Melbourne in turn is heavily dependent on the social and natural health of its peri –urban areas. The peri-urban areas provide water from catchments and other natural resources, food, and meets one of Melbourne's major recreational and leisure needs – space on the edge of the city, together with a network of towns and villages and attractive rural landscapes.

There is a growing interdependency between Melbourne and its nearby regions. Regions that are well connected to Melbourne, with quality transport networks and attractive rural landscapes and liveable cities and towns, strengthen the liveability of Melbourne. Melbourne's growing population will increasingly look to the regions for tourism and recreation opportunities and destinations and for food and other resources. The whole of the Central Highlands region is well paced and has the attributes to meet these needs.

### 3.5 Challenges

Challenges are those factors or elements that are likely to confront the region in the coming years. These can impact in respect to growth and development and in the capacity to manage change. This section provides a description and analysis of these challenges. The major challenges for the next twenty years and beyond for the Central Highlands region centre on:

1. Managing growth, development and change at the regional scale. There is a need to take advantage of the opportunities that arise from this change and integrate them so as to create a more resilient regional economy and deal with their local level impacts.
2. Managing the provision of services and facilities for a growing and changing population to achieve a more balanced distribution across the region and thereby spreading the advantage of substantial growth. Growth is likely to be focused into a few locations such as Ballarat and its hinterland, Bacchus Marsh and Bannockburn. There will also be a substantially changing demographic structure, particularly the ageing of the population.
3. Capitalising on the capacity and liveability of the existing cities, towns and villages and building them into a strong cohesive network. Existing cities, towns and villages are able to support planned and managed expansion and offer diverse and highly liveable places as alternatives to metropolitan growth.
4. Improving inter and intra regional connectivity with transport facilities and services, IT communications and access to high speed broadband,

5. Facilitating education and training, workforce planning, job generation and investment to meet substantially different future workforce needs. Better capitalisation on the region's strengths, and integration of these with the emerging economy based on key elements such as the delivery of services to people across the region, higher order manufacturing and tourism.
6. Strengthening the management and sustainable utilisation of the region's natural resources and environmental assets for an impending future that is likely to be drier, where energy will be more expensive and there will be greater competing forces for the region's resources.

#### 3.5.1 The Need for a Regional Scale, Planned and Integrated Approach

While each of these challenges can be addressed as specific problems or issues they will be far better managed if they are tackled at a regional scale. This new approach needs to be undertaken by all the region's local governments. They need to act in unison and with the cooperative engagement with and input from relevant departments and agencies.

The region's local governments have embraced this new enhanced approach to developing a future desired region and are keen to work with key agencies and departments, business and the regional community to deliver it.

This new region wide approach to addressing issues, jointly preparing plans and actions and following through on their implementation offers very substantial gains over the current arrangements.

There are eight specific challenges at regional scale that the Plan seeks to address: water; land use; energy; transport; identity and population growth; economy, jobs and workforce needs; access to services; and regional governance.

Addressing these diverse challenges cannot be integrated into a single planned approach. There are though strong linkages and interconnections between them. Where possible the overall regional Plan seeks to ensure that actions address multiple challenges.

### 3.5.2 Water

There are currently 7 separate water authorities responsible for the supply and treatment of water and 5 separate water catchment management authorities that focus on the condition of the land and water resource operating in this region. (The number will reduce from 5 to 4 in July 2011 when larger scale and wider remit Natural Resource and Catchment Authorities are launched). The region provides extensive areas that are catchments for water supply to major urban areas within and outside of the region. Map Four shows those areas across the region located within proclaimed water catchments. The detailed descriptions of those catchments are set out in the appendices. Despite this region being in area one of the state's smaller regions for planning purposes it has an extraordinary level and degree of overlapping roles and responsibilities in respect to managing the quantity, quality and treatment of water.

The state government has provided a framework of four Sustainable Water Strategies to plan for the management of water resources across the state – three of these Strategies apply to parts of the Central Highlands region. The reality is that the impacts of extended dry years and depleted water resources have meant that strategies prepared only a few years ago need to be revisited and updated.

The current regional arrangements and planning processes for water are confusing, inadequate and unsustainable. They are leading to lost jobs and investment opportunities, declining horticultural production, uncoordinated urban and residential development and a lack of direction in infrastructure investment priorities. This needs to be fixed.



### 3.5.3 Land Use, Agricultural Production and Rural Living

The region contains areas of high quality, very productive agricultural land, including areas with existing or potential capacity to utilise ground or surface water irrigation. These areas are not being planned or managed in respect to water, or the loss of land to urban, rural-residential and rural living development and intrusion.

The challenge for the region is to identify and plan a *limited number* of clearly defined, designated and zoned rural residential – rural living areas that are located so as to reinforce existing settlements and link to existing services. These areas are to be located so as to support existing settlement networks and be based on the provision of appropriate reticulated services, sealed roads, no more dams or water storages on properties and a demonstrated local and regional environmental gain as a result of the development.

This region wide plan must be integrated with the spatial and service dimensions and obligations in the water resource management and strategic development plan referred to in the previous section.

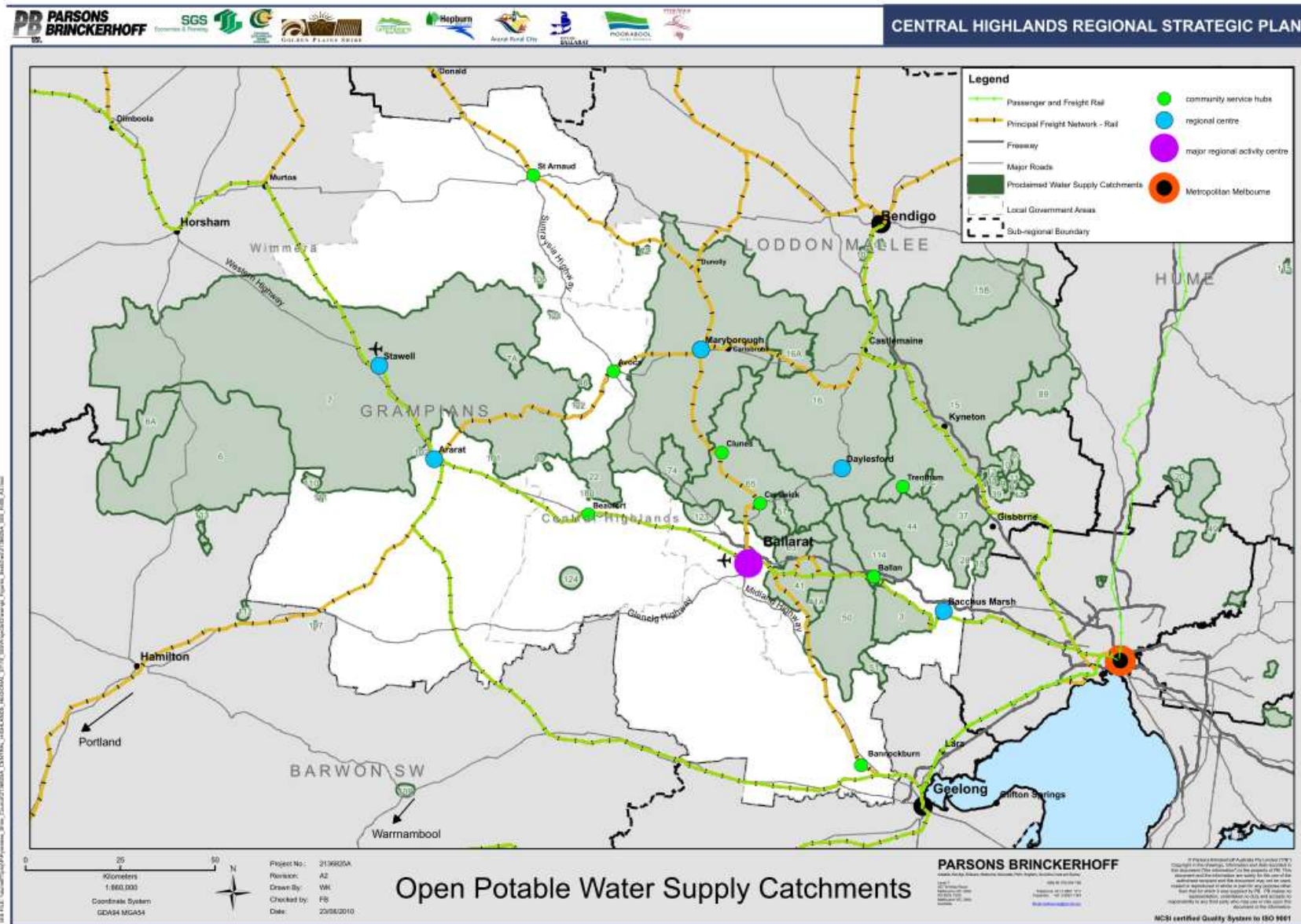
Urban development in the region will be substantial over the planning period. On current growth rates there will need to be in the order of an additional 25,000 to 30,000 houses or units constructed over the next 20 years or so. Where these new dwellings will be located and how they will be planned to minimize the impact on resources while reinforcing more sustainable living patterns is a substantial challenge.

### 3.5.4 Energy

The use of areas for wind energy in the region has often been controversial and divisive at the local level. The region has a strong capacity to support wind and biomass energy production that can be fed into the electricity grid. Both these initiatives have specific land use needs and a requirement to designate suitable areas. The approach to these issues needs to be factored into the regional scale land use plan priority outlined in the previous section. Clear identification of areas across the region to be earmarked for their potential to support wind energy production is a priority.

The compact nature of the region, its population base, relative proximity to Melbourne, the regional road transport network, the capacity to produce biomass in the region and the electricity transmission infrastructure are a combination of assets. They all raise the potential for the region to be a major pilot study for regional Victoria to trial energy production by biomass and gas fired production based on waste product from landfill. Both Ballarat and Ararat have undertaken extensive work to demonstrate the feasibility of such initiatives.

Map Four: Proclaimed Water Catchments



### 3.5.5 Transport and Access

The region possesses a well-developed east-west transport spine and this is being further strengthened. The provision for the movement of freight other than for east-west movement is a major challenge. The growth of freight in all regions is substantial, simplistic reliance on local government to fund local roads is no longer practical particularly when freight is being shifted from rail because of the run down of many local rail lines. Lateral movement of freight for both internally generated freight and particularly externally sourced freight, particularly linking with the ports at Portland and Geelong is a major challenge for this region.

Each of Victoria's five regions has major freight movement issues. The five transport spines radiating from Melbourne are priorities. Cross or lateral regional freight movement is important to each. However for the Central Highlands and Wimmera regions the importance of this lateral movement assumes state significance. There are high value, high volume products, particularly agricultural product, that must traverse the Central Highlands region to Victoria's ports. None of the State's other regions have such a great requirement to carry so much lateral freight movement emanating from outside their region.

North south freight movement in this region is not often on a clearly defined set of routes. Many of the routes are often poorly developed, have limited capacity to sustain the predicted increases in tonnage and movement and have 'bottleneck' points in and around town centres such as at Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh and Ararat.

The impending transport plan, being prepared by the region's eight local governments that is establishing regional priorities will highlight this challenge, which not only impacts on this region but other regions as well.

Increasing the range, convenience, quality, flexibility, inter-connectedness and service level of public transport and broadband service levels across the region, and linking smaller towns and rural areas to service hubs is a major challenge. The enhanced liveability and improved equity for many of the region's residents and communities will depend on how these challenges are addressed

Map Five shows the region's transport network and infrastructure.

### 3.5.6 Identity and Manage Population Growth

The growth of the region's population particularly in the eastern third of the region in places such as Ballarat Bannockburn, and Bacchus Marsh, in the numerous smaller towns and settlements and in the peri urban rural areas that surround Melbourne and Ballarat provides an extensive land use management and services and facilities coordination agenda.

This growth cannot be tackled on a place-based scale or even at an individual local government level. The scale and pace of growth potentially threatens to overwhelm areas in close proximity to Melbourne with possible resultant impacts including loss of identity and liveability.

Coordination of key facilities and services needs to be undertaken at a regional scale. In terms of population growth there will be a major requirement for a cooperative approach particularly between Ballarat, Central Goldfields, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Moorabool and Pyrenees Councils, with key departments and agencies, integrated with the plans referred to above in respect to water, land use and energy.

The identity and prospects for the cities of Ararat and Stawell and the western third of the region need to be strengthened, in terms of the potential for growth but also in respect to the role they play at the wider state level as a key service centre. Links with the Wimmera region are important, as are the tourism routes that connect this part of the region with high profile areas such as Daylesford and the Pyrenees.

### 3.5.7 Economy, Jobs and Workforce Needs

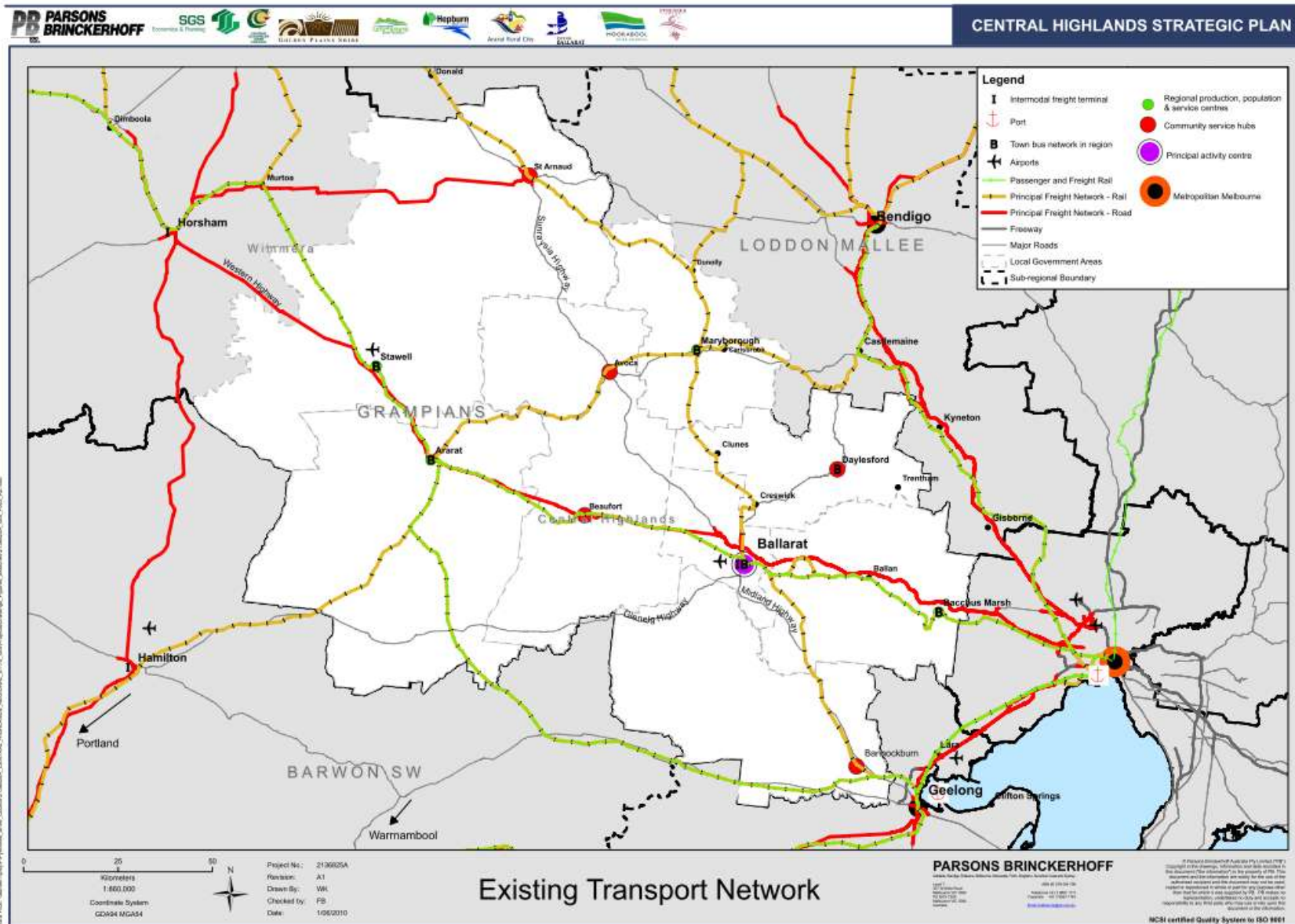
Similar to other regions the future economy, job profile and workforce needs of the Central Highlands region will be different to the current profile. The capacity to potentially service and meet much of the region's likely future workforce profile is relatively strong at both a regional and local scale. There is no comprehensive integrated regional planning approach to addressing this need.

Understanding and planning for a significantly different economy with new workforce needs is a major challenge for the region. The Central Highlands region's strong transport links and focused service provision in Ballarat and in turn networked across the region and with its capacity to service parts of metropolitan Melbourne positions this region well for these challenges.

### 3.5.8 Regional Governance

Establishing a strengthened form of regional coordination and governance in respect to the implementation of the core elements of this Plan and the delivery of projects is seen as critical. The region has two existing forums comprising local government Mayors and CEOs and a Regional Managers Forum with representation of regionally based state agencies and local governments. There is a strong desire to utilise these forums to ensure that the CHRSP is regionally driven, implemented on a cooperative basis and delivered at a regional and local scale.

Map Five: Existing Transport Network





#### 4. Vision

This section sets out a long-term vision of change for the Central Highlands region to 2030 and beyond.

A vision is partly a long term goal to be pursued and partly a set of guiding principles that form a broad direction upon which strategies and actions can be based.

*The Overall Goal is to continue to drive the implementation of the CHRSP so as to position the Central Highlands region to 2030 and beyond to provide a productive, sustainable and liveable region for its people.*

The overall guiding principles for the Central Highlands region are to:

- Plan for and expand the region's share of regional Victoria's population growth and seek to disperse that growth more evenly across the region, particularly through building the capacity and liveability of the region's smaller cities and towns.
- Plan for and strengthen the region's economy so that it is more diversified and resilient, integrate it with the economic growth and development of the Melbourne metropolitan area in a manner that retains the region's separate identity.
- Capitalise on the region's access to the major east-west highway and railway spine that links directly to Melbourne and increase the capacity to provide for north south movement particularly for freight and commodities.

- Expand the level of access to key services accessible and available to persons in smaller cities and towns and rural areas particularly through increased and integrated transport services and the use of IT and greater broadband capacity..
- Build on the region's leading role in the provision of education, training and IT to deliver better services in new and innovative models including in the provision of health services.
- Reposition the region's tourist product so that it can be a major national destination.
- Increase the region's capacity to be more self reliant in terms of sustainable energy sources and the provision and distribution of water.
- Integrate planning for the provision of water and reticulated sewerage services with regional scale plans to manage population growth through an adopted settlement hierarchy and network. A focus for the provision of reticulated sewerage services should be on those towns with residential, tourism or other economic development potential that are supported by good community infrastructure in transport corridors preferably with passenger rail connectivity.
- Strengthen the capacity of the region to sustainably manage its natural resource base and environmental assets particularly through the delivery of the region's Flagship areas and regional-scale Biolinks as set out in the government policy *Securing Our Natural Future*.
- Manage the region's agricultural resources for long term productivity with a focus on securing areas of high quality horticultural land, and
- Implement a new regional scale governance model that will deliver agreed and supported regional scale projects and initiatives in a timely and effective manner.

Essentially the Plan is a change management document designed to assist in bringing about an agenda of actions that will propel the region so it can capitalise on its comparative advantages and deliver enhanced benefits for its residents.



## 5. Strategic Directions and Actions

### 5.1 Introduction

This section sets out a series of specific directions and actions that need to be taken over the period to 2030 and beyond.

These are regional scale strategic directions and priority actions. They seek to best position the Central Highlands region to address identified issues, capitalise on key drivers, confront major challenges, take advantage of comparative advantages and deliver the agreed vision.

While they are presented as a package of measures, they are an initial list only. It is expected that they will be further refined and developed, added to and have clearer priorities set as the Plan is progressively developed and implemented.

They have been deliberately chosen and structured for their capacity to integrate together a number of the elements of the vision and to comprehensibly tackle the challenges facing the region.

### 5.2 The Central Highlands regional settlement network and hierarchy

The region's settlement network and hierarchy of roles and functions forms part of a statewide system and is based on the following **statewide designations**. These designations are designed to assist with an understanding of the region in the context of the whole state. These designations largely reflect existing roles and functions:

Statewide Roles and Functions

*Major Regional Centres*

– Ballarat

*Regional Cities and Centres*

- Ararat

*Listed Cities and Towns*

- Bacchus Marsh, Daylesford, Maryborough, St Arnaud and Stawell

For the Central Highlands it is appropriate to examine the region's cities and towns and identify the roles and functions that they play within the context of the operation of the region. The distribution of facilities and services at the regional scale needs to reflect the needs of the region. This examination can identify how various cities and towns are supporting the region and how they are developing their roles and functions to better serve their communities. The following **regional designations** are based on the roles and functions that the centres perform.

Regional Roles and Functions

Central Highlands Region

*major regional activity centre*

Ballarat

*regional centres*

Ararat-Stawell, Bacchus Marsh, Daylesford, and Maryborough

*community service hubs*

Avoca, Ballan, Bannockburn, Beaufort, Clunes, Creswick, St Arnaud and Trentham

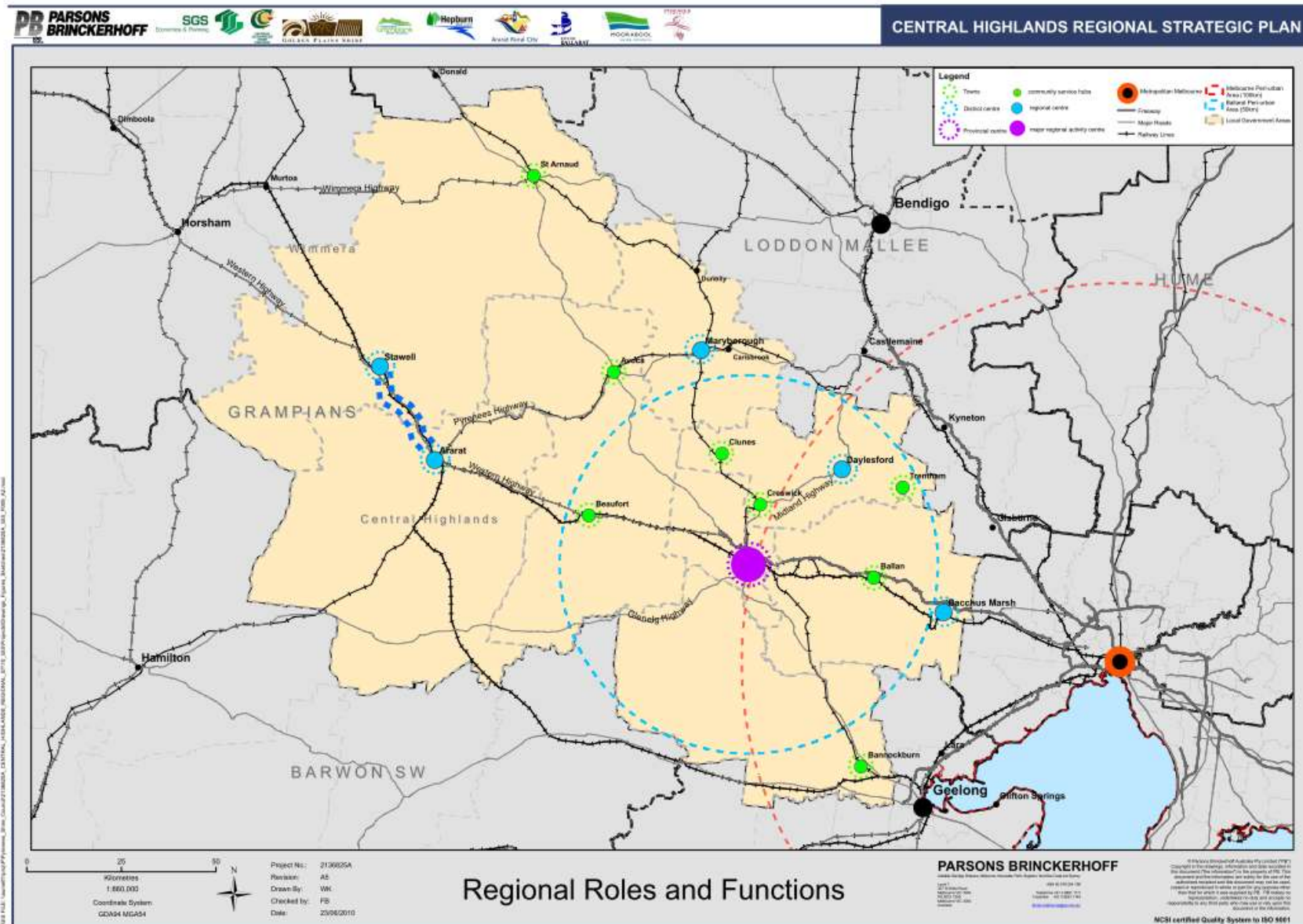
Map Six shows the above listed regional level designations of roles and functions.

At the regional level Ballarat is a major regional activity centre. Clearly Ballarat plays a role not only at the regional level where it drives much of the current regional economy. Ballarat also plays a role that extends to communities beyond the region particularly for western and south western Victoria and in some aspects at a whole of state scale.

Ararat and Stawell are two distinct centres. In reality they are closely linked both in distance and in their roles and functions, some of which are complementary. They have a combined population of around 20,000 persons, many of their services and facilities would be able to play a stronger regional role if coordinated to further complement each other. Only 27 kilometres apart they have the capacity to demonstrate that the sum of their functions lifts their roles to be significant regional centre at the state level. Combined they are larger than a centre such as Horsham. Together Ararat-Stawell can play the role of a strong regional centre servicing the western third of the region. By working on the basis that their roles will complement each other and they can strengthen the capacity of the western third of the region to be better serviced.

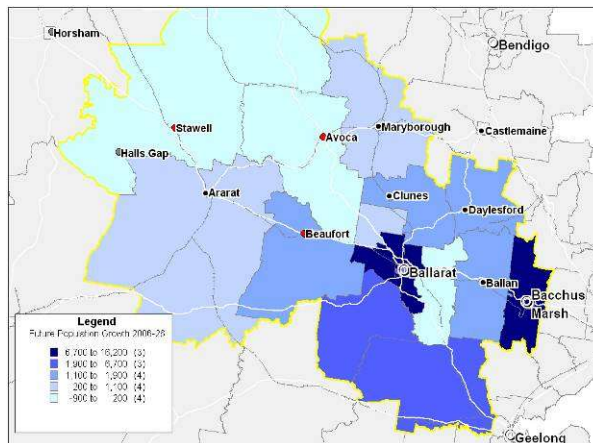
Maryborough in the Central Highlands region has traditionally been a strong regional service centre and will continue to be so serving a major sub region. The re-opening of the passenger rail service to Ballarat will strengthen its role and position and further highlight the city's restored railway station as the finest example of railway heritage in regional Victoria. The development of the Goldfields heritage across regional boundaries offers a key strategic growth potential for Maryborough and its surrounding early goldfields towns and villages because it is located within the heart of the Goldfields.

Map Six: Regional Level Roles and Functions





**Map Seven: Population Projection by Statistical Local Areas 2006 - 2026**



Source: VIF 2008 Population Projections

Population growth will drive the development of roles and functions across the region. The reality is that population growth is likely to be uneven. Map Seven indicates the level of population growth 2006 – 2026 as projected by the state government's publication *Victoria in Future*.

Bacchus Marsh has grown rapidly over the last three decades and has emerged from a being a rural service town to a regional centre and in fact is now the second largest urban area in the region. While much of its function is now centred on its role as a commuter town to Melbourne the fact that it has long existed as a service centre means that services such as health and education are generally well developed. Both now attract persons from the western suburbs of Melbourne.

The opportunities and constraints faced by Bacchus Marsh are very different to that faced by the other regional centres. While Bacchus Marsh performs a major regional centre role for the eastern area of the region it also performs as a major Peri-Urban Centre in its relationship to Melbourne. Likewise Daylesford and Bannockburn are significant centres in Melbourne's peri-urban area.

The area where the Melbourne and Ballarat peri-urban areas overlap is the location of numerous towns and population centres. Three of them, Bacchus Marsh, Bannockburn and Daylesford are strategically placed in that they sit within the Melbourne hinterland or peri urban area but they are also influenced by their proximity to Ballarat (and Geelong in the case of Bannockburn), that commands its own hinterland. As key centres in the peri urban area they deliver services to their surrounding area and they are subject to substantial change and growth pressures. They will develop their roles and functions in response to these pressures.

Other key towns across the region perform as major community service hubs generally reflecting the fact that they serve more distant rural areas and communities and they are significantly distant from a regional centre. St Arnaud in the region's north west is the most significant town that fits in this role. Other towns that play important community service hub roles in the context that they are also linked to a relatively close much larger centre are: Avoca, Ballan, Beaufort, Clunes, Creswick and Trentham.

While these designations and hierarchies provide a network of roles, functions and relationships it should be noted that as development occurs, as functions are assigned to places by way of new facilities, and as services are progressively provided, these designations may well change.

This is unlikely to happen in the short term, but over time changes can be expected in the role that centres play. Ballarat for example will significantly grow its role relative to the region. It is already playing a role in respect to Melbourne and attracting people from the western suburbs of Melbourne to utilise its services. Over time with the development of both Melbourne and Ballarat their economies will be more linked. Increasing numbers of people in western Melbourne will see facilities in Ballarat as viable alternatives particularly health and education and more people will commute from Melbourne to Ballarat for work.

More significantly in the current environment it should be noted that each centre does at times perform higher order roles in respect to some services and functions. For instance Bacchus Marsh is performing, with its private sector education role and its health and medical facilities functions in effect a regional centre role for parts of Melbourne.

A town like St Arnaud performs a significant sub-regional service centre role and services a wide area. Ballarat performs a regional role that extends well beyond the actual Central Highlands region.

With a regional and state emphasis on Ararat-Stawell as an integrated regional centre it will be able to expand its importance and take on new higher order roles.

Some centres have a role that in a special feature provides a state or even national focus. Daylesford-Hepburn Springs, with its growing health and wellbeing role associated with mineral water,

specialist accommodation, cuisine, and arts and craft focus has developed a national role and profile.

Ballarat will continue to strengthen its role as the regional 'capital'. At the state wide level it will be increasingly competitive and grow its critical population mass so as to expand its comprehensive set of high order health, education, retail, business arts and cultural and recreational services. This in turn will improve the economic robustness and liveability of the whole region.

Ballarat in particular will be able to progressively restructure its role and relationship with Melbourne. In some respects Ballarat will perform roles not dissimilar to some 'outer metropolitan' Activity Centres. It will capitalise on its proximity and connections to Melbourne and provide an alternative option to other new outer metropolitan activity centres that need to build their infrastructure, services and jobs from a low base.

Bacchus Marsh will become better integrated with the services and opportunities of the metropolitan area; this will be reinforced with the potential electrification of the rail services to Bacchus Marsh, as it becomes part of the metropolitan system. Improved rail services will be linked to higher frequency of services; this will be assisted by progressive duplication of the line to Bacchus Marsh and then potentially on to Ballarat.

### 5.3 Settlement Development and Managed Land Use in the Melbourne and Ballarat Peri Urban areas – A Regional Land Use and Development Plan

In Ballarat, in all the major population centres in the peri-urban areas of Ballarat and Melbourne, and in the key centres across the region, there will be a focus on managed urban growth.

In the case of Ballarat the focus for urban growth will be on the central business district, on infill particularly in and around the central activities district, in the current development front to the south west of the city and in three development corridors; to Creswick and potentially to Clunes, to Gordon and potentially to Ballan and to Smythesdale and potentially to Linton.

Smaller cities and towns will further specialise and complement each other based on better use of local infrastructure and driven by improved local services. These local communities will be empowered by better connections to information and fellow citizens, particularly supported by high-speed broadband connections and improved transport services.

The region's settlement plan will take advantage of the strength of existing urban and town facilities, need to meet future housing needs, support transport services through the use of underutilised capacity, and support population growth with strategic infrastructure investment in key requirements such as sewerage and natural gas. The emerging regional land use and development plan already has a substantial spatial representation of its key elements.

It is expected and planned that the majority of future urban growth in the region will occur in and around Ballarat.

This will take place in three major areas.

1. The Ballarat southwest urban growth front,
2. Inner area residential revitalisation associated with the railway station and the central activities district, and

3. Three major settlement and transport corridors. These corridors are places where transport services or facilities upgrades are occurring or need to be further targeted. They are where there are existing settlements that have extensive services and facilities or where there is government investment occurring now in improved services. These three settlement and transport corridors are – Creswick-Clunes, Gordon-Ballan, and Smythesdale-Linton. In each of these corridors services are being upgraded such as passenger rail at Creswick, and reticulated sewerage services at Gordon and Smythesdale. Transport services on all three corridors need further enhancement commencing with reopened railway stations at Gordon and Clunes. The reopened passenger rail service from Ballarat to Maryborough will create significant added growth potential to the Creswick - Clunes settlement corridor, by linking Maryborough as a key regional centre in the heart of the Goldfields with Ballarat and Melbourne.

The first two areas are within the City of Ballarat, the third area relates to development that needs to be planned and coordinated with Moorabool, Hepburn and Golden Plains Shires.

Other areas of major residential development in the region will be at Bacchus Marsh and Bannockburn, both of which have comprehensive plans in place to manage and support future urban growth. Both will need additional funding for infrastructure to manage and support population growth.

In particular Bacchus Marsh, which abuts Melbourne's Growth Areas, will increasingly play a role in the metropolitan scale settlement pattern and infrastructure provision. Bacchus Marsh is effectively catering now for some of Melbourne's growth. Improved infrastructure provision could see it provide for further planned growth and provide an alternative location for an expanding Melbourne.

Across the region, and particularly within the peri urban areas of Melbourne and Ballarat, there are substantial opportunities to better utilise the existing network of small towns and settlement. This is particularly the case where these towns and settlements have underutilised facilities and services or where existing infrastructure provides a solid framework for expansion.

Settlement planning needs to recognise places that can be better connected to the regional transport network and services and where they can readily link to centres of employment and higher order services and facilities particularly medical and education/training. In some of these towns recent investment in sewerage and water upgrades and public transport infrastructure has made it possible to bring them within a regional network of integrated and interconnected settlements.

A systematic evaluation of these towns and communities is required as part of a regional land use and development plan linked to a regional water and wastewater management strategy. Analysis to date has indicated that a number of towns and settlements should be part of that process, they include, Lethbridge, Inverleigh, Meredith, Gordon, Trentham, Clunes, Beaufort, and Smythesdale.

The regional land use and development plan is to be framed around identified opportunities and constraints. Each of the local governments has undertaken varying levels of strategic planning that provide an initial framework for such a plan. However the regional scale plan is at a much higher level than simply the amalgamation of those plans. The regional scale agenda is about making major resource allocation and investment decisions at the regional level to support regionally agreed local priorities.

Preliminary analysis has indicated that there are substantial opportunities around utilising existing transport corridors where infrastructure upgrades

and service provision is concentrated and there is a network of settlements that cluster along these corridors. This is particularly the case where current services are being enhanced or where minimal additional investment in infrastructure and services would make a substantial difference in the capacity of that town or settlement.

Constraints to the accommodation of future residential development including rural residential/rural living development focus on five clear elements.

1. The presence of high quality productive agricultural soils reliant on sustainable surface and ground water resources, these include
  - ▶ Werribee River Flats at Bacchus Marsh
  - ▶ Lower Moorabool River Flats near Bannockburn
  - ▶ Volcanic Soils – north, north east and east of Ballarat
  - ▶ Significant wine growing areas
2. Proclaimed open water supply catchments to provide water particularly to Ballarat, Geelong and Melbourne.
3. Areas identified on the Victorian Wind Atlas as potentially suitable for wind energy generation where these can be readily linked to the electricity transmission network and where the social impact can be minimised. Constraints are much more likely to be significant in the east of the region where the population density is higher.
4. High value regional landscapes that are widely recognised as a major contributor to attracting new residents and tourists.
5. Areas identified in *Securing Our Natural Future* - the state government's 'White Paper for land and biodiversity at a time of climate change', as Flagship Areas and for Biolinks (shown on

Map Eight) or where there are impacts on supplying and managing environmental flows in the region's rivers and streams.

#### 5.4 Managing Land Use and Regional Scale Assets, Horticulture, Securing Water and Energy and Providing for Planned Rural Living

Support for the region's areas of productive soils that provide for horticultural production, by securing their water resources and implementing a plan to ensure that they are not lost to residential /rural living development is a strong imperative.

This will mean providing only for rural-residential/rural living development where it is planned at a regional scale based on existing community infrastructure, transport facilities and services, locally generated energy production and the capacity to provide for service provision.

This will require the preparation of a comprehensive regional resource analysis and strategic planning exercise utilising largely existing data and current strategies to balance

- the retention of high quality highly productive agricultural land,
- the maintenance and enhancement of the region's biodiversity values and linkages in accordance with the White Paper on Land and Biodiversity,
- the sustainable use and reuse of water resources,
- the potential for a limited number of planned and focussed rural living developments in a limited number of locations (with consequent rezoning of areas currently set aside for rural living that are not supported)
- the identification of areas suitable for energy production utilising wind turbines.

The region's high quality and productive agricultural land and environmental assets will be protected from intrusive land uses and developments and sustainably managed. Rather than continue to provide for or allow rural living development in an ad hoc manner, the high value agricultural areas and high landscape values of the region will be retained through the selection of a limited number of carefully sited and planned rural living opportunities to specifically cater for that form of residential demand.

The region's areas of productive soils that provide for horticultural production need to be supported, their water resources secured and a regionally supported process implemented to ensure that they are not lost to residential /rural living development.

A limited number of planned areas for rural living based on existing community infrastructure, transport facilities and services, locally generated energy production and capacity to provide for service provision need to be provided for on the basis of a regionally coordinated approach. Priority will be given to enhanced water re-use and storm water harvesting to support urban development. Higher value production from the region's agricultural resources will be supported and rural land will be identified in its capacity to provide for the generation of wind energy.

A regionally developed and owned water resource management and strategic development plan will be prepared jointly by the relevant authorities and the respective local governments with an agreed and costed implementation plan.

Now that the region is moving into an integrated and coordinated set of planning arrangements the challenges facing the region are to:

- coordinate the plans for the collection, storage, conservation, quality protection, reuse and recycling of water and waste water,

- provide water for sustainable horticultural production,
- support planned urban, township and industrial growth through service provision so as to reinforce an agreed settlement network and hierarchy, and,
- provide for the consolidation of development that takes advantage of existing infrastructure in cities and towns across the region.

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- provide water for sustainable horticultural production,
- support planned urban, township and industrial growth through service provision so as to reinforce an agreed settlement network and hierarchy, and,
- provide for the consolidation of development that takes advantage of existing infrastructure in cities and towns across the region.

### 5.5 Transport Infrastructure and Services

Further investment in transport infrastructure and services will strengthen the east-west transport spine creating a 'regional corridor of opportunity'. Improved linkages to the corridor from cities, towns and rural areas will provide better access to facilities and services.

The region's transport infrastructure and services will need to be upgraded in accordance with a *regional transport strategy* being prepared by the region's local governments.

There will be substantially increased demands for north – south freight movement including grain and this will need to be catered for. There will need to be a focus on improving north – south links, removal of town bottlenecks, bypass routes and access to and integrated services to network hubs.

There will be further enhancement of facilities and services that better connect cities and towns in the region to the east-west transport spine through improved bus services, parking facilities at key nodes along the spine, additional railway stations opened, and improved transport information systems.

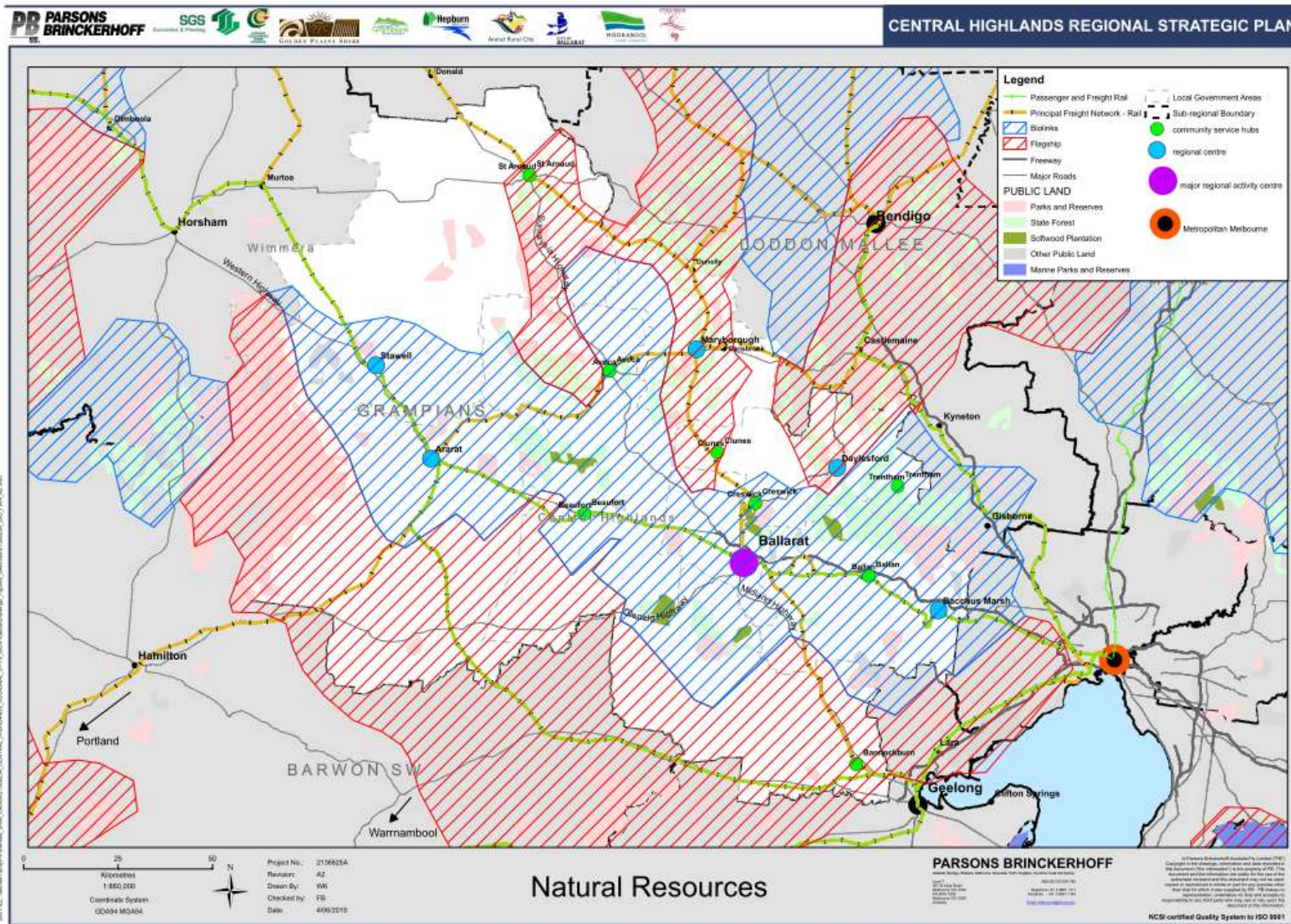
Map Eight sets out the core priority elements of the region's transport infrastructure and network that needs improvement and substantial upgrading.

Provision will be made for the upgrading of north-south road connections for freight and movement of grains to ports at Portland and Geelong in accordance with the regional transport plan.

There will be improved rail service frequencies, reliability and service spans including expanded high quality public transport services along the main spine to the west to cover Stawell and Horsham.

The duplication of the Western Freeway to Ararat and beyond to Stawell, the bypasses of Ararat and Beaufort and the provision of the Ballarat Western Road links project (effectively a bypass of Ballarat) will provide for improved regional road transportation and better links with Melbourne and Geelong. This further strengthens a networked regional cities model.

Map Eight: Flagship Areas and Biolinks



Source: 'Securing Our Natural Future' - the state government's 'White Paper for land and biodiversity at a time of climate change',



### 5.6 Positioning the Region's Heritage at the National Level

The strategy is to badge, identify and market the region in co-operation with other regions as Australia's *first* National Heritage Region.

This unique signifier provides a marketing tool that elevates recognition of the region to the national and even international stage. It also strengthens the perceived liveability and appeal of the region for residents and businesses. Major state level marketing of this brand is now required together with relevant signage and information to commence this initiative.

The Central Highlands region recognises that it does not possess the whole of Victoria's gold fields heritage but it does possess the majority of it. Clunes is the State's first official gold discovery site. The region has the strongest existing built interpretative facilities and concentration of extant towns and settlements that epitomised this period.

National level branding provides an exciting possibility for major cross -regional co-operation. It assists in repositioning the role of the Central Goldfields Shire as a driver of these linkages and cross regional prospects – an opportunity noted in the Loddon Regional Plan. It will also significantly shape the future development of Maryborough as one of the goldfields regional centres.

The enhanced marketing of the region provides a significant opportunity for many of the region's smaller towns and villages to capitalise on their own strengths. While many of these communities have strong representations of goldfield's heritage they have been building other product based on strong community based events that have proved extremely popular. Talbot, an outstanding heritage town, has developed one of Victoria's best farmers' markets.

Clunes has combined its heritage buildings with an annual Booktown event that is generating national interest. Towns such as Creswick with its Arts Trail and Meredith with its Music Festival, and the Stawell Gift, which is a national institution, are all examples of other community-based events that are strengthening the region's product. The region has an impressive heritage story to tell and for the visitor to experience. The regional art galleries such as at Ballarat and Ararat display much of that heritage.

This strategic direction and action significantly strengthens the initiatives across the region that already focuses on this built heritage. It complements the capacity of the region to offer tourism and recreation opportunities based on the strength of the natural and environmental features, health and wellbeing and products such as wine and quality food.

### 5.7 Expanded and Better Health Services, IT Development, Broadband Provision and Access and Services

The Central Highlands region has the capacity to roll out a model of co-located and integrated primary health care facilities across the region's cities and towns. Such a model will integrate such services with general practitioners and the provision of increased community services utilizing the region's strengths and capacities in IT and computing and the future national broadband network provision.

These will provide for services such as patient monitoring in home. The state should conduct a trial of the service in the Central Highlands region in suitable local communities. Avoca has been suggested as one such place that would be suitable for a state-wide pilot.

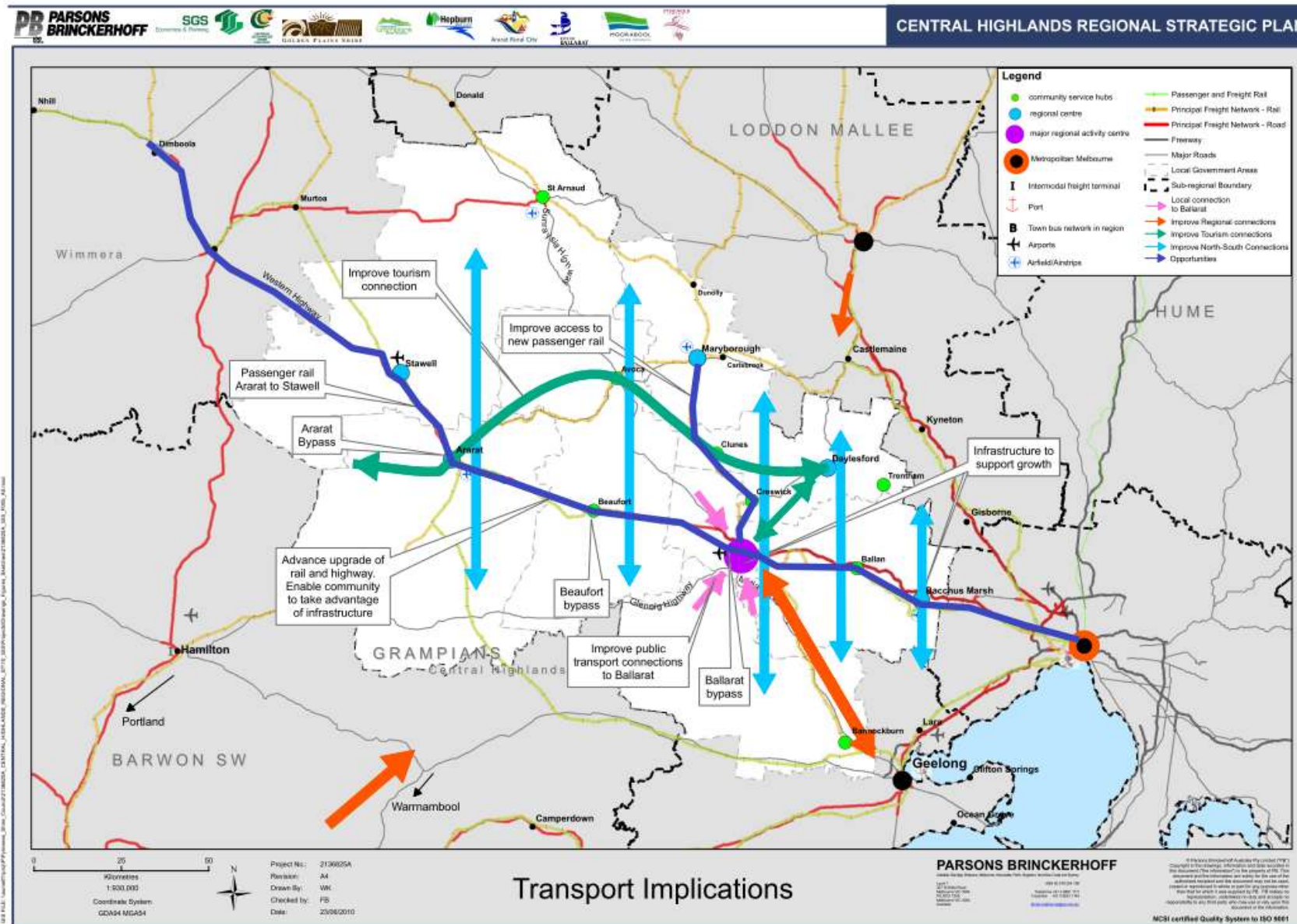


### 5.8 Housing Options, Ballarat CBD Revitalisation and Education and Training Facilities

Ballarat central business district and the railway station precinct should be reclassified from simply being a 'transit city', as referenced in the *Melbourne 2030* strategy, to become a regional activity centre providing a wider and more substantive role. This will mean preserving Ballarat's outstanding built Victorian heritage while revitalising the inner city focused on the area in the vicinity of the central business district and the railway station.

These actions will need to provide for substantial additional housing including student housing, and provide major new additions to the higher education and vocational training capacity of the University of Ballarat in the central business district. This strategy builds on local business clusters and strengthens regional workforce needs planning, and Ballarat's comparative advantages in IT and computing, industry specific research and programs.

Map Eight: Regional Transport Priorities



### 5.9 Leadership, Capacity Building and Regional Planning – Implementation and Governance

There is need to support and implement an enhanced region wide leadership and skills enhancement program to drive change and renew capacity across the region. Local leadership programs need to be supported.

The implementation and governance arrangements proposed for the management and implementation the CHRSP involves enhanced collaboration and coordination between all levels of government and related advisory bodies.

It focuses on strengthening regional strategic management and implementation, and it builds on the Mayors and CEOs Forum with the involvement of key agencies for the implementation of an agreed and costed plan and the delivery of projects.

The implementation and governance arrangements proposed for the Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan (RSP) involves enhanced collaboration and coordination between all levels of government and related advisory bodies.

The roles and responsibilities of individual stakeholders in the governance of the plan are designed to facilitate the implementation, monitoring, evaluation, review and refinement of the Central Highlands RSP into the future.

A **Regional Planning Committee (RPC)** will lead the development, oversight and implementation of the regional strategic plan.

In the Central Highlands sub region, the **Central Highlands Mayors and CEOs Forum** will take on the role of the **RPC** and other bodies such as the Regional Managers Forum (RMF) and Regional Development Australia (RDA) will work in partnership with this arrangement.

Effectively, the **RPC** will work as a sub-committee of the Central Highlands Mayors and CEOs forum and will comprise representatives from State, Federal and Local Government (through RDA & RMF membership) and other regional community and industry representatives. The role of the RPC is to:

- Coordinate the regional planning process
- Lead the development and review of the Regional Strategic Plan
- Lead the identification of initiatives and development of proposals into all levels of government
- Lead the identification of initiatives and development of proposals for possible private sector investment
- Drive and support engagement and consultation through the RDA Grampians and the Grampians RMF

The **Grampians Regional Management Forum (RMF)** will be represented on the RPC and actively participate in regional planning. The Grampians RMF is the State Government's administrative coordination body in the region, linking regional and state-level planning activities. The role of the RMF will be to:

- Provide policy advice and input to the development of the plan
- Consider and endorse the Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plan for submission to State Government for formal review
- Monitor implementation of State Government priorities and contribute to the review of the plan through the RPC
- Collaborate with the RDA Grampians to ensure broader regional alignment of key activities against the Plan

- Provide leadership, assist in problem solving and actively support the regional planning processes

The **Regional Development Australia (RDA) Grampians Committee** will be represented on the RPC and act as a conduit between regional and state-level activity and the Federal Government. The RDA Grampians Committee comprises business and community leaders and local government representation. The RDA Grampians committee will:

- Contribute to and support the development and implementation of the Plan.
- Advise governments in relation to the priorities in the Plan.
- Participate in the RPC's ongoing monitoring and review of the Plan.
- Collaborate with the RMF to ensure alignment of the Regional Strategic Plan with the state-wide blueprint.

**Local Government Authorities** will be represented on the RPC and will play a key leadership and implementation role in regional planning. Local Government will:

- Participate in and support development and implementation of regional planning process
- Consider and sign off completed plans for submission to the State Government review process
- Implement relevant priorities & participate in regional level leadership and problem solving
- Contribute to the ongoing monitoring and review of the plan through the RPC
- Collaborate with other regional plan partners to ensure local and regional alignment against Regional Strategic Plan.

APPENDICES

A. List of Proclaimed Catchments - refer to Map Four



CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2010

PROCLAIMED WATER SUPPLY CATCHMENT (PWSC) AREA CLASSIFICATION AND STATUS

CATCHMENT NAME	PWSC NUMBER	STATUS	STATUS DATE	GAZETTED	AREA SQM	AREA HECTARES
WIMMERA SYSTEMS	7	Proclaimed	4/09/1959	Y	4,466,748,887.35	446,674.89
BEALIBA	72	Proclaimed	6/05/1981	Y	4,973,221.48	497.32
SPRING GULLY RESERVOIR (BENDIGO)	104	Proclaimed	15/03/1989	Y	2,587,913.29	258.79
CRUSOE GROUP RESERVOIRS (BENDIGO)	103	Proclaimed	15/03/1989	Y	5,717,095.44	571.71
TEDDINGTON RESERVOIR (STUART MILL)	105	Proclaimed	15/03/1989	Y	9,529,071.51	952.91
EPPALOCK (LAKE ENVIRONS)	15B	Land Use Determination	16/04/1985	N	246,054,022.59	24,605.40
CAIRN CURRAN (LAKE ENVIRONS)	16A	Land Use Notice	16/02/1972	Y	115,467,971.77	11,546.80
WIMMERA SYSTEMS (MALAKOFF CK - LANDSBOROUGH)	7A	Land Use Determination	16/04/1985	N	33,843,629.35	3,384.36
ROCKLANDS	6	Proclaimed	17/09/1958	Y	1,166,457,884.03	116,645.79
MOLLISON CREEK (PYALONG)	89	Proclaimed	26/03/1986	Y	159,968,120.92	15,996.81
ROCKLANDS RESERVOIR ENVIRONS (Part)	6A	Land Use Determination	16/09/1959	Y	190,127,330.95	19,012.73
AVOCA	46	Land Use Determination	24/09/1975	Y	9,514,140.79	951.41
AVOCA	46	Land Use Determination	24/09/1975	Y	951,105.11	95.11
FOREST CREEK (AMPHITHEATRE)	122	Proclaimed	26/09/1990	Y	2,847,733.96	284.77
TULLAROOP RESERVOIR	65	Proclaimed	4/06/1980	Y	702,539,836.77	70,253.98
EPPALOCK	15	Proclaimed	20/07/1960	Y	1,802,869,062.99	180,286.91
CAIRN CURRAN	16	Proclaimed	30/05/1962	Y	1,488,360,228.05	148,836.02
REDBANK CREEK (REDBANK)	121	Proclaimed	26/09/1990	Y	3,404,107.68	340.41
KILMORE	20	Land Use Determination	20/06/1984	Y	10,857,801.00	1,085.78
SUNBURY (CHERLIES CREEK)	17	Land Use Determination	10/06/1964	Y	6,062,640.38	606.26
RIDDELLS CREEK (MAIN CREEK)	8	Land Use Determination	27/07/1960	Y	5,216,888.22	521.69
MACEDON (KITTY ENGLISH RES)	14	Land Use Determination	8/04/1964	Y	2,553,817.74	255.38
MACEDON (BAWDEN CK)	14	Land Use Determination	8/04/1964	Y	717,379.31	71.74
ROSSLYNNE RESERVOIR (RIDDELL CREEK)	39	Proclaimed	22/09/1971	Y	20,838,655.02	2,083.87
TROY RESERVOIR (BEAUFORT)	100	Proclaimed	12/10/1988	Y	251,410.48	25.14
CRESWICK	57	Proclaimed	13/06/1979	Y	33,407,627.64	3,340.76
SUNBURY (MAIN CREEK)	17	Land Use Determination	10/06/1964	Y	6,516,463.42	651.65
ROSSLYNNE RESERVOIR (JACKSON CREEK)	37	Land Use Determination	18/05/1977	Y	90,067,252.76	9,006.73
LAKE MERRIMU (LERDERBERG RIVER)	44	Proclaimed	23/04/1975	Y	222,168,654.78	22,216.87
LITTLE TEA TREE TRIBS (HAMILTON)	113	Proclaimed	2/08/1989	Y	4,782,929.48	478.29
LEARNMOUTH BOREFIELD (LEARNMOUTH)	123	Proclaimed	3/07/1991	Y	42,571,622.52	4,257.16
PYKES CK RES AND WERRIBEE RV	114	Proclaimed	25/10/1989	Y	241,622,141.08	24,162.21
MOORABOOL RIVER (SHEOAKS)	50	Proclaimed	24/05/1978	Y	478,598,898.31	47,859.89
LITTLE TEA TREE TRIBS (HAMILTON)	113	Proclaimed	2/08/1989	Y	4,365,145.83	436.51
LITTLE TEA TREE TRIBS (HAMILTON)	113	Proclaimed	2/08/1989	Y	4,639,857.09	463.99
BALLARAT	63	Proclaimed	19/12/1979	Y	94,134,011.76	9,413.40
LAKE MERRIMU	28	Land Use Determination	2/11/1966	Y	86,503,814.88	8,650.38
RUNNING CREEK (HURSTBRIDGE WWT)	49	Proclaimed	11/05/1977	Y	20,705,951.06	2,070.60
CRESWICK	57	Proclaimed	13/06/1979	Y	2,528,905.33	252.89
LAKE MERRIMU (GOODMANS CREEK)	34	Land Use Determination	2/07/1969	Y	38,076,534.87	3,807.65
LAL LAL RESERVOIR	41	Proclaimed	13/06/1973	Y	210,422,210.07	21,042.22
DJERRIWARRH	18	Land Use Determination	8/07/1964	Y	27,928,508.42	2,792.85
ST ENOCHS SPRING (SKIPTON)	124	Proclaimed	3/07/1991	Y	26,231,620.45	2,623.16
MCCALLUM CREEK	74	Proclaimed	30/06/1982	Y	86,514,771.31	8,651.48
PICNIC ROAD (ARARAT)	102	Proclaimed	12/10/1988	Y	1,311,922.92	131.19
TRAWALLA CREEK	22	Proclaimed	16/10/1963	Y	111,741,592.83	11,174.16
LANGI GHIRAN RESERVOIR (ARARAT)	101	Proclaimed	12/10/1988	Y	829,950.27	83.00
SIDE SPRING CREEK	99	Proclaimed	12/10/1988	Y	441,729.86	44.17
LONG GULLY	99	Proclaimed	12/10/1988	Y	3,583,951.82	358.40
LANCEFIELD (DEEP CREEK)	10	Land Use Determination	18/01/1961	Y	18,502,038.64	1,850.20
WANNON RIVER TRIBUTARIES (LAKE BELLFIELD)	110	Proclaimed	2/08/1989	Y	14,607,449.52	1,460.74
CAVE HILL CREEK	99	Proclaimed	12/10/1988	Y	3,186,478.81	318.65
MONUMENT CREEK	60	Proclaimed	20/06/1979	Y	11,043,587.33	1,104.36
EPPALOCK (WOODEND)	12	Land Use Determination	18/10/1961	Y	13,897,972.61	1,389.80
EPPALOCK (KYNETON)	15C	Land Use Determination	2/03/1966	Y	10,413,983.86	1,041.40
MASON CREEK (WILLAURA)	111	Proclaimed	2/08/1989	Y	2,760,567.89	276.06
ROMSEY (UPPER BOLLINDA CREEK)	11	Land Use Determination	18/01/1961	Y	9,420,249.36	942.02
SUNBURY (BOLLINDA CREEK)	17	Land Use Determination	10/06/1964	Y	5,537,839.42	553.78
KILMORE	20	Land Use Determination	20/06/1984	Y	21,936,606.69	2,193.66
LITTLE TEA TREE TRIBS (HAMILTON)	113	Proclaimed	2/08/1989	Y	1,687,519.87	168.75
MOUNT MACEDON (STONY CREEK)	13	Land Use Determination	8/04/1964	Y	1,024,911.69	102.49
MOUNT MACEDON (TURITABLE CREEK)	13	Land Use Determination	8/04/1964	Y	2,475,524.14	247.55
GISBORNE-SUNBURY (BARRINGO)	9	Land Use Determination	18/01/1961	Y	5,691,115.50	569.11
MUSICAL GULLY RESERVOIR (BEAUFORT)	100	Proclaimed	12/10/1988	Y	498,894.68	49.89
LITTLE TEA TREE TRIBS (HAMILTON)	113	Proclaimed	2/08/1989	Y	6,746,384.45	674.64
MACEDON (STONY CREEK)	14	Land Use Determination	8/04/1964	Y	1,658,556.72	165.86
SERRA RANGE TRIBUTARIES (DUNKELD)	112	Proclaimed	3/07/1991	Y	10,588,889.07	1,058.89
PARWAN	3	Proclaimed	1/02/1956	Y	148,942,225.05	14,894.22
LAL LAL RESERVOIR (RES ENVIRONS)	41A	Land Use Notice	14/11/1973	Y	22,181,300.40	2,218.13
YUPPECKIAR CREEK RESERVOIR (GLENTHOMPSON)	107	Proclaimed	14/06/1989	Y	1,198,881.44	119.89
MORTLAKE SPRING (MORTLAKE)	109	Proclaimed	3/07/1991	Y	13,243,076.71	1,324.31
STONY CREEK (GEELONG WWT)	51	Land Use Determination	21/06/1978	Y	28,323,791.27	2,832.38