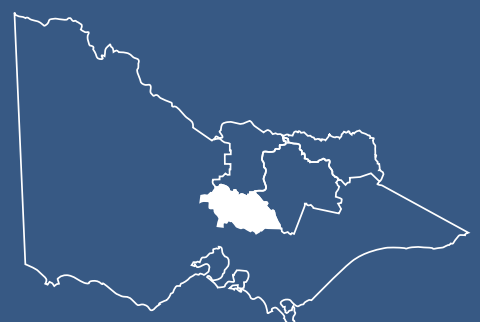




UPPER HUME SUB REGIONAL PLAN

*The **Hume Strategy** for sustainable communities*

2010-2020



A Victorian
Government
initiative



JULY 2010

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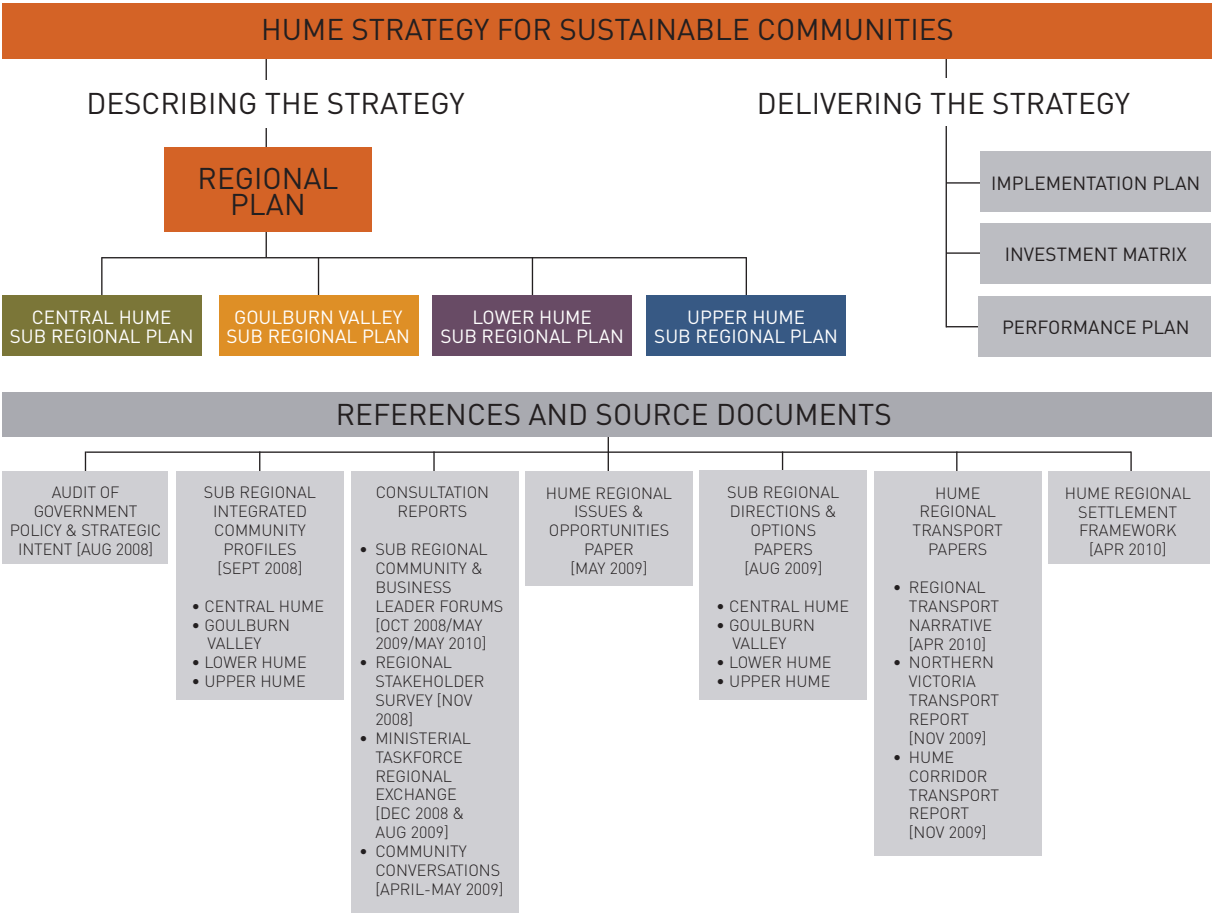
UPPER HUME SUB REGIONAL PLAN

*The **Hume Strategy** for sustainable communities*

The Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities (Hume Strategy) is an integrated plan connecting the four distinct sub regions that make up the Hume Region in North East Victoria and provides a framework for long term cooperation and investment (Map 1).

The Upper Hume Sub Regional Plan is one of five volumes that describe the Hume Strategy and is a companion document to the Hume Regional Plan. The Upper Hume Sub Regional Plan sits alongside the Central Hume, Lower Hume and Goulburn Valley Sub Regional Plans (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1. HUME STRATEGY DOCUMENT STRUCTURE



PREFACE



The Hume Regional Plan describes in detail the strategic framework and rationale for the directions and strategies included in all five volumes. Users are encouraged to read the regional plan prior to considering the sub regional plans because some of the higher-level strategic material has not been replicated in the sub regional documents. However, a short summary is provided below.

HUME STRATEGY: KEY COMPONENTS

VISION

The Hume Region will be resilient, diverse and thriving. It will capitalise on the strengths and competitive advantages of the four sub regions, to harness growth for the benefit of the region and to develop liveable and sustainable communities.

ACHIEVING THE VISION

The vision will be achieved by focusing effort on five key themes of environment, community, economy, transport and land use. The goals for these themes are articulated and developed further through a set of key directions. Underpinning each key direction is a series of recommendations for action at the regional level.

The five Hume Strategy themes and related goals that comprise the framework for action as set out in the Hume Regional Plan in summary are:

Environment: Natural resources protected and enhanced for current and future generations

Conserve the region's natural resources in order to protect their intrinsic values and support sustainable communities.

Communities: Healthy, vibrant and resilient communities

Strengthen communities by enhancing their liveability and sense of connectedness and improve their access to services, facilities and other opportunities.

Economic: A thriving and dynamic economy

Capitalise on the region's competitive advantages, opportunities and strengths, in order to continue to deliver prosperity and vitality.

Transport: An integrated network of efficient and high functioning transportation systems

Develop a network of integrated transport infrastructure and services in order to ensure that Hume will be a mobile region, with a capable transport system that provides quality, fast, safe efficient links for rural and regional communities.

Land Use: An efficient and sustainable pattern of urban and rural land use and development

Consolidate the development of four sub regions with high functioning networked centres, which together provide quality services and meet diverse needs. Stronger linkages will be developed between regional cities and centres and with other key cities and towns outside the Hume Region.

KEY CONCEPTS

The following key concepts underpin the Hume Strategy:

Networked settlements

The Hume Region has a relatively dispersed pattern of settlements, not dominated by a single large city. The larger towns and cities support networks of smaller settlements. The Hume Strategy proposes to build on this existing pattern by adopting a model of a 'networked multi-centred region', supported by integrated planning for mobility and transport.

Mobility

The major road and rail corridors and other transport links play crucial roles in connecting settlements and making services and facilities accessible to communities in the Hume Region. Equity of mobility is a fundamental objective of planning for transport and access in the Hume Region. The concept seeks to improve the ability of individuals to travel for employment, education, health, household needs and leisure. It also recognises that in some cases it may be more efficient to bring services to people, rather than people travelling to a centralised location for services.

Competitive advantage

Competitive advantages are the characteristics of a region or area that give it an edge over other comparable places. They may be natural or built assets, locational advantages or a combination of these factors. Building on competitive advantage is a fundamental tenet used in the Hume Strategy to frame actions for future success.

The Hume Strategy deals only with matters that are of strategic significance at a regional or sub regional level. To achieve this, the following criteria are applied:

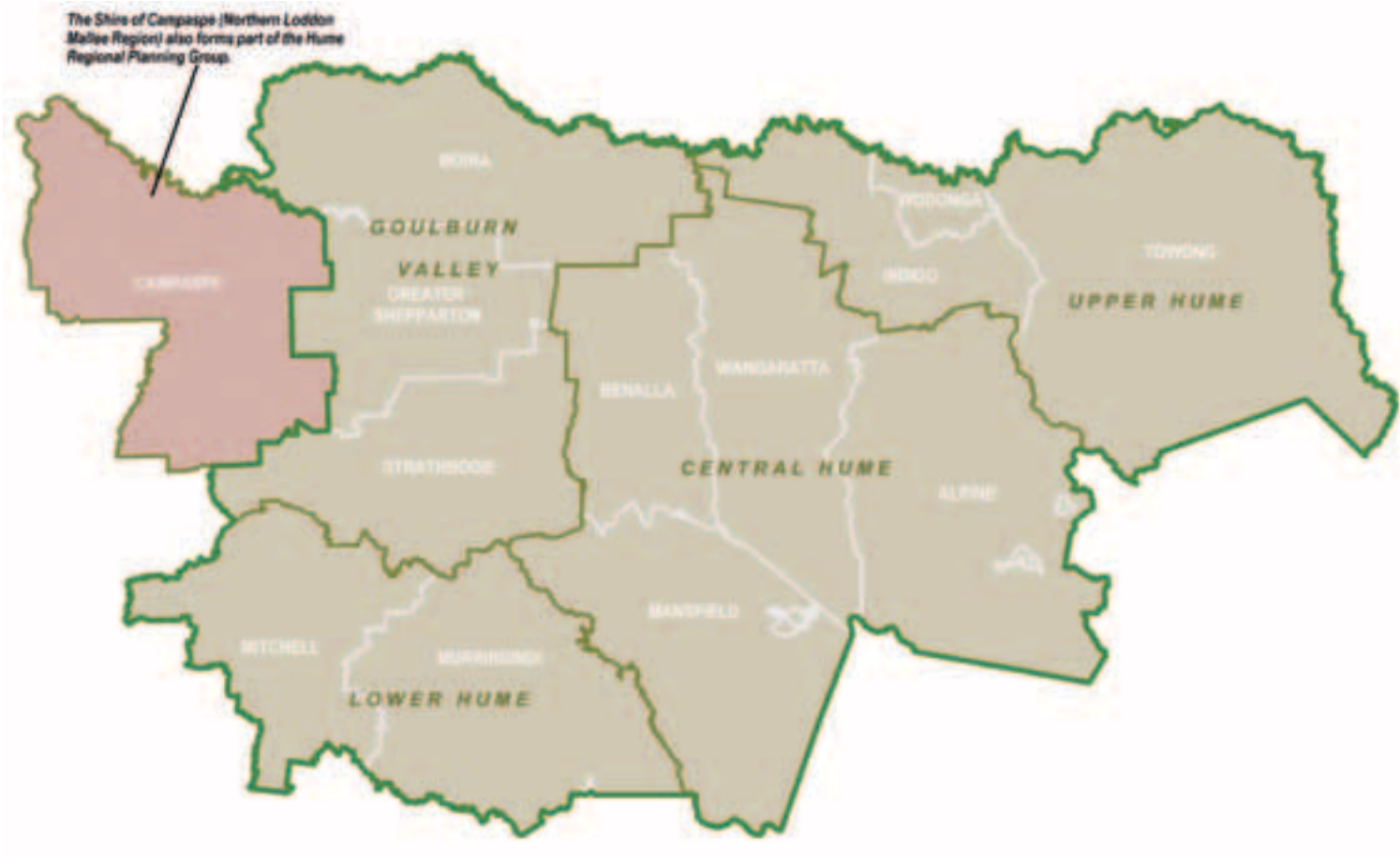
Regional: Matters that extend over or impact beyond a sub region.

Sub Regional: Matters that extend beyond a single municipality, but are unlikely to have a region wide impact.

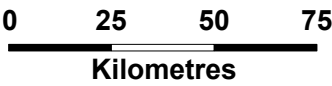
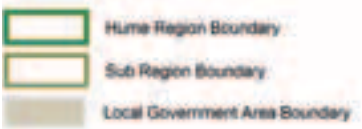
Local: Matters that are unlikely to be significant beyond the municipality concerned.

When reading the regional plan and the accompanying recommended region level actions, it is important to appreciate that the regional recommendations apply to all sub regions. The background studies that inform the regional plan also incorporate material of relevance to each sub region. The specific actions applying to the Upper Hume sub region are set out below and accompany the regional level actions that are contained in Appendix 1.

The purpose of the Upper Hume Sub Regional Plan is to articulate specific actions for this sub region. These include recommendations for collaboration and partnerships that can benefit communities which share interests and opportunities that extend beyond a single municipality.



MAP 1. HUME SUB REGIONS



PART 1: SETTING THE SCENE



THE UPPER HUME SUB REGION



MAP 2. UPPER HUME SUB REGION

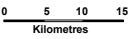


The Upper Hume sub region comprises three local government areas:

Indigo Shire

Towong Shire

Wodonga Rural City



STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Upper Hume sub region has a land area of 9,150 square kilometres and in 2006 had a population of 56,118. Most of the population is concentrated on the flatter areas in the sub region's west, at the point of transition between the foothills of the Great Dividing Range and the Western Plains, particularly in the large centre of Wodonga and the smaller towns of Beechworth, Chiltern and Rutherglen. Settlements in relatively close proximity to Wodonga, such as Bellbridge, Bethanga Peninsula, Yackandandah and Barnawartha are experiencing significant peri-urban development as 'dormitory' areas serving the main urban centres. The eastern part of the sub region is less accessible and more sparsely populated and whilst the total number of residents in Towong Shire increased marginally between 2001 and 2006, the population in the rural areas of the Shire declined.

Wodonga is growing rapidly and has gained more than 7,000 residents over the past 15 years. Wodonga has strong links to Albury, which is located directly across the Murray River in New South Wales, and together they provide an important focus for economic activity, higher education, health services, cultural activities and recreational amenity.

Wodonga has an important manufacturing base, with many national companies established in the area as well as a significant defence force presence. These industries provide a substantial and diversified employment base for the sub region. Many residents of peri-urban areas and towns such as Beechworth, Yackandandah and Tallangatta commute to Albury-Wodonga for work or for education. Albury-Wodonga is also the most accessible centre for Alpine Shire residents who live along the Kiewa Valley. Indigo Shire, on the other hand, also has strong links to Wangaratta in the Central Hume sub region.

Planning for this sub region presents a challenge due to the dichotomy between the rapid growth of Wodonga, with its young population profile and its peri-urban hinterland, and the ageing, dispersed population in the more remote areas of the sub region. On the one hand, there is a demand for new infrastructure and expanded services to accommodate additional residents, whilst on the other hand, maintaining existing infrastructure and service delivery presents different challenges. Issues for the future also include providing for a population of increasing cultural diversity, due to substantial numbers of overseas migrants moving into the area, as well as a significant Indigenous population living predominantly along the western edge of the Murray River corridor.

The growth of Wodonga and its peri-urban hinterland requires expanded services and infrastructure, while in the more remote areas in Towong—with their ageing and dispersed population—maintaining existing infrastructure and delivering services presents different challenges.

The Upper Hume sub region shares one of the major competitive advantages of the region as a whole, which is its location astride transport corridors of national importance. The Hume Freeway and Melbourne-Sydney rail link provide a platform for freight transport and logistics industries, in addition to passenger rail and bus transport. The Murray Valley Highway provides an important east-west linkage across the sub region. Whilst the north-south corridors are well developed, there is a need to improve east-west connections in the sub region.

The alignment for the proposed Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail line is to be determined by the Commonwealth Government. There are two options being canvassed, the Hume transport corridor through Albury-Wodonga and the Goulburn Valley transport corridor through Shepparton. Selection of the Hume corridor route would result in significant benefits to the Upper Hume sub region.

Key industries in the Upper Hume sub region are manufacturing, retail, health care and public administration, including defence. Most employment growth in the last decade has been in the manufacturing and construction industries, fuelled by strong population and household growth in Wodonga. The City of Wodonga has developed a transport logistics centre at the junction of the Hume Freeway and the Murray Valley Highway. This site already has major tenants and when fully developed will provide significant employment within the sub region. For Indigo and Towong Shires the biggest employers and economic drivers are agriculture and related activities, tourism and retail.

Grazing accounts for over three-quarters of agricultural land use in each of the three municipalities, with beef cattle, sheep and milk products being the highest-value local commodities.

Tourism in the sub region focuses on heritage, wine and food, recreational assets and nature-based touring. The historic town of Beechworth is a major attraction and a popular rural-residential location, given its proximity to employment opportunities in Albury, Wodonga and Wangaratta. Rutherglen has a unique connection to wine making and wine tourism.

The Upper Hume sub region contains several prominent water bodies including Dartmouth Dam, Lake Hume, the Murray River and the Mitta Mitta River. The Ovens, Kiewa and Upper Murray basins contribute 38 per cent of the total inflows to the Murray-Darling Basin. The rivers and lakes also have tourism, recreational, historical and conservation values.

The sub region has very high environmental values. The public land along the Great Dividing Range contains the Alpine National Park and a number of other state and national parks. The Chiltern Box-Ironbark National Park in the west is of particular importance as habitat for threatened flora and fauna, and as a bio-link to the Ovens River corridor to the east.

The Upper Hume sub region is well serviced in higher education. La Trobe University has a student campus in Wodonga and a multi-purpose centre in Beechworth, Wodonga TAFE offers a broad range of courses and Albury- Wodonga Community College is expanding its higher education offerings. Albury has campuses of Charles Sturt University, the University of New South Wales School of Medicine and Riverina TAFE. These facilities can be accessed easily from Wodonga and its surrounds.

Cultural and recreational amenities in the sub region – including theatres, art galleries, performing arts facilities, aquatic centres and sporting facilities – are located predominantly in Wodonga and Albury.

PART 2: THE UPPER HUME SUB REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



ENVIRONMENT THEME

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

CONTEXT

The future climate of North East Victoria is expected to be hotter and drier than it is today. By 2070, under a high growth scenario for greenhouse gas emissions, Beechworth's temperatures would resemble those of present day Bonegilla and its annual rainfall would be similar to present day Charlton, while for Rutherglen, both temperature and annual rainfall would resemble those of present day Dubbo in New South Wales.

Water is a major consideration in determining desirable future settlement patterns. A number of settlements in the sub region lack a reticulated domestic water supply. This raises concerns regarding future water security for existing homes and may constitute a potential public health risk. Water shortages are likely to be heightened by the ongoing impacts of drought. In addition, the effects of agricultural activities on water quality must be recognised and increased priority given to protecting sources of potable water. This is particularly important as the whole of Towong Shire is within a declared Special Water Supply Catchment — that is, a catchment supplying water for urban and/or domestic and stock use.

Retaining water for environmental and amenity needs — including maintaining river health, environmental flows, biodiversity, vegetation, parklands and open spaces — also requires careful planning. The sub region should take advantage of opportunities to develop recycled water supplies to irrigate urban parks, gardens and playing fields.

The Upper Hume sub region covers three 'bioregions': the spectacular alpine country, forests and river valleys of the Northern Fall; the grassy woodlands of the Northern Inland Slopes; and the gently undulating and plains landscapes of the Victorian Riverina. These bioregions contain mountain ranges, the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, foothill slopes and minor ranges separated by river valleys that drain northward from the high country to the Murray River, and wide flood plain areas associated with major river systems, including the Murray River and the Kiewa River. Managing the significant public land component including part of the Alpine National Park and large areas of State Forest is a major focus for the sub region. The legacy of past broad-scale clearing remains a problem in this area, along with ongoing loss of hollow-bearing trees and fragmentation of grasslands and woodlands. Management actions to re-link these vegetation communities through the creation of biodiversity corridors and appropriate restoration activities would protect and enhance the biologically diverse communities and ecosystems that exist within the Upper Hume sub region.

Many settlements in Upper Hume lack a reticulated supply of natural gas for commercial and residential use. The high cost of bottled liquefied petroleum gas discourages its use and leads to dependence on energy sources such as electricity and wood, which produce more greenhouse gases. This imposes significant costs—both economic and environmental—on many communities and limits future commercial growth within the sub region. In addition, the infrastructure for electricity supply to rural areas is ageing and is unreliable in extreme climatic conditions, when demands can increase suddenly. There is a need to develop alternative sustainable energy sources, to enable the sub region to remain competitive in the future.

Furthermore, the lack of public transport options in many areas of the Upper Hume sub region leads to high car dependency. Not only is this costly for individuals and households, but it adds to fossil fuel consumption by people living or working in these areas.

The Hume Strategy identifies the following four key directions under the environment theme – *Natural resources protected and enhanced for current and future generations*:

- 1 Anticipating and adapting to the effects of climate change**
- 2 Managing our water resources sustainably**
- 3 Protecting native habitat and biodiversity**
- 4 Harnessing renewable energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pursuing innovative waste management approaches**

Related priority strategies and actions that have significance at the Upper Hume sub regional level are presented on the following pages.

KEY DIRECTION 1

ANTICIPATING AND ADAPTING TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 1.1 Reducing the Hume Region's carbon footprint
- 1.2 Being informed about climate change
- 1.3 Local leadership supporting local initiatives
- 1.4 Harnessing opportunities
- 1.5 Integrated planning approaches

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

Apart from the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, there are no specific actions identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

KEY DIRECTION 2

MANAGING OUR WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 2.1 A water view for the region
- 2.2 Water management through innovation
- 2.3 Water guiding planning outcomes
- 2.4 Valuing ecosystem services of rivers, streams and wetlands

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 2.1.UH1: Implement the outcomes of the 'North East Victoria – Adapting to a low water future' project.
- 2.2.UH1: Promote the development of innovative solutions to improve water supply, sewerage and wastewater management in settlements in the Upper Hume sub region.
- 2.2.UH2: Investigate opportunities for wastewater reuse from industry or reticulated settlement systems.
- 2.3.UH1: Work in partnership with North East Water and industry to install infrastructure that enables appropriate use of wastewater.

KEY DIRECTION 3

PROTECTING NATIVE HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 3.1 Management of regional biodiversity
- 3.2 Land use planning and biodiversity
- 3.3 Protection and management of native habitat
- 3.4 Education, incentives and community

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

Apart from the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, there are no specific actions identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

KEY DIRECTION 4

HARNESSING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND PURSUING INNOVATIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 4.1 Regional energy planning
- 4.2 Energy and innovation
- 4.3 Regional energy action
- 4.4 Waste management and innovation

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 4.1.UH1: Develop a public streetlight project in conjunction with the North East Greenhouse Alliance to reduce greenhouse emissions from street lighting.
- 4.1.UH2: Investigate provision of training in renewable energy technologies within the sub region.
- 4.2.UH1: Expand existing sustainable energy projects, for example Pure Towong Energy to facilitate community take up of new technology.
- 4.2.UH2: Facilitate community access and use of locally produced biodiesel.
- 4.2.UH3: Examine the potential for a small scale biomass gasification project.
- 4.3.UH1: Investigate the potential for a waste to energy facility within the sub region.
- 4.3.UH2: Investigate the potential of a solar power generation plant in Wodonga.
- 4.3.UH3: Encourage the establishment of firewood plantations on private property.
- 4.4.UH1: Support the creation of a Renewable Energy Hub to co-locate industries, aimed at maximising resource use efficiency and minimising waste generation.

COMMUNITIES THEME

HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

CONTEXT

The demographic structure of the Upper Hume sub region is changing, with the number of people aged over 60 years expected to more than double and to comprise one-third of the population in 2036. Wodonga, however, has a higher than average proportion of residents aged 18 to 34 years compared with Victoria as a whole.

In addition to meeting the needs of a relatively young population in some areas, social services and infrastructure need to be responsive to the requirements of ageing rural and urban residents and the influx of 'tree change' retirees. Service demands arising from concentrations of social housing in regional cities and centres also provide challenges. Slowing the movement of young people away to capital and major regional cities is an issue for some areas.

Major influences on the sub region are its distance from the State capital cities of Melbourne and Sydney coupled with the proximity of Wodonga to Albury. Albury and Wodonga, when considered together provide a population size and level of service in some sectors similar to those Victorian settlements defined as major regional cities (such as Bendigo and Ballarat). With a combined population of 76,200 Albury and Wodonga represents a significantly larger urban centre than Shepparton-Mooroopna, which has a combined population of just under 36,000.

Albury Wodonga Health was established in July 2009 to provide integrated cross border public hospital services. Opportunities exist to build on this innovative model to improve social and health outcomes, reduce duplication and address administrative anomalies between jurisdictions. There are many benefits to be gained from acknowledging the inter-connections between these adjacent cities and their relationships with other settlements, such as Wangaratta and Benalla, as well as many smaller settlements in both Victoria and New South Wales.

Beechworth, Rutherglen and Chiltern in Indigo Shire are other mid-size settlements in Upper Hume that depend on Albury and Wodonga for many services. In Towong Shire, Tallangatta is also within commuting distance to specialist health and community service agencies in Albury and Wodonga. In Corryong, a mix of outreach and locally based services are provided through the local health and community services agency. Providing access to a range of health and social services is important for the sub region and requires a variety of approaches, particularly for relatively isolated communities in the far east of Upper Hume.

Upper Hume is in a strong position to build on its strengths in education and learning opportunities, particularly in post-compulsory education. These local assets can be harnessed to increase educational aspiration in the more disadvantaged communities of the Upper Hume sub region — particularly in Wodonga — and to improve their socio-economic status. Opportunities exist to attract and retain more young people in Wodonga and surrounding communities, which will strengthen the local skills base. The Upper Hume sub region has a considerable and growing population of Indigenous people as well as recent migrants from overseas countries. It is important that all people from Indigenous communities or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have equitable access to education and to culturally appropriate programs and pathways for learning and development.

The proposed performing arts centre in Wodonga will enhance opportunities for participation in the performing arts, in addition to those that already exist through the Flying Fruit Fly Circus and School, a nationally significant youth performing arts organisation.

The Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program (AVCLP) has operated since 1999 and its area of influence extends into the Upper Hume sub region. AVCLP develops emerging community leaders and also provides opportunities for community strengthening through a network of existing community and business leaders that extends beyond the sub region. Towong Shire is also developing a locally focused community leadership program with support from AVCLP. Leadership is a valued asset that warrants nurturing and promoting in the sub region.

The Hume Strategy identifies the following four key directions under the communities theme – *Healthy, vibrant and resilient communities*:

- 5 Embracing learning for life**
- 6 Providing appropriate and accessible social services and infrastructure**
- 7 Developing innovative and flexible service delivery models**
- 8 Strengthening communities, increasing resilience and enhancing liveability**

Related priority strategies and actions that have significance at the Upper Hume sub regional level are presented on the following pages.

KEY DIRECTION 5
EMBRACING LEARNING FOR LIFE

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 5.1 Create 21st Century spaces for communities through growth and sharing of resources
- 5.2 Provide opportunities for young people to engage with learning through multiple pathways and seamless transitions
- 5.3 Foster a culture of excellence and aspiration in learning

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 5.2.UH1: Investigate and prepare assessments for establishing or further developing existing Centres for Higher Education and Research in Upper Hume in the areas of health and community services, as hubs for research, training and development.
- 5.2.UH2: Support expansion of courses at La Trobe University Wodonga, Wodonga TAFE and Albury-Wodonga Community College to meet key learning and skills gaps.
- 5.3.UH1: Support the needs of the Upper Hume sub region’s culturally diverse communities in ensuring equity of access to high quality education for children and young people.

KEY DIRECTION 6
PROVIDING APPROPRIATE AND ACCESSIBLE SOCIAL SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 6.1 Build networked communities
- 6.2 Expand service access pathways
- 6.3 Develop and renew services and infrastructure
- 6.4 Enhance participation in arts, culture, sport and recreation

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 6.2.UH1: Implement strategies to improve access to general practitioner medical services and to dental services for people living in Towong and Indigo Shires.
- 6.4.UH1: Investigate opportunities for community participation in arts and culture linked to the establishment of a new performing arts centre in Wodonga.

KEY DIRECTION 7

DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE AND FLEXIBLE SERVICE DELIVERY MODELS

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 7.1 Sub regional service and infrastructure planning
- 7.2 Service coordination and resource sharing

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 7.1.UH1: Actively explore opportunities for establishing specialist cross-border best practice regional health services, including accommodation centres in Albury-Wodonga to improve health outcomes for people living in this large population centre and its broad rural catchment.
- 7.1.UH2: Plan for growth in Wodonga, particularly in relation to the likely need for early childhood services, education, community centres and aged care services.
- 7.2.UH1: Investigate further opportunities for cross-border service integration to improve coordination and reduce unnecessary duplication of health and community services along the Victorian-New South Wales border as part of the Murray River Settlement Strategy project.

KEY DIRECTION 8

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, INCREASING RESILIENCE AND ENHANCING LIVEABILITY

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 8.1 Engagement and capacity building of people and places
- 8.2 Housing diversity and local amenity
- 8.3 Safer and capable communities

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 8.1.UH1: Strengthen community leadership skills development and utilise the existing and emerging community leadership base in the Upper Hume sub region through participatory community development projects.
- 8.1.UH2: Target community strengthening activities to the relatively highly disadvantaged urban communities in Wodonga and small rural communities in other parts of the Upper Hume sub region that are facing adjustment challenges.

ECONOMIC THEME

A THRIVING AND DYNAMIC ECONOMY

CONTEXT

Key industries in the Upper Hume sub region include manufacturing, retail, health care and public administration. Most employment growth in the last decade has been in the construction industry. The timber industry, agriculture, food processing and wine are also important economic contributors. The key economic challenges for the Upper Hume sub region relate to improving communities' capacity to respond to economic crises, changing demographic structures and climate change.

In some cases, the global recession has accelerated industry restructuring in the sub region, for example, firms consolidating or moving part of their production offshore. The drought is also having a major impact on agriculture and food processing industries.

Catering for peak seasonal tourism, particularly along the Murray River corridor, places extra demands on infrastructure agencies and local government. Smaller councils are also constrained in their capacity to facilitate major business development in their areas.

A range of post compulsory education opportunities are available in Upper Hume sub region, particularly in Wodonga. The Hume Strategy identifies that there should be measures to support and provide options for residents to stay in the region and learn locally. Therefore, the need for further capacity in student accommodation has been identified by stakeholders in Upper Hume sub region as important for assisting and furthering learning and skill development opportunities.

Workforce sustainability is important to employers, given the ageing of the existing workforce and the difficulty of finding replacements with appropriate training and skills. There are job vacancies in some industries that are proving hard to fill, particularly in the health sector and for skilled workers in manufacturing. Effective recruitment will be enhanced by provision of quality community and commercial services in Upper Hume.

Wodonga has over 900 hectares of land available for industrial development, that is, over 50 years supply. The price of business inputs, in particular rising energy costs and fuel for the transport sector, impacts on profitability. The freight logistics capacity at the Logic Centre provides a significant competitive advantage for the Upper Hume sub region and Hume Region as a whole. Ensuring that there is high quality infrastructure available to industry will deliver long term benefits to the community.

The implications of climate change for the Upper Hume economy need to be understood, especially in terms of the availability of and access to water for agriculture and tourism. It is probable that snow coverage and

duration will decline, which will impact on the economic contribution of Alpine Resorts. The sub region's manufacturing industries are highly dependent on carbon-intensive energy sources that are likely to become much more expensive in the future.

The Hume Strategy identifies the following four key directions under the economic theme – *A thriving and dynamic economy*:

- 9 Strengthening a capable workforce**
- 10 Adapting and diversifying agriculture in an environment of change**
- 11 Facilitating research and innovation in tourism, manufacturing and industry to encourage new and evolving business**
- 12 Developing ICT and energy infrastructure that builds on existing competitive advantages**

Related priority strategies and actions that have significance at the Upper Hume sub regional level are presented on the following pages.

KEY DIRECTION 9

STRENGTHENING A CAPABLE WORKFORCE

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 9.1 Matching skills to employment needs
- 9.2 Improving, expanding and retaining a skilled workforce
- 9.3 Fostering links between schools, employers and post compulsory education providers
- 9.4 Stimulating business and jobs growth

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 9.1.UH1: Develop a sub regional marketing campaign with programs aimed at attracting skilled migration to Upper Hume.
- 9.1.UH2: Explore opportunities for outreach programs via Goulburn Ovens TAFE and Wodonga TAFE with reference to specific industry requirements.
- 9.1.UH3: Review and assess the utility of the marketing campaign used to attract medical practitioners and apply key learnings from this approach to other areas or sectors experiencing skills shortages.
- 9.2.UH1: Advocate for the operation of a migrant resource service in Upper Hume, to include supports in settlement needs, housing, employment and qualifications, health and education for new residents.
- 9.2.UH2: Advocate for an ongoing settlement assistance program.
- 9.2.UH3: Support Latrobe University to develop and construct student accommodation in Wodonga.
- 9.4.UH1: Develop a Government Services Centre in Wodonga that will enable regionalisation of state and commonwealth government services.

KEY DIRECTION 10

ADAPTING AND DIVERSIFYING AGRICULTURE IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF CHANGE

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 10.1 Supporting the next generation of agricultural opportunities
- 10.2 Ensuring the future viability and adaptability of productive rural land

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 10.1.UH1: Investigate the feasibility of a multi disciplinary centre for learning and skills development in agriculture.
- 10.1.UH2: Examine and report on the type of secondary business capacities required to contribute to the future diversification and intensification of agriculture in Upper Hume.
- 10.1.UH3: Develop the Towong Shire 'My Farm' telemetry service to enable widespread take-up and use of the service across the region.
- 10.2.UH1: Encourage the use of new technology such as the Towong 'My Farm' telemetry for farm practices by facilitating knowledge sharing gained from the implementation of innovative projects.
- 10.2.UH2: Develop projects and secure resources for undertaking innovative sustainability approaches to respond to climate change that consider carbon sequestration as a growth industry in agriculture.

KEY DIRECTION 11

FACILITATING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN TOURISM, MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRY TO ENCOURAGE NEW AND EVOLVING BUSINESS

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 11.1 Strengthening a tourism industry that builds on the competitive advantages of the Hume Region
- 11.2 Facilitating leadership in innovation, research and development
- 11.3 Identifying development capacity that will contribute to stimulating industry expansion

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 11.1.UH1: Integrate Snowy Valley Way Tourism marketing with Hume Region level tourism loop marketing and signage approaches.
- 11.1.UH2: Improve tourist precinct services between Wodonga and the tourist precincts of Rutherglen, Beechworth and Yackandandah.
- 11.1.UH3: Secure funding to seal the unsealed section of the Omeo Highway and the Shelley-Walwa Road as touring roads.
- 11.1.UH4: Provide tourist viewing points and facilities at appropriate locations on important road links.
- 11.1.UH5: Develop a detailed Upper Hume sub regional strategy for off-road cycling paths, including the Rutherglen to Bowser trail, links associated with the High Country Rail Trail and connections with the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, in order to strengthen the appeal for the region for cycle touring.
- 11.1.UH6: Pursue shoulder widening on key routes to improve safety for on-road cycling.
- 11.1.UH7: Maintain and grow support for innovative events that provide new or expanded tourism opportunities.
- 11.2.UH1: Assess the potential for a Centre of Excellence in health training and research in Upper Hume. Such a centre would be complimentary to the possible focus of other centres in the Hume Region as well as existing health training provided in Albury.

KEY DIRECTION 12

DEVELOPING ICT AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE THAT BUILDS ON EXISTING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 12.1 Securing world class ICT infrastructure and services for the Hume Region
- 12.2 Establishing the future of the Hume Region as a centre of excellence for renewable energy technology and infrastructure

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 12.2.UH1: Encourage and provide incentives for the development of an Upper Hume 'waste to energy' industry.

TRANSPORT THEME

AN INTEGRATED NETWORK OF EFFICIENT AND HIGH FUNCTIONING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

CONTEXT

The Upper Hume sub region settlement pattern makes the provision of public transport to all communities a challenging task. Growing urban populations as well as ageing and less mobile residents in rural areas require increased capacity for passenger transport within and between major centres and particularly to Melbourne. The V/Line road-coach network and good connections between rail and local bus services will continue to be important for regional communities.

For smaller and more remote settlements, the challenge is to ensure that transport to vital services, shops and entertainment is accessible, with flexible transport solutions to reduce the need to rely private vehicle use. Walking and cycling offer benefits for health and social interaction and can help reduce congestion in busy town centres. Creating a linked sub regional network of cycling routes is important for these reasons and it also presents the opportunity to capitalise on cycle tourism for social and economic benefit.

The freight task on the Hume Freeway is expected to increase by 50 percent in the next 20 years. Building on and expanding an efficient freight and logistics system to accommodate increasing freight volumes will assist in developing key regional industries. The timber industry makes a considerable economic contribution of jobs and income to the sub region. Key transport routes for the industry need to be reflected in the state's freight route hierarchy. Upgrades are needed to key roads, aviation facilities and the Regional Rail Freight Network to meet freight transport needs not just for the timber industry, but for other major industry sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing.

The Hume transport corridor alignment option for the proposed Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail is supported by stakeholders in the Central and Upper Hume sub regions. Efforts to secure this alignment will be advanced by these stakeholders.

The North East Transport Connections Program covers the Upper Hume sub region's local government areas. The program aims to improve the connectivity and remote and isolated areas and accessibility from them to larger centres in the sub region.

The Hume Strategy identifies the following four key directions under the transport theme – *An integrated network of efficient and high functioning transportation systems*:

- 13 Enhancing integrated planning for mobility**
- 14 Developing a proficient land transportation system**
- 15 Linking communities through improved public transport and transport linkages**
- 16 Strengthening the sustainability of the transport system**

Related priority strategies and actions that have significance at the Upper Hume sub regional level are presented on the following pages.

KEY DIRECTION 13

ENHANCING INTEGRATED PLANNING FOR MOBILITY

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 13.1 Plan and advocate for a high quality regional transport system
- 13.2 Building an integrated transport system

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 13.1.UH1: Establish and administer working parties as required to support the implementation of key sub regional actions in the Hume Corridor Regional Transport Strategy relevant to Upper Hume sub region.
- 13.1.UH2: Advocate for the Murray Valley Highway between Corryong, Tallangatta and Wodonga and the Kiewa Valley Highway between Mt Beauty and Baranduda to be incorporated into the State Government’s Principal (Regional) Freight Network.
- 13.1.UH3: Develop the rail to road intermodal facility at Logic Wodonga.

KEY DIRECTION 14

DEVELOPING A PROFICIENT LAND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 14.1 Accelerating the completion of high standard road links
- 14.2 Delivering important rail infrastructure
- 14.3 Future-proofing existing transport routes by maintaining a high level of service

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 14.1.UH1: Identify and advocate for improvements to the Murray Valley Highway east of Wodonga and into Towong Shire.
- 14.1.UH2: Increase the rate of road improvements to facilitate higher mass transport movements across east and west transport routes for major industries such as Uncle Toby’s, Murray Goulburn and the Logic Centre.
- 14.2.UH1: Continue improvements to the rail system to facilitate future high speed rail links between Wodonga and Melbourne.
- 14.2.UH2: Advocate for the proposed Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail alignment to be constructed in the Hume transport corridor.

KEY DIRECTION 15

LINKING COMMUNITIES THROUGH IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT LINKAGES

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 15.1 Enhance key transport linkages between settlements
- 15.2 Provide safety upgrades of the region's land transportation system

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region.

- 15.1.UH1: Advocate for increased seven-day services in both directions for rail and bus services from Wodonga, Wangaratta and Benalla to Bendigo.
- 15.1.UH2: Increase the service level frequency for the Corryong–Tallangatta–Wodonga and the Yackandandah to Beechworth services.
- 15.2.UH1: Further investigate and develop action plans to mitigate the impact of freight traffic on settlements in the sub region, particularly the movements due to traffic from the Logic Centre.
- 15.2.UH2: Upgrade local roads such as the Wodonga to Beechworth Road, the Up River Road (after the Corowa/ Wahgunyah Bypass) and Federation Bridge crossing of the Murray River to cater for regional and cross border heavy vehicle traffic.
- 15.2.UH3: Plan for a dedicated heavy vehicle bypass around Yackandandah.
- 15.2.UH4: Provide a heavy vehicle bypass around Rutherglen.

KEY DIRECTION 16

STRENGTHENING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 16.1 Develop travel options to increase public transport patronage
- 16.3 Partnerships for delivering the Hume Region transportation system

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region:

- 16.1.UH1: Review the funding and delivery of the North East Transport Connections Program in order to maximise the benefits from allocated funding.

LAND USE THEME

AN EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE PATTERN OF URBAN AND RURAL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

CONTEXT

The Upper Hume sub region has four distinct land use planning issues:

- > Growth issues associated with Wodonga and its peri-urban hinterland.
- > A dispersed and ageing population in Towong Shire and some parts of Indigo Shire.
- > Changing agricultural practices and land use.
- > Providing cost effective services to settlements that have potential to accommodate growth.

Land use planning policy for the three councils in the sub region are reflected in the Local Planning Policy Frameworks (LPPF) of their planning schemes. Wodonga's has an urban focus, whilst Indigo Shire seeks to balance rural lifestyles—including in small towns—with retaining agricultural landscapes. Towong's LPPF promotes rural lifestyles and agriculture.

One key factor in planning to accommodate current and future residents is that housing demand has increased more strongly than population growth in recent decades. This is due to declining household size—especially the prevalence of single or two-person households—as well as an increase in second-home ownership.

Other planning issues for the sub region include: managing residential growth on the fringes of Wodonga; better integration of transport and land use; and managing interface issues between potentially incompatible land uses in urban and rural areas.

Wodonga is currently developing both on peripheral greenfields sites and through intensification of uses and developments on land within the established urban area. Urban renewal is focussed on the old railway land and development of the central business district (CBD).

Land use patterns in many communities reflect the attractiveness of the area for commuter lifestyles. Land use change and increased urban development are impacting on the health of ecosystems. The amenity of settlements and landscapes, and the ecology of waterways and flood plains need to be protected through planning.

It is important that productive and potentially productive farming land is protected for its future contribution to the sub region's agricultural output, while lifestyle and hobby farmers are directed to areas that are less critical to the rural economy. A balance must be reached where the landscape is not a patchwork of lifestyle lots. This is particularly important for Indigo Shire where landscape values are intrinsic to tourism potential.

Towong Shire's decision to rezone the majority of its rural land to the new Rural Activity Zone (RAZ) is a unique approach in the Hume Region and possibly in provincial Victoria. The RAZ is less prohibitive than the Farming Zone

(FZ)—which is widely used elsewhere—and allows a rural Shire more flexibility in approving uses or developments that are seen to provide benefits to its community. This presents the sub region with opportunities that may potentially be significant, but also provides a challenge in ensuring a balanced and appropriate form of rural land use management.

Undertaking comprehensive settlement planning will assist to defining the role and functions of towns as they relate to each other. This piece of work is important as part of the overall implementation package for the Hume Strategy.

Achieving more consistent planning outcomes on both sides of the Murray River is critical for the Upper Hume sub region. There is a tendency for some river towns in New South Wales to depend on essential infrastructure provided in their Victorian counterparts.

However, the opposite may be true in the relationship between Albury and Wodonga. The proposed Murray River Settlement Strategy is central to considering cross border needs in addressing land use planning, service delivery, resourcing, administration and regulatory matters.

One other challenge identified in relation to planning within the sub region is that Indigo and Towong Shires lack the resources to undertake the level of strategic planning that is needed for the future and to administer local planning schemes effectively.

The Hume Strategy identifies the following four key directions under the land use theme – *An efficient and sustainable pattern of urban and rural land use and development*:

- 17 Directing future population growth to settlements with the greatest capacity to accommodate it**
- 18 Maximising the use of existing infrastructure and services and facilitating strategic investment in future infrastructure and services**
- 19 Retaining productive rural land for agriculture and other compatible rural uses**
- 20 Ensuring efficient use of land use planning resources in the region**

Related priority strategies and actions that have significance at the Upper Hume sub regional level are presented on the following pages.

KEY DIRECTION 17

DIRECTING FUTURE POPULATION GROWTH TO SETTLEMENTS WITH THE GREATEST CAPABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE IT

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 17.1 Facilitate and plan for growth in regional cities and centres as the key drivers for growth and service delivery in the region supported by a network of district towns, towns and villages
- 17.2 Manage growth in small settlements

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region:

- 17.1.UH1: Develop a settlement plan for Wodonga and surrounds as one of the region's pilot projects to enable the development of sub regional settlement plans.
- 17.1.UH2: Harness and support the unique opportunity provided by the Wodonga rail bypass to renew the centre of its CBD as a renewal project of a central business area.
- 17.1.UH3: Promote residential development in Indigo Shire and Towong Shire — through projects such as the Tallangatta Revitalisation project and Bellbridge Infrastructure Development — to provide alternative living opportunities in appropriate urban localities.
- 17.1.UH4: Investigate the need to develop a Rural Living Strategy for the Upper Hume sub region.
- 17.2.UH1: Develop local policies/strategies to manage development and service delivery in small settlements and rural areas particularly relating to remote areas (such as parts of Towong and Indigo Shires) and in areas close to existing major infrastructure.

KEY DIRECTION 18

MAXIMISING USE OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES AND FACILITATING STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 18.1 Coordinate service delivery in strongly linked settlements
- 18.2 Plan for growth in settlements within relatively close proximity to Melbourne

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region:

- 18.1.UH1: Investigate specific opportunities to coordinate service delivery and infrastructure between Wodonga and Albury.

KEY DIRECTION 19

RETAINING PRODUCTIVE RURAL LAND FOR AGRICULTURE AND OTHER COMPATIBLE RURAL USES

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 19.1 Manage land use in rural areas to sustainably accommodate all rural land uses

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume Sub Region.

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region:

- 19.1.UH1: Continue to develop and implement rural land use strategies at a local/sub regional level. Rural land use strategies for areas in the Upper Hume sub region should specifically consider the following factors:
 - > Achieving a balance between rural residential subdivision and retention of agricultural landscapes and production.
 - > Protecting local amenity.

KEY DIRECTION 20

ENSURING EFFICIENT USE OF LAND USE PLANNING RESOURCES IN THE REGION

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

- 20.1 A regional / sub regional partnership approach to strategic land use planning
- 20.2 Training of land use planning professionals and increasing the availability of expert advice

SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the regional actions listed in Appendix 1 of this plan, the following actions have been identified as significant to the Upper Hume sub region:

- 20.1.UH1: Review planning provisions applying to Albury and Wodonga and identify opportunities for applying consistent approaches as a pilot project to spearhead the identification of similar opportunities in other cross-border settlements.

(NOTE - ALL ACTIONS LISTED IN THE TABLE BELOW ARE ACTIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE UPPER HUME SUB REGIONAL PLAN)

PART 3: APPENDIX LIST OF REGIONAL AND UPPER HUME SUB REGIONAL ACTIONS



NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS		
Key Direction	1	Anticipating and adapting to the effects of climate change
Priority Strategy	1.1	Reducing the Hume Region's carbon footprint
Actions of regional significance	1.1.1	Development of a comprehensive and integrated Regional Climate Change Strategy, consistent with Victoria's Climate Change White Paper, detailing reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change adaptations, and opportunities for green industry development.
	1.1.2	Undertake social, environmental and economic impact assessment of the consequences of a changed Hume Region climate.
	1.1.3	Investigate the utility and potential scope of a Regional Carbon Management Plan that directs and coordinates the Hume Regions response to climate change, through the economic, social and environmental assessment of identified regional opportunities.
	1.1.4	Investigate impact of Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme on local agriculture and industries.
	1.1.5	Commit Hume Region to incorporating high levels of energy and water efficiency in all major projects and both industrial and residential developments.
	1.1.6	Critically identify, analyse and promote economic opportunities resulting from climate change that provide competitive advantages for the region.
	1.1.7	Investigate transferability of Climate Change Adaptation Research Projects (for example the Alpine and Towong Shires Climate Change Adaptation Project) occurring within the region.
	1.1.8	Investigate potential for the setting of regional and sub regional targets to reduce carbon emissions.
Priority Strategy	1.2	Being informed about climate change
Actions of regional significance	1.2.1	Investigate and develop programs to tackle climate change applied through an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach, based on knowledge and science.
	1.2.2	Establish a 'Centre of Excellence' for climate change with a 'think tank' of technical experts to generate evidence and research into climate change impacts in specific areas or industries, building on the significant amount of environmental, agricultural and social science research undertaken already in response to sustainability and climate change issues.
	1.2.3	Strongly support analysis of available information and science for the development of climate change adaptation programs and strategies.
	1.2.4	Investigate opportunities for adaptive integration between sectors, for example carbon sequestration/forestry/biolinks/riparian management/water quality.
	1.2.5	Develop a 'Climate Watch' program for schools and community groups modelled on the 'Water Watch' program.
	1.2.6	Develop an online Clearing House that provides a range of tools such as a library of natural resource management information relevant to the Hume Region, for example state and local plans, policies and strategies.
Priority Strategy	1.3	Local leadership supporting local initiatives
Actions of regional significance	1.3.1	Create better links between government and community, promote and support local leadership on climate change to inform future thinking about local initiatives.
	1.3.2	Establish a Hume Regional Climate Change Forum comprising a network of leaders in community, government and business to build capacity for the region to adapt to climate change and provide leadership, coordination and advocacy for coordination of sustainability and climate change responses.
	1.3.3	Explore the development of a web based tool for community to access up to date information on regional climate change mitigation and adaptation and to promote regional events and opportunities.
	1.3.4	Promote and build the capacity of community sustainability and climate change networks by offering practical support for participants, such as training opportunities and funding grants.
Priority Strategy	1.4	Harnessing opportunities
Actions of regional significance	1.4.1	Support local government to address climate change collectively by building economies of scale for initiatives such as bulk purchasing of energy, to support local leadership to harness new opportunities.
	1.4.2	Support local government to form partnerships with government, community groups, and greenhouse alliances to deliver climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives that are practical and community based.
	1.4.3	Promote innovative and collaborative approaches to environmental sustainability and climate change through support for local government programs and initiatives.
	1.4.4	Investigate development of energy emission data tracking systems to accurately report greenhouse emissions in state and local government facilities, with corresponding targets to reduce greenhouse emissions, consistent with international, national, state and local targets.
	1.4.5	Climate change reporting and energy emissions data to be integrated into state and local business planning and reporting.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS		
Priority Strategy	1.5	Integrated planning approaches
Actions of regional significance	1.5.1	Integrated land use and transport planning to reduce car dependency and increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as alternative modes of transport.
	1.5.2	Development of green transport projects: through the integration of sustainable transport planning into new and existing developments; and creation of TravelSmart or green transport plans.
	1.5.3	Develop an assessment tool that measures potential impacts and risks to environmental and agricultural assets as a result of climate change. Results to be mapped at an appropriate scale to inform appropriate land use planning.
	1.5.4	Investigate the information required to improve integration of climate change considerations in regional and local planning.
	1.5.5	Utilise and develop regional expertise to improve links between research institutions and regional planning and development outcomes.
	1.5.6	Develop an Environmental Constraints Assessment Tool for use in pre-planning stages to highlight environmental limitations and constraints of proposed new developments.
Key Direction	2	Managing our water resources sustainably
Priority Strategy	2.1	A water view for the region
Actions of regional significance	2.1.1	Promote best practice in efficient water usage across the region, including recycling and grey water treatment, high value water use industries, environmental allocations and consideration of water use close to the source.
	2.1.2	Improve the understanding and use of water accounting information to support local and regional planning.
	2.1.3	Apply the learnings of the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP), with a view to expanding irrigation infrastructure upgrades across Hume Region to maximise social, economic and environmental benefits.
	2.1.4	Prioritise development of recycled water projects within the region such as industrial reuse, irrigation and watering systems for parks and sports grounds.
	2.1.5	Apply an integrated planning approach that utilises Hume Region water reliability information to identify gaps and opportunities and enhance planning, settlement sustainability and future growth.
	2.1.6	Ensure relevant stakeholders and communities are informed to improve understanding and influence in the development and implementation of the Australian Government's policies and strategies for the Murray Darling Basin.
	2.1.7	Develop a scientifically robust and integrated understanding of the impacts of climate change, drought and water management systems to identify and pursue improved water security measures.
	2.1.8	Improve the understanding of surface and groundwater use in unregulated systems to better inform planning and policy change options being considered.
	2.1.9	Actively participate and monitor the implementation of policies related to domestic and stock water use in the Region.
	2.1.10	Ensure active participation in the implementation of key elements of the Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy particularly where they link to regional planning matters.
	2.1.11	Undertake an integrated approach to dry inflow contingency planning across the Region.
	2.1.12	Improve drinking water quality in childcare centres, schools and school camps not connected to a reticulated water supply system.
Actions of sub regional significance	2.1.UH1	Implement the outcomes of the 'North East Victoria – Adapting to a low water future' project.
Priority Strategy	2.2	Water management through innovation
Actions of regional significance	2.2.1	Encourage and support the development of a series of demonstration projects located in new residential/commercial/industrial/agricultural developments which focus on applying and promoting new technology in water management, water sensitive urban design and best practice efficient water usage.
	2.2.2	Advocate for incentives (and other Market Based Instruments, such as tariffs, eco-labelling etc) to encourage the use of alternative water sources by local government, developers and households.
	2.2.3	Promote business opportunities related to waste water treatment, including bio-solids processing and water recycling.
	2.2.4	Develop and deliver sustainable water use programs to support landowners adapting to decreasing water availability and climate change impacts.
Actions of sub regional significance	2.2.UH1	Promote the development of innovative solutions to improve water supply, sewerage and wastewater management in settlements in the Upper Hume sub region.
	2.2.UH2	Investigate opportunities for wastewater reuse from industry or reticulated settlement systems.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS		
Priority Strategy	2.3	Water guiding planning outcomes
Actions of regional significance	2.3.1	Consider water availability and the potential impacts of climate change, as a key driver for all future planning and development within the Hume Region.
	2.3.2	Ensure future settlement assessments consider water availability and sustainable use as an important determinant of settlement sustainability.
	2.3.3	Foster a collaborative approach between government, industry and business, to explore opportunities for water recycling and grey-water systems in existing and new developments; floodplain management; emergency response and planning for management of environmental flows.
	2.3.4	Strengthen links between local government and catchment planning with respect to water usage, quality and quantity through renewal of the Regional Catchment Strategies.
	2.3.5	Ensure new developments consider impacts on surface and ground water resources and plan to have a neutral or beneficial effect on wetlands, rivers and streams.
	2.3.6	Investigate viability of requiring new development in residential zones to have dual water supplies and integrated infrastructure rolled out for newly subdivided areas.
	2.3.7	Investigate access and availability of domestic water supplies in areas not connected to a reticulated water supply system.
Actions of sub regional significance	2.3.UH1	Work in partnership with North East Water and industry to install infrastructure that enables appropriate use of wastewater.
Priority Strategy	2.4	Valuing ecosystem services of rivers, streams and wetlands
Actions of regional significance	2.4.1	Improve the management of septic tanks through coordinated programs that include monitoring, education and training to overcome detrimental health and environmental impacts.
	2.4.2	Pursue funding opportunities and increase community support for the design, planning and construction of reticulated sewer systems or alternative technology sewerage solutions in small settlements across the region.
	2.4.3	Encourage and support improving Index of Stream Condition and Index of Wetland Condition to higher levels to showcase the region's pristine waters.
	2.4.4	Increase quality and quantity of native vegetation in riparian areas to improve the condition of Hume Region waterways.
	2.4.5	Build on innovative programs to maintain and enhance riparian health such as willow removal and Crown land frontage management agreements.
	2.4.6	Evaluate findings of the 2009 Bushfire Royal Commission to assess water quality preparedness for bushfire affected streams.
	2.4.7	Deliver water and biodiversity awareness programs to support, protect and promote the region's natural environmental assets and major river systems, to the community and visitors.
	2.4.8	Ensure the consideration of planning and development implications in the renewal of regional river health strategies by the CMA's (or the proposed Northern Rivers Natural Resource and Catchment Authority).
	2.4.9	Maximise the benefits of environmental water flows for the region through integrated planning processes.
Key Direction	3	Protecting native habitat and biodiversity
Priority Strategy	3.1	Management of regional biodiversity
Actions of regional significance	3.1.1	All regional planning for biodiversity including the protection of core assets and development of biodiversity networks or biolinks, will be consistent with Victoria's new policy direction provided in 'Securing Our Natural Future – A white paper for land and biodiversity at a time of climate change'.
	3.1.2	Establish Regional Biodiversity Networks linking biodiversity assets consistent with Native Vegetation Precinct Planning principles, for example the Wodonga Retained Environmental Network (WRENS).
	3.1.3	Development of a Regional Biodiversity Plan to guide local government in implementing conservation outcomes, consistent with DSE, CMA's (or the proposed Northern Rivers Natural Resource and Catchment Authority) and local biodiversity plans and strategies.
	3.1.4	Utilise existing mapping of biodiversity assets on private and crown land to inform a consistent and coordinated regional approach, with particular regard to management, priorities and partnerships. Results to be mapped at an appropriate scale to inform appropriate land use planning.
Priority Strategy	3.2	Land use planning and biodiversity
Actions of regional significance	3.2.1	Commit to the ongoing development of projects through the Rural Land-Use Planning Program, to improve planning outcomes for significant environmental and biodiversity assets.
	3.2.2	Land use planning must consider protection, restoration and management of biodiversity values.
	3.2.3	Commit to undertaking strategic environmental strategies and programs at a sub regional and local level, including opportunities to include these in local planning schemes.
	3.2.4	Identify areas of biodiversity value within the Farming Zone and utilise planning scheme tools as appropriate to ensure protection of biodiversity assets.
	3.2.5	Investigate the application of planning scheme tools to protect biodiversity sites of high to very high conservation significance.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS		
Priority Strategy	3.3	Protection and management of native habitat
Actions of regional significance	3.3.1	Ongoing implementation of Victoria's Native Vegetation Management: A Framework for Action planning requirements to protect remnant vegetation in the Hume Region through the planning and development process.
	3.3.2	Secure funding which enables Catchment Management Authorities (or the proposed Northern Rivers Natural Resource and Catchment Authority) to provide incentives to landholders to actively manage land for conservation.
	3.3.3	Promote a collaborative approach to the identification and protection of high quality roadside vegetation, implementing existing roadside management and actively protecting and managing roadsides with medium to high conservation value.
	3.3.4	Secure core funding for local government for regionally agreed priorities to undertake the standard projects involving pest plant and animal management.
Priority Strategy	3.4	Education, incentives and community
Actions of regional significance	3.4.1	Seek funding for incentives that encourage new or existing partnerships between landholders, community groups and government to improve management of high priority biodiversity sites.
	3.4.2	Deliver water and biodiversity awareness programs to support, protect and promote the region's natural environmental assets and major river and wetland systems, to the community and visitors.
	3.4.3	Encourage community engagement partnerships and practices that protect and enhance regional biodiversity.
	3.4.4	Build community capacity to engage with and manage the regional environment by assisting the development of 'green skills/jobs' education and training.
	3.4.5	Expansion of innovative landholder incentive programs which protect and enhance biodiversity such as Bush Tender and River Tender.
Key Direction	4	Harnessing renewable energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pursuing innovative waste management approaches
Priority Strategy	4.1	Regional energy planning
Actions of regional significance	4.1.1	Develop and implement a Regional Energy Action Plan: to investigate and assess opportunities and viability of renewable energy projects; identify and develop opportunities for development of renewable energy resources across the region; seek to establish the Hume Region as a renewable energy 'region of excellence'; and pursue government and industry support for development of renewable energy projects across the region.
	4.1.2	Investigate the economic incentives and financial implications of the development of commercial solar power generation and bio-fuels throughout the Hume Region.
	4.1.3	Identify and develop proposals that establish renewable energy supplies and structures.
	4.1.4	Investigate possible carbon capture and storage facilities across Hume Region.
Actions of sub regional significance	4.1.UH1	Development of a public streetlight project in conjunction with the North East Greenhouse Alliance to reduce greenhouse emissions from street lighting.
	4.1.UH2	Investigate the provision of training in renewable energy technologies within the sub region.
Priority Strategy	4.2	Energy and Innovation
Actions of regional significance	4.2.1	Encourage and facilitate the development of a series of energy-efficient, greenhouse friendly demonstration projects, potentially located in new residential developments, which encourage the minimisation of energy and water consumption through energy and water efficient subdivision and building design.
	4.2.2	Investigate the implementation of market mechanisms that facilitate low emission building design.
	4.2.3	Investigate opportunities to create or expand innovative projects within the Region, such as bulk solar purchasing and agricultural waste to energy conversion.
	4.2.4	Support and expand housing and industry energy auditing and retrofitting.
Actions of sub regional significance	4.2.UH1	Expand existing sustainable energy projects, for example Pure Towong Energy to facilitate community take up of new technology.
	4.2.UH2	Facilitate community access to and use of locally produced biodiesel.
	4.2.UH3	Examine the potential for a small scale biomass gasification project.
Priority Strategy	4.3	Regional energy action
Actions of regional significance	4.3.1	Develop a Hume Region application for Regional Infrastructure Development Funding (RIDF) to extend the natural gas network consistent with this plans 'networked centres' model, to nominated towns within the Hume Region through the Natural Gas Extension Program (NGEP).
	4.3.2	Investigate and develop opportunities for a local waste to energy industry within the Hume Region.
	4.3.3	Encourage development to be located in clusters for efficient use of energy to enable efficient and cost effective provision of energy infrastructure, to ensure opportunities to maximise resource use efficiency and minimise waste generation.
	4.3.4	Implement data tracking systems to measure the Hume Region's current carbon emissions and establish targets for a reduction in emissions.
Actions of sub regional significance	4.3.UH1	Investigate the potential for a waste to energy facility within the sub region.
	4.3.UH2	Investigate the potential of a solar power generation plant in Wodonga.
	4.3.UH3	Encourage the establishment of firewood plantations on private property.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Priority Strategy	4.4	Waste management and innovation
Actions of regional significance	4.4.1	Use state and local planning frameworks to support regional waste management plans and ensure that land use planning decisions are consistent with and encourage regional waste management plans and suitable buffers for waste management facilities are protected and maintained.
	4.4.2	Investigate opportunities for the development of innovative re-use and recycling enterprises (for example organics and crushed concrete), and incentives for industries actively reusing products.
	4.4.3	Investigate and implement outcomes for improved efficiencies in the transport of waste, both within and from the Region.
	4.4.4	Regional support and recognition of community initiatives for waste awareness and management.
	4.4.5	Develop strategies to increase waste diversion from landfill, consistent with the State Government's 'Towards Zero Waste Strategy'.
	4.4.6	Promote opportunities and advocate for reuse of resources (formerly waste).
Actions of sub regional significance	4.4.UH1	Support the creation of a Renewable Energy Hub to co-locate industries, aimed at maximising resource use efficiency and minimising waste generation.

HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Key Direction	5	Embracing learning for life
Priority Strategy	5.1	Create 21st Century spaces for communities through growth and sharing of resources
Actions of regional significance	5.1.1	Reform infrastructure through regeneration of existing resources to support 0 – 24 year olds learning needs.
	5.1.2	Develop new learning infrastructure in 'greenfield' settlements as integrated centres. Identify opportunities to collaborate with other learning sector providers such as the Catholic and Independent schools sector on potential resource sharing.
	5.1.3	Build integrated hubs at town and village settlement level that include schools as possible spaces for community facilities and services. .
	5.1.4	Advocate for 21st Century technology access and resourcing to all Hume Region schools, parents and students.
Priority Strategy	5.2	Provide opportunities for young people to engage with learning through multiple pathways and seamless transitions
Actions of regional significance	5.2.1	Increase the availability and diversity of education pathways and tertiary education opportunities and involve industry leaders to strengthen training and boost capacity in key economic sectors.
	5.2.2	Further develop Centres for Higher Education and Research in the tertiary education sector, particularly in relation to climate change and natural system impacts that build on strengths and address needs at sub regional level
	5.2.3	Expand locally accessible and relevant learning and leadership opportunities as a mechanism to attract and retain young people, and harness the capabilities of older residents.
	5.2.4	Identify barriers to school retention / completion and tertiary entrance, and implement strategies to improve educational outcomes for young people in Hume Region.
Actions of sub regional significance	5.2.UH1	Investigate and prepare assessments for establishing or further developing existing Centres for Higher Education and Research in Upper Hume in the areas of health and community services, as hubs for research, training and development.
	5.2.UH2	Support expansion of courses at La Trobe University Wodonga, Wodonga TAFE and Albury Wodonga Community College to meet key learning and skills gaps.
Priority Strategy	5.3	Foster a culture of excellence and aspiration in learning
Actions of regional significance	5.3.1	Develop a Hume 'Regional Education Framework' that addresses quality, outcomes and sustainability issues so as to promote excellence and aspiration in learning.
	5.3.2	Advocate for resources to undertake the pilot project to build regional aspirations towards participation in higher education.
	5.3.3	Develop and increase e-learning and blended delivery options to improve locally available adult learning opportunities.
	5.3.4	Build the skill levels of adult education practitioners to ensure high quality adult education options are available locally.
	5.3.5	Guide and strengthen the capacity of adult education providers to recognise and respond to government and industry priorities.
	5.3.6	Promote opportunities for greater integration of community based education with community engagement initiatives.
	5.3.7	Strengthen the capacity of adult education providers, including TAFE, ACE, schools and higher education, to identify and address legitimate and recognised needs within the community.
Actions of sub regional significance	5.3.UH1	Support the needs of the Upper Hume sub region's culturally diverse communities in ensuring equity of access to high quality education for children and young people.
Key Direction	6	Providing appropriate and accessible social services and infrastructure
Priority Strategy	6.1	Build networked communities
Actions of regional significance	6.1.1	Undertake transport and telecommunications developments that link communities to services in regional cities and centres and along major transport corridors.
	6.1.2	Develop plans for key growth areas that integrate population planning with transport and telecommunications development.
	6.1.3	Provide walking and cycling paths, and associated infrastructure, within and between settlements to support mobility and healthier lifestyles.

HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES		
Priority Strategy	6.2	Expand service access pathways
Actions of regional significance	6.2.1	Develop regionally accessible 'centres of excellence' in sub acute health care.
	6.2.2	Develop a regional integrated cancer centre.
	6.2.3	Employ innovation and flexibility in transport and telecommunications infrastructure and service delivery to provide stronger community connections to mainstream and specialist services.
	6.2.4	Develop service delivery models that assist people in smaller communities who currently have to travel long distances to access services including sub regional service delivery networks built upon partnerships with service providers, business, community and government.
	6.2.5	Mainstream and specialist health and community services to be supported to develop culturally appropriate strategies that are sensitive to the needs of Indigenous people and others from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.
	6.2.6	Increase community support for older people and strengthen the aged care service skill base.
Actions of sub regional significance	6.2.UH1	Implement strategies to improve access to general practitioner medical services and to dental services for people living in Towong and Indigo Shires.
Priority Strategy	6.3	Develop and renew services and infrastructure
Actions of regional significance	6.3.1	Ensure settlement plans investigate services and infrastructure requirements to keep pace with population growth, changing demography and emerging needs. These plans must consider water and wastewater requirements as well as energy efficiency innovations.
	6.3.2	Expand aged care services and infrastructure to support regional population growth and changing demographics.
Priority Strategy	6.4	Enhance participation in arts, culture, sport and recreation
Actions of regional significance	6.4.1	Provide access to community arts programs, events and facilities. Develop opportunities for activities and facilities that can provide a range of recreational, gathering and creative pursuits.
	6.4.2	Foster a culture of civic participation in festivals and events so as to contribute to encouraging and celebrating community life.
	6.4.3	Develop sub regional strategies for development of significant cultural infrastructure such as performing arts centres.
	6.4.4	Develop sub regional strategies for development of significant recreational infrastructure such as recreation/leisure centres and aquatic centres.
Actions of sub regional significance	6.4.UH1	Investigate opportunities for community participation in arts and culture linked to the establishment of a new performing arts centre in Wodonga.
Key Direction	7	Developing innovative and flexible service delivery models
Priority Strategy	7.1	Sub regional service and infrastructure planning
Actions of regional significance	7.1.1	Audit and evaluate the various human service delivery models that currently operate in Hume Region.
	7.1.2	Review service delivery planning based on the 'networked centres' model. The review should consider demography, catchments, communities of interest and priority needs at the sub regional, regional and state level.
	7.1.3	Develop a 30-year regional profile to forecast requirements for each social service, including skill requirements and transport implications.
	7.1.4	Prepare a Hume Region plan for Mental Health.
	7.1.5	Prepare a long term integrated Aged Care Plan for Hume Region. The plan must incorporate significant consideration for dealing with dementia as a major social disease.
	7.1.6	Develop plans for the provision of community, health and education facilities as part of planning for growth and ensuring accessibility to communities in adjacent areas, with planning to be integrated with transport and telecommunications development.
	7.1.7	Develop and link benchmarks for infrastructure and service delivery to functionality of settlements.
	7.1.8	Ensure learning by participants is built into planning and delivery of community engagement activities.
Actions of sub regional significance	7.1.UH1	Actively explore opportunities for establishing specialist cross-border best-practice regional health services, including accommodation centres in Albury-Wodonga to improve health outcomes for people living in this large population centre and its broad rural catchment.
	7.1.UH2	Plan for growth in Wodonga, particularly in relation to the likely need for early childhood services, education, community centres and aged care services.
Priority Strategy	7.2	Service coordination and resource sharing
Actions of regional significance	7.2.1	Continue to plan and resource the Hume Region 'Closing the Gap' requirements to improve the lives of Indigenous people,
	7.2.2	Investigate the social, economic and environmental benefits of 'community hubs' in larger towns and enhancing schools and halls in smaller communities for co-locating community facilities, encouraging social interaction and improving access, efficiency and flexibility.
	7.2.3	Pursue sub regional approaches to future community and primary health services that includes workforce training and management needs. Ensure the sub regional specific impacts of tourism are built into future service delivery models.
	7.2.4	Remove access barriers and inefficiencies resulting from cross-border service delivery and infrastructure issues.
	7.2.5	Continue with the agenda for the integration of all health services in Albury / Wodonga.
	7.2.6	Develop models and tools to guide integration of social and health planning with the key strategic statutory planning requirements for local government.
	7.2.7	Develop a regional attraction strategy for medical and allied health professionals.

HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES		
Actions of sub regional significance	7.2.UH1	Investigate further opportunities for cross-border service integration to improve coordination and reduce unnecessary duplication of health and community services along the Victorian-New South Wales border as part of the Murray River Settlement Strategy project.
Key Direction	8	Strengthening communities, increasing resilience and enhancing liveability
Priority Strategy	8.1	Engagement and capacity building of people and places
Actions of regional significance	8.1.1	Undertake community strengthening activities that are appropriate and tailored to local needs.
	8.1.2	Adopt and adapt place-based engagement models to community planning and strengthening projects.
	8.1.3	Provide incentives and resources that enable the development and expression of community leadership.
	8.1.4	Implement strategies to strengthen engagement of new residents and young to middle aged adults in volunteering.
	8.1.5	Reduce socio-economic disadvantage and build resilience in the most vulnerable locations by engaging affected communities in action to improve service access and responsiveness and participation in education, training and employment.
	8.1.6	Embed a culture and approach to education in the region's community development and engagement initiatives.
	8.1.7	Develop a regional adjustment assistance framework including strategies and tools that can be used flexibly by communities that need to manage the social and other impacts of change.
Actions of sub regional significance	8.1.UH1	Strengthen community leadership skills development and utilise the existing and emerging community leadership base in the Upper Hume sub region through participatory community development projects.
	8.1.UH2	Target community strengthening activities to the relatively highly disadvantaged urban communities in Wodonga and small rural communities in other parts of the Upper Hume sub region that are facing adjustment challenges.
Priority Strategy	8.2	Housing diversity and local amenity
Actions of regional significance	8.2.1	Undertake detailed sub regional housing studies examining future housing needs (including numbers, stock type eg social / affordable, and localities) to underpin the development of local housing strategies.
	8.2.2	Prepare development plans including preferred lot sizes, variety and type of housing stock and community infrastructure requirements, and collaborate with property developers in growth areas to provide diverse and affordable housing stock which meets the spectrum of community needs.
	8.2.3	Explore opportunities in established settlements to pursue urban renewal with a focus on local assets, landscape and streetscape amenity and diversification of existing housing stock including the provision of affordable housing.
	8.2.4	Promote best practice neighbourhood and service precinct design in identified locations to enhance amenity, public areas and open spaces in towns and residential areas.
Priority Strategy	8.3	Safer and capable communities
Actions of regional significance	8.3.1	Develop and support specific region wide road toll measures.
	8.3.2	Evaluate existing safety audits with a view to preparing a region wide safety audit of key road and rail tourism network requirements. Ensure the region wide audit encompasses visitor expectations of safe travel.

A THRIVING AND DYNAMIC ECONOMY		
Key Direction	9	Strengthening a capable workforce
Priority Strategy	9.1	Matching skills to employment needs
Actions of regional significance	9.1.1	Strengthen relationships and partnerships between education providers, the community, business, government and local government agencies to more effectively roll out the State government's Skills Reform Agenda.
	9.1.2	Assist adult education providers to recognise and capitalise on the opportunities offered under the Skills Reform initiatives.
	9.1.3	Increase access by TAFE and ACE to resources available under the Skills Reform agenda.
	9.1.4	Identify best practice models of workforce development, audit the regions business capacity and develop strategies to strengthen a skilled workforce matched to the needs of a diversified economy.
	9.1.5	Stimulate immigration to the region through marketing and relocation programs that are linked to the targeting of specific workforce skill needs.
	9.1.6	Assess the utility of the 'Wangaratta' and 'Wodonga' skill and training review forums as a model for supporting industry across the Hume Region.
	9.1.7	Investigate the utility of a 'Workforce Development Group' that would include key employer stakeholders in order to advance the regions workforce development strategies. Such a group would require representation from Trades as well as Professional/Technical occupations.
	9.1.8	Improve capacity of adult education providers to identify and meet the workforce needs identified by industry and community members.
Actions of sub regional significance	9.1.UH1	Develop a sub regional marketing campaign with programs aimed at attracting skilled migration to Upper Hume.
	9.1.UH2	Explore opportunities for outreach programs via Goulburn Ovens TAFE and Wodonga TAFE with reference to specific industry requirements.
	9.1.UH3	Review and assess the utility of the marketing campaign used to attract medical practitioners and apply the key learnings from this approach to other areas or sectors experiencing skills shortages.
Priority Strategy	9.2	Improving, expanding and retaining a skilled workforce
Actions of regional significance	9.2.1	Secure appropriate funding, promote and provide opportunities for re-skilling the existing workforce so as to contribute to building a wider skill base in the region.
	9.2.2	Support industries' ability to promote local careers and the determination of future skill needs.
	9.2.3	Increase the pool of labour supply to industry by developing focused approaches based on demographic characteristics.
	9.2.4	Implement workforce attraction and retention strategies in health and education.
	9.2.5	Investigate and recommend on transport options that provide enhanced workforce mobility and access to employment options within the region and major centres outside of the region.
	9.2.6	Develop a strategy to increase small business employers understanding of how to engage and work with young employees.
	9.2.7	Develop a strategy to provide ongoing employment options for older persons in the workforce. Such a strategy to ensure accessible transport needs is a key component.
	9.2.8	Undertake an industry wide review of regional pay structures with a particular emphasis on seasonal labour market issues.
	9.2.9	Develop and increase e-learning and blended delivery options to improve locally available adult skill development opportunities.
	9.2.10	Build the skill levels of adult education practitioners to ensure high quality adult education options are available locally.
Actions of sub regional significance	9.2.UH1	Advocate for the operation of a migrant resource service in Upper Hume, to include supports in settlement needs, housing, employment and qualifications, health and education for new residents.
	9.2.UH2	Advocate for an ongoing settlement assistance program.
	9.2.UH3	Support Latrobe University to develop and construct student accommodation in Wodonga.
Priority Strategy	9.3	Fostering links between schools, employers and post compulsory education providers
Actions of regional significance	9.3.1	Further develop partnerships and models between education and industry with a focus on enhanced skills based training in schools, including Technical Education Centres. Other examples of partnerships may include graduation programs, vacation work, work experience and scholarships.
	9.3.2	Develop partnership arrangements between the providers of adult education and skills development to ensure locally available training opportunities are maximised.
	9.3.3	Expand the capacity and robustness of careers advice available to young people.
	9.3.4	Investigate the potential for a network of 'centres for higher education and research' that match industry need by sub region.
Priority Strategy	9.4	Stimulating business and jobs growth
Actions of regional significance	9.4.1	Expand the provision of 'government centres' through the regionalisation of state and commonwealth services.
Actions of sub regional significance	9.4.UH1	Develop a Government Services Centre in Wodonga that will enable regionalisation of state and commonwealth government services.

A THRIVING AND DYNAMIC ECONOMY		
Key Direction	10	Adapting and diversifying agriculture in an environment of change
Priority Strategy	10.1	Supporting the next generation of agricultural opportunities
Actions of regional significance	10.1.1	Develop the Alpine Valley's Agrifood Project as a means of supporting sustainable agriculture.
	10.1.2	Investigate expanding AAVAF (Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum) or establishing a complimentary Agribusiness Forum to support the lower sub regions.
	10.1.3	Facilitate continued investment in irrigation modernisation (regional irrigation infrastructure and on-farm irrigation efficiency measures).
	10.1.4	Facilitate integrated investment in infrastructure, skills development, training and social services as a consequence of irrigation modernisation.
	10.1.5	Ensure intermodal access and efficient transport costing through upgrades to the transport network in order to simplify agriculture export and distribution to and from the major regional logistics centres.
	10.1.6	Work in partnership to support agribusiness development, transition, diversification and change including value adding of primary products, food processing, niche markets, up-take of farm technology, business skill development and alternative crops.
	10.1.7	Assist the dairy sector in responding to major climate and economic impacts on the industry.
	10.1.8	Provide a coordinated approach to structural adjustment activities across the region, building on the experience gained over recent years by the network of local government drought response coordinators and Rural Financial Counsellors.
Actions of sub regional significance	10.1.UH1	Investigate the feasibility of a multi disciplinary centre for learning and skills development in agriculture.
	10.1.UH2	Examine and report on the type of secondary business capacities required to contribute to the future diversification and intensification of agriculture in Upper Hume.
	10.1.UH3	Develop the Towong Shire 'My Farm' telemetry service to enable widespread take-up and use of the service across the region.
Priority Strategy	10.2	Ensuring the future viability and adaptability of productive rural land
Actions of regional significance	10.2.1	Develop Hume Region specific responses to the 'Future Farms' planning project. Plan for future agricultural opportunities such as relocation of operations from other regions and Melbourne into Hume Region.
	10.2.2	Encourage state and local governments to collaborate on and consolidate existing local rural land use strategies and encourage other local studies where gaps are evident.
	10.2.3	Develop and implement regional industry strategies to assist the timber and aquaculture sectors deal with the impact of bushfires.
	10.2.4	Utilise the Ovens Aquifer and the Delatite and Goulburn Rivers to support new economic opportunities.
Actions of sub regional significance	10.2.UH1	Encourage the use of new technology such as the Towong 'My Farm' telemetry for farm practices by facilitating knowledge sharing gained from the implementation of innovative projects.
	10.2.UH2	Develop projects and secure resources for undertaking innovative sustainability approaches to respond to climate change that consider carbon sequestration as a growth industry in agriculture
Key Direction	11	Facilitating research and innovation in tourism, manufacturing and industry to encourage new and evolving business
Priority Strategy	11.1	Strengthening a tourism industry that builds on the competitive advantages of the Hume Region
Actions of regional significance	11.1.1	Establish strategic tourism boards to ensure a cohesive regional based approach to facilitating product development and marketing.
	11.1.2	Develop and implement a Regional Tourism Strategy that draws upon the strengths of the four sub regions.
	11.1.3	Establish and coordinate sub regional tourism bodies based on the strategic competitive advantages of each sub region for the purpose of pursuing product development and marketing.
	11.1.4	Pursue tourism opportunities centred around eco-tourism, natural landscapes, the arts and cultural activities, high quality produce and products.
	11.1.5	Develop tourism loops, trails and drives with consistent marketing and signage.
	11.1.6	Develop a Hume Region cycling strategy to capitalise on and further develop, recreation cycling infrastructure and associated service industry to support the expansion of cycle tourism in Hume Region.
	11.1.7	Expand the provision of regional walking and cycling infrastructure for tourism purposes.
	11.1.8	Leverage the Victorian Transport Plan's commitment to funding cycling by expanding the constructed on and off road cycling infrastructure to complement tourism in the region.
	11.1.9	Maximise the regional opportunities presented by the Winton Wetlands development.

A THRIVING AND DYNAMIC ECONOMY		
Actions of sub regional significance	11.1.UH1	Integrate Snowy Valley Way Tourism marketing with Hume Region level tourism loop marketing and signage approaches.
	11.1.UH2	Improve tourist precinct services between Wodonga and the tourist precincts of Rutherglen, Beechworth and Yackandandah
	11.1.UH3	Secure funding to seal the unsealed section of the Omeo Highway and the Shelley-Walwa Road as touring roads.
	11.1.UH4	Provide tourist viewing points and facilities at appropriate locations on important road links.
	11.1.UH5	Develop a detailed Upper Hume sub regional strategy for off road cycling paths, including the Rutherglen to Bowser trail, links associated with the High Country Rail Trail and connections with the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, in order to strengthen the appeal of the region for cycle touring.
	11.1.UH6	Pursue shoulder widening on key routes to improve safety for on-road cycling.
	11.1.UH7	Maintain and grow support for innovative events that provide new or expanded tourism opportunities.
Priority Strategy	11.2	Facilitating leadership in innovation, research and development
Actions of regional significance	11.2.1	Take a lead role in advancing a Hume Region Framework for 'Innovation' to include Research and Development, future needs assessment, cluster development, advocacy and venture capital structures.
	11.2.2	Explore the potential and promote the concept of, 'Excellence' in research and training in areas of industry demand including climate change, health, agriculture, tourism and sport. Ensure strategic alignments exist between the concept of existing and future 'Centres for higher education and research' and regional learning hubs.
Actions of sub regional significance	11.2.UH1	Assess the potential for a Centre of Excellence in health training and research in Upper Hume. Such a centre would be complimentary to the possible focus of other centres in the Hume Region as well as existing health training provided in Albury.
Priority Strategy	11.3	Identifying development capacity that will contribute to stimulating industry expansion
Actions of regional significance	11.3.1	Undertake detailed investigation of settlements in Hume region for latent and undeveloped commercial and industrial capacity. This investigation should examine future market growth potential in the intensive agriculture and industrial sectors.
	11.3.2	Direct industry development in areas capable of supporting it through access to appropriate labour and material resources, infrastructure, services and proximity to transport links.
	11.3.3	Examine and support opportunities to develop new and innovative community enterprise initiatives.
Key Direction	12	Developing ICT and energy infrastructure that builds on existing competitive advantages
Priority Strategy	12.1	Securing world class ICT infrastructure and services for the Hume Region
Actions of regional significance	12.1.1	Establish a regional project to develop a business case that seeks to maximise the reach of the NBN into Hume Region.
	12.1.2	Advocate for open access to latest generation internet technology for all settlements.
	12.1.3	Secure access to high speed broadband availability for every school age young person and their families and carers for equality of access to quality education support measures.
	12.1.4	Build and operate a telecommunications grid that extends to key 'end points' consistent with the Hume Strategy networked centres model.
Priority Strategy	12.2	Establishing the future of the Hume Region as a centre of excellence for renewable energy technology and infrastructure
Actions of regional significance	12.2.1	Undertake a region wide capability assessment of all renewable energy options.
	12.2.2	Develop regionally significant 'eco estates' as profile projects for high quality energy efficient design.
	12.2.3	Encourage research and facilities for non carbon based and renewable energy power generation within the Hume Region.
	12.2.4	Extend the natural gas grid to settlements consistent with the 'networked centres' model advocated in the Hume Strategy.
	12.2.5	Provide a secure and stable uninterrupted power supply (UPS) to meet the service business needs of all Alpine Resorts in Hume Region.
Actions of sub regional significance	12.2.UH1	Encourage and provide incentives for the development of an Upper Hume 'waste to energy' industry.

AN INTEGRATED NETWORK OF EFFICIENT AND HIGH FUNCTIONING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS		
Key Direction	13	Enhancing integrated planning for mobility
Priority Strategy	13.1	Plan and advocate for a high quality regional transport system
Actions of regional significance	13.1.1	Establish and resource the administration of a regional coordination mechanism to oversee implementation of strategies contained in the Northern Victoria and Hume Corridor Regional Transport Strategy reports.
	13.1.2	Advocate for major investment in transport service delivery and infrastructure consistent with agreed priorities in the Northern Victoria and Hume Corridor Regional Transport reports.
	13.1.3	Develop an integrated Hume Region wide public transport 'Mobility Strategy'.
	13.1.4	Investigate the potential of settlements in Hume Region to be developed as future transit oriented development centres.
	13.1.5	Study the long term potential transport needs and opportunities that can be derived from road linkages between Canberra, Hume Region and Gippsland. Apply the findings of such research to advocate for long term infrastructure that enhances regional strengths such as rail contributing to efficiencies in agricultural exports.
Actions of sub regional significance	13.1.UH1	Establish and administer working parties as required to support the implementation of key sub regional actions in the Hume Corridor Regional Transport Strategy relevant to Upper Hume sub region.
	13.1.UH2	Advocate for the Murray Valley Highway between Corryong, Tallangatta and Wodonga and the Kiewa Valley Highway between Mt Beauty and Baranduda to be incorporated into the State Government's Principal (Regional) Freight Network.
	13.1.UH3	Develop the rail to road intermodal facility at Logic Wodonga.
Priority Strategy	13.2	Building an integrated transport system
Actions of regional significance	13.2.1	Identify opportunities to boost collaboration between councils, Department of Transport, Vic Track, V/Line and public transport bus operators as well as other stakeholders when considering land use planning, development or renewal opportunities on or near transport nodes such as railway stations.
	13.2.2	Investigate strategic locations in Hume Region as contributing handling capacity to the nominated Freight Activity Centres (FACs).
	13.2.3	Create investment leverage opportunities resultant from the North East Rail Revitalisation and Wodonga Rail Bypass projects.
	13.2.4	Develop a networked system of key transport interchanges on the primary transport corridors.
Key Direction	14	Developing a proficient land transportation network
Priority Strategy	14.1	Accelerating the completion of high standard road links
Actions of regional significance	14.1.1	Conduct a regional freight task audit.
	14.1.2	Build the Goulburn Valley Highway to M (freeway) level from Seymour to Shepparton and the Shepparton Bypass and investigate the feasibility of the Goulburn Valley Highway to M level from Shepparton to the New South Wales border (Tocumwal).
	14.1.3	Upgrade the Echuca - Mooroopna Rd, Goulburn Valley Highway between Seymour and Yea, Melba Highway south of Yea, Great Alpine Road between Wangaratta and Bright. Upgrade the Murray Valley Highway to A level between Wodonga and Echuca.
	14.1.4	Plan to duplicate the Northern Highway south of Kilmore.
	14.1.5	Duplicate key sections of the Midland Highway at Shepparton east and Mooroopna west. Further analyse and identify locations that need overtaking lanes between Shepparton and Benalla.
	14.1.6	Advocate for the improvement of the main agriculture transport links in the region.
Actions of sub regional significance	14.1.UH1	Identify and advocate for improvements to the Murray Valley Highway east of Wodonga and into Towong Shire.
	14.1.UH2	Increase the rate of road improvements to facilitate higher mass transport movements across east and west transport routes for major industries such as Uncle Toby's, Murray Goulburn and the Logic Centre.
Priority Strategy	14.2	Delivering important rail infrastructure
Actions of regional significance	14.2.1	Advocate for a single rail gauge standardisation.
	14.2.2	Build a bi-modal road / rail container and bulk terminal facility at the Logic Centre, Wodonga.
	14.2.3	Construct an intermodal terminal at Mooroopna on the Seymour to Tocumwal line in order to support the establishment and operation of the Goulburn Valley Freight and Logistics Centre.
	14.2.4	Maximise use of the infrastructure upgrade of the Oaklands line to distribute freight within and out of the region.
	14.2.5	Investigate the potential role and contribution of Mangalore airport in the network of Victoria's logistics capability; as contributing to Victoria's network of airport connections; and, role resultant from impacts of urban growth in Lower Hume sub region.
Actions of sub regional significance	14.2.UH1	Continue improvements to the rail system to facilitate future high speed rail links between Wodonga and Melbourne.
	14.2.UH2	Advocate for the proposed Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail alignment to be constructed in the Hume transport corridor.
Priority Strategy	14.3	Future-proofing existing transport routes by maintaining a high level of service
Actions of regional significance	14.3.1	Upgrade and ensure the Hume Freeway is maintained and can meet the demands of the next generation HPFV task, as well as a growing public and private transport task.
	14.3.2	Ensure all transport routes are supported by high quality telecommunications infrastructure.

AN INTEGRATED NETWORK OF EFFICIENT AND HIGH FUNCTIONING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS		
Key Direction	15	Linking communities through improved public transport and transport linkages
Priority Strategy	15.1	Enhance key transport linkages between settlements
Actions of regional significance	15.1.1	Improve east-west transport linkages.
	15.1.2	Investigate the need for increased public transport frequency on the Hume and Goulburn Valley transport corridors.
	15.1.3	Investigate the future role, function and contribution of the regions two most populous settlements, Shepparton and Wodonga, to a multi-centred-state in the state-wide network of Major regional cities.
	15.1.4	Aggregate and build on the work prepared under the Northern Victoria and Hume Corridor Regional Transport Strategies as a Hume Region Integrated Transport Strategy.
	15.1.5	Increase funding and frequency of public transport services across the network in order to strengthen the region's transport capability on the existing corridors as well as expand the east / west arcs.
	15.1.6	Support the development of a business case for the expansion of the Regional Fast Rail program on the major transport corridors.
	15.1.7	Consider the divergence between supply and demand in the development of regional public transport mobility strategies.
	15.1.8	Pursue feasibility studies aimed at improving links between aerodromes / airports and the transport system with the objective to add freight and passenger transport capability in the region.
	15.1.9	Promote walking and cycling as legitimate alternative modes of transport.
	15.1.10	Expand the provision of regional walking and cycling infrastructure for residents and business.
Actions of sub regional significance	15.1.UH1	Advocate for increased seven-day services in both directions for rail and bus services from Wodonga, Wangaratta and Benalla to Bendigo.
	15.1.UH2	Increase the service level frequency for the Corryong–Tallangatta–Wodonga and the Yackandandah to Beechworth services.
Priority Strategy	15.2	Provide safety upgrades of the region's land transportation system
Actions of regional significance	15.2.1	Upgrade railway stations with better bus interchanges, taxi ranks and car parks.
	15.2.2	Evaluate existing safety audits with a view to preparing a region wide safety audit of key road and rail tourism network requirements. Ensure the region wide audit encompasses visitor expectations of safe travel.
Actions of sub regional significance	15.2.UH1	Further investigate and develop action plans to mitigate the impact of freight movement on settlements in the sub region, particularly movements due to traffic from the Logic Centre.
	15.2.UH2	Upgrade local roads such as the Wodonga to Beechworth Road, the Up River Road (after the Corowa/ Wahgunyah Bypass) and Federation Bridge crossing of the Murray River to cater for regional and cross border heavy vehicle traffic.
	15.2.UH3	Plan for a dedicated heavy vehicle bypass around Yackandandah.
	15.2.UH4	Provide a heavy vehicle bypass around Rutherglen.
Key Direction	16	Strengthening the sustainability of the transport system
Priority Strategy	16.1	Develop travel options to increase public transport patronage
Actions of regional significance	16.1.1	Promote, encourage and expand participation in the Transport Connections Program.
	16.1.2	Encourage and provide incentives for innovation in energy efficient, low carbon emission transport systems.
	16.1.3	Advocate for the provision of energy efficient, higher frequency, fast passenger services to regional cities and centres at service levels consistent with the Victorian Transport Plan.
	16.1.4	Expand community based regional bus routes consistent with the 'networked centres' model.
	16.1.5	Investigate opportunities for enhanced inter-modal timetable services alignment.
	16.1.6	Increase awareness by promoting an understanding of the available sustainable travel options in order to influence travel demand, behaviour and culture. Advocate for all public transport service contracts to require the use of a common public transport logo / branding for all Hume Region services.
Actions of sub regional significance	16.1.UH1	Review the funding and delivery of the North East Transport Connections Program in order to maximise the benefits from allocated funding.
Priority Strategy	16.2	Partnerships for delivering the Hume Region transportation system
Actions of regional significance	16.2.1	Develop strong links with federal and state funding bodies and advocate for the overarching actions recommended in the Hume Strategy and its supporting documentation on transport and mobility.
	16.2.2	Regularly update the Hume Corridor and Northern Victoria Regional Transport Strategy reports. Ensure these reports and their key strategies are able to adapt to new knowledge in areas such as climate change and population growth.
	16.2.3	Maintain a continuous improvement methodology in regards to the needs for transport by engaging with and seeking advice from key community and business leaders.
	16.2.4	Establish a Freight Quality Partnership working group that encourages an environmental, economic and efficient approach to the transportation of goods within the region.

AN EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE PATTERN OF URBAN AND RURAL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT		
Key Direction	17	Directing future population growth to settlements with the greatest capability to accommodate it
Priority Strategy	17.1	Facilitate and plan for growth in regional cities and centres as the key drivers for growth and service delivery in the region supported by a network of district towns, towns and villages
Actions of regional significance	17.1.1	Implement a rolling program of developing sub regional settlement plans..
	17.1.2	Ensure the Murray River Settlement Strategy investigates all relevant environmental, social (including health and education), economic and land use issues for managing settlements in the river corridor including the transportation network.
	17.1.3	Develop a model for urban renewal of central business areas within regional cities and centres.
	17.1.4	Identify and develop flood mitigation projects in flood prone areas in regional cities and centres and investigate the need to review floodplain management principles for settlements.
Actions of sub regional significance	17.1.UH1	Develop a settlement plan for Wodonga and surrounds as one of the region's pilot projects to enable the development of sub regional settlement plans.
	17.1.UH2	Harness and support the unique opportunity provided by the Wodonga rail bypass to renew the centre of its CBD as an urban renewal project of a central business area.
	17.1.UH3	Promote residential development in Indigo Shire and Towong Shire — through projects such as the Tallangatta Revitalisation project and Bellbridge Infrastructure Development — to provide alternative living opportunities in appropriate urban localities.
	17.1.UH4	Investigate the need to develop a Rural Living Strategy for the Upper Hume sub region.
Priority Strategy	17.2	Manage growth in small settlements
Actions of regional significance	17.2.1	Investigate the impact of changes in the agricultural sector on the viability of small towns.
	17.2.2	Investigate the demand and options for a diversity of housing choice in small settlements providing housing options that may not be available in larger urban areas.
Actions of sub regional significance	17.2.UH1	Develop local policies/strategies to manage development and service delivery in small settlements and rural areas particularly relating to remote areas (such as parts of Towong and Indigo Shires) and in areas close to existing major infrastructure
Key Direction	18	Maximising the use of existing infrastructure and services and facilitating strategic investment in future infrastructure and services
Priority Strategy	18.1	Coordinate service delivery in strongly linked settlements
Actions of regional significance	18.1.1	Investigate specific opportunities to coordinate service delivery relating to “cross-border” settlements. Ensure the Murray River Settlement Strategy, which will be prepared in the near future, investigates all relevant service delivery issues for managing settlements in the river corridor.
Actions of sub regional significance	18.1.UH1	Investigate specific opportunities to coordinate service delivery and infrastructure between Wodonga and Albury.
Priority Strategy	18.2	Plan for growth in settlements within relatively close proximity to Melbourne
	18.2.1	Lower Hume sub regional strategic actions only.
Key Direction	19	Retaining productive rural land for agriculture and other compatible rural uses
Priority Strategy	19.1	Manage land use in rural areas to sustainably accommodate all rural land uses
Actions of regional significance	19.1.1	Develop a model strategy framework for rural land use planning and undertake a Regional Rural Land Use Study, building on work already undertaken by individual councils, and incorporating policy directions arising from the Future Farming Rural Planning Group. Such a study would be aligned with relevant state policy such as the Land and Biodiversity White Paper and would attempt to overlay agricultural capability, environmental constraints and opportunities, infrastructure, and economic and social issues.
	19.1.2	Continue with the implementation of new suite of rural zones by developing and implementing rural land use strategies at a local/sub regional level.
	19.1.3	Compile, and make available to landholders and investors, information on alternative agricultural enterprises and land uses potentially suitable to sub regions across the Hume Region. Information would include identification of opportunities and constraints for different enterprises, impacts of climate change scenarios on potential enterprises, and gross margin analyses.
	19.1.4	Further investigate and, where appropriate, facilitate the establishment of suitable areas zoned specifically for the development of mutually compatible intensive agricultural industries, similar to the Strathbogie Intensive Agricultural Area (SIAA) proposal.
Actions of sub regional significance	19.1.UH1	Continue to develop and implement rural land use strategies at a local/sub regional level. Rural land use strategies for areas in the Upper Hume sub region should specifically consider the following factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving a balance between rural residential subdivision and retention of agricultural landscapes and production. • Protecting local amenity.

AN EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE PATTERN OF URBAN AND RURAL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT		
Key Direction	20	Ensuring efficient use of land use planning resources in the region
Priority Strategy	20.1	A regional / sub regional partnership approach to strategic land use planning
Actions of regional significance	20.1.1	Review planning schemes and identify opportunities for applying consistent approaches across local government boundaries (for example, consistent residential design guidelines in places with similar characteristics or consistent approaches on either side of Murray River).
	20.1.2	Review the models, and outcome of the rural land use planning studies currently being undertaken throughout Victoria and consider how it could be used for other strategic land use planning projects in the region.
	20.1.3	Provide a consistent approach for planning policy for land use and development along major rivers and in water supply catchments.
Actions of sub regional significance	20.1.UH1	Review planning provisions applying to Albury and Wodonga and identify opportunities for applying consistent approaches as a pilot project to spearhead the identification of similar opportunities in other cross-border settlements.
Priority Strategy	20.2	Training of land use planning professionals and increasing the availability of expert advice
Actions of regional significance	20.2.1	Enhance and support the training needs of land use planning professionals within the region.

