



# CENTRAL HUME SUB REGIONAL PLAN

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

**2010-2020**



A Victorian  
Government  
initiative



HUME  
**RMF**  
REGIONAL  
MANAGEMENT  
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Regional Development Victoria  
27-29 Faithful Street  
Wangaratta 3677  
T: (03) 5721 6988  
W: [www.rdv.vic.gov.au](http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au)

## CONTENTS

PREFACE	4
<b>PART 1: SETTING THE SCENE</b>	
THE CENTRAL HUME SUB REGION	8
<b>PART 2: THE CENTRAL HUME SUB REGION FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION</b>	
<b>ENVIRONMENT THEME:</b> <i>NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>COMMUNITIES THEME:</b> <i>HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES</i>	<b>15</b>
<b>ECONOMIC THEME:</b> <i>A THRIVING AND DYNAMIC ECONOMY</i>	<b>18</b>
<b>TRANSPORT THEME:</b> <i>AN INTEGRATED NETWORK OF EFFICIENT AND HIGH FUNCTIONING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS</i>	<b>22</b>
<b>LAND USE THEME:</b> <i>AN EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE PATTERN OF URBAN AND RURAL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT</i>	<b>25</b>
<b>PART 3: APPENDIX</b>	
LIST OF REGIONAL AND CENTRAL HUME SUB REGION ACTIONS	30
<b>MAPS</b>	
MAP 1 – HUME SUB REGIONS	6
MAP 2 – CENTRAL HUME SUB REGION	8
<b>FIGURES</b>	
FIGURE 1 – HUME STRATEGY DOCUMENT STRUCTURE	4

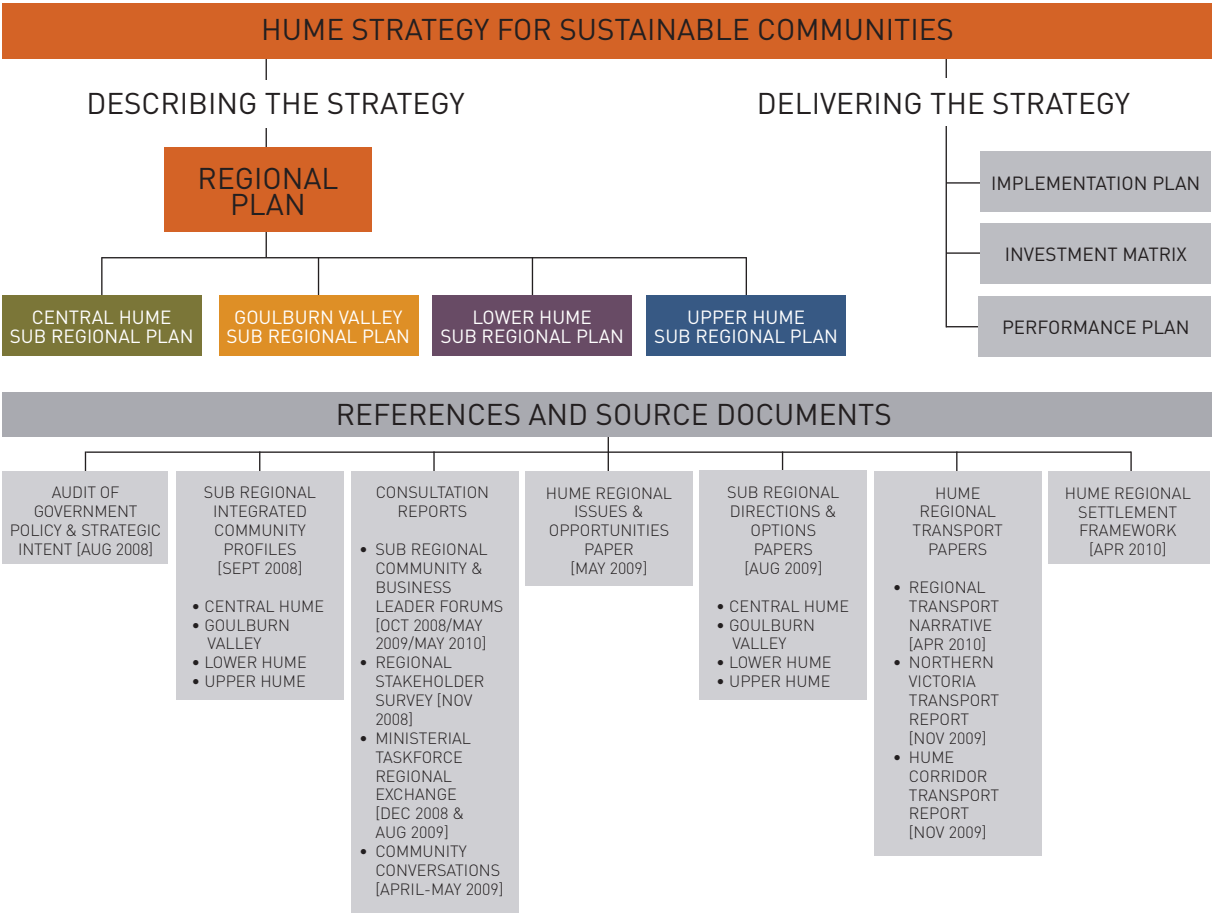
# CENTRAL HUME SUB REGIONAL PLAN

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 Central 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 Central Hume Sub Regional Plan sits alongside the Upper 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

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### 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:

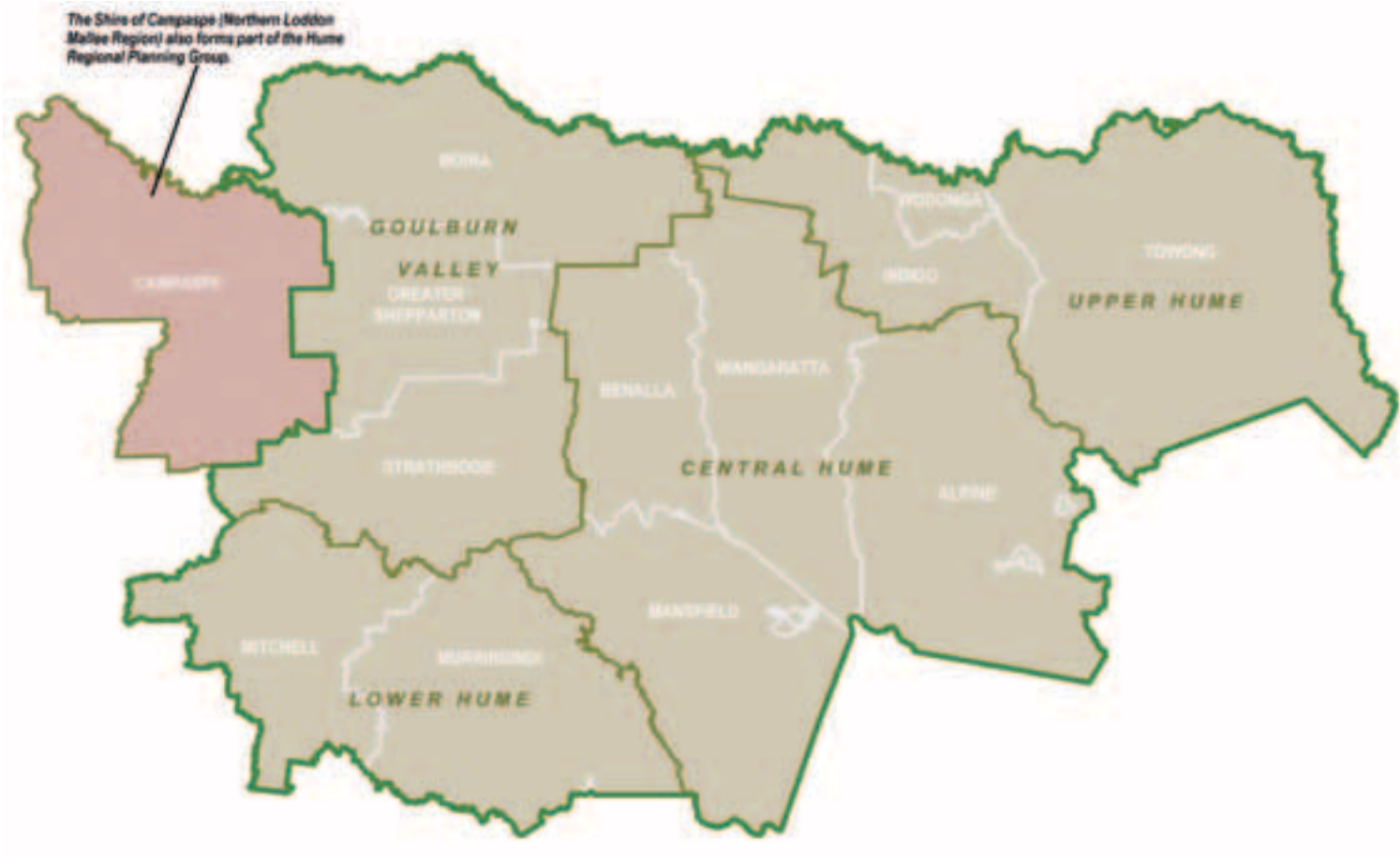
**Regional:** Matters that extend over or impact beyond a sub region.

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

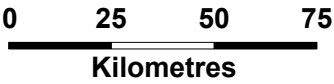
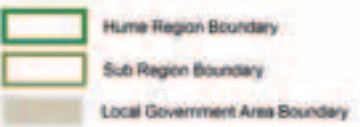
**Local:** Matters that are unlikely to be significant beyond the municipality concerned.

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 Central Hume sub region are set out below and accompany the regional level actions that are contained in Appendix 1.

The purpose of the Central 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 CENTRAL HUME SUB REGION

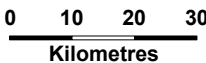
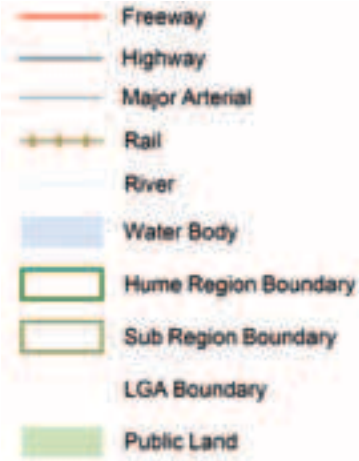


MAP 2. CENTRAL HUME SUB REGION



Central Hume sub region comprises four local government areas:

- Alpine Shire
- Benalla Rural City
- Mansfield Shire
- Rural City of Wangaratta





## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Central Hume, with a land area of 14,621 square kilometres, is the largest of the Hume Region's four sub regions in terms of geographical extent and at 62,000 residents in 2006 has the second largest population. Between 1996 and 2006, the population growth rate of the Central Hume sub region was 0.6% per annum. Some parts of Central Hume are popular for second homes; Mansfield Shire, in particular, has a high proportion of non-resident ratepayers.

Central Hume is attracting middle aged 'tree changers' and older retirees. Population movements out of the sub region occur mainly from young people relocating to Melbourne and other large cities for higher education and/or employment opportunities. There are Indigenous communities in the larger centres of Wangaratta and Benalla. In addition, the area has a rich history of immigration from Central and Eastern Europe.

The largest settlements in the Central Hume sub region are Wangaratta and Benalla. Mansfield plays an important service role in the southern part of the sub region. In the river valleys, foothills and high country there are many smaller settlements such as Bright, Myrtleford, Mount Beauty, Tawonga, Dederang and Whitfield that provide opportunities for rural lifestyles and visitor activities in attractive rural or natural environments.

The sub region also includes four of Victoria's six alpine resorts – Falls Creek, Mount Hotham, Mount Buller and Mount Stirling – which are managed on behalf of the State Government by Alpine Resort Management Boards (ARMBs).

The Hume Freeway and the Melbourne to Sydney railway run through Benalla and Wangaratta on the eastern side of the Central Hume sub region, providing a unique level of accessibility to freight, passenger and vehicle movement along the east coast of Australia, as well as connectivity to other infrastructure and services. The alignment for the proposed Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail 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 Central Hume sub region..

Benalla and Wangaratta also connect to the Midland Highway and Great Alpine Road respectively. Away from the Hume transport corridor, public transport services are bus based, reflecting the topography and the relatively low population density. Some smaller settlements have no public transport services available.

The headwaters of several of Victoria's major rivers – including the Upper Kiewa, Ovens, Goulburn, Broken and Delatite Rivers – are located within Central Hume and the availability of water close to its source is an important economic asset for the sub region. The Upper Ovens above Myrtleford, despite being unregulated, supports high value agriculture. The Lower Ovens, from downstream of Wangaratta to Lake Mulwala, is an environmental asset of national importance. Lake Buffalo and Lake William Hovel provide high security water to the Ovens and King Rivers and the areas that rely on them. The upper catchments

of the Broken and Goulburn Rivers provide 11 per cent of the Murray-Darling Basin's entire water resource. Lake Eildon and Lake Nillahcootie, built to regulate water supply to downstream irrigation areas, have environmental, recreational and economic values for the sub region.

Manufacturing is the largest employer in the Central Hume sub region, followed by retail, health and community services. Accommodation and food also feature as key industries, reflecting the importance of tourism particularly in settlements such as Bright and Mount Beauty. A softwood plantation industry provides a secure supply of timber for processing facilities located in the sub region.

The Central Hume sub region is renowned for its vibrant tourism industry, based on snow sports, cycling, nature based recreation, wine and fine food. There is a range of high quality tourism products and opportunities on offer and the Falls Creek, Mount Hotham, Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Alpine Resorts and the Dinner Plain alpine village are significant assets for the sub regional, regional and state economies. The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail is a major drawcard for cycle touring, an activity which has development potential in the Central Hume sub region.

Agriculture is still an important component of the Central Hume sub region's economy but its contribution is declining. The service economy has experienced the strongest employment growth in the last decade. Viticulture has grown as an industry, supported by fine-food areas, particularly in Milawa, Oxley and the Kiewa, Ovens and King Valleys.

Employment opportunities in Wangaratta have expanded in recent years due to its growth and the resulting expansion in service sector employment. Benalla has experienced some decline in professional employment in recent years as government offices have moved to other locations in the Hume Region, such as Shepparton and Wangaratta.

Goulburn Ovens TAFE (GOTAFE) offers a range of courses at the Wangaratta and Benalla campuses. However lack of transport options is a barrier for young people who do not live in and around these two regional cities / centres. The main campus of the National Centre for Equine Education is located in Wangaratta and the Wangaratta Technical Education Centre, also an initiative of GOTAFE, is one of four technical education centres being established across Victoria. With the exception of the Melbourne University School of Rural Health site at North East Health in Wangaratta, there is no other university campus located in the Central Hume sub region, resulting in tertiary students frequently moving away from home to attend regional or metropolitan universities.

The larger cultural and recreational amenities within the sub region—art galleries, performing arts centres, aquatic centres and sporting facilities—are located predominantly in Wangaratta and Benalla. Wangaratta has a significant and growing number of specialist medical services that attract people from throughout Central Hume. Albury and Wodonga are also accessible to people living in the northern part of the Central Hume sub region and provide retail, specialist health and post secondary education services to these communities.



## PART 2: THE CENTRAL HUME SUB REGIONAL **FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**



## ENVIRONMENT THEME

### NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

#### CONTEXT

The natural environment is a key asset in the Central Hume sub region, which has significant alpine areas, river valleys and water resources. Public land, particularly in the mountains and foothills, plays a major role in the economy of the region, providing water and timber, as well as a wide range of tourism and recreational opportunities.

The headwaters of many of Victoria's major rivers are located within the sub region and they represent environmental assets of state and national importance.

The Central Hume sub region spans a large number of bioregions, including the Highlands–Northern Fall, the Victorian Alps, the Central Victoria Uplands, the Northern Inland Slopes and the Victorian Riverina. These bioregions contain a wide range of vegetation communities, freshwater ecosystems and habitats for a diversity of flora and fauna species.

Climate change is predicted to have significant consequences for the biodiversity of the Central Hume sub region. Research indicates that the effects of climate change will occur at many different levels, from individual animals to ecosystems. Species may alter their distribution, abundance, behaviour and the timing of events such as migration or breeding. The most susceptible species will be those with restricted or specialised habitat requirements or small populations, as well as those that lack the ability to disperse easily. Climate change will also have indirect impacts on biodiversity, through increased pressure from competitors, predators, parasites, diseases and disturbances. Altered patterns of water flow in rivers and wetlands and decreasing snow cover, combined with the increased occurrence of bushfires, droughts and floods will influence the composition of ecosystems, particularly in alpine areas.

Management of the considerable tracts of crown land in the Central Hume sub region requires significant additional resourcing to maintain and preserve the future health and sustainability of their environments. The Rural City of Wangaratta contains one of Victoria's new River Red Gum national parks, the Warby-Ovens National Park. The Warby-Ovens National Park is one of four new River Red Gum national parks, which also includes the Gunbower, Barmah and Lower Goulburn River National Parks.

Energy demands in the Central Hume sub region are heightened by the lack of reticulated gas supplies in most rural areas. The high cost of bottled liquefied petroleum gas leads to a heavy reliance on firewood for residential heating, which has environmental as well as economic consequences. Developing alternative sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind and geothermal will be required to secure a competitive future for the sub region.

The sub regional environment will be improved through adoption of environmentally sustainable actions which aim to protect and enhance the natural systems. Improving green technologies and production, using renewable energy sources and taking advantage of potential carbon trading opportunities will support preferred environmental outcomes. Water security is critical through the management of the catchments, groundwater and bores and there will be an emphasis on efficient management and use of recycled-water assets.

The Central Hume sub region will have a reduced environmental footprint achieved with the support of the community through behaviour and lifestyle changes, and through new infrastructure and application of leading edge technologies. Efficient and equitable access to water will be provided. These inputs will all contribute to a strong and diverse local economy that is well placed to take advantage of developing sustainable economic opportunities.

The Hume Strategy Regional Plan 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 Central 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 additional actions identified as specific to the Central 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 2.1.CH1: Continue to support the protected status of the Ovens River system, having regard to: the unregulated nature of the system; its Heritage River status; and sustainable use of water close to its source.
- 2.2.CH1: Promote the development of innovative solutions to improve water supply, sewerage and wastewater management in settlements throughout Central Hume.
- 2.2.CH2: Develop key opportunities for sustainable use of water at the source through alpine agribusiness projects, while improving understanding of Lower Ovens groundwater resources and interactions and ensuring appropriate management of unregulated systems.
- 2.3.CH1: Ensure rural and urban developments in the Ovens River catchment are planned in a way that is consistent with water resource information and future climate change predictions.
- 2.3.CH2: Ensure planning and development in the Upper Broken River catchment is consistent with Goulburn Broken regional river health objectives to substantially improve overall stream condition.

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

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

- 3.1.CH1: Maximise the opportunities presented by the establishment of the Warby-Ovens National Park.
- 3.2.CH1: Maximise the opportunities presented by the restoration of the Winton Wetlands to protect and enhance biodiversity assets.
- 3.3.CH1: Investigate and develop weed control management programs for weed species such as Cabomba caroliniana to protect existing aquatic biodiversity within the Central Hume sub region.
- 3.4.CH1: Promote and link the re-establishment of the Winton Wetlands to regional environmental education and tourism programs.

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 Central Hume sub region.

- 4.1.CH1: Investigate the potential for the Mount Hotham Resort geothermal project to be adapted to other Central Hume sites.
- 4.1.CH2: Investigate the viability of establishing a commercial level solar generation and/or geothermal facility in the sub region.
- 4.2.CH1: Investigate opportunities for collective solar energy generation for supply to settlements or subdivisions in Central Hume.
- 4.3.CH1: Investigate the potential for a waste to energy facility within the Central Hume sub region.
- 4.4.CH1: Investigate the potential for composting and re-use of organic waste products associated with agriculture and timber industries in the sub region.

## COMMUNITIES THEME

### HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

#### CONTEXT

The Central Hume sub region is experiencing a slowing of growth in the larger urban centres and ageing of the population in rural areas. Recent investigations indicate that the high level of absentee ownership, particularly in sub alpine towns such as Mansfield, is likely lead to increased numbers of older people making a more permanent 'tree change' over the next five to ten years. It is important to plan for the anticipated additional demand for health, transport and aged care services, particularly in the larger settlements.

The Melbourne University School of Rural Health site at North East Health in Wangaratta is the only university presence in the Central Hume sub region. As a result many tertiary students have to commute long distances or relocate to larger centres or capital cities. Lack of public transport in many areas acts as a barrier to accessing post compulsory education options, including university, TAFE, apprenticeships or traineeships. This is especially true for young people who do not live in close proximity to Wangaratta or Benalla. Similarly, the absence of convenient and affordable transport limits access to specialist health care and early childhood services for Central Hume residents who are not within easy travelling distance of Wangaratta or Wodonga.

Improving transport and communications infrastructure that supports access to educational and health services is a priority for the Central Hume sub region, particularly for people who do not live along the Hume transport corridor.

While natural and cultural values and amenity contribute to liveability in many communities within the sub region, Central Hume has localised pockets of relatively high socio-economic disadvantage, particularly in Benalla and Wangaratta, where there are concentrations of social housing. Benalla is identified as a priority locality within Hume Region for community strengthening and school regeneration projects. Smaller pockets of relatively high disadvantage exist in Myrtleford, Bright, Mount Beauty, Moyhu, Springhurst, Mansfield and Jamieson.

There are no specific Indigenous health services available in Central Hume sub region. The Hume Region 'Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health' plan seeks to overcome this service omission.

The Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program (AVCLP) has operated since 1999 from a base in the Central Hume sub region. AVCLP develops emerging community leaders and also provides opportunities for community strengthening through a network of community and business leaders that extends beyond 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 Central 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 5.1.CH1: Regenerate existing educational infrastructure and resources in Benalla to support the learning needs of 0 – 24 year olds.
- 5.2.CH1: Investigate the potential for new or expanded Centres for Higher Education and Research for the Central Hume sub region in health and community services, hospitality, nature based and adventure tourism, cycling sports, fresh water fishing and equine industries.
- 5.3.CH1: Expand the sub regional role of Adult and Community Education (ACE) organisations in vocational and educational pathways.

**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 Central Hume sub region.

- 6.2.CH1: Connect young people in the Central Hume sub region to TAFE Colleges in regional cities and centres as well as other sub regions that have university campuses.
- 6.2.CH2: Provide service access pathways to early childhood specialist services.



## 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 7.1.CH1: Strengthen access to on-campus learning and use new technologies such as eHealth and eLearning for remote access in Central Hume.
- 7.2.CH1: Support measures in the Hume Region 'Closing the Gap' plan that lead to the provision of Indigenous health services in Central Hume sub region.

## 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 8.1.CH1: Engage communities and address socio-economic issues in areas of high relative disadvantage such as Benalla.
- 8.1.CH2: Strengthen community leadership skills development and utilise the community leadership base of the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program (AVCLP) through participatory community development projects. Provide resources and / or assistance to support local community leadership skills development.
- 8.1.CH3: Strengthen existing strategies such as Community Skillsbank and other useful models to engage 'tree change' residents and young to middle aged adults in volunteering within Central Hume.

## **ECONOMIC THEME**

### **A THRIVING AND DYNAMIC ECONOMY**

#### **CONTEXT**

The economy of the Central Hume sub region is driven by manufacturing, retail, agriculture, human services and tourism. The construction and transport sectors have experienced significant expansion over the past decade with average annual employment growth in the vicinity of four per cent. A core strength of Central Hume is that the economy has a robust and diverse base. This represents a competitive strength as well as providing a resilient platform from which to tackle major challenges such as climate change, drought, global financial conditions and demographic change.

Workforce sustainability is an issue in some parts of the sub region. The impending retirement of many existing workers and the difficulty of finding appropriate replacements is a challenge for some skill areas, particularly in smaller settlements. There are employment vacancies in areas of Central Hume that are proving difficult to fill, particularly for professionals and para-professionals in the health industry and for skilled manufacturing workers. The construction, accommodation, cafe and restaurant sectors have the highest proportion of unfilled jobs in Central Hume. Developing initiatives that attract, retain and grow the sub region's workforce will provide for the current and future needs of these industries.

Water quality and quantity are competitive strengths of the Central Hume sub region and, in addition to environmental and social values, contribute substantially to its economy. They will be critical in attracting and developing new industry, as well as providing opportunities for diversification in current industries such as agriculture. Adapting positively in the face of systemic change — including by increasing water use efficiencies — will require leadership from government, business and community.

Tourism has become a major industry and employer for the Central Hume sub region, similar to many other areas of provincial Victoria. Natural attractions, the Alpine Resorts, winter snow, major festivals and events, the visual arts, music, theatre, dance, quality food and wine products are all substantial contributors to the economy of the sub region. The landscapes of the Central Hume sub region are major tourist drawcards, including the Australian Alps National Parks - a National Landscape and National Heritage listed area that includes both the Alpine and Mount Buffalo National Parks. The National Landscapes Initiative, a partnership program of Tourism Australia and Parks Australia, also presents opportunities to preserve mountain landscapes that are crucial to a sustainable nature based tourism industry and to future generations of Victorians.

Expansion of the highly popular cycling paths and rail trails throughout the region will add variety to the tourism experience in Central Hume and develop potential for new economic opportunities associated with cycle touring. Many jobs in the existing tourist industry in the sub region are seasonal, so key tourist destinations are developing additional off-season attractions to encourage year round visitation. In recent times, tourism in Central Hume has experienced some adverse impacts from perceptions of high summer bushfire risks.

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 information and communications technology [ICT] and energy infrastructure that builds on existing competitive advantages**

Related priority strategies and actions that have significance at the Central 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 9.1.CH1: Develop a cross industry strategy for workforce attraction and retention for Central Hume.
- 9.2.CH1: Improve promotion of the Rural Skills Cadetship program to encourage tertiary students to maintain connectivity with their home region and provide job opportunities.
- 9.3.CH1: Support and expand the existing Technical Education Centres concept in Central Hume to encompass training in manufacturing and construction trades, primary and allied health, hospitality, tourism and environmental sciences.

## 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 10.1.CH1: Develop the Alpine Valleys Agrifood Project as a means of supporting sustainable agriculture.
- 10.1.CH2: Investigate the expansion of the Australian Alpine Valleys Agribusiness Forum [AAVAF] or development of a complementary project to support agribusinesses in Benalla Rural City and Mansfield Shire.
- 10.1.CH3: Utilise the Ovens Aquifer to support new economic opportunities.

## 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 11.1.CH1: Explore opportunities to incorporate Central Hume's nationally significant landscapes into the National Landscapes Initiative program.
- 11.1.CH2: Increase the tourism capacity and capability of the Central Hume sub region with particular emphasis on eco-tourism such as cultural heritage, walking trails, eco camping adventures, major festivals or events and food and wine.
- 11.1.CH3: Develop improved sub regional coordination structures for major festivals and arts events to increase patronage and minimise duplication.
- 11.1.CH4: Improve and better promote touring routes within the Central Hume sub region.
- 11.1.CH5: Extend the 'rail trail' infrastructure network through links to key settlements and the Winton Wetlands area.
- 11.1.CH6: Support investment in public land that contributes to future tourism opportunity.
- 11.1.CH7: Improve public transport services to/from Wangaratta to tourist precincts via links to the King Valley and the Ovens Valley.
- 11.1.CH8: Review the tourism loops for the Bogong High Plains Road, Omeo Highway and Great Alpine Road and align with regional promotional measures.
- 11.1.CH9: Ensure planning for tourism loops incorporates and links in with the four Alpine Resorts in the Central Hume sub region.
- 11.1.CH10: Upgrade the Corn Hill Link Road connecting the Alpine Resorts of Mount Buller and Mount Stirling.
- 11.1.CH11: Develop a sub regional cycling network strategy to expand the existing Rail Trails, with consideration given to linking Wangaratta and Benalla with the Winton Wetlands development, Mansfield in the east and the Tallarook trail in the south. Key elements to address are on-road safety, signage and education, as well as safety of road crossings on rail trails.
- 11.1.CH12: Construct the Bright to Harrietville and the Wangaratta to Whitfield links of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.
- 11.1.CH13: Provide grade separations at key locations on the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.
- 11.1.CH14: Provide off road cycle loops in the Kiewa Valley from Mount Beauty to Dederang and Yackandandah.
- 11.1.CH15: Develop cycling as a key social, environmental and economic resource in Central Hume utilising rail trails, connections within and between tourist destinations and the on-road /off-road potential for elite cycling in sub alpine and alpine areas.
- 11.3.CH1: Build on the findings of the Audit of Industrial Land in Provincial Victoria (DPCD) by investigating the extent and implications of land banking in the Central Hume sub region and identify steps to rectify problem areas.



## 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 12.1.CH1: Advocate for the construction of high quality and stable energy and telecommunications infrastructure and supplies in Central Hume, consistent with the 'networked centres' model, including the extension to settlements at the 'end points' of networks and to the Alpine Resorts.
- 12.2.CH1: Work with industry to identify business opportunities in Central Hume to develop renewable energy generation from solar, geothermal and waste to energy in order to attract new industries and businesses.

## TRANSPORT THEME

### AN INTEGRATED NETWORK OF EFFICIENT AND HIGH FUNCTIONING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

#### CONTEXT

The most important national road transport corridor between Melbourne and Sydney, the Hume Freeway, runs through the Central Hume sub region. The increased size of new road transport vehicles is impacting on the ability of the existing road infrastructure to cope with greater load demands.

Freight Futures - the Victorian freight network strategy does not nominate any road in alpine districts of the Central Hume sub region as being links of regional significance for the principal freight network. However, research illustrates that there are important freight routes that serve the needs of agriculture and the food processing and timber industries.

The dispersed settlement pattern and mountainous terrain that exist in much the sub region make the provision of public transport to these communities a challenging task. In particular, there is a lack of good quality east-west transport routes in the Central Hume sub region.

Further, 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 Alpine Resorts of Falls Creek, Mount Hotham, Mount Stirling and Mount Buller are important as 'end points' in the Hume Region networked centres model and are significant economic drivers for the sub region. Planning for mobility should ensure the delivery of services and infrastructure to these locations.

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 Central 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 13.1.CH1: Establish and administer working parties as required to support the implementation of key actions in the Hume Corridor Regional Transport Strategy relevant to the Central Hume sub region.
- 13.1.CH2: Advocate for the Kiewa Valley Highway (Mount Beauty to Baranduda), the Great Alpine Road (Bright to Wangaratta) and the Midland Highway (Mansfield to Benalla) to be incorporated into the State Government's Principal (Regional) Freight Network.

## 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 14.1.CH1: Improve the Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road to achieve more efficient freight transport movements.
- 14.2.CH1: Advocate for the proposed Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail alignment to be constructed in the Hume transport corridor.
- 14.2.CH2: Investigate the need for rail freight network access in Benalla Rural City.

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 Central Hume sub region.

- 15.1.CH1: Advocate for increased seven-day services in both directions for rail and bus services from Wangaratta and Benalla to Bendigo.
- 15.1.CH2: Improve bus services between Mansfield, Benalla and Shepparton.
- 15.1.CH3: Pursue ongoing funding for the Alpine-Link service from Bairnsdale, Omeo, Dinner Plain, Mount Hotham, Harrietville and Bright to Wangaratta.

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 Central Hume sub region.

- 16.1.CH1: Review the funding and delivery of the ‘Connecting our Communities’ and 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 Central Hume sub region has three distinct land use planning challenges:

- > Protecting rural land from inappropriate housing development, in order to retain opportunities for quality agricultural production into the future.
- > Integrating planning for Alpine Resorts and their associated settlements, both on Crown and private land.
- > Supporting the capacity of Councils to undertake high-level strategic land use planning activity.

There is evidence of conflicts between agriculture and urban or peri-urban expansion in the Central Hume sub region, including unplanned conversion of productive or potentially productive land to residential uses and constraints placed on farming activities by the amenity expectations of neighbours. Trends towards more intensive agriculture — involving developments such as shedding, igloos or feedlots — are also impacting on the rural landscape and may make some areas less attractive to tourists and potential residents.

Wangaratta supported by Benalla, provides a focal point for district towns, towns and villages in the sub region and they provide higher level services to meet diverse needs. Transport, economic, social and environmental linkages between these centres will be developed as well as connections to other key regional cities and centres outside of Hume Region and to Melbourne. These linkages will be the stimulus for driving the competitive advantages of Hume Region. Further work may be required to consider the role and function of smaller settlements such as Glenrowan, Milawa and Oxley within the overall network of settlements in the sub region.

Dinner Plain and Bogong Village have distinctive relationships with the Alpine Resorts of Mount Hotham and Falls Creek respectively. Harrietville is also closely linked to Mount Hotham, while Mansfield and Merrijig provide accommodation and other services to users of Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Alpine Resorts. The villages in the Alpine Resorts are unique in Victoria, as major concentrations of residential and commercial activities on public land, and the Resorts also present distinctive land management issues.

Taking a sub regional approach to strategic planning for land use in the Central Hume sub region may provide an opportunity to extend overall effectiveness by using the available resources more efficiently.

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 Central 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 17.1.CH1: Investigate the capacity of Wangaratta supported by Benalla as the driver to accommodate future population growth in the Central Hume sub region.
- 17.1.CH2: Facilitate the Benalla Urban Growth project to accommodate population growth through increased residential development capacity and public transport provision.
- 17.2.CH1: Investigate the need for a combined land use strategy for Dinner Plain, Bogong Village, Falls Creek and Mount Hotham, including the suitability of existing planning provisions and the land tenure arrangements for Bogong Village.
- 17.2.CH1: Investigate the role and function of smaller settlements such as Oxley, Milawa and Glenrowan within the overall network of settlements in the Central Hume sub region.

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 Central Hume sub region.

- 18.1.CH1: Investigate specific opportunities in Wangaratta and Benalla to coordinate the delivery of existing and new services and infrastructure.

## 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 Central Hume sub region.

- 19.1.CH1: Continue to develop and implement rural land use strategies at a local/sub regional level, which for the Central Hume sub region should specifically consider the following factors:
- > The future use of land formerly used for tobacco production
  - > The protection of rural land from expanding inappropriate housing development to support quality agricultural production
  - > Conflict between more intensive agriculture and the need to preserve the rural landscape
  - > Security of water supply for agriculture.
  - > Conflict between the demand for rural lifestyle opportunities and the protection of agricultural land
  - > The sustainable accommodation of the full range of rural land uses (including environmental uses).

## 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

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



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

## PART 3: APPENDIX LIST OF REGIONAL AND CENTRAL 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 which 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 which 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 which 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.
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 which 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.



## NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

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 which 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.CH1	Continue to support the protected status of the Ovens River system, having regard to: the unregulated nature of the system; its Heritage River status; and sustainable use of water close to its source.
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.CH1	Promote the development of innovative solutions to improve water supply, sewerage and wastewater management in settlements throughout Central Hume.
	2.2.CH2	Develop key opportunities for sustainable use of water at the source through alpine agribusiness projects, while improving understanding of Lower Ovens groundwater resources and interactions and ensuring appropriate management of unregulated systems.
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.CH1	Ensure rural and urban developments in the Ovens River catchment are planned in a way that is consistent with water resource information and future climate change predictions.
	2.3.CH2	Ensure planning and development in the Upper Broken River catchment is consistent with Goulburn Broken regional river health objectives to substantially improve overall stream condition.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS		
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.
Actions of sub regional significance	3.1.CH1	Maximise the opportunities presented by the establishment of the Warby-Ovens National Park.
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.
Actions of sub regional significance	3.2.CH1	Maximise the opportunities presented by the restoration of the Winton Wetlands to protect and enhance biodiversity assets.
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.
Actions of sub regional significance	3.3.CH1	Investigate and develop weed control management programs for weed species such as Cabomba caroliniana to protect existing aquatic biodiversity within the Central Hume sub region.
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 which 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.
Actions of sub regional significance	3.4.CH1	Promote and link the re-establishment of the Winton Wetlands to regional environmental education and tourism programs.

## NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTED AND ENHANCED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

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.CH1	Investigate the potential for the Mount Hotham Resort geothermal project to be adapted to other Central Hume sites.
	4.1.CH2	Investigate the viability of establishing a commercial level solar generation and/or geothermal facility in 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.CH1	Investigate opportunities for collective solar energy generation for supply to settlements or subdivisions in Central Hume.
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.CH1	Investigate the potential for a waste to energy facility within the Central Hume sub region.
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.CH1	Investigate the potential for composting and re-use of organic waste products associated with agriculture and timber industries in the sub region.

## 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.
Actions of sub regional significance	5.1.CH1	Regenerate existing educational infrastructure and resources in Benalla to support the learning needs of 0 – 24 year olds.

HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES		
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 particularly in relation to climate change and natural system impacts
	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.CH1	Investigate the potential for new or expanded Centres for Higher Education and Research for the Central Hume sub region in health and community services, hospitality, nature based and adventure tourism, cycling sports, fresh water fishing and equine industries.
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 a 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 post compulsory education providers to ensure high quality, relevant learning options are available locally.
	5.3.5	Guide and strengthen the capacity of post compulsory 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 post compulsory 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.CH1	Expand the sub regional role of ACE organisations in vocational and educational pathways.
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.
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 ICT 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 to access regionally available services including sub regional service delivery networks built upon partnerships with service providers, business, community and government.
	6.2.5	Resource and support mainstream and specialist health and community services 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.CH1	Connect young people in the Central Hume sub region to TAFE Colleges in regional cities and centres as well as other sub regions that have university campuses.
	6.2.CH2	Provide service access pathways to early childhood specialist services.
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 waste water 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.

HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES		
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, compare, contrast and evaluate the different 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.CH1	Strengthen access to on-campus learning and use new technologies such as eHealth and eLearning for remote access in Central Hume.
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 in health, education and training 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.
Actions of sub regional significance	7.2.CH1	Support measures in the Hume Region 'Closing the Gap' plan that lead to the provision of Indigenous health services in Central Hume sub region.
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	Ensure community strengthening activities are tailored and appropriate 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 which need to manage the social and other impacts of change.
Actions of sub regional significance	8.1.CH1	Engage communities and address socio-economic issues in areas of high relative disadvantage such as Benalla.
	8.1.CH2	Strengthen community leadership skills development and utilise the community leadership base of the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program (AVCLP) through participatory community development projects. Provide resources and / or assistance to support local community leadership skills development.
	8.1.CH3	Strengthen existing strategies such as Community Skillsbank and other useful models to engage 'tree change' residents and young to middle aged adults in volunteering within Central Hume.
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 such as 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.

HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES		
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	Implement marketing and relocation programs that encourage immigration to the region and ensure such programs target 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.CH1	Develop a cross industry strategy for workforce attraction and retention for Central Hume.
A THRIVING AND DYNAMIC ECONOMY		
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 labour supply pool for industry by developing focused approaches based on demographic characteristics.
	9.2.4	Implement tailored workforce attraction and retention strategies in health and education.
	9.2.5	Investigate and recommend 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.CH1	Improve promotion of the Rural Skills Cadetship program to encourage tertiary students to maintain connectivity with their home region and provide job opportunities.
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.
Actions of sub regional significance	9.3.CH1	Support and expand the existing Technical Education Centres concept in Central Hume to encompass training in manufacturing and construction trades, primary and allied health, hospitality, tourism and environmental sciences.
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.



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 southern part of the region.
	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.CH1	Develop the Alpine Valley's Agrifood Project as a means of supporting sustainable agriculture.
	10.1.CH2	Investigate the expansion of the AAVAF (or development of a complementary project) to support agribusinesses in Benalla Rural City and Mansfield Shire.
	10.1.CH3	Utilise the Ovens Aquifer to support new economic opportunities.
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.
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.CH1	Explore opportunities to incorporate Central Hume's nationally significant landscapes into the National Landscapes Initiative program.
	11.1.CH2	Increase the tourism capacity and capability of the Central Hume sub region with particular emphasis on eco-tourism such as cultural heritage, walking trails, eco camping adventures, major festivals and events and food and wine.
	11.1.CH3	Develop improved sub regional coordination structures for major festivals and arts events to increase patronage and minimise duplication.
	11.1.CH4	Improve and better promote touring routes within the Central Hume sub region.
	11.1.CH5	Extend the 'rail trail' infrastructure network through links to key settlements and the Winton Wetlands area.
	11.1.CH6	Support investment in public land that contributes to future tourism opportunity.
	11.1.CH7	Improve public transport services to/from Wangaratta to tourist precincts via links to the King Valley and the Ovens Valley.
	11.1.CH8	Review the tourism loops for the Bogong High Plains Road, Omeo Highway and Great Alpine Road and align with regional promotional measures.
	11.1.CH9	Ensure planning for tourism loops incorporates and links in with the four Alpine Resorts in the Central Hume sub region.
	11.1.CH10	Upgrade the Corn Hill Link Road connecting the Alpine Resorts of Mount Buller and Mount Stirling.
	11.1.CH11	Develop a sub regional cycling network strategy to expand the existing Rail Trails, with consideration given to linking Wangaratta and Benalla with the Winton Wetlands development, Mansfield in the east and the Tallarook trail in the south. Key elements to address are on-road safety, signage and education, as well as safety of road crossings on rail trails.
	11.1.CH12	Construct the Bright to Harrietville and Wangaratta to Whitfield links of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.
	11.1.CH13	Provide grade separations at key locations on the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.
	11.1.CH14	Provide off road cycle loops in the Kiewa Valley from Mount Beauty to Dederang and Yackandandah.
	11.1.CH15	Develop cycling as a key social, environmental and economic resource in Central Hume utilising rail trails, connections within and between tourist destinations and the on-road / off-road potential for elite cycling in sub alpine and alpine areas.
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>Facilitating leadership in innovation, research and development</b>
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.
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>Identifying development capacity that will contribute to stimulating industry expansion</b>
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.
Actions of sub regional significance	11.3.CH1	Build on the findings of the Audit of Industrial Land in Provincial Victoria (DPCD) by investigating the extent and implications of land banking in the Central Hume sub region and identify steps to rectify problem areas.
<b>Key Direction</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Developing ICT and energy infrastructure that builds on existing competitive advantages</b>
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>Securing world class ICT infrastructure and services for the Hume Region</b>
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.
Actions of sub regional significance	12.1.CH1	Advocate for the construction of high quality and stable energy and telecommunications infrastructure and supplies in Central Hume, consistent with the 'networked centres' model, including the extension to settlements at the 'end points' of networks and to the Alpine Resorts.
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>Establishing the future of the Hume Region as a centre of excellence for renewable energy technology and infrastructure</b>
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.CH1	Work with industry to identify business opportunities in Central Hume to develop renewable energy generation from solar, geothermal and waste to energy in order to attract new industries and businesses.

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 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.CH1	Establish and administer working parties as required to support the implementation of key actions in the Hume Corridor Regional Transport Strategy relevant to the Central Hume sub region.
	13.1.CH2	Advocate for the Kiewa Valley Highway (Mount Beauty to Baranduda), the Great Alpine Road (Bright to Wangaratta) and the Midland Highway (Mansfield to Benalla) to be incorporated into the State Government's Principal (Regional) Freight Network.
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, VicTrack, 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 that can add 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 NSW 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 additional improvements to the main agriculture transport links in the region.
Actions of sub regional significance	14.1.CH1	Improve the Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road to achieve more efficient freight transport movements.
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.CH1	Advocate for the proposed Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail alignment to be constructed in the Hume transport corridor.
	14.2.CH2	Investigate the need for rail freight network access in Benalla Rural City.
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 land transportation system linkages.
	15.1.2	Investigate and recommend on needs for expanded and increased frequency public transport 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 of travel.
	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.CH1	Advocate for increased seven-day services in both directions for rail and bus services from Wangaratta and Benalla to Bendigo.
	15.1.CH2	Improve bus services between Mansfield, Benalla and Shepparton.
	15.1.CH3	Pursue ongoing funding for the Alpine-Link service from Bairnsdale, Omeo, Dinner Plain, Mount Hotham, Harrietville and Bright to Wangaratta.
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.
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 bus services between regional cities and centres 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.CH1	Review the funding and delivery of the 'Connecting our Communities' and 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.CH1	Investigate the capacity of Wangaratta supported by Benalla as the driver to accommodate future population growth in the Central Hume sub region.
	17.1.CH2	Facilitate the Benalla Urban Growth project to accommodate population growth through increased residential development capacity and public transport provision.

AN EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE PATTERN OF URBAN AND RURAL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT		
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>Manage growth in small settlements</b>
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.CH1	Investigate the need for a combined land use strategy for Dinner Plain, Bogong Village, Falls Creek and Mount Hotham, including the suitability of existing planning provisions and the land tenure arrangements for Bogong Village.
	17.2.CH2	Investigate the role and function of smaller settlements such as Oxley, Milawa and Glenrowan within the overall network of settlements in the Central Hume sub region.
<b>Key Direction</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Maximising the use of existing infrastructure and services and facilitating strategic investment in future infrastructure and services</b>
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>Coordinate service delivery in strongly linked settlements</b>
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.CH1	Investigate specific opportunities in Wangaratta and Benalla to coordinate the delivery of existing and new services and infrastructure.
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>Plan for growth in settlements within relatively close proximity to Melbourne</b>
	18.2.1	Lower Hume sub regional strategic actions only.
<b>Key Direction</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Retaining productive rural land for agriculture and other compatible rural uses</b>
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>Manage land use in rural areas to sustainably accommodate all rural land uses</b>
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.CH1	Continue to develop and implement rural land use strategies at a local/sub regional level, which for the Central Hume sub region should specifically consider the following factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The future use of land formerly used for tobacco production.</li> <li>• The protection of rural land from expanding inappropriate housing development to support quality agricultural production.</li> <li>• Conflict between more intensive agriculture and the need to preserve the rural landscape.</li> <li>• Security of water supply for agriculture.</li> <li>• Conflict between the demand for rural lifestyle opportunities and the protection of agricultural land.</li> <li>• The sustainable accommodation of the full range of rural land uses (including environmental uses).</li> </ul>
<b>Key Direction</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Ensuring efficient use of land use planning resources in the region</b>
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>A regional / sub regional partnership approach to strategic land use planning</b>
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 water supply catchments.
<b>Priority Strategy</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>Training of land use planning professionals and increasing the availability of expert advice</b>
Actions of regional significance	20.2.1	Enhance and support the training needs of land use planning professionals within the region.





