7.0 Emergencies and Privacy

Organisations hold a wide variety of personal information relating to individuals and may collect information for a wide variety of purposes. Such information can be of significant use and benefit for organisations that must deal with emergency situations.

The Victorian *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (PDPA)* recognises that in an emergency the public interest in safety will override the privacy requirements of the Act.

> Information privacy law is not a barrier to appropriate information sharing **in emergencies**. The PDPA includes provisions that permit personal information to be shared where there is a countervailing public interest, such as where an individual's life or safety is at risk. A decision to share personal information must be made carefully, but privacy laws do not stand in the way; life trumps privacy and the laws are written to reflect that. For more guidance please refer to the Victorian Commissioner for Privacy and Data Collection website[1], and Emergencies and Privacy Information Sheet[1].

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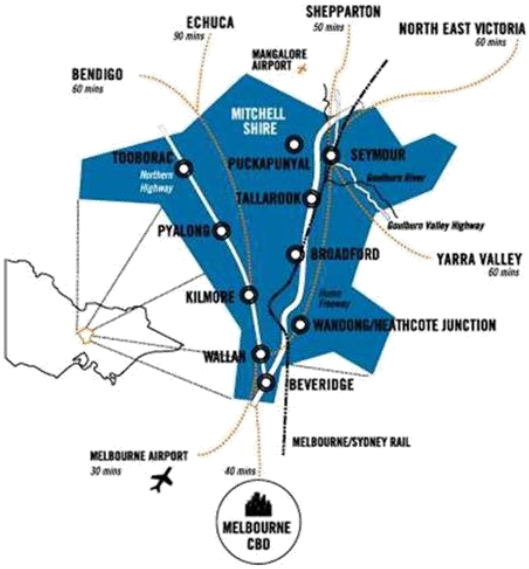
Part 2 – Background

2.1 Context

Strategically located just 40 kilometres north of Melbourne, Mitchell Shire is one of Victoria's fastest growing outer metropolitan municipalities. As an interface growth area, Mitchell Shire offers a mix of rural and urban living with affordable housing and a diversity of lifestyle and housing choices.



As of January 2018, total population stood at 45,000 (ABS Census 2016).

By 2036, Mitchell Shires population is projected to grow by more than 45,000 people with nearly 89,214 people calling Mitchell home, many of them young families (forecast id). It is anticipated that most of this growth will occur in and around the southern townships of Beveridge, Kilmore/Kilmore East and Wallan.

Mitchell Shire has a high commuter workforce relying heavily on regional rail and road networks to travel to and from work and for day to day community activities.

Key employers within the shire include Puckapunyal Military Area, Council, hospitals, health services, schools and child care, supermarkets, Ralphs Meats and Nestle. Agricultural, equine and tourism industries are also important contributors to our local economy.

Rolling foothills, open farmland, mountain ranges, rivers, creeks and natural environment are key attributes of the landscape amenity. This also means parts of the municipality are subject to natural disasters such as fires, storms and floods.

At 2861 square kilometres[1], Mitchell Shire is a large municipality with many larger and smaller townships and communities. These include Beveridge, Broadford, Bylands, Clonbinane, Forbes, Glenaroua, Glenhope, Glenhope East, Heathcote Junction, Heathcote South, High Camp, Hilldene, Hughes Creek, Kilmore, Kilmore East, Mia Mia, Moranding, Northwood, Nulla Vale, Puckapunyal, Pyalong, Reedy Creek, Seymour, Sugarloaf Creek, Sunday Creek, Tallarook, Tooborac, Trawool, Tyaak, Upper Plenty, Wallan, Wallan East, Wandong, Waterford Park, Whiteheads Creek and Willowmavin. Mitchell Shire also cover parts of Avenel, Donnybrook, Flowerdale, Highlands, Mangalore, Strath Creek, and Tarcombe.

Mitchell Shire shares boundaries with the municipalities of Greater Bendigo and Strathbogie to the north, Murrindindi to the east, Hume and Whittlesea to the south, and Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander to the west.

[1] *Source: GIS*

2.2 Mitchell Shire Profile

Landscapes of Mitchell Shire

"The Shire has a diverse range of landscapes including steep to gently undulating sedimentary hills, dissected granite plateaus with gentle to steep slopes, undulating volcanic plains, and alluvial floodplains associated with major rivers and creeks. Climatic variation is pronounced with a higher rainfall and longer growing season in the southern portion of the Shire" (Jones et al. 1996).

Topography

The municipality contains three basic landforms:

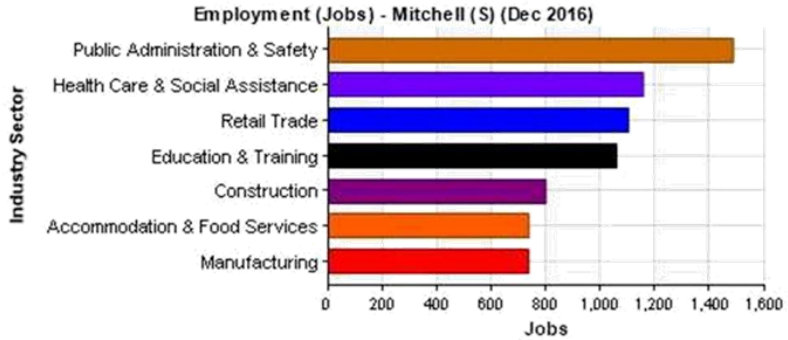
- Forested mountain areas in the Mt. Disappointment and Tallarook State Forests with top elevation of 805m at Mt Hickey and 794m at Mt Disappointment. These areas generally feature shallow, sedimentary stony soils and steep slopes; however some better quality soils occur on mountain plateaus developed from volcanic and granite intrusive rocks.
- Foot hill areas typified by gently undulating landscapes with shallow sedimentary stony soils on the lower hillsides and broad valleys with deeper and more fertile soils.
- Alluvial plains characterised by river flats, flood plains and gentle hills with deep, sedimentary fertile soils. Generally located in the central to north western areas of the Shire these areas are low lying with elevations in some localities less than 100m.

Economy and Employment

Approximately 13,800 jobs are located in the Shire of Mitchell. The 2011 Census[2] found that almost half (46%) of the Shire's resident workers live and work within the Shire; with a further 40% working outside the Shire (the location of the remaining 14% was unknown)[3].

In terms of the jobs that are physically located in Mitchell Shire; over three-quarters (76.5%) were held by local residents in 2011[4].

The largest industry sectors located in the Shire of Mitchell by number of jobs are shown in the below chart[5].

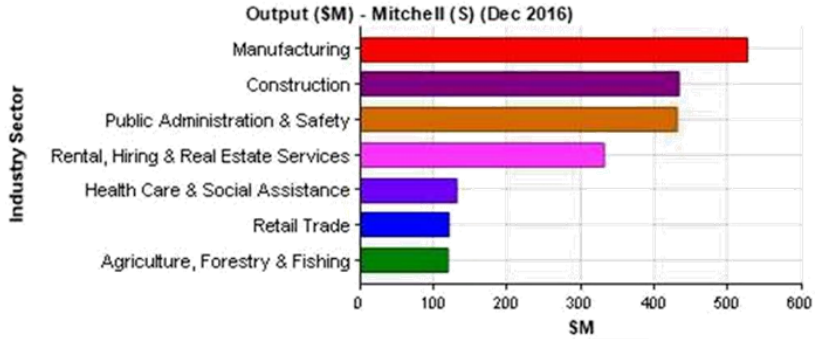


Source: REMPLAN Economy based on 2011 ABS Census Data.

[2] The ABS is due to release 2016 Census data related to employment and journey to work progressively from October 2017. This will enable these figures to be updated.
[3] http://economy.id.com.au/mitchell/residents-place-of-work
[4] http://economy.id.com.au/mitchell/workers-place-of-residence
[5] REMPLAN Economy; Accessed 15th September 2017.

Mitchell Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan

The largest industries in the Shire of Mitchell by value of output ($) are manufacturing, construction, and public administration & safety. Interestingly, despite the largely rural nature of the Shire's land use pattern – agriculture, forestry and fishing is only the 7th largest industry sector by output in the Shire (out of a total of 19 recognised industry sectors).



Source: REMPLAN Economy based on 2011 ABS Census Data.

Key industries in Mitchell Shire:

Manufacturing:	Mitchell has a diverse manufacturing sector that collectively generates the highest level of economic output in the regional economy. Manufacturing in Mitchell includes food production, packaging products, eco-friendly frames and plasterboards, petrochemical products, machinery and equipment manufacture. Mitchell Shire is home to a number of international and locally renowned companies including Allen's Lollies, Ralphs Meats, Rapidwall, National Paper Industries and O'Dwyers Horseshoe.
Public Administration& Safety:	This sector accounts for more jobs than any other in the Shire. Puckapunyal was the largest single employer in the Shire in 2016 with approximately 650 jobs. Other leading employers include the Shire of Mitchell and the Shire's Police Stations, particularly the police station at Wallan.
Construction:	The construction sector is a major and rapidly growing economic driver of the Mitchell Shire economy with the presence of a number of building materials manufacturers in the Shire. Between 2006 and 2011, the number of jobs in the construction sector grow from 583 to 798 and it is expected that this growth will continue given the significant population growth that is forecast for Mitchell Shire, especially in the Melbourne Urban Growth Boundary area of Mitchell South.
Health Care & Social Assistance:	The sector rose from the 4th to the 2nd largest provider of employment in Mitchell Shire between 2006 and 2011. Further strong growth is expected over coming years in line with population growth and the arrival of the NDIS.
Education:	Mitchell Shire is home to several highly regarded educational institutions that provide for both local and international students. A mix of state, religious and private secondary schools are located in Seymour, Broadford, Kilmore and Wallan, while GOTAFE Seymour provides tertiary education.

Tourism:	Tourism is not recognised as a separate 'industry' in official figures as it is comprised of parts of various other industry sectors. However, if it were – it would be Mitchell Shire's 9th largest industry sector with estimated total annual output of approximately $93 million and total value added of $43 million. In line with this, it is estimated that 530 jobs in Mitchell Shire rely on tourism.
Equine:	Mitchell Shire is home to a number of high-profile stud farms which have set up or strengthened their presence in Mitchell Shire over the last five years – big names in the breeding industry including Blue Gum, Chatswood, Darley and Swettenham – along with a number of smaller prestigious operations which support a thriving harness sector. The region also supports an array of brood mare farms, two equine hospitals and first-class regional race courses at Kilmore and Seymour. The breeding industry in the region is represented by North East Thoroughbred (NET), and the North East Thoroughbred Breeders of Victoria (NETBV).

Infrastructure

Puckapunyal Military Area

The entire 42,000 ha of the Puckapunyal Army Base and Military Range is contained within the municipality to the north west of the town of Seymour. The base is virtually a self-sufficient suburb with a stable population of 2,500 predominantly military personnel, representing approximately 7% of Mitchell Shire's total population.

From time to time the military population at Puckapunyal may be supplemented as a result of army training or changes in the focus of Australian defence policies. The present understanding of Puckapunyal's future indicates its increasing importance as an element of national defence training, and that further development of the base will occur.

Main Roads

Hume Freeway	Northbound vehicles per day 7,500 with 30% Heavy, Southbound VPD 7,400 with 31% Heavy
Northern Highway	6,000 VPD 13% Heavy
Goulburn Valley Highway	2,400 VPD 20% Heavy

Rail

The Melbourne – Sydney Rail line traverses the length of the municipality and a branch line extends from Seymour to the Goulburn Valley. The rail system carries country passenger and commuter trains, as well as significant bulk freight movements. An average of 290 passenger services and 60 freight services operate weekly through Broadford.

Town Water and Sewerage infrastructure

Depending upon their size and location, towns within Mitchell Shire are serviced by Yarra Valley, Goulburn Valley, or Coliban water authorities. Each of these authorities maintains emergency response plans for individual facilities.

Mitchell Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan

Utilities

- Gas - the municipality is traversed by the main high-pressure Sydney/Melbourne gas pipeline.
- Telecommunications - the optic fibre cable between Melbourne and Sydney also traverses the municipality.
- Mt Hickey – Community TV
- Telstra Towers - Pyalong, Broadford and Clonbinane.

Health and Aged Care Services

Hospitals
Seymour Memorial Hospital
Kilmore Hospital

Aged Care
Caladenia Nursing Home Kilmore
Dianella Hostel Kilmore
Willowmeade Kilmore
Karingal Hostel Seymour

Schools

Beveridge
Beveridge Primary School

Broadford
Broadford Primary School
Broadford Secondary School

Kilmore
Kilmore International School
Assumption College
Kilmore Primary School
St Patricks Primary School
Willowmavin Primary School

Pyalong
Pyalong Primary school

Seymour
Seymour College P-12 and Seymour Special School
St Marys College P - 10

Tallarook
Tallarook Primary School

Tooborac
Tooborac Primary School

Upper Plenty
Upper Plenty Primary School

Wallan
Wallan Primary School
Wallan Secondary College

Wandong
Wandong Primary School

Kindergartens within Mitchell Shire are listed on Crisis Works with Emergency Management Plans.

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Mitchell Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan

Accommodation

Caravan Parks

Goulburn River Tourist Park, Seymour
Highlands Caravan Park, Seymour
Kilmore Caravan Park, Kilmore

Camping

Horseshoe Lagoon Flora and Fauna Reserve, Seymour
Hughes Creek Highlands Road, Seymour
Mount Disappointment State Forest, Heathcote Junction
Tallarook State Forest – Freemans Camping Area, Tallarook
Trawool Reservoir Camping Area, Trawool

Hotel and Motels

Auto Lodge Motor Inn, Seymour
Best Western New Crossing Place/Seymour Hotel, Seymour
Comfort Inn Coach and Bushman's, Seymour
Royal Hotel, Seymour
Wattle Motel, Seymour
Sugarloaf Motel, Broadford
Trawool Valley Resort, Trawool
Hogans Hotel, Wallan
Kestrel Motor Inn, Kilmore

Media

Radio OKRFM Kilmore
Seymour FM

Seymour Telegraph
North Central Review

Tourism and Major Events

Mitchell Shire forms part of the Goulburn River Valley Region and is known for its scenic beauty, characterised by rolling hills, lush forests, majestic rivers and lakes, rural plains and the mighty Goulburn River making it a hugely popular lifestyle and holiday destination.

Details of tourism and major events within Mitchell Shire c are located on the Mitchell Shire Council website - Mitchell Shire - Our Region

Bushland and Environmental Reserves

Some of Mitchell Shire Council's significant environmental reserves are:

- Catherine Court Reserve, Broadford
- Beveridge Spring, Beveridge
- Boulton Flora Reserve, Tallarook
- Colin Officer Flora Reserve, Broadford
- Fleming Drive Flora Reserve, Broadford
- Green's Pinch reserve and Hamilton's Creek, Kilmore
- High Camp Flora Reserve, High Camp
- Kilmore Hospital Reservoir
- Monument Hill Reserve, Kilmore
- Seymour Bushland Park, Seymour
- Tallarook Arboretum
- Taylors Creek Linear Reserve, Wallan

Demography

The median age of people in Mitchell Shire is 37 years. Children aged 0 - 14 years make up 20.7% of the population and people aged 65 years and over make up 14.3% of the population. Of the families in Mitchell Shire, 46.4% are couple families with children, 35.4% are couple families without children and 17.0% are one parent families.

Localities in the northern part of Mitchell Shire, Seymour, Tallarook, Tooborac and Kilmore have a higher proportion of residents aged 65 years and over. The proportion of older residents living in these locations is higher than the Mitchell Shire average. In contrast, localities in the south, Beveridge, Wallan, Heathcote Junction and Wandong have lower proportions of older residents. There are also a higher proportion of children living in the southern part of the Shire.

Mitchell Shires increasing integration with metropolitan Melbourne is driving population growth, making Mitchell the fastest growing regional municipality in Victoria with a projected growth rate of 4.8% per annum to 2031. Mitchell Shire is one of 10 Interface Councils which will accommodate over 60% of Melbourne's future growth to 2026. We are also one of 7 growth Councils specifically earmarked to absorb future urban growth and development and major transport interchanges.

By 2036, it is forecast that more than 22,000 residents (25%) in our community will be aged 55 years or older, around 6% of which will be aged 75 years or older (the high needs age group)[6].

High population growth over the next 20 years will see a large proportion of younger people reside in our community, offsetting the trend in population ageing that is impacting other parts of Victoria. However, a significant proportion of our population will continue to age, impacting on townships in different ways. By 2036, more than 1 in 3 residents in the townships of Broadford, Kilmore and Seymour will be aged 55 years or older. In Beveridge and Wallan, the proportion of older residents will be much lower[2].

Over the next 20 years, Mitchell Shire's annual population growth rate will range between 3% and 4.3%. The population will more than double with an increase of almost 50,000 people by 2036[2]. This rapid population growth will increase the urban footprint of townships. It will provide opportunities for increased economic activity and provide larger town centres with more diverse retail and commercial offerings. It will also provide challenges as the population increases.

The capacity of residents to escape an emergency situation is a critical factor in planning for emergency management. Residents with limited or no capacity to escape because of a disability or a lack of access to motorised transport are considered to be more vulnerable to threats from natural disasters.

There is an above average proportion of residents who require assistance with core activities[7] in the locations of Tooborac, Seymour, Reedy Creek, Waterford Park, Kilmore and Broadford. Consideration of the needs of these residents is critical in an emergency situation.

[6] forecast.id, 2017, Mitchell Shire Population Forecasts, https://forecast.id.com.au/mitchell, accessed July 2017

[7] The definition of a person requiring assistance with a core activity used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics is 'those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age'.