

21.02 MUNICIPAL PROFILE

21.02-1 Location

Strathbogie Shire is located in north east Victoria with its major centre in Euroa, which is located 150 kilometres from Melbourne. It includes the former Shires of Euroa, Goulburn, Violet Town and parts of the former Shires of Benalla, McIvor and Seymour.

The shire has common boundaries with the Cities of Greater Bendigo (western boundary), Greater Shepparton (northern boundary) and the Shires of Campaspe (north-west boundary), Delatite (north-eastern boundary), Mitchell (south/south-western boundary) and Murrindindi (eastern boundary).

The major townships within the Shire are Euroa, Nagambie, Avenel and Violet Town. Other small townships include Strathbogie, Longwood and Ruffy. A locality plan is located on Page 2.

21.02-2 Regional context

Major land-use issues in Strathbogie Shire that have significance beyond the municipal boundaries include:

Strathbogie Plateau (Ranges)

The Strathbogie Plateau is a large tableland (300 metres above the plains and higher rainfall) located in the north east of the Shire and extending into the neighbouring Shires of Delatite and Murrindindi. It is approximately 500 square kilometres in area making it a significant regional landmark. The Plateau boasts outstanding natural landscapes and visual features. The Plateau provides a unique agricultural, tourist and living environment that needs to be managed to protect its values.

River systems

The Shire is located within the Goulburn Broken Catchment which is part of the Murray Darling Basin. Important regional waterways include the Goulburn River (on which are the Nagambie Lakes, Goulburn Weir), the Seven Creeks and Hughes Creek. The protection of water quality and quantity in all rivers and creeks is important for local and regional water users and the health of our river systems. The Goulburn River is recognised under the Heritage Rivers Act as a river of national importance.

Forests

Box-ironbark forests extend across northern and central Victoria. Significant areas of box-ironbark forests are located within the Shire particularly in the south west in the area known as Graytown. Currently the Environment Conservation Council is reviewing the designated status of all box-ironbark forest areas in the State. To the east, the Strathbogie Plateau has areas of State Forest and areas of significant stands of native vegetation.

Transport Corridors

The shire is serviced by excellent regional and interstate transport links. The Hume Freeway and the Melbourne-Sydney rail line are the nation's major road and rail links. Together with the Goulburn Valley Highway, which links to the Newell Highway to Brisbane, they traverse the Shire and provide opportunities for freight and passenger movements and increase the region's tourist and recreational appeal. Other secondary rail services like the Melbourne-Shepparton line also traverse the Shire. Mangalore Airport

provides excellent facilities for air-freight, light aircraft traffic and military traffic associated with Puckapunyal Army Base.

Management of land use and development in the vicinity of these corridors is an important planning consideration at the State, regional and local level.

Natural Resource Management

The Shire has excellent land and water resources. It is important that consistency is achieved at a regional level in policy and statutory approaches to land use planning in relation to the management of natural resources and water catchments. Municipal groups in the North East Region is working together to ensure that its natural resources are managed in a sustainable manner. The Goulburn-Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 1997 is a major natural resource management document. The vision for this Strategy is: *“Protect and enhance the catchment’s land and water resources to improve the region’s social well being, environmental quality and productive capacity in a sustainable manner.”*

Economic Development

The Shire is part of a region where development opportunities continue to be created by ease of access to Melbourne, location on major transport routes, capacity to increase agricultural production and the development of further tourist-recreational facilities and attractions. New enterprises are being developed and integrated with previous agricultural activities eg. lucern hay and grain for the horse industries, straw and chicken manure for mushroom composting and grain for pigs and poultry.

Regional North East Victoria

