

## 11.14

31/03/2017  
VC134

## LODDON MALLEE SOUTH

For the purpose of this Clause, the ‘Loddon Mallee South region’ comprises the municipal areas of Central Goldfields, Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander, covered in the *Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).

### Policy guidelines

In considering the policy objectives and strategies for the Loddon Mallee South region, planning must consider as relevant, the *Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).

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#### Planning for growth

##### Objective

To manage population growth and settlements.

##### Strategies

Support Bendigo as the regional city and the major population and economic growth hub for the region, offering a range of employment and services.

Manage and support growth in Castlemaine, Gisborne, Kyneton and Maryborough as employment and service hubs that reinforce the network of communities within the region.

Support sustainable growth and expansion in Inglewood, Bridgewater, Marong and Harcourt to capitalise on their proximity to Bendigo.

Facilitate increased commercial and residential densities, mixed use development and revitalisation projects for underutilised sites and land in Bendigo.

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#### Strengthened communities

##### Objective

To strengthen communities especially in small towns.

##### Strategies

Support the ongoing role and contribution of the region’s small towns, settlements and non-urban areas through investment and diversification of their economies.

Plan for facilities and infrastructure needed to deliver education and training that supports growth.

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#### A diversified economy

##### Objective

To strengthen and diversify the economy.

## **Strategies**

Support expansion of the region's diverse economy to enable residents to work and participate in the region.

Facilitate greater employment and investment outcomes from growth sectors such as health, education and professional services.

Support and develop emerging and potential growth sectors such as tourism, renewable energy, resource recovery and other green industries.

Facilitate new manufacturing and food processing industries that build on supply chains and take advantage of well located and affordable land.

Maintain and develop buffers around mining and quarrying activities.

Facilitate access to natural resources where appropriate, including sand and stone, minerals, timber and renewable energy potential.

Support the development and expansion of tourism infrastructure in Bendigo.

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## **Infrastructure**

### **Objective**

To improve infrastructure.

### **Strategies**

Provide adequate waste and resource recovery infrastructure and services to support new development and population growth.

Minimise the impact of urban development on the current and future operation of major infrastructure of national, state and regional significance, including highways, railways, airports, communication networks and energy generation and distribution systems.

Support upgrades at Bendigo Airport that improve access and infrastructure to support emergency services.

Maintain and strengthen passenger and freight transport networks and explore opportunities to develop freight-related activities in Marong and Maryborough.

### **11.14-5**

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## **Natural and built environment**

### **Objective**

To protect and enhance the natural and built environment.

### **Strategies**

Protect and improve the condition of the region's important environmental assets such as forests, wetlands and rivers.

Maintain non-urban breaks between settlements.

Support the designation of Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park as a World Heritage place to underpin tourism.

Facilitate tourism opportunities in appropriate locations near heritage places and natural environments.

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## **Agricultural productivity**

### **Objective**

To ensure food, water and energy security.

### **Strategies**

Facilitate ongoing productivity and investment in high value agriculture.

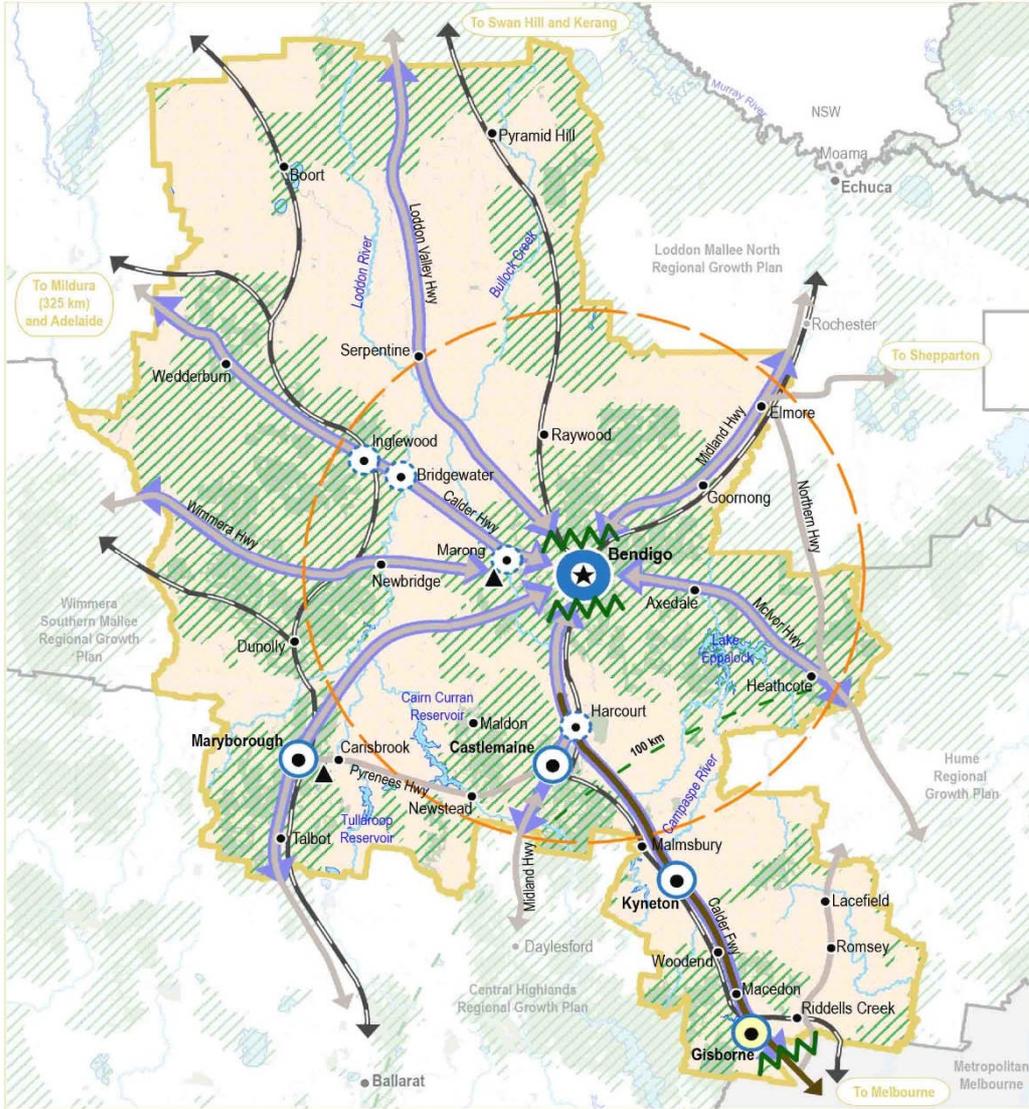
Facilitate new opportunities in agriculture that respond to the potential impacts of climate change.

Support and facilitate development in renewable energy, waste to energy, carbon sequestration and other new energy opportunities.

Support ongoing investment in water infrastructure and management of water resources to enhance security and efficiency of water supply to irrigators, farms and urban areas.

# 11.14-7 Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan

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## SETTLEMENT NETWORK

- Bendigo - Regional city - Major growth
- Regional centres/towns - Manage and support growth
- Encourage sustainable growth in Bendigo's hinterland towns
- Designated identified growth centre in Plan Melbourne<sup>(1)</sup>
- Towns and rural centres
- Maintain settlement break
- Areas within 100 km of central Melbourne
- Bendigo hinterland

(1) Plan Melbourne (Chapter 6 – State of Cities) identifies Gisborne as a peri-urban town with potential to attract housing and population growth out of Melbourne

## CONNECTIVITY

- Key transport corridor
- Opportunity for freight-related activities
- Freeway
- Road
- Rail

## ECONOMIC

- Facilitate ongoing agricultural productivity and new opportunities that respond to climate change through ongoing adaptation and flexibility.

## ENVIRONMENT

- Areas containing high value terrestrial habitat
- Public land
- Lakes
- Rivers