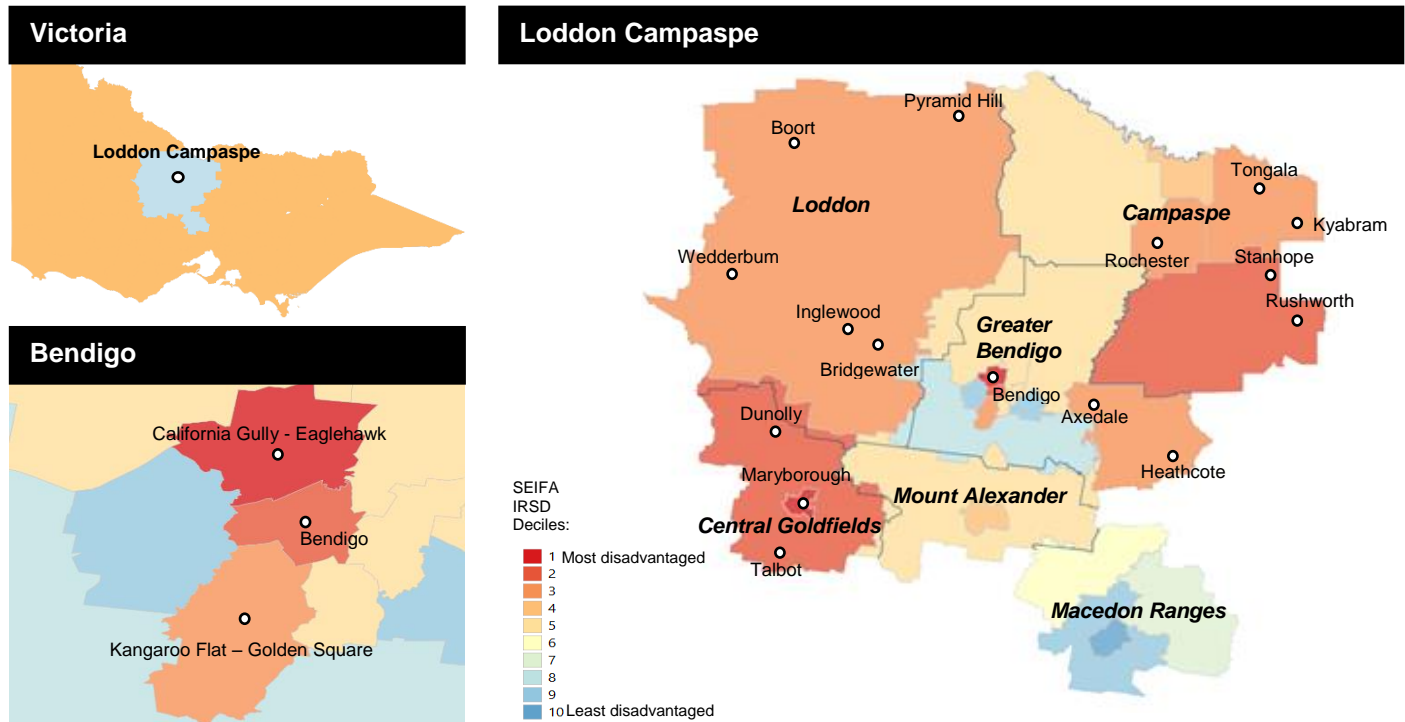


Infrastructure Victoria is investigating infrastructure investment in regional Victoria that builds on the economic strengths of a region, or that reduces disadvantage, primarily through providing greater access to services and economic opportunities. This fact sheet is focussed on reducing disadvantage, and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying framework for reducing disadvantage through infrastructure.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide evidence that will inform the problem definition for each of Victoria's nine regions through consultation with stakeholders. The project has a specific focus on **areas that experience relatively high levels of disadvantage** (ranked in the bottom 30% of the index of Socio-Economic Disadvantage, SEIFA) and this fact sheet provides **indicators showing poor outcomes for key demographic groups living in these areas**.

Infrastructure Victoria invites key stakeholders and service providers to make submissions that provide evidence on which infrastructure could make a difference in reducing disadvantage for the region.



The maps show a visual representation of the Loddon Campaspe region based on Index of Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (SEIFA IRSD) data (2016). The red and orange shaded areas represent areas of high relative disadvantage.

About the Loddon Campaspe Region

The Loddon Campaspe region is 19,100 square kilometres in extent (covering 8 per cent of Victoria) and is characterised by several distinct areas. The southern part of the region extends to the Macedon Ranges incorporating towns such as Macedon, Kyneton and Gisborne. The northern part forms part of the New South Wales-Victorian border along the Murray River, with Echuca being the main regional centre in the far north-east of the region. The western reaches of the region border the Mallee and Wimmera and are primarily rural. The region includes the regional hub of Bendigo in the centre of the region, as well as a number of moderately sized towns such as Echuca, Castlemaine, Gisborne and Maryborough spread throughout the surrounding Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The Loddon Campaspe region comprises six LGAs: Loddon, Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields, Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander, and Campaspe.

Loddon Campaspe is one of five regions that border metropolitan Melbourne, which has a strong influence on the region's southern population and economy. Some areas in the south, such as Gisborne, are within Melbourne's peri-urban fringe which continues to provide population and associated development pressures, including on some of the region's landscape, agricultural, waterway and other environmental assets.

Source: Aither Loddon Campaspe Regional Profile, March 2019

Aboriginal Communities in Loddon Campaspe

Infrastructure Victoria acknowledges the Loddon Campaspe region includes the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung peoples and small sections of the lands of the Taungurong and Yorta Yorta people, and comprises important cultural heritage assets.

Across the Loddon Campaspe region Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) play a central role in the provision of services and the promotion and protection of Aboriginal people's rights. This includes health, housing, law and justice, child and family welfare, child development, education, land management and heritage protection services and assistance. The Aboriginal population across Victoria is growing rapidly creating significant demand pressures on Aboriginal and other services in the region. To find out more about Aboriginal land and communities, services and regular cultural activities in the region see the Deadly Story website deadlystory.com

Infrastructure Victoria is interested to understand if there are infrastructure solutions for this region that can address disadvantage and help build health and prosperity for Aboriginal people.

Disadvantage in Goldfields and Campaspe

Places of high disadvantage in the Goldfields and Campaspe local government areas include the towns of Maryborough, Carisbrook, Talbot, Kyabram, Rochester, Rushworth and Stanhope. While these towns are experiencing moderate levels of growth they also feature an aging population. These towns also comprise a higher than average proportion of people with a disability requiring assistance with daily living.

Maryborough is one of Victoria's most disadvantaged towns. Across a range of indicators, outcomes for young children and school leavers in Maryborough are significantly worse than the state average. Almost one in four children in Maryborough live in a family where no parent is working.

Household access to the internet is very poor across these two local government areas.

Demographics – Goldfields and Campaspe

Below is a selection of demographic statistics for the region. Evidence shows that for some key population groups (such as young children, students leaving school, older people, people with disabilities), if access to services is improved it can improve their life outcomes. For this reason, IV is focussing additional attention on a number of vulnerable groups.

LGA	Central Goldfields (S)		Campaspe (S)			Victorian Average
SA2	Maryborough (Vic.) [Maryborough]	Maryborough Region [Carisbrook, Dunolly, Talbot]	Kyabram [Kyabram, Tongala]	Rochester [Rochester]	Rushworth [Rushworth, Stanhope]	
Remoteness classification	Regional centre	Regional towns	Regional towns	Regional town	Regional towns	
Population	7,922 ↑	5,267 ↑	10,906 ↑	3,882 ↑	4,037 ↑	5,926,624 ↑
0 – 4 years old	5%	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%
5 – 14 years old	11%	11%	13%	11%	10%	12%
15 – 24 years old	11%	9%	11%	11%	9%	13%
25 – 64 years old	44%	50%	47%	46%	49%	53%
Over 65	30%	26%	23%	26%	26%	16%
Over 75 Living Alone	34%	29%	27%	27%	26%	27%
Requires assistance with daily living	10%	8%	6%	6%	8%	5%
Disability pension (15 - 64)*	16%		8%			5%
Aged pension*	83%		69%			63%
Single parent families	22%	16%	15%	14%	16%	15%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Low English proficiency	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	4%
Social housing*	4%		5%			4%

Sources: ABS Census, PHIDU

↑↓: Population change between 2011 and 2016

* Statistics are taken from the LGA that the town sits in

Outcomes – Goldfields and Campaspe

Below are a range of indicators that demonstrate the types and levels of disadvantage for key demographic groups in the region's most disadvantaged areas. See the Appendix for further information on indicators.

LGA	Central Goldfields		Campaspe			
SA2 [UCL town]	Maryborough (Vic.) [Maryborough]	Maryborough Region [Carisbrook, Dunolly, Talbot]	Kyabram [Kyabram, Tongala]	Rochester [Rochester]	Rushworth [Rushworth, Stanhope]	Vic Average
Place-based disadvantage						
SEIFA IRSD Decile (1-10)	1	2	3	3	2	5
ICT Indicator						
No Internet Access	34%	28%	25%	28%	29%	17%
Transport						
Public Transport access*	45%		23%			51%
No Car	9%	4%	5%	5%	3%	8%
Early Years/Children						
Kindergarten enrolment*^	98%		94%			93%
Developmentally vulnerable children	21%	21%	16%	7%	16%	10%
Children in jobless families*	23%		11%			11%
Young People						
School leavers (14 - 25 years old) not in labour force/training/education	8%	4%	5%	3%	6%	3%
Early school leavers (20 – 30 years old) not finishing year 12	34%	43%	39%	37%	39%	17%
Health						
GP per 1,000 population*	0.9		1.2			1.2
Life expectancy – male*	77.5		79.5			79
Life expectancy – female*	82.2		82.8			84
Poor dental health*	12%		7%			5%
Satisfaction with health*	81%		83%			84%
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population*	41		36.6			28.5
Mental health clients per 1,000*	20.1		13.8			14.5
Households						
Rental stress	11%	4%	7%	6%	4%	9%
Homelessness per 1,000*	3.6		1.4			3.3
Crime						
Offence rate per 100,000*	11,550		9,255			7,422
Economic & Financial						
Government support as main income source*	45%		33%			26%
Unemployment rate	7%	10%	5%	5%	5%	7%
Labour participation rate	42%	45%	54%	52%	50%	60%
Individual income under \$400/week	31%	34%	25%	27%	30%	25%
Young people receiving unemployment benefit*	11%		5%			3%
People receiving unemployment benefit long term*	11%		6%			4%

■ 2 standard deviations from state average (~bottom 2.5%) ■ 1 standard deviation from state average (~bottom 16%)

*Statistics are taken from the LGA that the town sits in ^May be more than 100 per cent due to enrolments from outside the local population.

Disadvantage in Loddon and Greater Bendigo

There are a number of disadvantaged small towns in the Shire of Loddon (eg Boort, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn). Towns in the Loddon Shire generally have an aging population, with the proportion of residents receiving a disability pension almost triple the state average. About one-third of households in Loddon did not have access to the internet in 2016. The proportion of school leavers aged between 14-25 years not in work or learning is significantly worse than the state average. There are also indicators showing poor health outcomes in these towns, such as lower life expectancy for men, people reporting poor dental health and the high rate of preventable hospitalisations.

The City of Greater Bendigo is growing and has a number of disadvantaged suburbs including Bendigo North, Eaglehawk, California Gully, Kangaroo Flat and Golden Square. Heathcote (also in the City of Greater Bendigo) is experiencing high levels of disadvantage. Bendigo has an age profile similar to the Victorian average. The proportion of young children commencing school who are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains is significantly higher than the state average in Eaglehawk, California Gully and Heathcote. There is a very high proportion of young people in Bendigo who have not completed year 12.

Demographics – Loddon and Greater Bendigo

Below is a selection of demographic statistics for the region. Evidence shows that for some key population groups (such as young children, students leaving school, older people, people with disabilities), if access to services is improved it can improve their life outcomes. For this reason, IV is focussing additional attention on a number of vulnerable groups.

LGA	Loddon		Greater Bendigo			Victorian Average
SA2 [UCL town]	Loddon [Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn]	Bendigo [Bendigo, North Bendigo]	California Gully - Eaglehawk [California Gully, Eaglehawk]	Kangaroo Flat - Golden Square [Kangaroo Flat, Golden Square]	Heathcote [Axedale, Heathcote]	
Major regional town	Regional towns – remote^		Regional city		Regional towns	
Population	7,058 ↑	14,460 ↓	11,962 ↑	19,688 ↑	4,508 ↑	5,926,624 ↑
0 – 4 years old	5%	6%	7%	6%	4%	6%
5 – 14 years old	11%	11%	13%	11%	11%	12%
15 – 24 years old	9%	14%	14%	12%	12%	13%
25 – 64 years old	49%	51%	49%	49%	51%	53%
Over 65	27%	19%	18%	22%	18%	16%
Over 75 Living Alone	30%	27%	36%	29%	27%	27%
Requires assistance with daily living	8%	8%	7%	7%	8%	5%
Disability pension (15 - 64)*	13%			8%		5%
Aged pension*	70%			70%		63%
Single parent families	13%	25%	26%	20%	15%	15%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%
Low English proficiency	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	4%
Social housing*	2%			6%		4%

Sources: ABS Census, PHIDU

↑↓: Population change between 2011 and 2016

* Statistics are taken from the LGA that the town sits in

^ remote - over 60 minutes from a regional city or centre for some regional towns

Outcomes – Loddon and Greater Bendigo

Below are a range of indicators that demonstrate the types and levels of disadvantage for key demographic groups in the region's most disadvantaged areas. See the Appendix for further information on indicators.

LGA	Loddon		Greater Bendigo			
SA2 [UCL town]	Loddon [Boort, Bridgewater, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn]	Bendigo [Bendigo, North Bendigo]	California Gully - Eaglehawk [California Gully, Eaglehawk]	Kangaroo Flat - Golden Square [Kangaroo Flat, Golden Square]	Heathcote [Axedale, Heathcote]	Vic Average
Place-based disadvantage						
SEIFA IRSD Decile (1-10)	3	2	1	3	3	5
ICT Indicator						
No Internet Access	32%	24%	26%	23%	26%	17%
Transport						
Public Transport access*	8%			58%		51%
No Car	5%	11%	8%	7%	4%	8%
Early Years/Children						
Kindergarten enrolment*	81%			98%		93%
Developmentally vulnerable children	17%	18%	27%	11%	26%	10%
Children in jobless families	11%			14%		11%
Young People						
School leavers (14 - 25 years old) not in labour force/training/education	6%	5%	5%	5%	6%	3%
Early school leavers (20 – 30 years old) not finishing year 12	32%	27%	37%	31%	34%	17%
Health						
GP per 1,000 population*	0.5			1.3		1.2
Life expectancy – male*	75.3			78.7		79
Life expectancy – female*	83			83.6		84
Poor dental health*	10%			4%		5%
Satisfaction with health*	80%			82%		84%
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population*	40.1			30		28.5
Mental health clients per 1,000*	14.3			18.8		14.5
Households						
Rental stress	3%	16%	14%	11%	5%	9%
Homelessness per 1,000*	3.9			3		3.3
Crime						
Offence rate per 100,000*	4,937			8,341		7,422
Economic & Financial						
Government support as main income source*	37%			32%		26%
Unemployment rate	5%	8%	9%	7%	7%	7%
Labour participation rate	47%	55%	54%	54%	44%	60%
Individual income under \$400/week	29%	25%	25%	24%	31%	25%
Young people receiving unemployment benefit*	6%			5%		3%
People receiving unemployment benefit long term*	8%			6%		4%

■ 2 standard deviations from state average (~bottom 2.5%) ■ 1 standard deviation from state average (~bottom 16%)

*Statistics are taken from the LGA that the town sits in ^May be more than 100 per cent due to enrolments from outside the local population.

The Victorian Government, through Regional Development Victoria, has established Regional Partnerships as part of a process for regional stakeholders such as local councils, business and community leaders to engage with Victorian government departments to highlight regional challenges and opportunities.

IV has drawn on initial consultations with stakeholders in the region, including the Regional Partnerships, to develop our understanding of the regions' concerns about infrastructure-related issues that could be impacting on regional disadvantage.

What we have heard from Loddon Campaspe stakeholders:

1. There are poor levels of public transport for young populations in small towns and rural areas to access the employment they need. There are also issues with the ageing population being able to access services.
2. The number of developmentally vulnerable and at risk children is increasing in the region, requiring more place-based initiatives to support these vulnerable families and children to access the services they need.
3. The Loddon Campaspe region has higher rates than the Victorian average of obesity, chronic disease, disability and high-risk health behaviours and has inadequate funding for public assets which encourage physical participation to reverse these rates.
4. Mental health issues for youth in the region are high, contributing to low year 12 completion rates and participation in tertiary education, particularly in rural communities which have lower levels of access to mental health services.

► Next steps

Infrastructure Victoria is now taking submissions from interested stakeholders. Please go to the [IV website](#) to make your submission.

The submission template includes the following questions.

- Have we captured the main issues of disadvantage in your region? If not can you provide further evidence?
- Can you provide evidence of an infrastructure barrier that is contributing to poor outcomes in this region? This could include (among other things) barriers related to:
 - transport,
 - access to digital services, and
 - need for new/upgraded facilities.
- Do you have ideas for infrastructure solutions to address disadvantage in your region, or exceptional examples of what's working well that could be duplicated in other areas?
- Can you provide us with business plans, service plans, program evaluations or other evidence to support your suggested solution?

Submissions close Friday 7 February 2020.

Other areas in the Loddon Campaspe region with below average SEIFA rankings.

Towns in SEIFA Decile of 4					
Region	LGA	UCL (Town)	SA2	SA2 Population in UCL	SEIFA IRSD Decile
Loddon Campaspe	Campaspe	Echuca - Moama (Echuca Part)	Echuca	12902	4
	Mount Alexander	Castlemaine	Castlemaine	9933	4

Appendix: Outcome Data Measures

Table Measure	Full Measure	Source
Place-based disadvantage		
SEIFA IRSD Decile	Socio economic indicator (Socio-economic index for areas, index of relative disadvantage). Deciles are calculated from the SEIFA IRSD scores. The scores are split into 10 groups, or deciles, ranked 1 to 10. The first decile represents bottom 10% of the SEIFA scores while the tenth decile represents the top 10% of the SEIFA scores. ABS Catalogue 2033.0.55.001	ABS
ICT Indicator		
No internet access	% households with no access to internet - 2016 Census	ABS
Transport		
Public transport access	% population that has access to public transport - Objective counts and proximity to trains/bus/ferry - 2016 Census	ABS
No car	% households with no car - 2016 Census	ABS
Early Years/Children		
4 year old Kindergarten enrolment	% first year children enrolled in kindergarten - VCAMS 4-year old participation data	Data.Vic
Developmentally vulnerable children	% children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains - 2009-2018 Public Data Table SA2	AEDC
Children in jobless families	% children aged less than 15 years in jobless families - Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA - 2018: Families	PHIDU
Young People		
Early school leavers (15 – 24 years old) not in labour force/training/education	% school leavers (did not complete grade 10 or above), 15 – 24 years old, not in the labour force and/or further education/training (vocational or higher education) – 2016 Census	ABS
Early school leavers (20 – 30 years old) not finishing year 12	% school leavers (that left school before completing year 12), 20 – 30 years old – 2016 Census	ABS
Health		
GP per 1000 population	Number of General Practitioners per 1,000 population - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Life expectancy - male	Life expectancy (years) male - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Life expectancy - female	Life expectancy (years) female - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Poor dental health	% people reporting poor dental health - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Satisfaction with health	% population who were mostly or completely satisfied with their health (inverse of estimated number of people aged 15 years and over with fair or poor self-assessed health (modelled estimates) -- Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA – 2014-15	PHIDU
Preventable hospitalisations per 1,000 population	Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (Potentially Preventable Hospitalisation) separations for all conditions per 1,000 population) - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Mental health clients per 1,000	Mental health (registered clients per 1,000 population) - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Households		
Rental stress	% households with rent payments greater than or equal to 30% of household income - 2016 Census	ABS
Homelessness per 1,000	Homeless people (estimated) per 1,000 population - 2015 Local Government Area (LGA) Statistical Profiles	DHHS
Crime		
Offence rate per 100,000	Offence rate per 100,000 population; objective crimes against the person in public or property (total crime rate) - Victorian Crime Statistics by LGA – Research Paper, August 2018	DPS
Economic & Financial		
Government support as main income source	% estimated number of people aged 18 years and over who had government support as their main source of income in the last 2 years (2014) - Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA - 2018: Personal and financial stressors (modelled estimates)	PHIDU
Unemployment rate	% unemployment rate - 2016 Census	ABS
Labour participation rate	% labour participation rate - 2016 Census	ABS
Individual income under \$400/week	% individual income under \$400 per week - 2016 Census	ABS
Young people receiving unemployment benefit	% young people aged 16 to 24 receiving an unemployment benefit - Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA - 2018: Income support recipients	PHIDU
People receiving unemployment benefit long term	% people receiving an unemployment benefit long-term - Social Health Atlas of Australia - Data by LGA - 2018: Income support recipients	PHIDU