

Precinct 5: Western Growth Precinct

Development considerations/opportunities

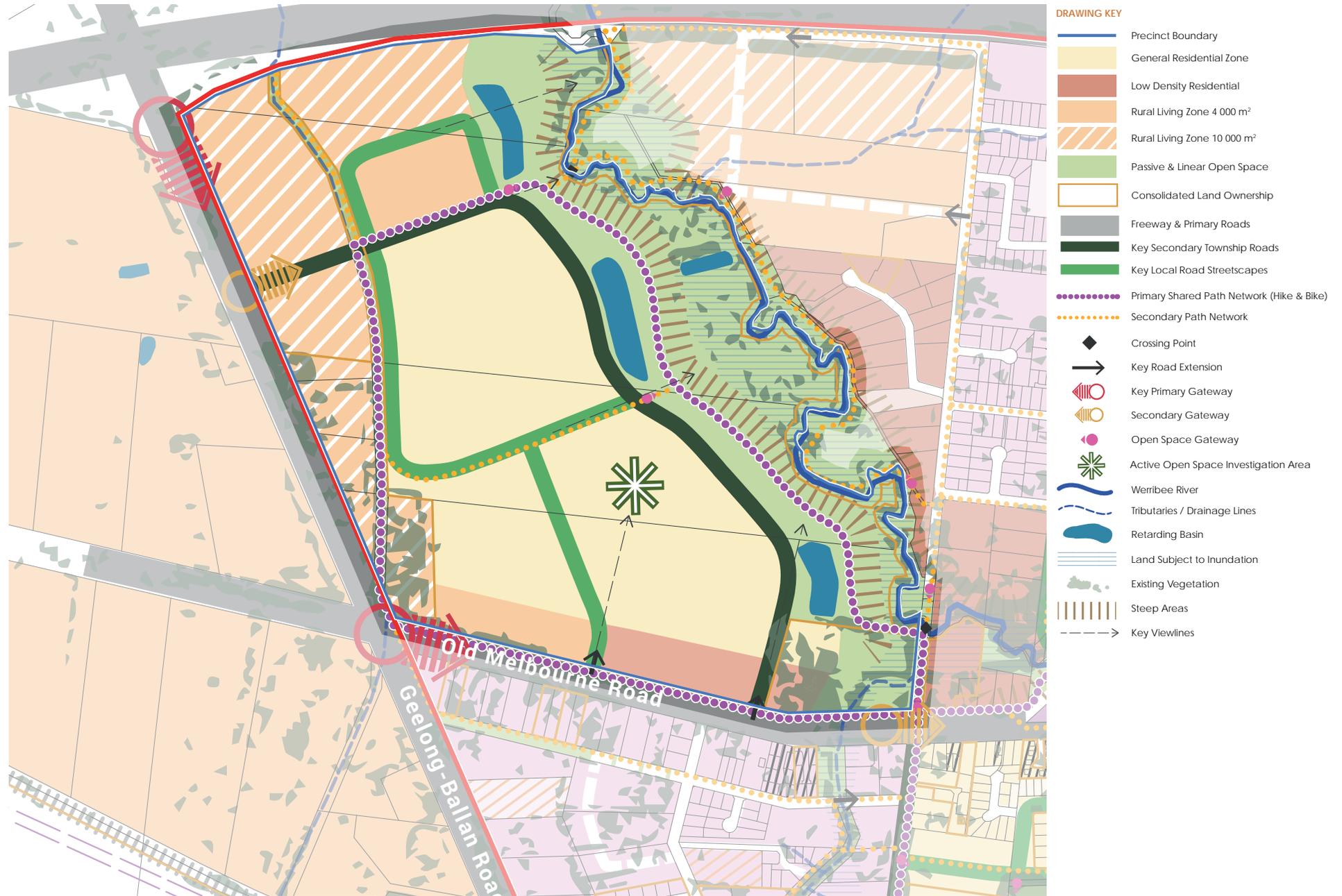
- > Visibility and noise from the Western Freeway.
- > Potential to extend the Werribee River open space network, however need to manage any impacts to the Werribee River and its environs.
- > Largely un-fragmented land ownership.
- > Visual impacts on the gateway to the town.
- > Management of access to Old Melbourne Road and the Geelong-Ballan Road.
- > Ability to manage transition of densities with a rural interface.
- > Protection and enhancement of vegetation along Old Melbourne Road.
- > Remoteness to the train station and town centre core.
- > Identified for growth in previous strategic work undertaken for Ballan including the Moorabool Planning Scheme.
- > Heritage values as well as parts of the site with cultural heritage significance.
- > Access to established water and sewerage infrastructure.

Context

This Precinct is bounded by the Western Freeway to the north, Old Melbourne Road to the south, the Werribee River Valley to the east and Geelong - Ballan Road to the west.

The western (majority) of the Precinct comprises of flat cleared paddocks, and the eastern part of the site contains the Werribee River valley and floodplain. The flat paddocks have been used for cropping and grazing, and contain scattered indigenous and exotic trees.

FIGURE 13 WESTERN GROWTH Precinct - Precinct 5 CONCEPT



Development Pre-conditions

Ballan Strategic Directions recognises and **supports the delivery of this Precinct as a priority** due to the ability of the Precinct to be serviced and its relatively un-fragmented land ownership which assists in achieving an orderly roll out of development subject to the following pre-conditions:

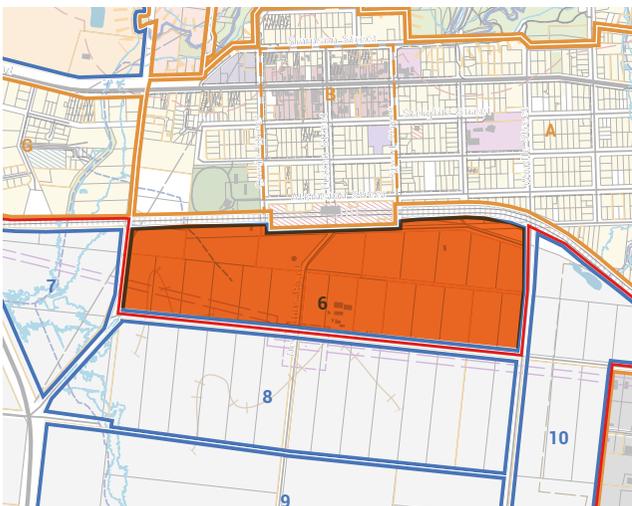
- > Wider road reserves (25-30m) in lieu of unencumbered open space and in keeping with the character of the established areas streetscapes.
 - > Creation of a modified grid reflective of Ballan's established urban pattern.
 - > Align roads to focus on linear open space and views.
 - > Align roads to facilitate drainage down the slope.
 - > Create view lines and relationship to the creek from Old Melbourne Road.
 - > Create larger lots in sensitive gateways and around the periphery of the Precinct.
 - > Maximise connections to Old Melbourne Road and the open space.
 - > Provide for pedestrian connection along the Werribee River and potentially to the eastern side of the river.
 - > Provide an opportunity for a road link across the easement to the Geelong-Ballan Road.
 - > Protection of existing vegetation through appropriate siting of dwellings and crossovers.
 - > Building envelopes required for each lot with a frontage to the existing external road network to ensure appropriate siting of dwellings with generous front and side setbacks, while allowing for substantial landscaping opportunities.
 - > A diverse range of lot sizes that provide for a range of housing choice.
- > Fencing to be an open style fence as interfaces to the existing external road network and open space.
 - > A road must be located along the interface with the Werribee River and lots with a frontage to the river should have a minimum frontage of 30m.
 - > An agreed position with Council in regards to whether an active open space reserve is to be included within the Precinct.
 - > Demonstrated ability to service the Precinct.
 - > Minimum lot frontages required for lots that front Old Melbourne Road to assist in protecting the gateway. The frontages should be a minimum of 40 metres and retain the Rural Living Zoning, however with a minimum lot size of 4000sqm.
 - > Minimum lot frontages required for lots that abut the Western Freeway and Geelong-Ballan Road to ensure these lots provide a transition from farming to residential land and assist in protecting the gateway. The frontages should be a minimum of 70m and retain the Rural Living Zoning, however apply a minimum lot size of 10,000sqm.
 - > A minimum lot size of 4000sqm and zoned Rural Living Zone to lots south of the 10,000sqm lots that abut the Western Freeway (see **Figure 13**) to act as transitional lots to more conventional residential development.
 - > A minimum lot size of 4000sqm and retain the Rural Living Zone to lots in the south eastern corner of the Precinct with frontage to the Werribee River and viewed from the gateway (see **Figure 13**).
 - > The balance of the land to be zoned General Residential Zone.
 - > Development to be generally in accordance with **Figure 13** unless as a result of background studies for the Precinct there is a requirement for modifications due to site constraints eg biodiversity, cultural heritage, drainage, Melbourne Water requirements, etc.
- > As part of a proponent led Planning Scheme Amendment process to rezone the land apply a Development Plan Overlay which, at a minimum, applies the identified pre conditions.
 - > Protect any identified heritage buildings and places of cultural heritage significance.
 - > Demonstrates the ability to achieve the opportunities identified for the Precinct and address the consideration as set out above.
 - > An acoustic analysis to be undertaken in regards to the interface with the Western Freeway to determine if any noise alteration measures are required.
 - > The subdivision design must ensure that it does not impact on existing tree root zones on adjoining properties.
 - > A minimum 20m wide corridor along the Werribee River. Any further encroachment is discouraged in accordance with Melbourne Water requirements.
 - > Require a Section 173 Agreement to be entered into in regards to development contributions unless an alternate development contributions framework is in place (eg; DCP, ICP).

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Precinct 6: Southern Growth Precinct

Development considerations/opportunities

- > Largely an unsealed road network.
- > Close proximity to the railway station.
- > Close proximity to Ballan Recreation Reserve.
- > Impacts on existing level vehicle and pedestrian crossings to access the core of the town.
- > Amenity impacts due to proximity to industrial estate and railway line/station.
- > High pressure gas pipe line that runs east-west along Gillespie's Lane including the Ballan City Gate Transmission Asset at the corner of Gillespies Lanes and Denholms Road.
- > Land fragmentation.



Context

This Precinct is bounded by the railway line, Old Geelong Road, Gillespies Lane and Windle Street. The Precinct has minimal environmental constraints predominantly due to it having no significant landscape values and the land having a long agricultural history. The Precinct is generally surrounded by farming land with the railway line running along the sites northern boundary.

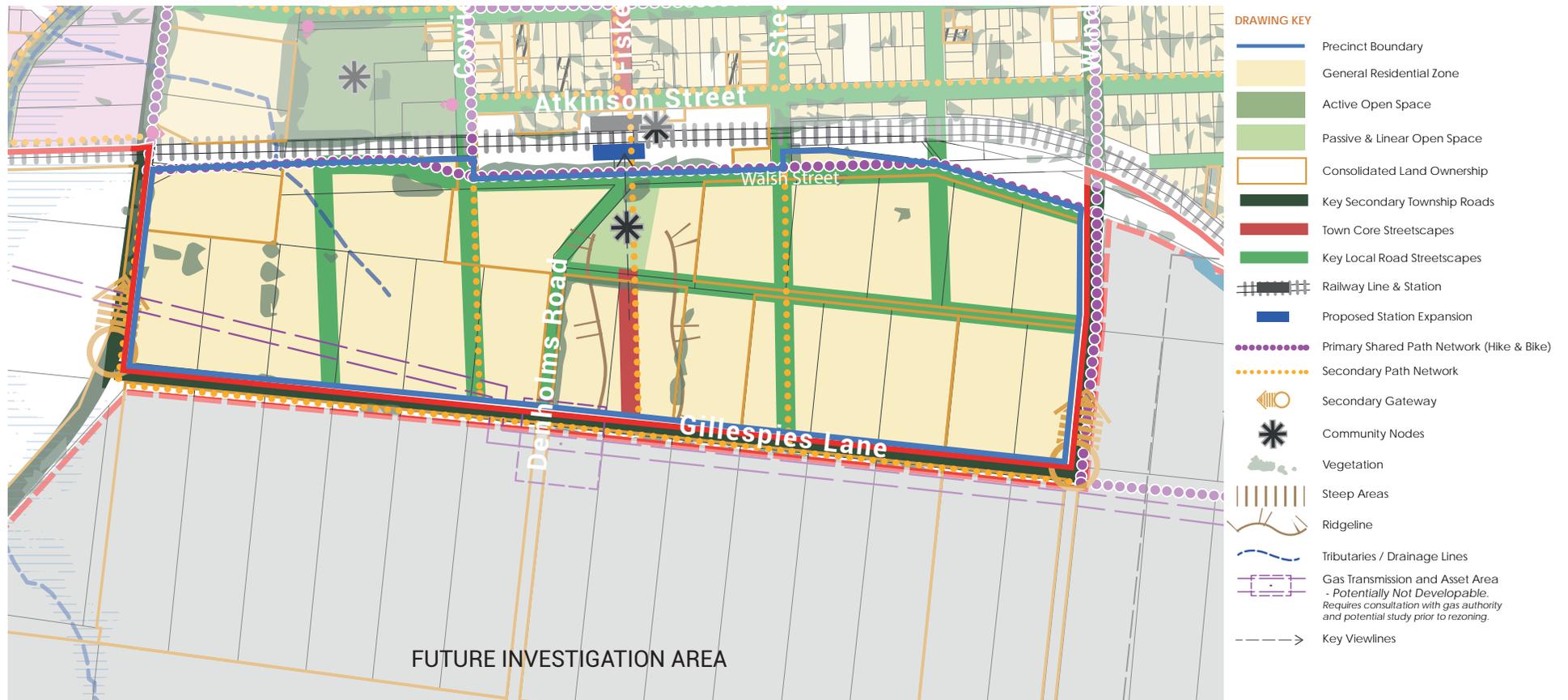
Development Pre-conditions

Ballan Strategic Directions recognises and supports the delivery of the Southern Growth Precinct for **medium to long term** development subject to the following pre-conditions:

- > Wider road reserves (25-30m) in keeping with the character of the established areas streetscapes.
- > Create a modified grid reflective of Ballan's established urban pattern.
- > Provide a neighbourhood park due to the lack of passive open space to the south of the railway line and distance from the Werribee River open space network.
- > Align roads to focus on open space and views.
- > Align roads to facilitate drainage down the slope.
- > Create larger residential lots in sensitive gateways and along the southern boundary where the Precinct will abut farming land (unless the future investigations area to the south has been identified for conventional residential development then transitional lots to the existing farming land may not be required).
- > Provide for pedestrian connections to the town centre core and key destinations including the linear structural loop.
- > Protection of existing vegetation through appropriate siting of dwellings, roads and crossovers.

- > Preparation of a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) that identifies any enhancements to the existing road network that are required, including over the railway line, to ensure strong connectivity for future residents to key destinations including the town centre core as a result of development of this Precinct. The TIA must also have consideration to the need for controlled pedestrian crossing requirements over the railway line at the existing pedestrian crossings.
- > Ensure appropriate mitigation measures are applied in regards to the interface with the railway line, gas pipeline including the Ballan City Gate Transmission Asset and industrial Precinct. Engaging with relevant authorities will be required to ensure urban development does not negatively impact on existing assets and uses.
- > Demonstrated ability to service the Precinct.
- > As part of the proponent led Planning Scheme Amendment Process to rezone the land to General Residential Zone apply a Development Plan Overlay which at a minimum applies the identified pre conditions.
- > A diverse range of lot sizes that provide for a range of housing choice.
- > Demonstrates the ability to achieve the opportunities identified for the Precinct and address the considerations.
- > Development to be generally in accordance with Figure 15 unless as a result of background studies for the Precinct there is a requirement for modifications due to site constraints eg biodiversity, cultural heritage, drainage etc.
- > A diverse range of lot sizes that provide for a range of housing choice.
- > Require a Section 173 Agreement to be entered into in regards to development contributions unless an alternate development contributions framework is in place (eg; DCP, ICP).

FIGURE 15 SOUTHERN GROWTH Precinct - Precinct 6 CONCEPT



4.2.5 Key Objectives and Strategies

To encourage the delivery of diverse housing opportunities which are flexible, adaptable and cater for the growing and evolving needs of Ballan over time.

- > Facilitate planning and delivery of both infill residential development and greenfield development to provide balance and diverse housing opportunities to cater for the needs of current and future resident.
- > Promote the benefits of appropriately located infill development to the community. This may include identifying the benefits that infill development can have on healthy living (e.g. building on the 'Active Living' Heart Foundation principles, less car dependent and encouraging walking due to being located within proximate locations to services and facilities).

To plan for new residential development which is identifiable and diverse in character and contributes to the overall character of Ballan.

- > Require new residential development in the established areas to respond to the Design Objectives and other planning and development requirements as set out within 4.2.3.
- > Encourage new streets within Ballan to complement the dominant existing street characteristics of wide road reservations (typically 30m) and high levels of landscaping.
- > Plan for new residential development within the Growth Precincts to provide a diverse range of lot sizes which reflects the country lifestyle character of Ballan and responds to existing and planned site conditions as set out in 4.2.4.
- > Facilitate and support the delivery of well-designed road cross-sections in new Growth Precincts which provide diverse streetscapes and opportunities for diverse housing outcomes and contribute to the character of Ballan.
- > Recognise the importance of retaining the landscape character of the Werribee River by protecting a sufficient corridor along the river and its tributaries.

To encourage development within Ballan that is consistent with the Settlement Framework set out in 4.2.2.

- > In Minimal Residential Growth Areas:
 - Encourage low density housing types, generally in the form of detached housing with dual occupancies only considered on sites that do not compromise the preferred neighbourhood character.
 - Conserve and enhance those elements that contribute to the environmental significance, heritage values and the preferred neighbourhood character of the Precinct.
 - Encourage new dwellings to be setback from all boundaries a sufficient distance to accommodate adequate landscaping and to maintain the sense of spaciousness.
 - Encourage new dwellings to not exceed the predominant building height of the street.
 - > In Natural Residential Growth Areas:
 - Encourage low scale medium density housing and alternative housing typologies (such as co-housing, retirement villages, aged care etc) on lots that are accessible to public transport, the town centre core and open space.
 - Discourage boundary to boundary development.
 - Encourage new dwellings to not exceed the predominant building height of the street by more than one storey, unless an innovative design or housing typology is proposed that will complement the preferred character of the area.
 - > In Greenfield Residential Growth Areas:
 - Recognise the importance of planning and development of new greenfield areas that are well managed and staged, can meet the existing and future housing needs of Ballan and can bring forward key infrastructure and services to meet the community's needs.
 - Oppose interim subdivision of land identified as 'greenfield' to minimise further fragmentation and maintain its growth potential.
 - Seek an overall density target for new development that balances housing needs, whilst maintaining a sense of place and the characteristics of Ballan that make it a unique and special place. This target is likely to be in the range of 10-15 dwellings per net developable hectare for areas identified as General Residential Zone, but may be reduced or increased as appropriate. This should include allowing some reduction to density targets where land is constrained (topography/landscape/vegetation) or where it can be demonstrated that appropriate diversity in housing forms can be delivered.
 - Encourage a diversity of lot sizes and housing choices.
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Actions

- A1.** Support planning of the Western Growth Precinct (Precinct 5) as a priority, if demonstrated to satisfy the relevant planning and development preconditions set out in 4.2.4.
- A2.** Monitor development approvals to ensure sufficient zoned and planned land is available. Timing of the development of the growth Precincts should generally be consistent with the timings identified in **Figure 09** and 4.2.4, unless circumstances arise (i.e. increased growth rates) that may require Council to reconsider the timing for development of each growth Precinct.
- A3.** Facilitate ongoing monitoring of the preferred design objectives/pre conditions of a Precinct as this may change over time (this could be in the form of a 5 yearly review).
- A4.** Implement the zones and other relevant planning controls in accordance with the recommendations set out in Chapter 5, Implementation.
- A5.** Provide relevant information in regards to the design objectives/pre conditions at pre-application meetings to assist in future development being in accordance with the strategic directions for Ballan.
- A6.** Undertake a review of internal processes to ensure residential development approvals are being assessed in accordance with Councils decision making framework. This may include:
- improving quality assurance processes;
 - educating Council Officers in regards to good urban design outcomes; and
 - mentoring new planners.
- A7.** Review and identify infrastructure requirements that have a nexus to the relevant growth Precincts prior to their development (or rezoning) to ensure development contributions are collected and secured via an appropriate mechanism (ie. Section 173 Agreement or a Development Contributions Plan).

4.3 Movement Network & Connectivity

Guiding Principle - A connected Ballan which provides a range of options for people moving in and through the town connecting them to places, spaces and employment. A well designed and connected movement network will ensure residents have equitable access to Ballan's open spaces, services and facilities. High quality and diverse streetscapes will also influence and define Ballan's public and private realm and contribute to its character.

Key issues/considerations

- > Lack of connectivity throughout the town for pedestrian and cycling opportunities in particular for newer development to connect to the town core and other key destination points.
- > Lack of a strong link between Inglis Street and the train station.
- > A number of missing road and pedestrian links inhibiting movement through the town and to key destination points.
- > Poor pavement condition, aging infrastructure and limited street lighting which does not encourage walking and cycling.
- > Lack of access to public transport including bus services and connections to Ballan Train Station.
- > Lack of diversity in streetscapes, particularly in new growth areas.
- > Some roads, particularly those providing convenient access across the rail corridors lack capacity for the increased traffic that growth will bring.
- > Limited north/south connectivity over the railway line for both vehicles and pedestrians.

4.3.1 Movement Network & Connectivity

The location of Ballan provides for convenient access to Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong within less than an hour. The accessibility of Ballan is also enhanced by the Ballan Railway Station which is located on the Melbourne - Ararat Railway line and provides access via public transport to Ballarat and Melbourne. The accessibility to employment opportunities within an hour of Ballan make Ballan an attractive commuter town for residents who are also seeking a country lifestyle.

Within Ballan, the existing road network has the capacity to cater for some growth. Old Melbourne Road is designed above the existing and projected capacity needs due to the road previously servicing as a higher order road prior to the Western Freeway being constructed. This road still performs a role as the principal arterial road within Ballan. Old Melbourne Road (with the part of the road through the town core referred to as Inglis Street) provides a safe east-west connection through the town and functions as the towns 'main street' and also as the key gateway to the town. Inglis Street does include concrete footpaths on both sides of the street with two raised zebra crossings across Inglis Street with one servicing the hospital and the other servicing the commercial Precinct. On-road bicycle lanes are provided along the length of Inglis Street.

Other streets within Ballan are characterised as being predominately for local access with wide road reservations (typically 30m). Roadside infrastructure varies between streets with some consisting of kerb and channel and footpaths and others with rural road characteristics or gravel shoulders and grassed verges.

Fisken Street performs an important link between Inglis Street and the train station, however pedestrian connectivity and way finding could be enhanced. This is a consistent theme throughout Ballan, of poor pedestrian connectivity and wayfinding to the Active Open Space Reserve, passive open space and other key landmarks throughout the town.

The movement network north of the Werribee River is limited with connectivity to the town centre and key services and facilities relatively poor. Due to the Werribee River, its flood plains and steep escarpment traversing through the town there are only two connections across the river and providing additional north-south connections is challenging. The road network north of the River was not designed to cater for standard residential densities of development, with components of the road network still built to a rural standard.

South of the railway line there is a broad gridded road network with a network of connections to the town core, however many of these roads are gravel roads. With long term growth identified to the south of the railway line, improving connectivity and vehicle capacity over the rail will be a key consideration as part of future development to the south, noting Transport for Victoria and the State Planning Policy Framework requiring any new rail crossing to be grade separated.

Off-road trails are provided within the Werribee River corridor east of Blackwood Street and school crossings are provided at key locations. Many of the streets within Ballan have footpaths on only one side of the street and some streets do not have any footpaths creating difficulties for some residents to navigate safely and conveniently to their desired destination.

4.3.2 Movement Network Response

A key element of the vision for Ballan is to plan for a well-connected town that enhances its lifestyle qualities and country town appeal. An integrated movement network has the capacity to not only ensure residents can move easily about the town, but it can promote important social interaction, a sense of community and pride of place.

Connecting Ballan's established areas and new growth areas back to Inglis Street and primary retail, services and community facilities is fundamental to realising the vision of a mobile and connected Ballan. The creation of a highly permeable and integrated road network with a defined hierarchy would make it easier to drive and navigate throughout the town. While improving the permeability within the road network will assist in the mobility and connectivity of Ballan, improving walking and cycling is also a critical component. Delivering a connected shared path network via a structural loop that connects people to key destinations and the natural environment would significantly enhance the connectivity of Ballan.

Enhancing movement connectivity within the town would also be improved by the delivery of high quality and diverse streetscapes that have the ability to influence and define Ballan's public and private realm and contribute to its character.

4.3.3 Public Transport

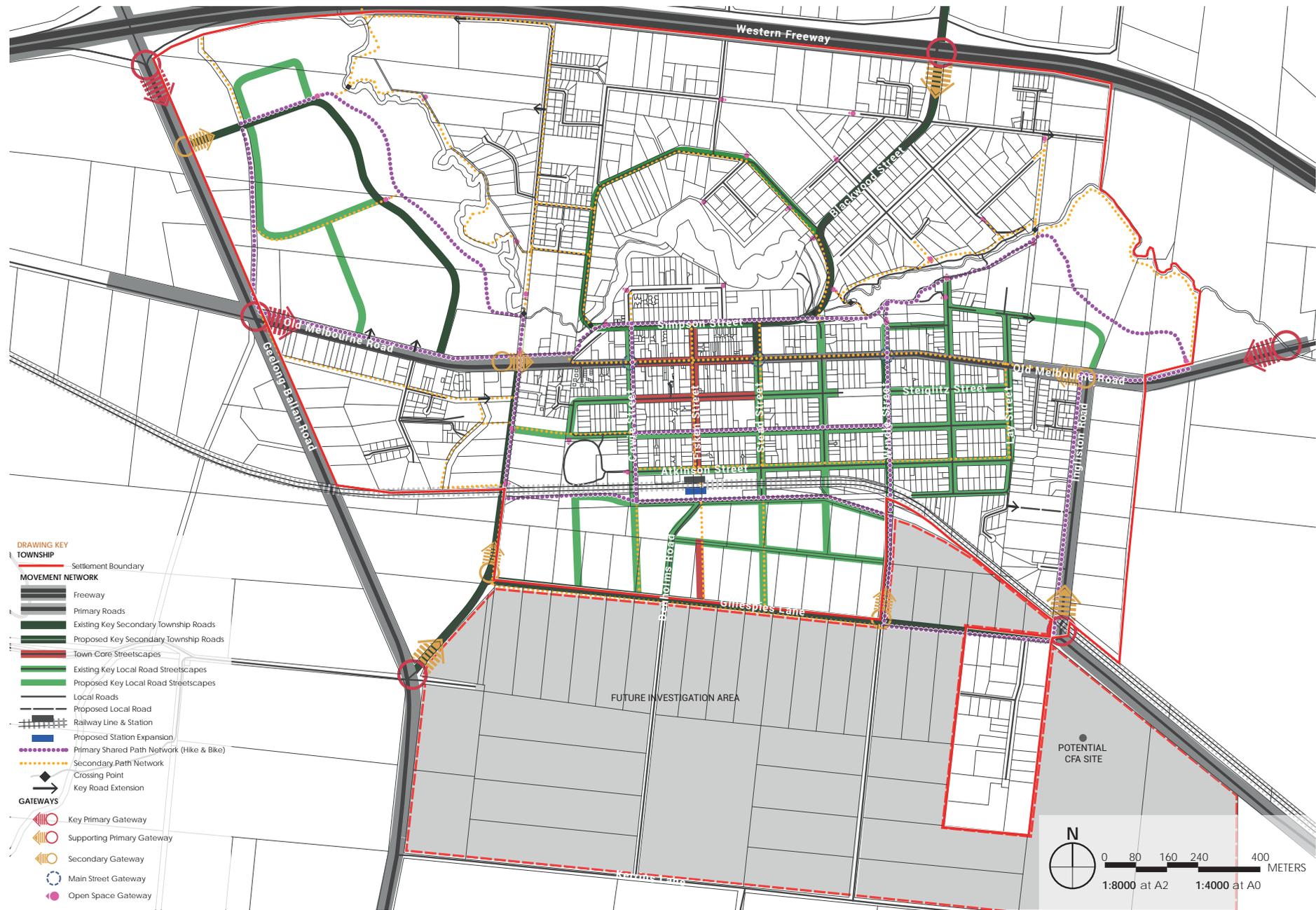
Alongside a connected road and pedestrian network providing a complimentary public transport network significantly enhances connectivity to the surrounding regions. While Ballan has a train station that provides access to Melbourne and Ballarat, the bus network is more limited. Currently bus services operate between Ballan and Hepburn (via Daylesford) with pick up/drops offs from the train station and Inglis Street. This service is focussed at providing commuter's access to the Ballan Train Station with only one service each way daily (early morning service to Ballan from Hepburn and an evening service from Ballan to Hepburn). There are also private bus services that operate between Ballan - Gordon - Mount Egerton. These services connect to the Vline services. No bus services operate on the weekends.

In regards to usage of the train services in Ballan, statistical data indicates a continual increase in patron usage each year. In 2015/16 there were approximately 7,700 patrons using the service monthly which increased by approximately 700 patrons who were using the service monthly in 2014.

Public Transport Victoria's Regional Network Development Plan has identified a number of transport improvements for the Ballan Train Station which include the following in the 2016-17 State Budget:

- > upgrade Ballan Train Station waiting area to improve facilities for waiting passengers;
- > build a second platform at Ballan station, including car park upgrades and provision of a pedestrian link between platforms; and
- > build three passing loops at Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and near Bungaree to accommodate trains passing in opposite directions.

FIGURE 16 MOVEMENT NETWORK



Note: The exact location and configuration of the path network will require further review as identified in Action 5.

To create a highly connected and integrated Ballan through enhancing the movement network and facilitating linkages to key destinations.

- > Create a path network that facilitates walking and cycling to the train station, the town centre core, open space and other key destinations within the town consistent with the network identified in Figure 16.
- > Promote linkages back to the Inglis Street town centre and the primary service and retail needs it provides to residents.
- > Support the role of Fiskien Street as a high quality pedestrian link between Inglis Street and the Ballan Train Station.
- > Enhance connectivity from the Industrial Precinct to the town centre core.
- > Improve connectivity within and to the town through a series of wayfinding signage to key destinations and sites of cultural and heritage significance.

To encourage new development to complement the existing gridded network of the original town, the wide road reserves and connectivity to the town centre core and other key destinations within the town.

- > Ensure new development in the growth Precincts is consistent with the pre-conditions identified at 4.2.4.
- > Require new development to contribute to enhancing pedestrian and cycling links external to their developments to ensure strong connectivity to the town centre core and key destinations is achieved.
- > Protect and retain positive character elements identified for each growth Precinct including widened road reserves and provisions for enhanced street tree plantings.
- > Encourage new road alignments to respond to topography, capture key views and respond to existing vegetation through deviations, deflections or localised road widening.

To prioritise the delivery of missing links in the path network which will improve the connectivity within Ballan.

- > Support a review of the existing footpath and cycling network to identify missing links and facilitate the delivery of the key missing infrastructure as part of the update of Council's open space strategy.

To recognise and support the contribution of diverse streetscapes and pedestrian/cycle links to make a vibrant and activated public realm and township character.

- > Ensure a diverse range of cross sections which reflect and enhance the character of the town.
- > Encourage streetscape improvements to Inglis Street that enhances the public realm through the use of street furniture and landscaping.

To equitably and fairly share the cost of infrastructure that benefits Ballan.

- > Require landowners to enter into an agreement regarding shared costs of road infrastructure including shared paths where a nexus to the proposed development can be demonstrated.

To encourage improved access to public transport from and to Ballan.

- > Support improvements to bus services and timetabling to ensure regular services are provided to and from Ballan to the surrounding Region, including the small towns that rely on Ballan for their daily needs and utilise the Ballan Train Station.

Actions

- A1.** As part of the Urban Design Framework (UDF) to be prepared in accordance with Action A1 in 4.6 for the Town Centre core, ensure the UDF identifies how the movement network within the town centre can be enhanced through improved pedestrian connectivity, wayfinding to key destinations and streetscape improvements (street furniture, lighting and landscaping).
- A2.** Progressively deliver a linked path network which safely connects people to key destinations.
- A3.** Progressively deliver a shared path 'structural loop' through the town which also connects people to the natural environment.
- A4.** Work collaboratively with Public Transport Victoria and other stakeholders to provide better connectivity and frequency of bus services between Ballan and the surrounding region.
- A5.** Prepare an implementation strategy for the delivery of the path networks (i.e identifying the exact location taking into account land constraints and any land holdings that are required to complete the delivery of the network). Note: This will require a review of Council's Hike and Bike Strategy.
- A6.** Identify a priority list for the upgrade of existing roads, missing roads and pedestrian/cycle links including proposed timing and potential funding sources.
- A7.** Prepare a suite of cross sections to be applied in Ballan that reflect and enhance the character of the town.
- A8.** Prepare street tree planting guidelines to complement the suite of cross sections.
- A9.** Progressively enhance pedestrian connectivity between the Industrial Precinct and the town centre core.
- A10.** Prepare a signage strategy to improve wayfinding within the town to key destinations but also through signage that promotes key heritage and cultural sites. The signage strategy should also consider opportunities to promote tourism within the town and at key gateways to the town.

4.4 Open Space & Recreation

Guiding Principle - Diverse open spaces including formal recreation reserves will contribute to the health and well-being of Ballan's residents. Ballan's open spaces will be connected via the establishment of a structural open space loop including linear reserves along Werribee River and its tributaries which will assist in linking residents to places, spaces, facilities and opportunities.

Key issues/considerations

- > Lack of connectivity between existing open spaces and pedestrian/cycle links into the town centre and to key destinations.
- > Missing links in the open space network which results in a disconnected network.
- > No defined long term active recreation strategy for Ballan.
- > Lack of way finding to the existing open space network.
- > Existing passive open space requiring improvements to ensure they are useable and delivering a high level of amenity.
- > Lack of accomodation.

4.4.1 Open Space Context

The provision of open space for informal recreation and play is generally provided along the Werribee River via a series of open spaces. The development of Ballan beyond the historical town core has lacked the creation of new and accessible open space opportunities for residents. The piecemeal approach to new development particularly on the periphery of the town has limited the ability to plan for well sited and good quality open spaces that benefit new residents and contribute to the character of Ballan. The absence of open spaces in these new areas is further limited by the lack of a pedestrian and cycling connectivity throughout the town.

An important component of Ballan's open space network is the provision of accessible active open space. The Ballan Recreation Reserve offers a range of sporting facilities including a sporting oval, cricket pitch, cricket practice cages, skate park and tennis courts. There is also a children's playground and picnic facilities. Regular users of the facility include the football club, netball club, tennis club, bowling club, karate, pole walking and the cricket club. A hall also exists on the site and is available for public hire.

Ballan Strategic Directions compliments and builds upon the role of Ballan's existing open spaces in the context of a growing Ballan and identifies an expansion of the existing active open space reserve and enhancements to the passive open space network.

4.4.2 Passive Open Space + Linkages

In recognition of the benefit of a connected and high quality open space system in the role of creating an active, healthy and attractive Ballan, **Ballan Strategic Directions** implements a long term vision which establishes an open space system that will link together via the establishment of a 'structural loop'. The structural loop in the form of linear open spaces and high quality street based connections will, over time:

- > extend the Werribee River as the primary linear open space corridor through Ballan;
- > improve relationships between the Werribee River and the residential areas to the north and south of the river; and
- > facilitate the delivery of a connected pedestrian and cycle path network that will, in time, significantly enhance connections to the open space network for residents.

Complimenting and forming part of the structural loop system will be the establishment of high quality passive open spaces and nodes. **Ballan Strategic Directions** encourages the location and design of new passive open spaces and nodes that are accessible, diverse in nature, site responsive and reflective of the characteristics of the town.

Realising Ballan's ultimate open space system as set by **Ballan Strategic Directions** is a long term vision that will be delivered progressively over time.

4.4.3 Active Recreation

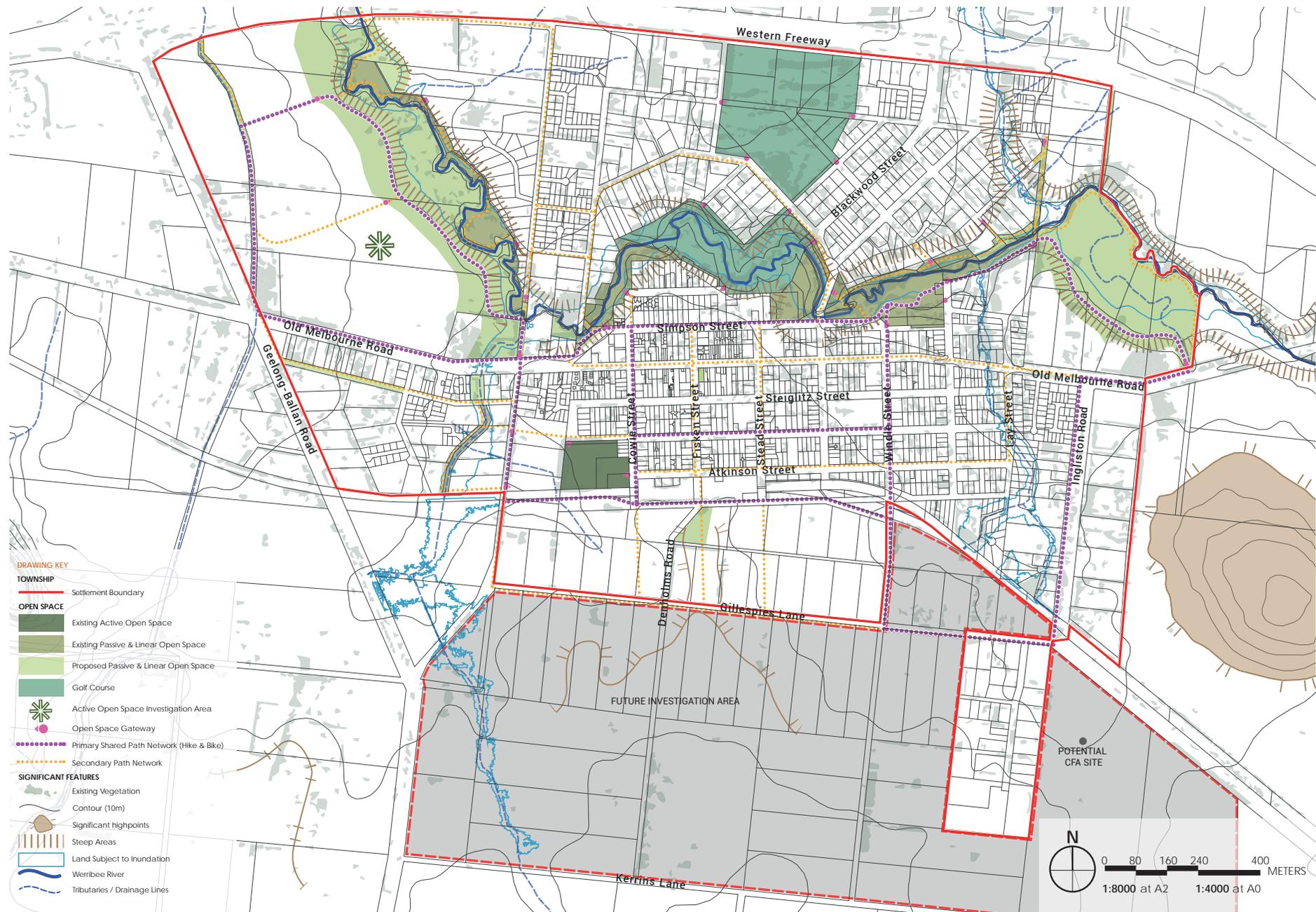
Active recreation in the form of sporting reserves and supporting facilities such as pavilions is important in the health and wellbeing of Ballan residents.

Ballan Strategic Directions recognises existing active recreation assets and supports planned augmentation of Ballan's assets and strategies to meet the future needs of residents.

While the Ballan Recreation Reserve currently caters for the existing population, with the population projected to double by 2041 this will place additional pressure on existing assets.

To meet the long term Active Open Space needs of the Ballan and surrounding community **Ballan Strategic Directions** has identified a potential investigation area within Precinct 5 for additional Active Open Space.

FIGURE 17 OPEN SPACE NETWORK



To progressively establish an open space system which will connect Ballan's existing and new Precincts to key destinations including the town centre core, train station, active open space and the natural environment.

- > Plan for the creation of a high quality open space system which prioritises connections of people to diverse open spaces and places as development occurs over time.
- > Plan for the delivery of an open space network generally in accordance with **Figure 17**.

To provide a network of diverse yet connected systems of open space in the Precincts identified to accommodate growth which positively contribute and reinforce Ballan's character as identified as part of the preferred character for the relevant Precinct.

- > Plan for the establishment of diverse open spaces and places in Ballan's growth Precincts by incorporating and responding to natural features such as existing vegetation, topographical features and other character elements that contribute to Ballan's character and natural landscape.
- > Require new growth Precincts to set aside passive open space generally within 400m walkable catchments as part of future subdivision to meet passive recreation needs for future residents.

To protect and support Ballan's existing valued open spaces and undertake enhancements where required to meet the future needs of residents.

- > Conserve and enhance existing open spaces for their landscape qualities, recreation values and cultural significance.
- > Improve way finding to existing open spaces to encourage the use of the open spaces for passive purposes, which are to some extent hidden from the town centre core and often underutilised.

To strengthen and establish the Werribee River as the primary open space and recreation corridor through Ballan.

- > Require new development abutting the Werribee River corridor to set aside land to enhance the corridor and assist in delivering the 'structural loop'.
- > Support strategies which release identified constrained sections of the Werribee River (and its tributaries) that are currently in private ownership.

Actions

- A1.** Prepare a landscape masterplan for the Werribee River open space network to ensure the delivery of an open space network that is functional, complementary to Ballan's character and the natural environment.
- A2.** As part of Action 5, in 4.3.4 (Movement Network and Connectivity) prepare an Implementation Strategy to ensure the structural loop is delivered with consideration to enhancing the open space network.
- A3.** Undertake further analysis of likely sporting requirements and when new active open space recreational facilities may be required.
- A4.** Audit existing open spaces to ensure they are meeting the existing needs of residents.
- A5.** Undertake a review of existing way finding to the open space network and improve way finding where required.

4.5 Community Facilities & Services

Guiding Principle - The diverse needs of existing and future residents of Ballan and the surrounding Region will be met with a range of community, health and education facilities and services which are accessible by all residents. The delivery, retention and enhancement of community facilities and services will require Council and stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure timely delivery of new facilities and efficient operation of new and existing facilities to meet the changing needs of residents.

Key issues/considerations

- > Ballan has a solid foundation of community infrastructure as a good basis for future growth.
- > Existing facilities are predominately old, single purpose and generally unfit for modern day use which makes them unable to support the delivery of integrated community facilities.
- > Need to ensure the management and planning of community facilities maximises the utilisation of existing infrastructure and delivers flexible, multipurpose facilities that meet the long term needs of Ballan's residents.
- > From 2017 the Moorabool Community Infrastructure Framework will provide a consistent strategic approach to the assessment, renewal and upgrade of existing community facilities and construction of new facilities across the whole of the Shire.
- > Lack of community focal point within the town centre core.

4.5.1 Community Facilities & Services Context

Ballan has traditionally been well serviced by both higher order (State Infrastructure or private facilities such as a catholic school, hospital etc) and local (Council provided) community facilities and services. These facilities have tended to be located in and around the Ballan town core and provide a sense of activity as well as essential services for current residents.

The presence of higher order education and health facilities including Government and non-government primary schools and the Ballan District Health & Care (including the Ballan Bush Nursing Hospital) set Ballan apart from other towns of its scale. This presents Ballan with a significant opportunity to reinforce its role as a regional education and health 'hub' to service the region, with larger scale services and facilities available in both Ballarat and Bacchus Marsh.

At a local level, Ballan has a diverse range of established community facilities which service local residents. These services and facilities include the Ballan Mechanics Institute which functions as a community centre and provides many local community groups / organisations with a venue to hold regular meetings within a central location, the Senior Citizens Hall located adjacent to the Ballan Mechanics Institute, the Country Fire Authority Station and the Ballan Sub-Branch Hall for the Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia. Additional services and facilities also include the Moorabool Shire Council Principal Office and the Old Court House, which is of historic interest and located on Crown Land.

McLean Reserve is also located on the corner of Inglis Street and Fiskin Street. This reserve is currently used for public open space and is the only open space within the town centre core.

4.5.2 Community Facilities & Services Response

Ballan is in a unique position of generally having sufficient community facilities to accommodate the projected growth to 2041, however the condition and fitness for purpose of many facilities are poor and will need to be addressed through a structured program of improvements. With Ballan projected to accommodate approximately 6000 residents by 2041, it is unlikely that additional higher order facilities will be required to support the growing population. While the inclusion of a secondary school would be desirable to service Ballan and the surrounding region, discussions with the Department of Education have indicated that the projected population does not warrant a secondary school within Ballan, and Ballan residents would be required to rely on secondary schools in Ballarat or Bacchus Marsh. However, depending on the rate of growth within Ballan and its role in the wider region, Council may reinstate discussions with the Department of Education in regards to the potential for a secondary school.

In regards to localised facilities, Ballan is currently well serviced to support the existing community and projected growth in the short to medium term. While the inclusion of a contemporary multi-purpose community facility would be a desirable addition to the town, with the potential for any such facility to be located on an existing Council owned site, it is anticipated this would be a long term project and require further investigations.

Although Ballan is well serviced, it currently lacks a key destination as a 'heart' to the town. McLean Reserve has the potential to be reinvigorated as a community focal point that would contribute towards improving the general amenity for community members and visitors. Potential may also exist to reconfigure and renovate the cluster of community facilities between Inglis Street and Steiglitz Street (Mechanics Institute Hall, Ballan Neighbourhood House and Men's Shed, the Senior Citizens Centre, CFA and car parks) to improve their function as a community hub.

FIGURE 18 COMMUNITY FACILITIES



4.5.3 Key Objectives & Strategies

To enforce and strengthen Ballan's role as a key service provider and destination point for Ballan and the surrounding region for education and health services.

- > Support growth of existing and establishment of new higher order education and health related uses in Ballan.
- > Actively engage with higher order service providers to understand future requirements and potential opportunities that would enhance the town and the broader region.
- > Support the ongoing role of health services within Ballan that meet the changing needs of Ballan residents and are generally located in proximity to existing services and facilities.

To ensure lower order community facilities are available within Ballan to support a growing Ballan and the surrounding region.

- > Plan for the long term community requirements of the town identified by the Moorabool Community Infrastructure Framework including the potential for a contemporary multipurpose community facility in the long term.
- > Plan for strategic improvements to community facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose, multi-functional and can adapt to changes in service delivery requirements and community needs.

To create a destination as a 'heart' to the town that can be used for passive purposes and as a meeting and gathering space.

- > Support the upgrade of McLean Reserve and reconfiguration of existing community facilities between Inglis Street and Steiglitz Street as the destinations that can deliver a 'heart' to the town, functioning as the town's meeting and gathering spaces and delivers a community hub.
-

Actions

- A1.** Instigate regular engagement with community service providers within the town to monitor the relevance and utilisation of existing services and facilities, identify gaps in provisions, ensure that services and infrastructure continue to be viable and identify measures to support their growth.
- A2.** Develop a strategic improvement program for community facilities in line with the Moorabool Community Infrastructure Framework, including consideration of a new contemporary multipurpose community facility and any site allocation this would require.
- A3.** Prepare a masterplan for the redevelopment of McLean Reserve that provides a focal meeting and gathering space within the town centre.
- A4.** Review opportunities to improve the Mechanics Institute Hall, Ballan Neighbourhood House and Men's Shed, the Senior Citizens Centre, CFA and car parks between Inglis Street and Steiglitz Street to function as a community hub.

4.6 Non Residential Uses & Local Employment

Guiding Principle- Integral to the success of Ballan will be protecting and creating employment opportunities that will meet not only the needs of residents today, but well into the future. Whilst it is recognised that Ballan will largely remain a commuter town for employment purposes there are a number of employment opportunities within Ballan such as within the industrial and medical Precincts that must be planned for, protected and adaptable to changes in market conditions and technology influences.

The niche tourism role Ballan has on offer will be an important component in attracting visitors to the town and enhancing economic vitality. Growing tourism in Ballan has the potential to be an integral component of the town in the future.

Key issues/considerations

- > Opportunities to revitalise the town centre through public realm improvements, recognition of heritage elements and other activation projects.
- > Shortage on retail within the town centre core.
- > A number of existing industrial activities operating within the commercial centre that can be deemed as light industrial.
- > Lack of strategic direction for the Industrial Precinct.
- > Opportunities to enhance tourism within the town.
- > Lack of accommodation.

4.6.1 Local Uses and Employment Context

The commercial centre of Ballan fulfils the role of providing convenience shopping that meets the needs of those residing within the township and the surrounding smaller settlements. The general trend is for residents to travel to larger shopping centres outside of the town for their higher-order shopping needs, such as Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat and Melton.

In more recent years, Ballan has also undertaken a niche tourism role. This has been achieved through a number of regular markets, annual festivals, shops and gourmet cafes which is anticipated to continue to grow and be an integral component of Ballan in the future.

Ballan has two main employment nodes, the Ballan Town Centre including the community and health services and the Ballan Industrial Estate.

Town Centre Core

The Ballan Town Centre is the only substantial retail centre within Moorabool outside Bacchus Marsh. It is anchored by an IGA supermarket of approximately 950 sq.m, with other specialty retail and non-retail services available.

The Retail Strategy identifies there is currently a demand for additional retail floor space within Ballan and indicates this increase in floor space could potentially be met through an expansion of the existing supermarket, subject to land constraints, and additional fresh food specialty stores.

By 2021 the Strategy states that the Ballan Town Centre is considered able to support a medium sized supermarket, a greater range of supporting fresh food stores, a few new cafes/restaurants, additional convenience retail stores, a discount variety outlet and more retail services such as additional hairdressers. The Strategy identifies that Ballan could potentially accommodate 8,000 – 9,000 sq.m of retail floor space by 2041. There is currently approximately 12,000 sq.m of vacant land within the Ballan Town Centre, which has the potential to accommodate around 8,000 – 9,000 sq.m of retail floor space (see proposed location in **Figure 19a**).

Within the town centre core, there are a number of industrial uses, in particular a cluster of uses that occupy a significant portion of land located on the northern side of Steiglitz Street, between Fiskin Street and Steiglitz Street, that may be more appropriately located within the Industrial Precinct. The relocation of these uses would also assist in providing land within the town centre core for retail/commercial uses that would complement and enhance the town centre.

The town centre core is also supported by a range of health services via Ballan District Health & Care which is a community owned, registered charity. The charity is 1 of only 6 in Victoria operating as a community owned and operated 'Not for Profit' organisation.

Ballan District Health & Care is a thriving, contemporary health and aged care organisation offering an extensive range of holistic programs, services and facilities to look after the needs of young children and babies right through to Palliative Care. The four major areas of services provided are:

- > hospital & 24/7 urgent care;
- > community health services – Male and female GPs and allied health services, including a hydrotherapy pool, a spa, a fully equipped gymnasium and a multipurpose room (community members can use the pool and gymnasium facilities for rehabilitation and to improve their general fitness);
- > aged care accommodation & services; and
- > community childcare centre.

Health services of this scale are unique in a town the size of Ballan, and an asset to residents of the town and the wider Region. Ballan District Health & Care is one of the largest employees within Moorabool Shire employing over 180 people and also supported by over 80 registered volunteers. Retaining and enhancing the health services available is important in the long term health and wellbeing of Ballan residents and the wider Region.

Industrial Precinct

The Ballan Industrial Precinct has a total area of 19.5ha possessing a relatively diverse mix of business activities including manufacturing, transport and service companies. The Precinct employs the equivalent of approximately 106 full time employees with the largest areas of employment being manufacturing and administrative/support services.

The Industrial Strategy identifies the Precinct as having a 17% vacancy rate (although on visiting the estate it is likely that the vacancy rates may actually exceed this figure). The findings of the Strategy indicate that the Precinct is most suited to population serving industries and such uses should continue to locate in Ballan.

The Precinct has a number of disadvantages including:

- > limited connectivity to the town centre core;
- > a lack of a postal services; and
- > buffer requirements from sensitive uses with dwellings located within a one kilometre radius of the Precinct.

4.6.2. Non Residential Uses & Employment Response

As Ballan's population grows so does the demand for local services to be provided. The benefit of this is the ability to facilitate employment opportunities within the town. With Ballan already providing substantial employment opportunities for a town of its size, retaining and enhancing these opportunities is an important component in meeting the needs of existing residents of Ballan and the region today and into the future.

Ballan will continue to have a centralised commercial/retail Precinct and it is important that this approach is retained to ensure the long term jeopardy of the town centre core including creating and enhancing the town centre as the 'heart' to the town.

To ensure the town centre core remains attractive, convenient and economically viable it is important that uses that complement and enhance the town centre are encouraged. This also includes consideration of some of the existing uses, including uses that may be more appropriately located in the Industrial Precinct. A long-term objective for Ballan should be to encourage these industrial uses to relocate to the Industrial Precinct, in particular when demand for retail/commercial uses within the town centre increases and the existing land supply within the town centre becomes limited.

It is also important for the long term viability of the town centre that there is a focus on streetscape improvements to enhance the amenity and attractiveness of the town.

In recent years Ballan has taken on a role as a destination for day trippers to the region or as a stop off for users of the Western Freeway to attend the number of cafes, farmers markets and shops the town has on offer. It is anticipated these type of uses will continue to grow and attract visitors to the town. Enhancing the attractiveness and vibrancy of the town centre is an important component to the start-up and retention of existing businesses and attracting visitors which is critical for the long term economic viability of the town.

FIGURE 19A TOWN CENTRE CORE

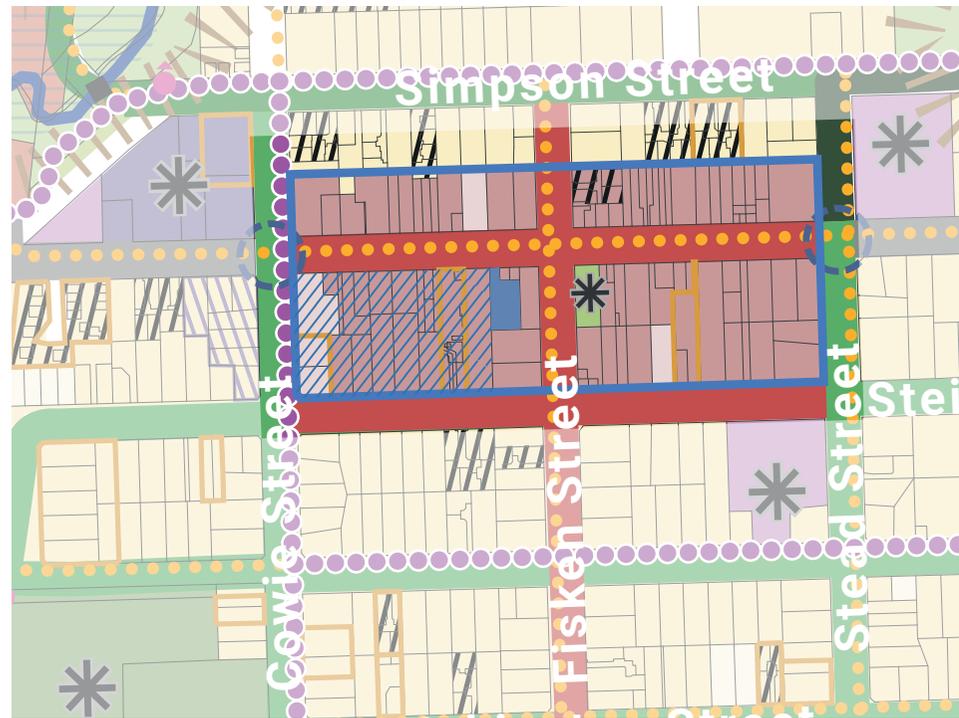
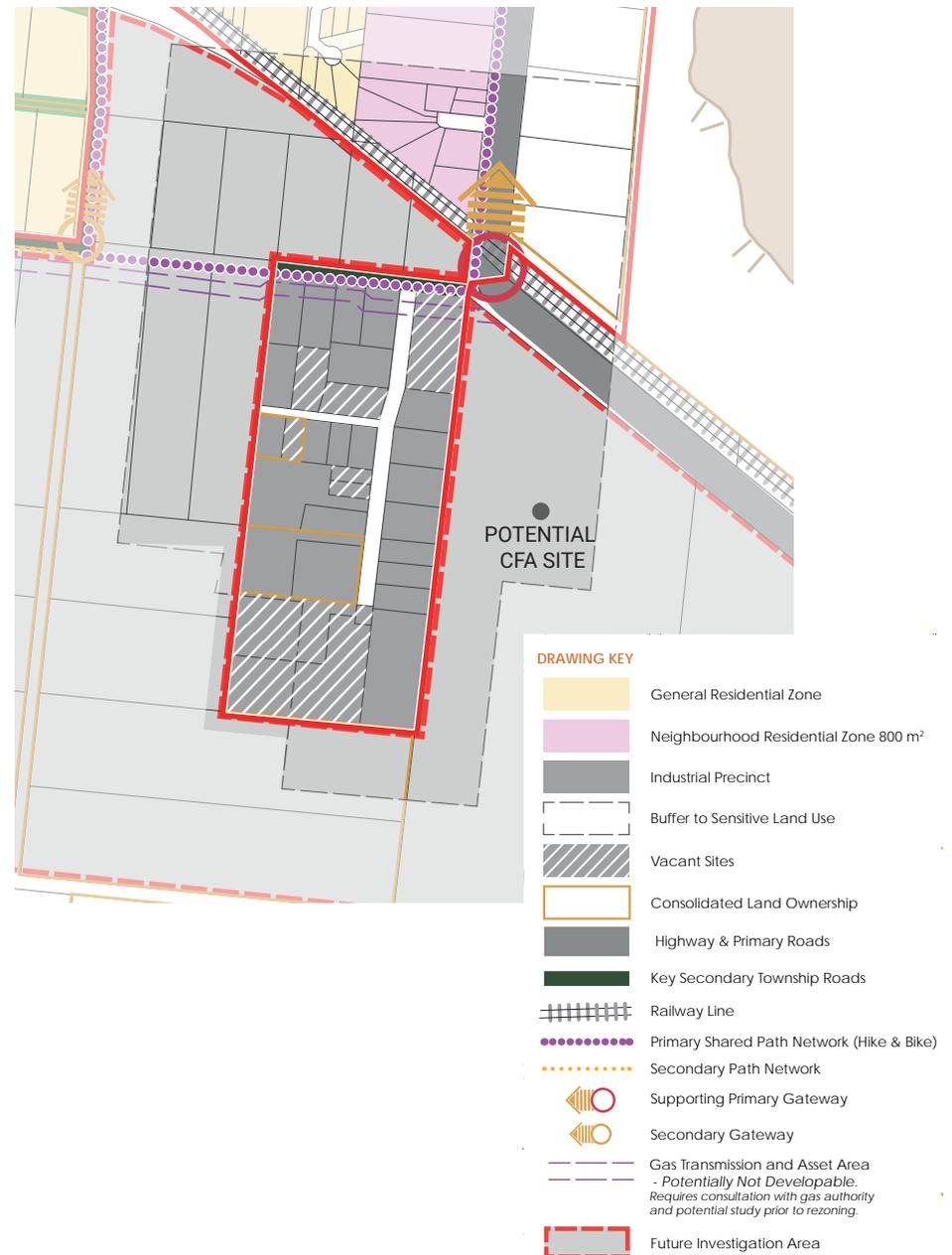


FIGURE 19B INDUSTRIAL Precinct



4.6.3 Key Objectives & Strategies

To retain the town centre core as the main commercial and retail Precinct with supporting non-residential uses.

- > Encourage commercial development to be consolidated within the existing town centre of Ballan through infill development. This extends also to community and social facilities.
- > Discourage rezoning of land for the purpose of commercial and / or service businesses.
- > Promote the redevelopment of underutilised sites and where possible, the retrofitting of existing buildings to provide for commercial or office uses.
- > Actively engage with higher order providers to understand future requirements and potential opportunities that would enhance the town and the broader region.

To encourage revitalisation of the town centre core as the commercial/retail Precinct of the town through streetscape improvements to improve the attractiveness and amenity of the town and enhance the experience of visitors to the town.

- > Support streetscape improvements to assist in improving the attractiveness and amenity of the town centre core and enhancing the experience of visitors to the town.
- > Ensure any new development complements the character of the town centre core in particular in regards to its series of heritage places, predominately single storey shops, no setbacks from the street, materials, roof forms etc.

To encourage tourism uses within the town that complement existing uses and will assist in boosting the economic vitality of the town and attract visitors.

- > Actively engage with existing businesses to ensure uses that assist in the economic vitality and attract visitors to the town are retained.
- > Encourage new business investment within the town that would assist in enhancing the town and the broader region with uses that would benefit the town including bed and breakfasts, food, beverage, arts and crafts etc.

To ensure the Industrial Precinct is retained as a significant employer within the town while also providing a range of service based industrial uses to Ballan and the region.

- > Ensure the appropriate zoning controls are applied to reflect existing uses, facilitate new uses and minimise amenity impacts on existing residential uses.
- > Support the expansion of the Industrial Precinct to the east only if land supply within the existing estate is nearly exhausted and demand exists for a further expansion. The trigger to consider expansion is likely to be when the Precinct has reached 80% capacity or at a time when there is evidence that additional industrial land will be required.
- > Provide opportunities for employment growth through the location of industrial uses which meet the service requirements of West Moorabool.
- > Ensure residential development does not encroach on the Industrial Precinct and appropriate buffers are retained.
- > Encourage any existing uses within Ballan that would be best located within the Industrial Precinct to relocate, in particular uses in the town centre core, where land could be activated through a commercial/retail use that complements the town centre.
- > As part of enhancing the overall movement network (as identified in 4.3.4) improve connectivity from the Industrial Precinct to the town centre core.

Actions

- A1.** Prepare an Urban Design Framework for the town centre core that provides direction in regards to streetscape improvements, desired built form outcomes, and the location for the identified additional retail floor space.
- A2.** Identify uses within the town centre core that may be more appropriately located within the Industrial Precinct and prepare a long term strategy to assist with the relocation of any businesses.
- A3.** Regularly engage with established businesses to ensure these uses remain in the town in the long term.
- A4.** Identify opportunities to attract new businesses to the town that will assist in enhancing the economic vitality of the town and attract visitors.
- A5.** Regularly engage with service providers in the town in particular Ballan District Health & Care to ensure these services remain in the town in the long term.
- A6.** Rezone the existing Industrial Precinct to Industrial 1 Zone.
- A7.** Monitor retail floor space within Ballan and engage with relevant providers to ensure retail needs for Ballan and the Region are met in the long term.

4.7 Drainage & Servicing

Guiding Principle- Drainage and servicing solutions across the town will be holistically planned for and developed to ensure outcomes have regard to the ultimate development of Ballan. Well considered and innovative drainage outcomes have the potential to deliver improved environmental and waterway health outcomes which in turn will assist in the creation of a healthy and vibrant community.

The timely delivery and expansion of essential services such as gas, sewer, water, telecommunications and the internet will be required to meet the needs of a growing community.

Key issues/considerations

- > Localised, ad hoc drainage infrastructure has produced poor urban design and amenity outcomes.
- > Poorly integrated and dispersed drainage generates significant maintenance costs and issues.
- > Lack of coordinated planning and construction of services to meet the needs of Ballan's growth.
- > Key services are not keeping pace with development.
- > Existing drainage is relatively poor and flood mapping is being prepared however not currently incorporated into the Planning Scheme.

4.7.1 Drainage & Servicing Context

Generally, the existing areas of Ballan are well serviced with reticulated services and minor upgrades and extensions required to support future infill development. However, in Ballan's larger new developments, the roll out of utilities and services has typically been on a site specific basis with little regard for future development and the progression of development over time which has lacked a coordinated approach to the delivery of servicing infrastructure.

Ballan has been fortunate to be part of the early roll out of the National Broadband Network, which is a significant infrastructure advantage for the town for existing and future residents but also for new and established businesses. In regards to drainage and stormwater management Ballan has lacked a holistic and coordinated approach which has resulted in a number of small localised stormwater management systems in Council ownership.

Melbourne Water have recently prepared Development Services Schemes (DSS) for Ballan. This will enable the coordination and planning of drainage infrastructure for future urban development. The two main components of this is flood impacts caused by urban runoff and environment protection through water quality measures. The DSS's do not alleviate pre-existing flooding within the catchment area, but identify drainage infrastructure and stormwater quality treatment facilities that will be required to service properties for future urban development. For the long term, the implementation of the DSS's for Ballan will be a welcome addition and provide a more holistic and coordinated approach towards drainage infrastructure for future urban development.

At a localised level the location and level of Council's stormwater assets (pits and pipes) and catchments require further review to determine the extent and capacity of existing stormwater assets across the township.

4.7.2 Drainage & Servicing Response

Ballan Strategic Directions sets a long term vision for the growth direction of Ballan. To service these areas a more coordinated approach must be implemented in consultation with servicing authorities as to the required upgrades and extensions of key infrastructure including water, sewer, gas, electricity and telecommunications (including NBN) to support development.

The growth areas of Ballan will naturally require more substantial construction of branch and reticulated networks as this land is progressively upgraded from a rural to urban standard. It is therefore important that **Ballan Strategic Directions** provides some guidance on how these services are to be delivered at a high level.

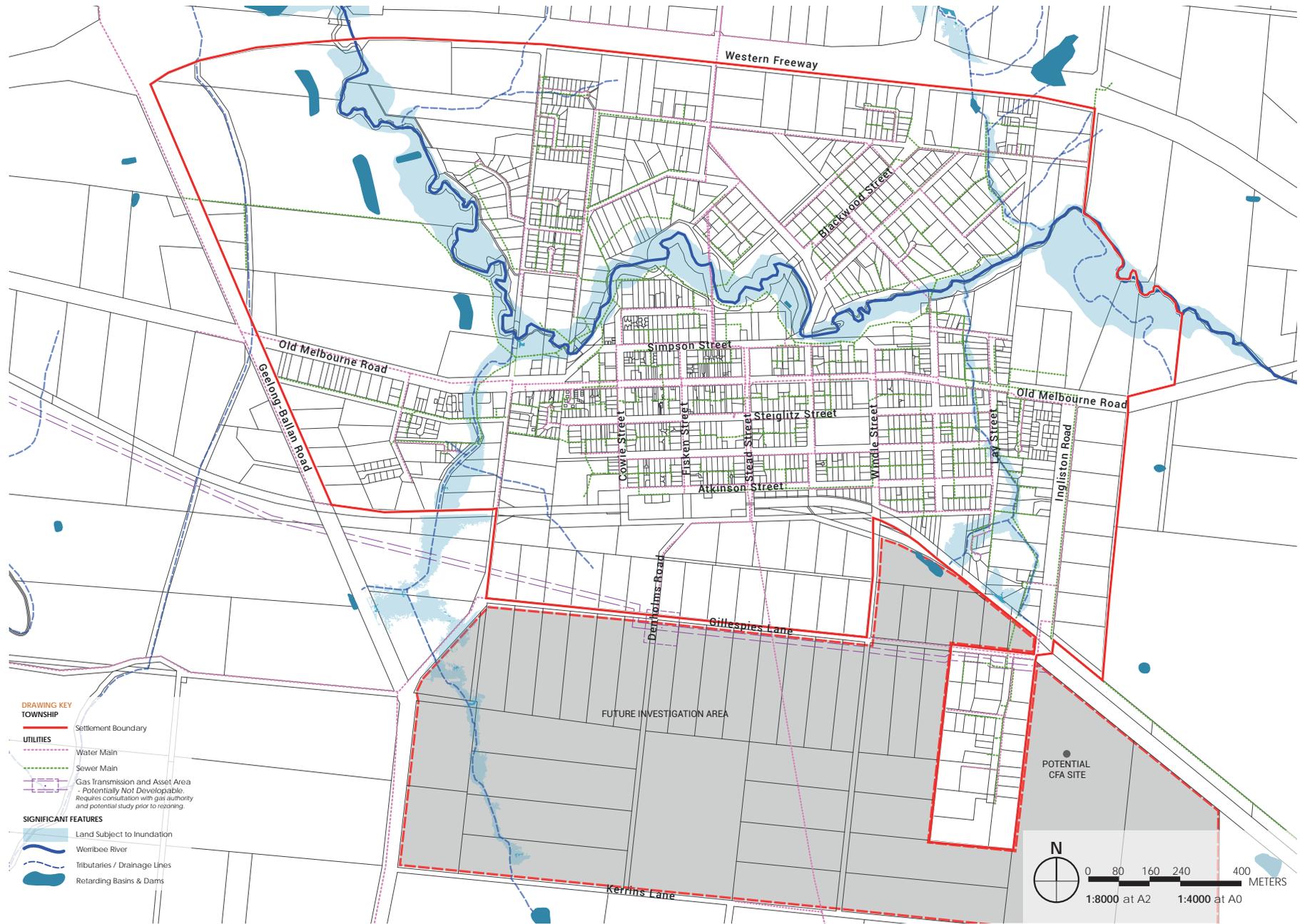
There is also higher order infrastructure that will require specific responses at more detailed planning stages or as part of development proposals. This includes a SP Ausnet (Gas) Pty Ltd gas transmission pipeline located to the south of the town on Gillespies Lane on the periphery of the identified southern growth Precinct which is likely to require sensitive land use buffers.

The implementation of Melbourne Water's DSS's in Ballan will negate the need for the construction of small localised stormwater management systems that would ultimately become the responsibility of Council to own and maintain.

The relevant authorities which facilitate key utilities and services within Ballan are:

- > Waterway management, regional drainage and floodplain management: Melbourne Water
- > Localised Drainage: Moorabool Shire Council
- > Sewer, Recycled & Potable water: Central Highlands Water
- > Electricity: Powercor
- > Gas: SP Ausnet
- > Telecommunications: Telstra

FIGURE 20 DRAINAGE AND SERVICING PLAN



4.7.3 Key Objectives & Strategies

To ensure orderly provision of services to meet the needs of Ballan and to meet the requirements of the future community.

- > Ensure that utility and services that require upgrading are constructed and delivered to support the future growth of Ballan.
- > Support development within the defined settlement boundary that can efficiently access services (i.e that is in a logical sequence of development) having regard to proximity to existing services and subject to other development pre-conditions as set out in 4.2.4.

To encourage innovative, sustainable and energy efficient approaches to the provision of services.

- > Support innovative and sustainable servicing solutions that will have a net community benefit.

To ensure future development has regard to the requirements of established higher order infrastructure such as the high pressure gas main.

- > Plan for compatible land uses and development within proximity to the high pressure gas main and its associated buffer.
- > Encourage engagement with Central Highlands Water in regards to opportunities for integrated water cycle management.

To discourage any further encroachment on waterways and tributaries in already established areas and protect waterways and tributaries in identified growth Precincts.

- > Discourage encroachment within 20m either side of waterways and tributaries in accordance with Melbourne water requirements.
- > Encourage the retention of all tributaries in growth Precincts in accordance with Melbourne Water requirements.

To ensure stormwater runoff is managed appropriately to protect the Werribee River and its tributaries.

- > Implement drainage strategies in accordance with Melbourne Water's Development Services Scheme or alternate integrated water management strategies subject to relevant authorities approval.

Actions

- A1.** Work collaboratively with servicing authorities to coordinate staging of development and services.
- A2.** Work collaboratively with SP AusNet in regard to land use and development requirements within the high pressure gas pipeline buffer.
- A3.** Undertake an audit of Council's stormwater assets (pits and pipes) and catchments to determine the extent and capacity of existing stormwater assets across the township.
- A4.** Work collaboratively with servicing authorities to implement approved drainage strategies.
- A5.** Work collaboratively with Central Highlands Water in regards to the feasibility of an Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan for Ballan (which includes consideration of open spaces within the town).

PART 3

Implementation



Ballan Mechanics Institute, Inglis Street

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Implementation context

To implement *Ballan Strategic Directions*, the following process has been identified:

Planning Scheme – to introduce *Ballan Strategic Directions* into the Moorabool Planning Scheme including updating the Municipal Strategic Statement and applying the suite of residential zones to the town.

Action Plan- identifies responsibility and timeframes for the delivery of the actions set out throughout the Document.

5.2 Planning Scheme Implementation

This section outlines the recommended approach to the implementation of *Ballan Strategic Directions* into the Moorabool Planning Scheme, while also providing an explanation in regards to why one implementation tool is preferred over another. This section also explains the rationale for the statutory controls that are proposed to be applied across Ballan.

Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS)

To ensure there is strong policy guidance for future development within Ballan it is recommended that the key deliverables from *Ballan Strategic Directions* be included in the MSS. This includes recognising the Vision, Objectives and Strategies to ensure there is policy direction provided in the Scheme in regards to the long term vision for Ballan. In particular, it is important for the MSS to recognise the 'Settlement Framework' for Ballan to ensure future housing growth is directed to preferred locations.

Residential Zones

The Settlement Framework Plan (**Figure 09**) provides the basis for the recommended application of the suite of residential zones. It is proposed to translate the three identified settlement types into residential zones, introducing schedules, as appropriate, to reflect housing, neighbourhood character and development objectives.

In determining what the most appropriate zone to apply to each settlement type, consideration was given to the suite of Residential Zones. Consideration was also given to the Residential Zones Standing Advisory Committee (Amendment C78) which stated that despite requesting the Minister to apply the Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) to the majority of Ballan that:

"...the Committee acknowledges the policy imperatives to protect and enhance the existing character, built form and natural environment, this needs to be balanced against providing opportunities for residential growth and for different forms of housing.

The Committee does not support the introduction of the NRZ as the sole residential zone in Ballan (in conjunction with the proposed schedules) as proposed in the draft Amendment. While some areas (such as on the north side of the river) might be suitable for the NRZ, the extensive use of the NRZ has not been adequately justified, and its use raises a number of policy and implementation issues that require further analysis by Council..."

Residential Zone Assessments and suitability for Ballan

MIXED USED ZONE - Not recommended: As there is sufficient residential areas abutting the commercial areas that could be further intensified, it is not considered a Zone that encourages a mix of residential and non-residential development is currently required.

RESIDENTIAL GROWTH ZONE - Not recommended: This Zone is identified for more intensified growth than what is likely to occur within Ballan in the long term.

GENERAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE - Recommended: Proposed to be applied to Natural Residential Growth Areas and Greenfield Residential Growth Areas.

NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTIAL ZONE - Recommended: Proposed to apply to some areas identified for Minimal Residential Growth Areas with tailored schedules, to address specific characteristics that have been identified within these Precincts including minimum lot sizes.

LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONE - Recommended: Proposed to apply to some areas identified for Minimal Residential Growth Areas with tailored schedules around minimum lot sizes. The use of this Zone is generally proposed to be used on Minimal Residential Growth Areas that are already zoned Low Density Residential or in areas where the Zone could assist in providing for the transition to more intensified residential development.

RURAL LIVING ZONE – Recommended: Proposed to apply to some areas identified for Minimal Residential Growth Areas with tailored schedules around minimum lot sizes. The use of this Zone has generally proposed to be used on Minimal Residential Growth Areas that are already zoned Rural Living or in areas where the Zone could assist in providing for the transition from rural land to residential.

URBAN GROWTH ZONE – Not Recommended: The purpose of this Zone is to generally manage the transition of non-urban land into urban land in accordance with a Precinct Structure Plan. Given the scale of the growth areas within Ballan being reasonably small in a growth context, it is not considered a Precinct Structure Plan is required to implement growth in Ballan.

TABLE 03 STATUTORY IMPLEMENTATION OF ESTABLISHED Precincts

Established Precincts (Figure 21 maps the proposed zoning controls)				
Zone	Controls	Precincts	Rescode variations	Justification to variations to Zone schedules
General Residential Zone	Default Schedule applies	B and Part of Precinct A	No Rescode variations	These Precincts will develop under the default Rescode requirements and no variations are proposed.
Neighbourhood Residential Zone	Min lot size of 1400sqm	D and Part of C	Front fences 1.2m	This Precinct is dominated by larger residential lots with low site coverage and in a landscaped setting. Based on locality and landscape this Precinct is not considered suitable for intensification. The proposed controls will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control building heights to 1-2 storeys to reflect neighbourhood character values. Create minimum lot sizes to reflect neighbourhood character values. Reduce front fencing to reflect the neighbourhood character values that will allow for landscaping and sense of spaciousness to the street.
Neighbourhood Residential Zone	Min lot size of 800sqm	E and G part of A and C	Front fences 1.2m	These Precincts are dominated by a mix of residential lot sizes which are generally not located in walkable catchments of Ballan's services and facilities. Based on locality and natural landscape these Precincts are not considered suitable for intensification. The proposed controls will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control building heights to 1-2 storeys to reflect neighbourhood character values. Create minimum lot sizes to reflect neighbourhood character values and the location of the Precincts. Reduce front fencing to reflect the neighbourhood character values that will allow for landscaping and sense of spaciousness to the street.
Low Density Residential Zone	Min lot size of 4000sqm	F and part of C	No Rescode variations	The LDRZ already applies to Precinct F and the land identified in Precinct C to be LDRZ. The controls propose a minimum lot size to reflect neighbourhood character, landscape values and the Precincts locality.
Farming Zone	N/A	H	Nil	N/A

Note: Annexure 2 includes an assessment against each Precinct in regards to their appropriateness for future development. As part of this assessment consideration has been given to existing characteristics such as front setbacks, vegetation, site coverage and lot sizes which has assisted in determining the appropriate statutory controls to be applied to each Precinct. Given some of the Precincts are exceptionally diverse in their characteristics (mainly due to their being limited existing statutory controls to direct densities of development to appropriate locations) and lot sizes often varying substantially, the controls have sort to manage the existing conditions as practical as possible.

Note: Annexure 3 includes case studies that have tested the proposed controls against recent planning permit applications as to whether the proposed controls would achieve improved residential outcomes in regards to location, proposed intensification and neighbourhood character. The case studies have demonstrated the significant benefit the proposed controls will generally have across Ballan.

Application Requirements and Decision Guidelines for Schedules to Residential Zones (all Schedules except LDRZ)

Application requirements:

- > A Landscape Plan.

Decision Guidelines

- > Whether adequate sized open space and setbacks are provided for the retention and growth of existing and new canopy trees.

Overlays

Apart from the application of the Development Plan Overlay to the Precincts identified (in Note in Table 4), no overlays are recommended to be applied to implement **Ballan Strategic Directions**. With the reformed residential zones, there is now more ability to apply controls under the Zones to ensure the desired development and character outcomes are achieved. Previously, overlays would have been relied upon to achieve these outcomes. Although the application of an overlay, in some instances may still be appropriate, the assessment undertaken of the Study Area determined that the application of overlays was generally not required.

Council has prepared the West Moorabool Heritage Study, which is likely to be subject to a Planning Scheme Amendment to apply the Heritage Overlay to parts of Ballan which will be undertaken as its own planning scheme amendment.

Further, Council are reviewing flooding and land subject to inundation, which may also form part of a separate amendment.

Incorporated/Reference Document

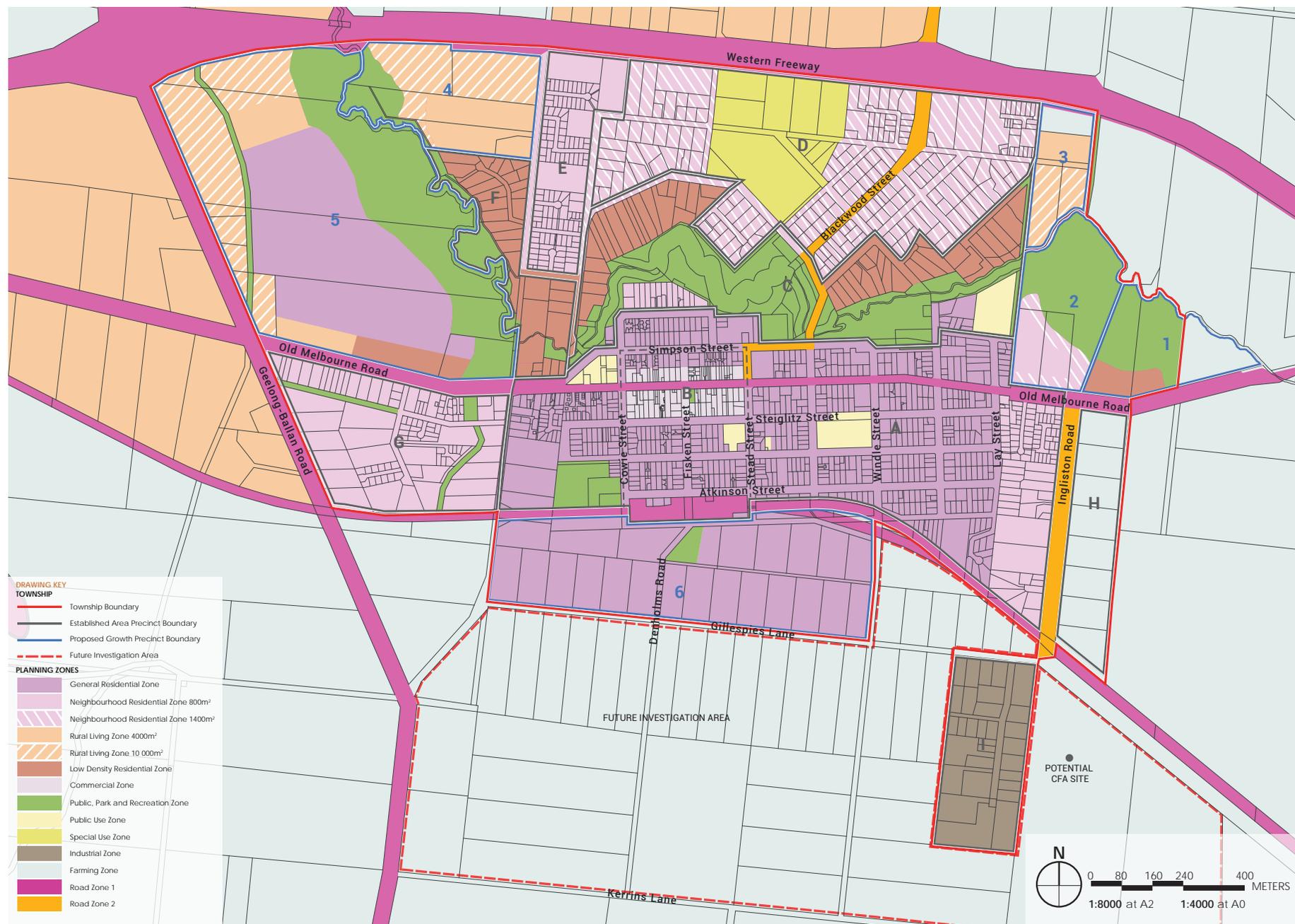
It is recommended that **Ballan Strategic Direction** be included as a Reference Document to the Moorabool Planning Scheme. This approach will also allow Council to review and update the Document as required, without the need to undertake a formal Planning Scheme Amendment process.

TABLE 04 STATUTORY IMPLEMENTATION OF GROWTH PrecinctS

Growth Precincts (Figure 21 maps the proposed zoning controls)		
Zones	Controls	Precincts
Neighbourhood Residential Zone	Min lot size of 800sqm	Part of 2
Neighbourhood Residential Zone	Min lot size of 1400sqm	Part of 2
General Residential Zone	Default Schedule applies	6 and Part of 5
Low Density Residential zone	Default Schedule applies	Part of 1
Rural Living Zone	Min lot size of 4000sqm	Part of 3, 4 and 5
Rural Living Zone	Min lot size of 1 hectare	Part of 3, 4 and 5

Note: Precincts 1, 2, 5 and 6 will be subject to Precinct specific Planning Scheme Amendments (Proponent led) prior to the development of each Precinct. Due to the scale of the Precincts a Development Plan Overlay should also be applied to these Precinct or potentially a Section 173 Agreement for Precincts 1 and 2. The pre conditions identified in 4.2.4 should be included in the statutory tools applied. Precincts 3 and 4 will be implemented via Council initiated Planning Scheme Amendments and Section 173 Agreements should be entered into to ensure the Precincts are developed in accordance with relevant pre conditions.

FIGURE 21 PROPOSED ZONING



5.3 Implementation of Actions

To ensure the successful delivery of the Objectives and Strategies identified within **Ballan Strategic Directions**, an Action Plan has been prepared. The Action Plan sets out each Action as set out throughout the Document, identifies the type of action, timeframes and resources required.

In regards to the type of action the following is provided to assist in understanding each type:

- > **Council Responsibility:** Actions Council can implement alone.
- > **Council Advocacy:** Actions where Council influences others to act.
- > **Council Collaboration:** Actions where Council works with other stakeholders, such as proponents and government agencies.

Resources:

OT- Officer time/new/reformed process

\$ - Limited

\$\$ - Moderate

\$\$\$ - Significant

TABLE 05 **Actions**

Action	Type of Action	Timeframe	Resources	
Urban Form & Character				
A1	Actively work with the community, development and building industry to increase the awareness and acceptance of well-designed developments that complement the character of Ballan. This may include forums, education workshops, study tours, etc.	Council responsibility	Ongoing	OT
A2	Review and update the Municipal Strategic Statement to include a revised Ballan Framework Plan that identifies the long term settlement boundary, policy and objectives for achieving preferred design outcomes, while recognising the importance of the country landscape and ensuring the valued characteristics of Ballan are protected.	Council responsibility	Short	\$\$
A3	Prepare Urban Design Guidelines for residential development within Ballan and use them to assist planners and applicants. The Guidelines should consider the public realm, built form, subdivision design, waterways, natural environment and landscape, front fencing and sustainability.	Council responsibility	Short	\$\$
A4	Prepare Street Tree Planting Guidelines that provide a vision for street tree planting and street design within Ballan, particularly in relation to subdivision developments and gateways.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A5	Review the existing gateways and prepare an implementation strategy to enhance the gateways for the long term.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A6	Actively work with Melbourne Water to protect the Werribee River and it's tributaries	Council collaboration	Ongoing	OT
Residential Development				
A1	Support planning of the Western Growth Precinct (Precinct 5) as a priority, if demonstrated to satisfy the relevant planning and development preconditions set out in 4.2.4.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A2	Monitor development approvals to ensure sufficient zoned and planned land is available. Timing of the development of the growth Precincts should generally be consistent with the timings identified in Figure 09 and 4.2.4, unless circumstances arise (i.e. increased growth rates) that may require Council to reconsider the timing for development of each growth Precinct.	Council responsibility	Ongoing	OT
A3	Facilitate ongoing monitoring of the preferred design objectives/pre conditions of a Precinct as this may change over time (this could be in the form of a 5 yearly review).	Council responsibility	Ongoing	OT
A4	Implement the zones and other relevant planning controls in accordance with the recommendations set out in Chapter 5, Implementation.	Council responsibility	Short	\$\$
A5	Provide relevant information in regards to the design objectives/pre conditions at pre-application meetings to assist in future development being in accordance with the strategic directions for Ballan.	Council responsibility	Ongoing	OT
A6	Undertake a review of internal processes to ensure residential development approvals are being assessed in accordance with Councils decision making framework. This may include: improving quality assurance processes; educating Council Officers in regards to good urban design outcomes; and mentoring new planners.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A7	Review and identify infrastructure requirements that have a nexus to the relevant growth Precincts prior to their development (or rezoning) to ensure development contributions are collected and secured via an appropriate mechanism (ie. Section 173 Agreement or a Development Contributions Plan).	Council responsibility	Ongoing	OT

Action		Type of Action	Timeframe	Resources
Movement Network & Connectivity				
A1	As part of the Urban Design Framework (UDF) to be prepared in accordance with Action A1 in 4.6 for the Town Centre core, ensure the UDF identifies how the movement network within the town centre can be enhanced through improved pedestrian connectivity, wayfinding to key destinations and streetscape improvements (street furniture, lighting and landscaping).	Council Responsibility	Medium	\$\$\$
A2	Progressively deliver a linked path network which safely connects people to key destinations.	Council Responsibility	Long	\$\$\$
A3	Progressively deliver a shared path 'structural loop' through the town which also connects people to the natural environment.	Council Responsibility	Long	\$\$\$
A4	Work collaboratively with Public Transport Victoria and other stakeholders to provide better connectivity and frequency of bus services between Ballan and the surrounding region.	Council advocacy	Medium	OT
A5	Prepare an implementation strategy for the delivery of the path networks (i.e identifying the exact location taking into account land constraints and any land holdings that are required to complete the delivery of the network). Note: This will require a review of Council's Hike and Bike Strategy.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A6	Identify a priority list for the upgrade of existing roads, missing roads and pedestrian/cycle links including proposed timing and potential funding sources.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A7	Prepare a suite of cross sections to be applied in Ballan that reflect and enhance the character of the town.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A8	Prepare street tree planting guidelines to complement the suite of cross sections.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A9	Progressively enhance pedestrian connectivity between the Industrial Precinct and the town centre core.	Council responsibility	Medium	\$\$
A10	Prepare a signage strategy to improve wayfinding within the town to key destinations but also through signage that promotes key heritage and cultural sites. The signage strategy should also consider opportunities to promote tourism within the town and at key gateways to the town.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
Open Space & Recreation				
A1	Prepare a landscape masterplan for the Werribee River open space network to ensure the delivery of an open space network that is functional, complementary to Ballan's character and the natural environment.	Council responsibility	Short-Medium	\$\$
A2	As part of Action 5, in 4.3.4 (Movement Network and Connectivity) prepare an Implementation Strategy to ensure the structural loop is delivered with consideration to enhancing the open space network.	Council responsibility	Short-Medium	OT
A3	Undertake further analysis of likely sporting requirements and when new active open space recreational facilities may be required.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A4	Audit existing open spaces to ensure they are meeting the existing needs of residents.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A5	Undertake a review of existing way finding to the open space network and improve way finding where required.	Council responsibility	Short	OT

Action		Type of Action	Timeframe	Resources
Community Facilities & Services				
A1	Instigate regular engagement with community service providers within the town to monitor the relevance and utilisation of existing services and facilities, identify gaps in provisions, ensure that services and infrastructure continue to be viable and identify measures to support their growth.	Council collaboration	Ongoing	OT
A2	Develop a strategic improvement program for community facilities in line with the Moorabool Community Infrastructure Framework, including consideration of a new contemporary multipurpose community facility and any site allocation this would require.	Council responsibility	Short-Medium	OT
A3	Prepare a masterplan for the redevelopment of McLean Reserve that provides a focal meeting and gathering space within the town centre.	Council responsibility	Ongoing	OT
A4	Review opportunities to improve the Mechanics Institute Hall, Ballan Neighbourhood House and Men's Shed, the Senior Citizens Centre, CFA and car parks between Inglis Street and Steiglitz Street to function as a community hub.	Council responsibility	Medium	OT
Non Residential Uses & Employment				
A1	Prepare an Urban Design Framework for the town centre core that provides direction in regards to streetscape improvements, desired built form outcomes, and the location for the identified additional retail floor space.	Council responsibility	Short	\$\$\$
A2	Identify uses within the town centre core that may be more appropriately located within the Industrial Precinct and prepare a long term strategy to assist with the relocation of any businesses.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A3	Regularly engage with established businesses to ensure these uses remain in the town in the long term.	Council responsibility	Ongoing	OT
A4	Identify opportunities to attract new businesses to the town that will assist in enhancing the economic vitality of the town and attract visitors.	Council responsibility	Ongoing	OT
A5	Regularly engage with service providers in the town in particular Ballan District Health & Care to ensure these services remain in the town in the long term.	Council collaboration	Ongoing	OT
A6	Rezone the existing Industrial Precinct to Industrial 1 Zone.	Council responsibility	Short	\$\$
A7	Monitor retail floor space within Ballan and engage with relevant providers to ensure retail needs for Ballan and the Region are met in the long term.	Council responsibility	Ongoing	OT
Drainage & Servicing				
A1	Work collaboratively with servicing authorities to coordinate staging of development and services.	Council collaboration	Ongoing	OT
A2	Work collaboratively with SP AusNet in regard to land use and development requirements within the high pressure gas pipeline buffer.	Council collaboration	Short-Medium	OT
A3	Undertake an audit of Council's stormwater assets (pits and pipes) and catchments to determine the extent and capacity of existing stormwater assets across the town-ship.	Council responsibility	Short	OT
A4	Work collaboratively with servicing authorities to implement approved drainage strategies	Council collaboration	Ongoing	OT
A5	Work collaboratively with Central Highlands Water in regards to the feasibility of an Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan for Ballan (which includes consideration of open spaces within the town).	Council collaboration	Ongoing	OT

ANNEXURE 1: DEFINING THE SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY & GROWTH PRECINCTS

Precincts suitability to be located in or out of the settlement boundary and to accommodate growth

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 1 & 2	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	No strategic direction for Precinct 1, Ballan Structure Plan identifies Precinct 2 for future residential growth.
The impact on the gateways to the town	A key gateway site and would only be appropriate to develop at lower densities to assist with acting as a transition to more intensified development. Potentially the most eastern portion of Precinct 1 should remain as farming land.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Has the ability to impact on the natural landscape and character of the town if not appropriately developed.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	Whilst on the fringe of town lower density development would be more appropriate and assist in acting as a transition to more intensified development.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	While not within a defined walkable catchment key community facilities are within a reasonable distance of the Precinct.
Land fragmentation	Reasonably un-fragmented.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	Ability to enhance the open space network along the Werribee River.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	The development of this Precinct would be at lower residential densities and would play a minor role in accommodating the projected population growth.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	Providing transitional density lots on the periphery of the town is important to retaining the country charm while allowing for well planned growth.
Summary	Provides a significant opportunity to extend the open space network along the Werribee River and to deliver the 'structural loop'. Lower densities of development that act as a transition between farming and residential development would be appropriate.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 3	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	No strategic direction.
The impact on the gateways to the town	No impact on the gateways, the Precinct sits behind the service centre on the Western Freeway.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Will have minimal impact on the natural landscape although given its location abutting farming land lower densities of development would be appropriate to assist with the Precinct acting as a transition to more intensified residential development. Ensuring development is respectful of the escarpment to the Werribee River would be a key requirement of any further development.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	Due to the Precincts location on the periphery of town lower density development would be more appropriate and assist in acting as a transition to more intensified development.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	The Precinct is not within a walkable catchment of key community nodes.
Land fragmentation	Reasonably un-fragmented.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	Ability to enhance the open space network along the Werribee River with a potential link.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	The development of this Precinct would be at lower densities and would play a minor role in accommodating the projected population growth.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	Providing transitional density lots on the periphery of the town is important to retaining the country charm while allowing for well planned growth.
Summary	The Precinct assists in the delivery of a logical eastern settlement boundary. Development should be at lower densities and act as a transition between farming and residential development.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 4	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	Land already zoned Rural Living Zone.
The impact on the gateways to the town	While not located to impact on the gateways, the Precinct can be viewed from the Western Freeway and managing this interface will be important for any future development.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Will have minimal impact on the natural landscape although ensuring the development enhances the interface with the Werribee River would be a requirement of any further development.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct could be described as an 'infill' Precinct and although not well connected to services and facilities the Precinct has the ability to connect into the open space network along the Werribee River.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	The Precinct is not within a walkable catchment of key community nodes.
Land fragmentation	Reasonably un-fragmented. In order for the Precinct to develop a collaborative development approach would be required to assist in the delivery of a loop road and avoid battle axe lots.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	Ability to enhance the open space network along the Werribee River with a potential link.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	The development of this Precinct would be at lower densities and would play a minor role in accommodating the projected population growth.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	Providing transitional density lots on the periphery of the town is important to retaining the country charm while allowing for well planned growth.
Summary	The Precinct is an 'infill' Precinct on the periphery of the town. Development should be at lower densities due to its location and lack of connectivity to services and facilities.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 5	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	Land identified in the Planning Scheme and Ballan Structure Plan for future residential growth.
The impact on the gateways to the town	Has the ability to impact on the primary western gateway.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Ensuring development enhances the Werribee River and environs and biodiversity values will be a critical consideration for future development of this site.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct is located on the periphery of the town and although not well connected to services and facilities the Precinct has the ability to connect and enhance the open space network along the Werribee River.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	While not within a defined walkable catchment key community facilities are within a reasonable distance from the Precinct.
Land fragmentation	Reasonably un-fragmented with the majority of the site within one ownership and some smaller lots around the periphery.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	Ability to deliver part of the open space network along the Werribee River.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	The development of this Precinct would undertake a critical role in accommodating population growth in the short to medium term.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	The sites ability to accommodate growth is in keeping with the vision for Ballan. Ensuring the growth is 'sensitive' will be critical in delivering the vision for Ballan.
Summary	This Precinct has previous strategic support to accommodate projected population growth. Ensuring growth is appropriately managed to protect gateways and sensitive to the country charm will be critical to the future development of the Precinct.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 6	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	The Precinct has been identified in the Planning Scheme and Ballan Structure Plan for future residential growth.
The impact on the gateways to the town	This Precinct is not located on the town's gateways.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Will have minimal impact on the natural landscape.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct is well located to the train station, however connectivity across the railway line could be improved.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	While not with a defined walkable catchment the Precinct is within a walkable distance of the town centre core and key community facilities.
Land fragmentation	This Precinct has a number of titles however many are within the same ownership.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	The inclusion of a Neighbourhood Park would be a positive addition to assist with providing passive open space to the residents that are not within a proximate location of the Werribee River where the open space network is generally located.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	The development of this Precinct would undertake a critical role in accommodating population growth in the medium to long term.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	The sites ability to accommodate growth is in keeping with the vision for Ballan. Ensuring the growth is 'sensitive' will be critical in delivering the vision for Ballan.
Summary	This Precinct has previous strategic support to accommodate projected population growth. Ensuring growth is appropriately managed to be sensitive to the country charm will be critical for the future development of the Precinct.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 7	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	Part of this Precinct has been identified in the Planning Scheme and all of the Precinct has been identified within the Ballan Structure Plan for future residential growth.
The impact on the gateways to the town	This Precinct is located in a position to impact on the Geelong-Ballan Rd gateway.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Due to the small size of this Precinct and the location of the tributaries developing the Precinct has the ability to impact on these features.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct has limited connectivity to the township, services and facilities.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	While not with a defined walkable catchment the Precinct is within a walkable distance of the train station and active open space.
Land fragmentation	Reasonably un-fragmented ownership.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	This Precinct would not deliver any key infrastructure gaps if it were developed.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	The development of this Precinct would play a minimal role in accommodating future population.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan	Retaining this site as farming land will assist in the retention of the 'country charm' and the rural gateways entering Ballan.
Summary	This Precinct does not provide a lot of additional value for development purposes and due to its small size and site constraints developing this Precinct will not significantly meet the needs of Ballan or deliver on the vision.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 8	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	Ballan Structure Plan identifies this Precinct as future urban development.
The impact on the gateways to the town	This Precinct is not located on the town's gateways.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Will have minimal impact on the natural landscape.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct is within close proximity of the train station, however connectivity across the railway line could be improved.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	While not with a defined walkable catchment the Precinct is within a walkable distance of the town centre core and key community facilities.
Land fragmentation	This Precinct has a number of titles however many are within the same ownership.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	The upgrade or the rural road network could be delivered as part of development of this Precinct.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	It is not considered this Precinct would be developed until after Precinct 7 was developed.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	The Precincts ability to accommodate growth is in keeping with the vision for Ballan. Ensuring the growth is 'sensitive' will be critical in delivering the vision for Ballan. It is unlikely this Precinct will be required prior to 2041 to accommodate the projected growth.
Summary	This Precinct has some previous strategic support to accommodate projected population growth. Ensuring growth is appropriately managed to be sensitive to the country charm will be critical for the future development of the Precinct. The question with this Precinct is around timing. Should Precinct 6 be developed this Precinct would be the next logical Precinct to accommodate residential development.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 9	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	Ballan Structure Plan identifies this Precinct for future urban development.
The impact on the gateways to the town	This Precinct is not located on the town's gateways although is the first view of the town when approaching from the south on the Geelong-Ballan Road and therefore any development would benefit from a transition in densities.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Will have minimal impact on the natural landscape due to its location on the southern side of the township.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct is within a proximate location of the train station, however connectivity across the railway line could be improved.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	While not with a defined walkable catchment the Precinct is within a walkable distance of the town centre core and key community facilities.
Land fragmentation	This Precinct has a number of titles however many are within the same ownership.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	The upgrade or the rural road network could be delivered as part of development of this Precinct.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	With Precincts 6, 7 and 8 located to the north, it is not considered this Precinct would require development until residential land supply was nearing exhaustion. This areas is not considered required to accommodate growth to 2041.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	As stated above, it is unlikely this Precinct will be required prior to 2041 to accommodate the projected growth.
Summary	This Precinct has some previous strategic support to accommodate projected population growth. However, the land supply in Precincts 5 and 6 as well as infill opportunities and other smaller growth Precincts, it is not considered this Precinct will be required to accommodate growth to 2041.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 10	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	Ballan Structure Plan identifies this Precinct as both a Future Urban Development Area and as a buffer to the Industrial Estate. The Structure Plan is contradictory in the role of this Precinct.
The impact on the gateways to the town	This Precinct is not located on the town's gateways.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Will have minimal impact on the natural landscape.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct is within a proximate location of the train station, however connectivity across the railway line could be improved.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	While not with a defined walkable catchment the Precinct is within a walkable distance of the town centre core and key community facilities.
Land fragmentation	This Precinct has a number of titles however many are within the same ownership.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	No infrastructure has been identified to be delivered as part of this Precinct.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	This Precinct is not required in order to accommodate the projected growth to 2041.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	This Precinct can assist with achieving the vision for Ballan by acting as a buffer to the industrial estate and as a transition between industrial and residential development.
Summary	This Precinct has an important role in acting as a buffer between residential and industrial development. Its role as farming land should be retained.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 11	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	Ballan Structure Plan identifies this Precinct as both a Future Urban Development Area and as an Industrial Area Expansion. The Structure Plan is contradictory in the role of this Precinct.
The impact on the gateways to the town	This Precinct is located in a secondary gateway to the town.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Will have minimal impact on the natural landscape due to being located to the south-east side of the town.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct is within a proximate location of the town and south of the railway line, therefore connectivity to the town, services and facilities is limited.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	The Precinct is not with walkable catchment of key community nodes.
Land fragmentation	Reasonably un-fragmented.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	No infrastructure has been identified to be delivered as part of this Precinct.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	This Precinct is not required in order to accommodate the projected growth to 2041.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	This Precinct can assist with achieving the vision for Ballan by either acting as a buffer to the industrial estate or in the long term allowing for some further expansion of the industrial estate which will assist in creating additional jobs within Ballan. CFA have identified a site with this Precinct as their future relocation site.
Summary	Identifying part of this Precinct as part of a future investigation area would be appropriate, should there be future demand for industrial development.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 12	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	No strategic direction.
The impact on the gateways to the town	This Precinct forms part of the key eastern gateway to the town. The Precinct contains a substantial hill which is a key feature and enhances the natural and rural landscape of the gateway.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Development would have a significant impact on the natural landscape due to Mt Gorong within the Precinct.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct is on the periphery of the town and therefore connectivity to the town, services and facilities is limited.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	The Precinct is not within a walkable catchment of key community nodes.
Land fragmentation	Reasonably un-fragmented.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	No infrastructure has been identified to be delivered as part of this Precinct.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	This Precinct is not required in order to accommodate the projected growth to 2041.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	This Precinct can assist with achieving the vision for Ballan by retaining the Precinct as farming land to assist with protecting the natural and rural landscape, with a particular emphasis on retaining the Precinct as a key feature of the eastern gateway.
Summary	This Precinct has an important role in forming part of the eastern gateway and retaining the natural and rural characteristics of Ballan. This Precinct is not considered suitable for development and the Precinct should be retained as farming land.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment
Precinct 13	
Existing strategic directions, policies and strategies including the Ballan Framework Plan	No strategic direction.
The impact on the gateways to the town	This Precinct is located at the eastern end of the town and can be viewed from the Western Freeway. The Precinct also plays an important role as part of the eastern gateway and enhances the gateway through contributing to a sense of openness with its natural and rural landscape.
The impact on the natural landscape and key characteristics of the town	Development would have a significant impact on the natural landscape due to the location of the Precinct between the Western Freeway and the eastern gateway.
Connectivity to the surrounding township, services and facilities	This Precinct is on the periphery of the town and therefore connectivity to the town, services and facilities is limited.
Walkability to key community nodes (station/town centre core)	The Precinct is not within a walkable catchment of key community nodes.
Land fragmentation	In a number of titles, however in minimal ownership.
Ability to deliver infrastructure gaps	No infrastructure has been identified to be delivered as part of this Precinct.
The amount of the land required to accommodate the projected growth to 2041	This Precinct is not required in order to accommodate the projected growth to 2041.
The ability to positively contribute to achieving the vision for Ballan.	This Precinct can assist with achieving the vision for Ballan by retaining the Precinct as farming land to assist with protecting the natural and rural landscape, with a particular emphasis on retaining the Precinct as a feature of the eastern gateway.
Summary	This Precinct has an important role in forming part of the eastern gateway and retaining the natural and rural characteristics of Ballan. This Precinct is not considered suitable for development and the Precinct should be retained as farming land.

ANNEXURE 2: KEY STATISTICS FOR THE ESTABLISHED PRECINCTS

Established Precincts key statistics

Precinct A (all areas except the eastern end of the Precinct that has been identified for Minimal Residential Growth)

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	1049m ²	438m ²	42%	8m
sample 02	1025m ²	352m ²	34%	8m
sample 03	909m ²	289m ²	32%	8m
sample 04	880m ²	279m ²	32%	6m
sample 05	1031m ²	191m ²	19%	3m
AVERAGE	979m ²	310m ²	32%	7m
MEDIAN	1025m ²	289m ²	32%	8m

Precinct A – Eastern end of the Precinct that has been identified for Minimal Residential Growth

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	664m ²	219m ²	33%	3m
sample 02	2009m ²	339m ²	17%	9m
sample 03	1852m ²	595m ²	32%	9m
sample 04	931m ²	371m ²	40%	6m
sample 05	581m ²	218m ²	38%	5m
AVERAGE	1207m ²	348m ²	32%	6m
MEDIAN	931m ²	339m ²	33%	6m

Precinct B

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	1000m ²	298m ²	30%	16m
sample 02	1007m ²	325m ²	32%	13m
sample 03	833m ²	330m ²	40%	11m
sample 04	1036m ²	289m ²	28%	8m
sample 05	1039m ²	281m ²	27%	10m
AVERAGE	983m ²	305m ²	31%	12m
MEDIAN	1007m ²	298m ²	30%	11m

Precinct C

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	5499m ²	443m ²	8%	20m
sample 02	5130m ²	303m ²	6%	10m
sample 03	3598m ²	488m ²	14%	20m
sample 04	6076m ²	280m ²	5%	37m
sample 05	4642m ²	321m ²	7%	38m
AVERAGE	4989m ²	367m ²	8%	25m
MEDIAN	5130m ²	321m ²	7%	20m

Precinct C – area with smaller lots north of the river

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	4058m ²	471m ²	12%	19m
sample 02	1633m ²	541m ²	33%	14m
sample 03	3069m ²	286m ²	9%	30m
sample 04	1989m ²	279m ²	14%	20m
sample 05	3975m ²	409m ²	10%	23m
AVERAGE	2945m ²	397m ²	16%	21m
MEDIAN	3069m ²	409m ²	12%	20m

Precinct C – Lots south of the river

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	990m ²	208m ²	21%	12m
sample 02	874m ²	348m ²	40%	12m
sample 03	1100m ²	280m ²	25%	9m
sample 04	2019m ²	365m ²	18%	7m
sample 05	1880m ²	337m ²	18%	23m
AVERAGE	1373m ²	308m ²	24%	13m
MEDIAN	1100m ²	337m ²	21%	12m

Precinct D

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	2003m ²	609m ²	30%	11m
sample 02	1991m ²	311m ²	16%	15m
sample 03	2019m ²	478m ²	24%	8m
sample 04	958m ²	340m ²	35%	5m
sample 05	1966m ²	436m ²	22%	14m

AVERAGE	1787m ²	435m ²	25%	11m
MEDIAN	1991m ²	436m ²	24%	11m

Precinct E

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	706m ²	331m ²	47%	6m
sample 02	687m ²	321m ²	47%	3m
sample 03	738m ²	263m ²	36%	2m
sample 04	809m ²	256m ²	32%	6m
sample 05	819m ²	360m ²	44%	6m

AVERAGE	752m ²	306m ²	41%	5m
MEDIAN	738m ²	321m ²	44%	6m

Precinct F

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	2112m ²	240m ²	11%	17m
sample 02	4032m ²	530m ²	13%	20m
sample 03	4010m ²	409m ²	10%	43m
sample 04	4013m ²	359m ²	9%	15m
sample 05	3999m ²	108m ²	3%	10m

AVERAGE	3633m ²	329m ²	9%	21m
MEDIAN	4010m ²	359m ²	10%	17m

Precinct G – Periphery Lots

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	2854m ²	403m ²	14%	13m
sample 02	1869m ²	290m ²	16%	21m
sample 03	3688m ²	370m ²	10%	22m
sample 04	3659m ²	375m ²	10%	10m
sample 05	10204m ²	514m ²	5%	36m

AVERAGE	4455m ²	390m ²	11%	20m
MEDIAN	3659m ²	375m ²	10%	21m

Precinct G – Lots internal to the Precinct

	Lot size	built size	site coverage	front setback
sample 01	679m ²	m ²	0%	
sample 02	569m ²	m ²	0%	
sample 03	418m ²	m ²	0%	
sample 04	15165m ²	359m ²	2%	28m
sample 05	10993m ²	745m ²	7%	47m

AVERAGE	5565m ²	221m ²	2%	15m
MEDIAN	679m ²	m ²	0%	38m

Note: This area has partially been developed. The newly subdivided parcels have not all had dwellings constructed on them at this stage and therefore statistics are not available for all sample lots.

ANNEXURE 3: RESIDENTIAL ZONES CASE STUDIES

Residential Zones: Case Studies				
Address	Proposal/Outcome	Existing Controls	Proposed Controls	Comments
6 Duncan Street	Development of three additional dwellings on the lot and Four Lot Subdivision (2 separate applications). Lot 1 contains an existing dwelling, Lots 2-4 subdivided in accordance with recently approved single storey dwellings with common property driveway. Lot sizes vary from 201sqm to 405sqm. No objections. Approved under delegation. Development completed and titles released.	General Residential 1 Zone	General Residential 1 Zone	This site is located within Precinct A and identified as a Natural Residential Growth Area. The Zoning controls are proposed to be retained. Further intensification of lots within this area would be appropriate subject to consideration of the Design Objectives for the Precinct.
81 Simpson Street	Development of two additional dwellings on the lot and Three Lot Subdivision (2 separate applications). Lot 1 contains an existing dwelling, Lots 2 & 3 subdivided in accordance with recently approved single storey dwellings with common property driveway. Lot sizes vary from 185sqm to 396sqm. No objections. Approved under delegation. Development commenced, subdivision not yet certified.	General Residential 1 Zone	General Residential 1 Zone	This site is located within Precinct B and identified as a Natural Residential Growth Area. The Zoning controls are proposed to be retained. Further intensification of lots within this area would be appropriate subject to consideration of the Design Objectives for the Precinct.
21 Crook Court	8 Lot Subdivision. Vacant lot subdivision created lot sizes varying from 420sq m to 839sq m and a court bowl (Creek Court) off Crook Court. One objection but applicant appealed to VCAT (failure to grant permit), Council under delegation formed a view to support the application, resolved at mediation, permit granted by VCAT. Titles released. Currently two lots developed with single dwellings. An application has been lodged with Council to develop four of the other lots for two dwellings each, officer recommends refusal, to be determined by Council at the Development Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting of Feb 2017.	General Residential 1 Zone	Neighbourhood Residential Zone (Min lot size 800sqm)	This site is located within Precinct G and identified for Minimal Residential Growth. Due to the Precincts location on the periphery of town and not within a walkable catchment of services and facilities residential development with a minimum lot size of 800sqm is proposed for this area. While it is acknowledged that smaller lots in this area do exist, this has occurred due to the previous zoning controls not having any restrictions on lot sizes and therefore Council having minimal statutory tools to achieve appropriate densities of residential development in this location. The 8 lot subdivision proposal would be inconsistent with these controls and therefore a permit would not have been granted. While the construction of two dwellings on a lot would not be prohibited under the proposed controls, with the area identified for Minimal Residential Growth, intensifying residential lots in this location is not considered a desirable outcome and therefore Council officer's position of refusal would be supported by the proposed directions for this Precinct.

Residential Zones: Case Studies

Address	Proposal/Outcome	Existing Controls	Proposed Controls	Comments
24 Myrtle Grove Road	35 Lot Staged Subdivision. Greenfield subdivision. Range of lot sizes varying from 320sq m to 1491sq m, and a roughly L-shaped road (cul de sac) and public open space (11% of site area). Original application was approved by Council generally in accordance with the officer's recommendation, the original permit approved 30 lots, varying from 512sq m to 1491sq m. Statement of Compliance (SOC) issued for Stage 1 (Lots 1-11).	General Residential 1 Zone	Neighbourhood Residential Zone (Min lot size 1400sqm)	This site is located within Precinct D and identified as a Minimal Residential Growth Area. Under the proposed controls this subdivision would not be supported. Residential development at conventional densities in this location is not considered a desirable outcome due to the sites lack of connectivity and walkability to services and facilities. Conventional residential development should be directed to the identified Greenfield areas or the Natural Residential Growth Areas.
8 Myrtle Grove Road	2 lot subdivision. Corner of Bank Street. Vacant lot subdivision approved to create lots of 2000sq m both fronting Myrtle Grove Road. Original proposal for 4 lots did not have officer support due to inconsistency with Structure Plan and the application was amended in process. Officer recommended approval of two lots, upheld by Council. 2016 permit, not yet certified.	General Residential 1 Zone	Neighbourhood Residential Zone (Min lot size 1400sqm)	This site is located within Precinct D. The proposal for a 2 lot subdivision would be supported under the proposed controls. The creation of larger residential lots (over 1400sqm) is considered an appropriate outcome for this area. With the lots proposed to be 2000sqm each, further subdivision of these lots would not be achievable under the proposed controls.
403 Old Melbourne Road	4 lot staged subdivision. Existing dwelling retained on Lot 1 of 1786sq m. Lots 2-4 vary in size from 602sqm to 652sq m, fronting Graham Street. Approved under delegation, titles released and Lots 3 & 4 being developed with dwellings. The subdivider has applied to Council to develop Lot 1 with 5 units and subdivide (demolish existing dwelling). The proposal is about to proceed to public notification and therefore Council officers have not formed a position on the proposal at this stage.	Neighbourhood Residential Zone (Min lot size 800sqm)	Neighbourhood Residential Zone (Min lot size 4000sqm)	This site is located within Precinct G and identified as a Minimal Residential Growth Area. The subdivision application would be prohibited under the proposed controls. Protection of the gateway into Ballan with larger lots is a critical component of the character of Ballan. Although some smaller lots do exist in this location, continuing this trend is not considered a desirable outcome for the town. This lot is not within a walkable catchment of services and facilities and therefore the proposed controls would assist in directing smaller lot residential development to preferred locations. The 5 units and subdivision would not be supported under the proposed controls for the reasons identified above.
79 Steiglitz Street	6 Unit development and subdivision. 3 bedrooms each, lot sizes ranging from 266sq m to 322sq m. Recommended by officer for approval, upheld by Council. Developed and titles released.	General Residential 1 Zone	General Residential 1 Zone	This site is located within Precinct B and identified as a Natural Residential Growth Area. The Zoning controls are proposed to be retained. Further intensification of lots within this area would be appropriate subject to consideration of the Design Objectives for the Precinct.

ANNEXURE 4: COUNCIL RESOLUTION REGARDING SEQUENCING OF SOUTHERN GROWTH AREA

At its meeting in November 2017, Moorabool Shire Council resolved to consider supporting development in the Southern Growth Area ahead of schedule under certain circumstances. The resolution stated:

That Council may also consider supporting development in the Southern Growth Area ahead of schedule subject to:

- a. Cooperation amongst land owners in terms of developing a masterplan with agreement of the efficient roll out of roads and open space.
- b. Satisfying Transport for Victoria's concerns about infrastructure costs, an analysis to determine the extent, nature and cost of any required rail crossings and a plan developed for financing these crossings.
- c. cSupply demand analysis to indicate that the project is needed."

Image Sources

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Mesh Pty Ltd

Level 2, 6 Riverside Quay
Southbank VIC 3006

T 03 9695 3025

F 03 9695 3001

www.meshplanning.com.au