



Connecting communities through spaces

Aspirational Community Hubs Strategy 2019

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Region eight – Towns of the Strzelecki Ranges

Section 3.8

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Region eight – Towns of the Strzelecki Ranges

Geographical and social context

Geographical context

Region eight is comprised of small townships and farming communities spread across a large geographic area. The region is very decentralised and does not have a main town or township acting as a commercial and service centre. The central and eastern parts of the region have reasonable road access to other centres; however, the eastern and southern townships of the region lack direct road access.



Demographic snapshot

The region has a combined population of 1,971. It has a similar age profile to other regions, but with eight per cent of people aged 20 to 29, a slightly lower proportion. It has a higher percentage of people in employment. A high percentage (47 per cent) of households have three or more cars.

All data presented in this section has been collated from the 2016 Census of Population and Housing unless otherwise stated. See Appendix one for a set of comparative data.

Existing level of provision

Due to the nature of the small townships and settlements in this region, the provision of community facilities is dispersed and predominantly stand alone. Facilities include recreation reserves, sporting club facilities (such as the Ellinbank Badminton Club), schools and old community halls. These facilities are underutilised due to low demand and capacity for the community to activate.

Policy review findings

A review of Council's policies and strategies identified the following important considerations for this region:

- This region falls into the south-west district of the shire, as identified in the *Community Service Planning Framework* (2013). This district's primary service centres are Warragul and Drouin which have high provision of facilities and services. All recommendations made regarding this District are focused on the main towns. No hubs are recommended for the towns in this region. The Framework recommends focusing on increasing provision of mobile bases and virtual and remote access services, which would be suitable opportunities for this region.

Community plan findings

A community plan was developed for Seaview. The community plans were developed with the assistance of Council; however, the plan's projects are the responsibility of the community. The key findings from this plan are detailed below.

- **Seaview Community Plan 2008 – 2013**

The plan's vision focussed on being a cohesive community in which people connect with each other and protecting the environment. Issues include a lack of community involvement in the town. Projects involved running more events, using the school for a community house.

Community engagement findings

In this region, four community members participated in the engagement by completing the connecting communities survey, either online or at one of the community pop-ups. This figure is low, however, is most likely reflective of the region's small population and geographic spread. As noted above, the region is decentralised, and residents are likely to visit Warragul or Drouin for services. Figure 1 provides a summary of the age profile of the community engagement participants from this region.

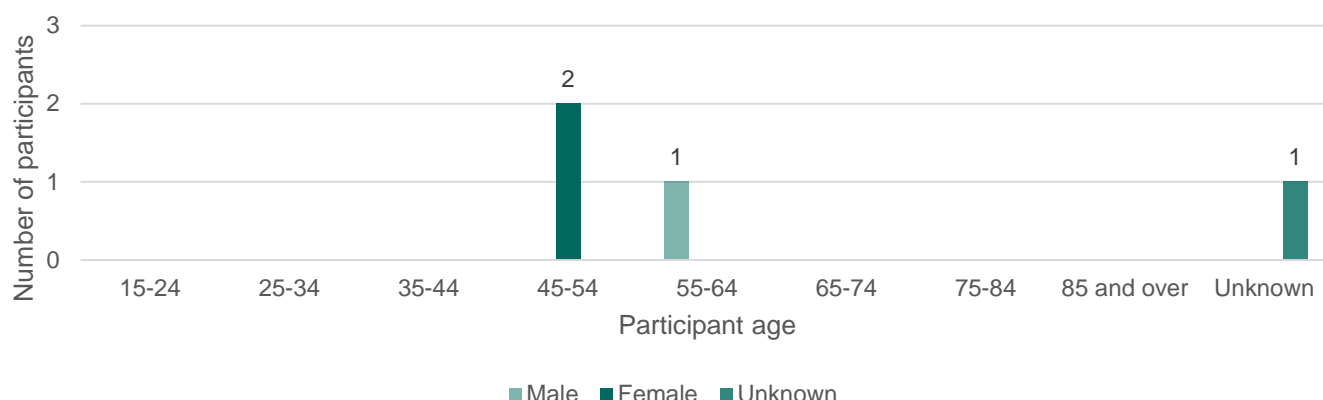


Figure 1 Region eight community engagement participants - age profile

The suburbs and town represented by participants were:

- Ellinbank, one participant
- Ripplebrook, one participant
- South Warragul, one participant
- Tetoora Road, one participant

In addition to survey participants, one community member provided feedback regarding a specific space in this region. Demographic information was not collected from this participant.

Community connection

The participants discussed the ways they connect to their community are typically through organised community groups, associations and sport clubs and community events.

The challenges they identified to connecting with their community was the lack of affordable community spaces to meet, particularly issues with insurance.

Facilities and spaces

There are a variety of facilities and spaces that are used, according to participant responses, including:

- community centres and halls, such as Tetoora Road Hall, for events and to meet with the local community
- sporting facilities, such as Ellinbank Football facilities and tennis courts, for exercise and socialising
- parks, open spaces, playgrounds and walking tracks for spending time with friends and for children to play

According to participants the following services, programs and spaces could be improved or are missing:

- a place to meet
- access between facilities, for example the zebra crossing between the leisure centre and Burke Street park
- disability awareness
- social opportunities

The participant from Ripplebrook predominately discussed community facilities and spaces in Drouin, such as the Old Butter Factory. Service providers identified Lardner Park as a community space.

Information on hub and service provision

The following suggestions were provided by participants to improve understanding of what is currently available:

- online via social media
- a community noticeboard
- in print, including flyers and advertisements in the local newspaper

Community hub principles

The participants from Region eight believed the following elements and principles included in a community hub are:

- It is a **multi-purpose space** for education, youth and support services.
- It is **inclusive**.
- It is **people-focused**, in that it is focussed on connection, friends and family working together.
- It is a meeting place

According to their responses, it should not be:

- commercially focussed
- a space with bad access and a single use purpose

Recommendations

Council policy makes no recommendations for this region as it is considered part of the Drouin and Warragul catchment. Community engagement findings show that residents value the community halls and sporting clubs of the region, however, believe the spaces could be altered to be multi-use.

Accordingly, the recommendations for this region include:

- This region is made up predominantly small rural towns and settlements, therefore the focus is providing spaces for mobile programs and services. Consider improving the multi-use functionality of existing spaces and places to provide for mobile programs and services such as existing community halls and recreation facilities such as the sporting pavilion and the Ellinbank Badminton Hall.