ARTS AND CULTURE

AREA

Participation in arts and culture fosters community connection, wellbeing and inclusion, especially in new suburbs, where residents might feel isolated. The benefits of cultural participation are especially important for young people, First Nations communities, and women. Embedding creative programs in schools and community settings can reduce disengagement and foster lifelong participation.

CURRENTLY

- Many artists and organisations rely on short-term, casual or freelance work, leading to financial insecurity
- Victoria has lost many live music venues, particularly smaller, grassroots venues important for emerging

FUTURE

- A growing, multicultural population may require programming and creative content that reflects diverse identities and lived experiences
- New growth areas may lack creative workers, as well as sufficient arts and cultural spaces

CONSIDERATIONS

Current arts and cultural initiatives may need to:

Encourage diversified income for venues including co-working spaces or hybrid programming (music + community events).

distribute music and cultural events beyond central Melbourne

Arts and cultural initiatives may need to:

Develop special entertainment precincts, especially in outer suburbs and regional areas

Develop creative spaces that are accessible and inclusive for diverse and growing populations

Consider long-term employment opportunities that includes on-going training, especially for independent and early-career creatives

Use creative approaches in areas like education, health, social inclusion, and urban design

AGED CARE

Appropriate aged-care can help ensure the dignity, comfort and quality of life for older adults. It provides essential support, healthcare and social connection, helping seniors live safely. Aged-care can help maintain older people's independence, while providing support and offering peace of mind to families.

CURRENTLY

- Between 1986 and 2016, Victoria's population grew by approximately 50%, with people aged 80+ almost tripling

- Facilities in metropolitan areas are mostly larger than regional areas

FUTURE

- Victoria's ageing population is set to triple by 2058, with around 27% of people aged 60+ from non-English speaking backgrounds

- Victoria will require an additional 20,000 aged care and healthcare workers

CONSIDERATIONS

Current aged-care strategies might need to explore:

Renovating housing so it's age friendly, culturally appropriate and meets in-home care needs

Expanding community programs, such as digital literacy and intergenerational programs to prevent social isolation
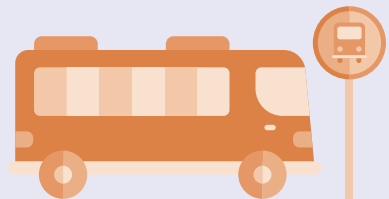
Future aged-care strategies might need to consider:

Developing smaller, community-based facilities in regional areas that cater to a variety of health needs, for example people with dementia
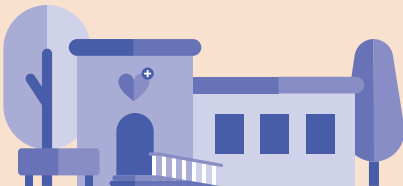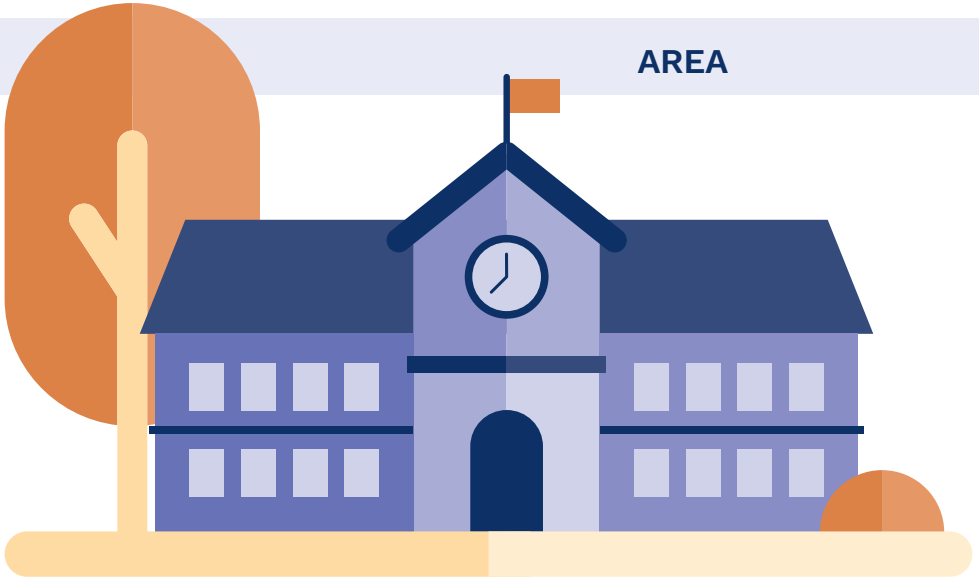
Expanding community-based transport services connecting employees to aged-care facilities and seniors to essential services

Training new aged-care workers, especially in regional areas, with an emphasis on supporting people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities

EDUCATION

Education empowers individuals with knowledge, skills, and opportunities. It drives personal growth. Quality education builds a skilled workforce, fosters innovation. It helps create informed, engaged communities, leading to better job opportunities and higher incomes. It promotes personal development, social inclusion and health awareness.

CURRENTLY

- There is already a demand for new schools and teachers in high growth areas
- Regional schools face additional challenges, including high student numbers and limited resources
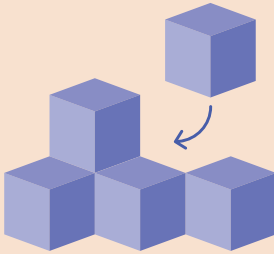
FUTURE

- An estimated 200 new schools are potentially needed in outer Melbourne and regional centres
- Rural areas are likely to need an increase in facilities and staff to prevent worsening teacher-to-student ratios

CONSIDERATIONS

Current education strategies may need to explore:

Using modular classrooms to quickly address overcrowding

Expanding access to virtual schools and online learning resources for students in remote and rural areas

Future education strategies may need to explore:

Diversifying teacher training with streamlined pathways, such as teaching internships

Collaborations between local councils and urban planners to ensure schools are built in areas of highest demand
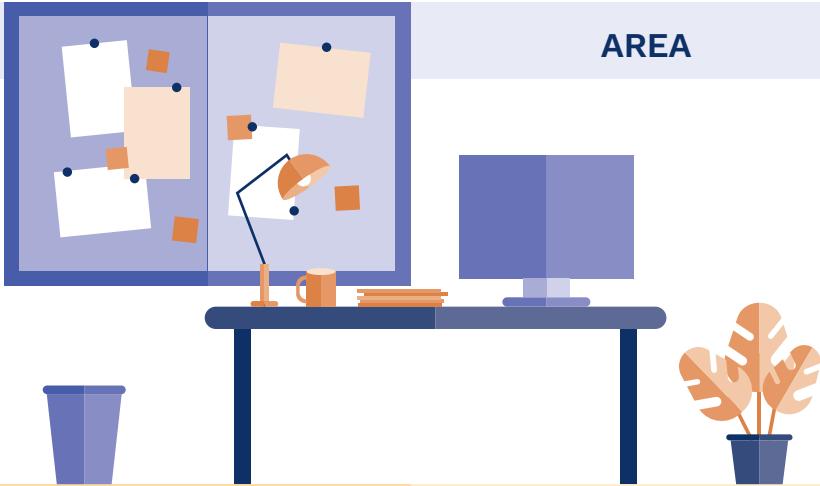
Investing in sustainable building designs, such as solar-powered schools, and digital infrastructure
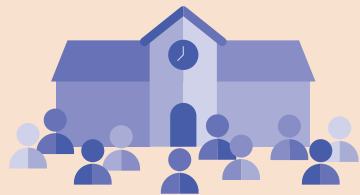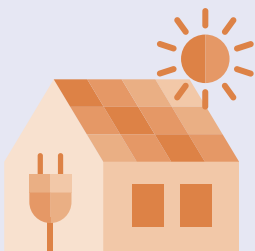
Increasing access to in-school additional services, such as mental health professionals, reducing pressure on external essential services

EMPLOYMENT

Employment provides financial security for individuals and families, and supports mental health. Jobs drive economic growth and reduce poverty, and also foster social participation and inclusion. Disadvantaged jobseekers may face complex barriers leading to extended unemployment. Addressing employment opportunities for everyone helps to build stronger communities.

CURRENTLY

- Over 40% of jobseekers lack reliable access to public transport, limiting employment opportunities

- 15% of Victorian jobseekers cited inadequate digital skills as a barrier to employment

FUTURE

- The labour force may need to grow by 1.5 million workers, with regional centres such as Ballarat and Geelong needing potentially 500,000 workers

- Industries such as healthcare, construction, and renewable energy are expected to dominate job creation
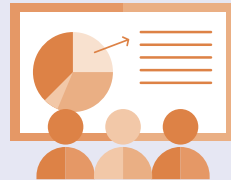
CONSIDERATIONS

Current employers may need to:

Encourage employers to adopt flexible hiring practices for disadvantaged groups, women and older and culturally diverse workers

Consider flexible training options, to be more responsive to high-demand roles and emerging technologies

Future employment strategies may need to consider:

Place-based employment programs for disadvantaged jobseekers, tailored to local business and community needs

Improving access to the internet and digital training to boost employment opportunities and workforce participation in regional areas
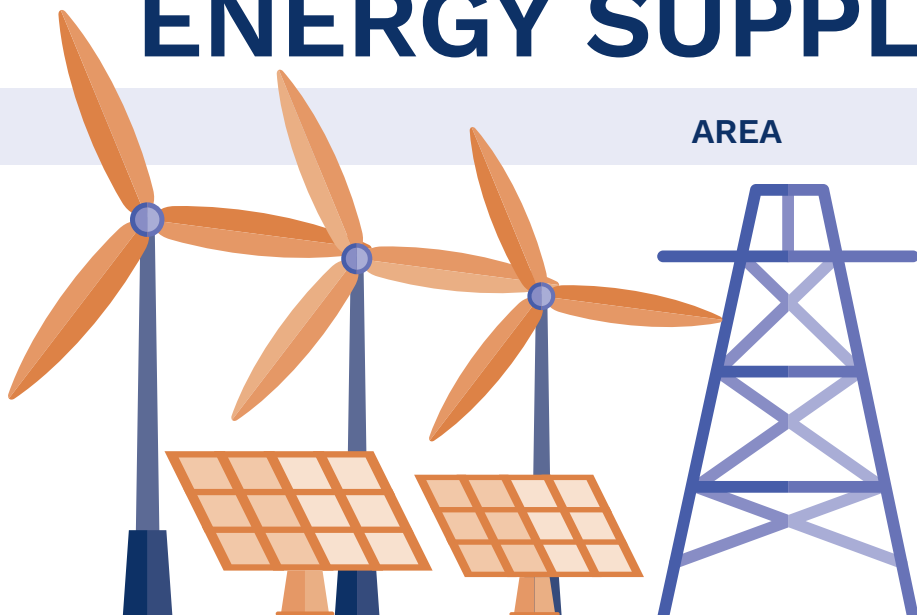

Increasing infrastructure (roads, housing and manufacturing) in regional centres for job creation

The location of essential services, such as health care and education, in relation to employment opportunities

ENERGY SUPPLY

A stable energy supply powers homes, schools, businesses, hospitals and other essential services. It supports daily convenience, access to technology, essential medical equipment and public safety. Reliable, affordable and clean energy also helps reduce environmental impact and ensures a sustainable future.

CURRENTLY

- Victoria has excellent wind resources and strong solar capacity

- Between 2009 and 2017 renewable energy generation increased from 5% to over 21%

FUTURE

- Mass electric vehicle adoption could increase peak electricity demand by 30%

- Growing regional centres will need increased energy capacity to power homes, schools, transport, health services and industries.
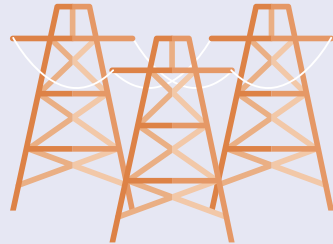
CONSIDERATIONS

Current energy supplies might need to consider:

Expanding the use of renewable energy sources such as rooftop solar and wind power
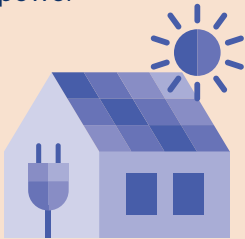
Upgrading electricity grids and infrastructure to cope with increasing electricity supply

Future energy supplies might need to consider:

Decentralised renewable systems, such as microgrids or community batteries, to provide backup power and reduce blackout risks in dense or remote communities.

Creating new training programs to meet the employment needs of the renewable energy sector
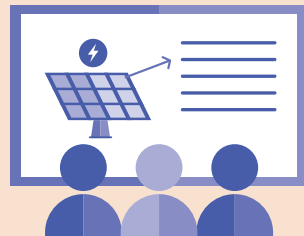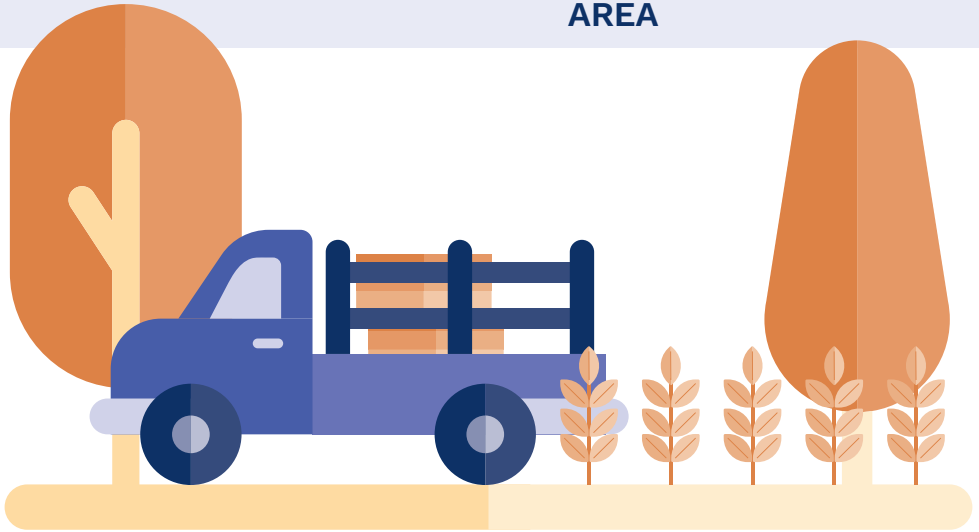
Integrating renewable energy infrastructure into future populations hubs
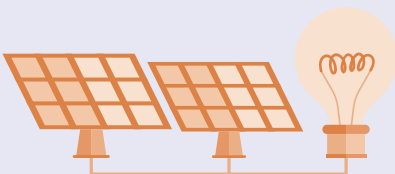
Hydrogen could be a potential alternative for home heating, cooking and transport.

FOOD SUPPLY

A reliable food supply ensures consistent access to nutritious food, which supports good health and well-being. It reduces hunger and food insecurity, stabilizes communities, and supports livelihoods in farming and food industries. A strong food system also helps respond to seasonal needs and environmental pressures.

CURRENTLY

- Expanding urban areas already impact peri-urban farmland that produces high-value crops like fruits and vegetables

- Victoria currently relies on international exports and centralised supply chains

FUTURE

- Melbourne and major regional cities like Geelong, Ballarat, and Bendigo, are expected to have the highest population growth

- Expanding cities are likely to impact on green wedges and farmland critical for food production

CONSIDERATIONS

Current food supply strategies may need to include:

Protecting farmland within 100 km of Melbourne and regional cities from further development
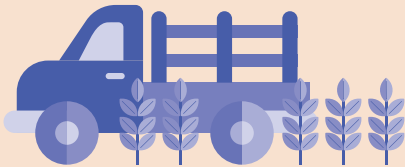
Strengthening local supply chains and diversifying food production, minimising food shortages and transport costs
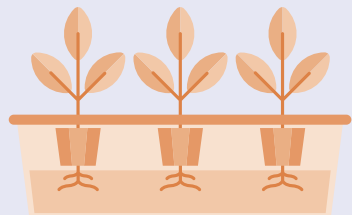
Future food supply strategies may need to consider:

Expanding local food production through urban agriculture initiatives like rooftop gardens and greenhouses, and community gardens and farms
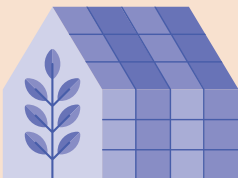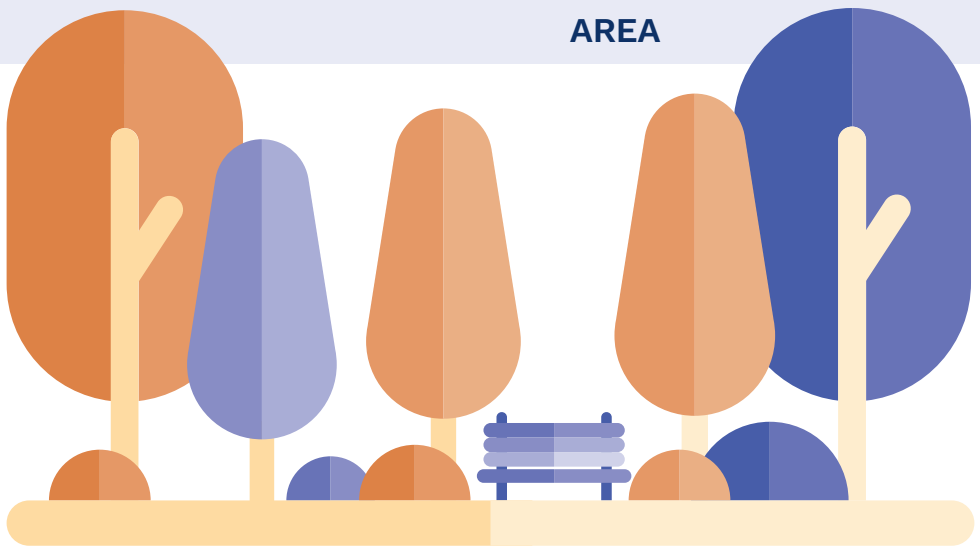
Incorporating agricultural technology, such as vertical farming and hydroponics, to increase local supply of greens

Promoting direct farmer-consumer relationships, through programs such as farm to plate, creating faster delivery of produce and reducing food waste, transport needs and international supply

GREEN SPACE

Access to green space supports physical activity and mental health, reducing health risks and enhancing community well-being. It provides spaces for community connections, sporting facilities, as well as recreational parks. Green spaces help cool urban temperatures, as well as enhancing biodiversity and reducing pollution.

CURRENTLY

- Access to open spaces is in some areas much lower than the ideal standard of 20m^2

- Green spaces are in demand with growing home-based work

FUTURE

- An increase in housing density will increase the pressure on access to parks and open spaces

- Some regional areas are likely to grow by 30–40% by 2050, requiring new open community and green spaces
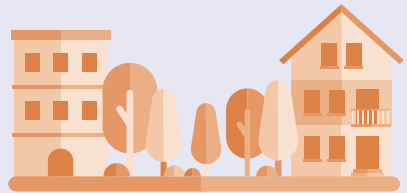
CONSIDERATIONS

Current green space strategies may need to include:

Expanding tree canopies and coverage to lower urban heat
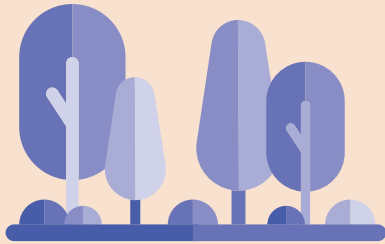
Preserving green wedges and open spaces especially on the fringe of metropolitan and regional cities

Future green space strategies may need to consider:

Developing green spaces to connect towns to larger conservation areas, incorporating diverse uses such as walking, cycling, and passive recreation
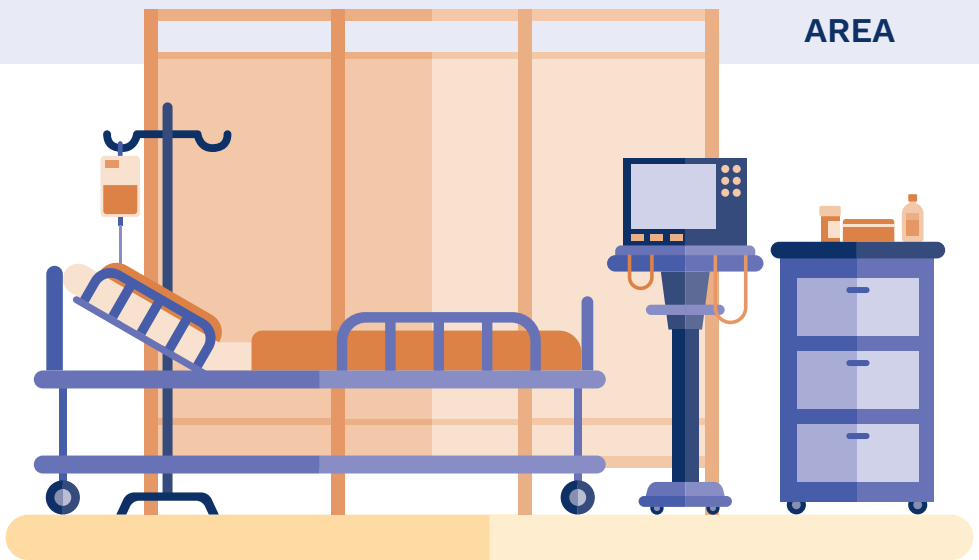

Developing vertical gardens, rooftop gardens, vertical forests and green corridors, to maintain liveability while accommodating more residents

Incorporating green spaces into urban planning to help offset the loss of private gardens and open spaces due to densification

HEALTH SERVICES

Quality health services provide essential care that keeps people healthy, safe and supported at every stage of life. Strong health systems improve quality of life, support an ageing population and help manage chronic disease. They also build resilience in times of crisis, ensuring communities remain connected, cared for and able to thrive.

CURRENTLY

- Vulnerable groups and people in regional areas may have difficulty accessing services

- Many health care areas, especially mental health and aged-care, are likely to be short staffed

FUTURE

- Growing population will increase demand for hospitals, mental health services and community care

- With a larger and older population, demand for aged-care, mental health and the need for chronic disease management is likely to rise

CONSIDERATIONS

Current health services may need to:

Expand current community health centres, aged care facilities and telehealth services

Strengthen integration between physical and mental health systems

Future health services may need to:

Diversify the services to address the needs of an increasingly diverse community

Develop strategies for flexible training, recruitment of people with diverse skills and backgrounds, and retention of health care workers, especially in regional and remote areas

Explore opportunities for preventative health options, such as diet, exercise and screening
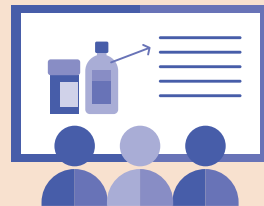
Create new health hubs with integrated services

HOUSING

Access to safe, secure, quality and affordable housing is considered a human right. Housing meets a basic need, such as the need for shelter and a place where people can feel safe. Consistent access to housing can provide people a sense of security and community.

CURRENTLY

- Victoria's population has become increasingly concentrated in Melbourne

- Melbourne's current urban density is 18 dwellings per hectare compared to Sydney's 25 and Vancouver's 36 dwellings per hectare

FUTURE

- Regional cities are likely to see an increase in population by 20-30% by 2035

- Areas on the outskirts of cities (peri-urban areas) are likely to see a rapid increase in population
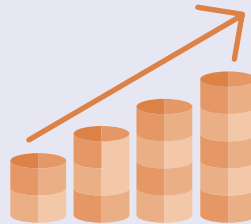
CONSIDERATIONS

Current housing may need to be:

Retro-fitted with up-to-date technology, for example charging stations for electric vehicles or more effective rubbish and waste disposal systems
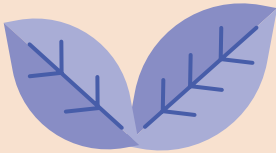
Demolished to make way for higher density housing options

Housing developments may need to:

Include dwellings other than houses, to increase population density

Be near current or new infrastructure, such as schools, employment opportunities, transport and hospitals

Be built within existing urban areas to reduce the impact on farming land and therefore food supply
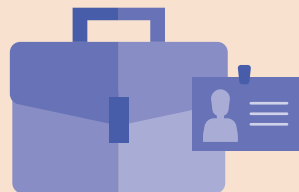
Met different design standards, including house size, amount of natural light and energy efficiency

REPRESENTATION

AREA

The Victorian Parliament is a representative democracy, that allows citizens to have their say on important matters through representatives that are elected through democratic processes, such as voting. Elections for both houses of the Victorian Parliament take place every four years. Each Victorian is represented by six MPs (1 lower and 5 upper house MPs) at the state level, and have additional representatives at local and federal levels of government.

CURRENTLY

- Disadvantaged groups face barriers to voting, while young voters demonstrate low participation rates

- Electoral boundaries are changed every second election to cater for population changes
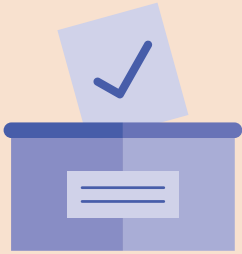
FUTURE

- Rapidly growing areas will require for elections new polling stations, extended voting hours, and enhanced staffing to prevent overcrowding

- Victoria's population growth is likely to increase the number of people each member of parliament represents

CONSIDERATIONS

Current approaches to representation may need to consider:

Engaging with diverse groups to improve engagement with voting and parliament

Increasing accessing to electronic voting, especially for disadvantaged groups and/or remote areas

Future approaches to representation may need to consider:

Exploring different methods for representation, such as additional representatives, adding or removing chambers in parliament, or adding or removing a level of government

Different length terms for parliament (currently four years)

Basing representation on something other than geographic location

Adopting digital tools like online voter registration, electronic roll mark-off, and ballot scanning

Developing mobile voting units for rural communities

RETAIL AND BUSINESS

A strong business and retail sector can act as social hubs where people connect and interact. Local shops and businesses foster belonging, reflect cultural diversity and make everyday essentials accessible close to home. They help create employment opportunities for young people, migrants and those re-entering the workforce.

CURRENTLY

- Reliance on casual and part-time workers may make retail and hospitality outlets vulnerable

- Small businesses with both digital platforms and physical trade are likely to be more economically sustainable

FUTURE

- Online retail is expected to rise to 15–20%, from 10%, by 2030

- Rapid growth in metropolitan areas will drive demand for new retail precincts, hospitality venues and consumer services

CONSIDERATIONS

Current retail outlets and businesses may need to:

Redevelop shopping strips in suburban and growth corridors for better accessibility

Diversify revenue streams through online sales, using local supply chains and exporting goods

Future retail outlets and businesses may need to:

Attract and retain retail and hospitality staff through improved training and working conditions

Develop new digital, transport and warehousing infrastructure

Develop local solutions such as new shopping centres, logistics and delivery hubs, and local warehouses

Consider increasing digital shopping, multicultural services and sustainable business practices

TRANSPORT
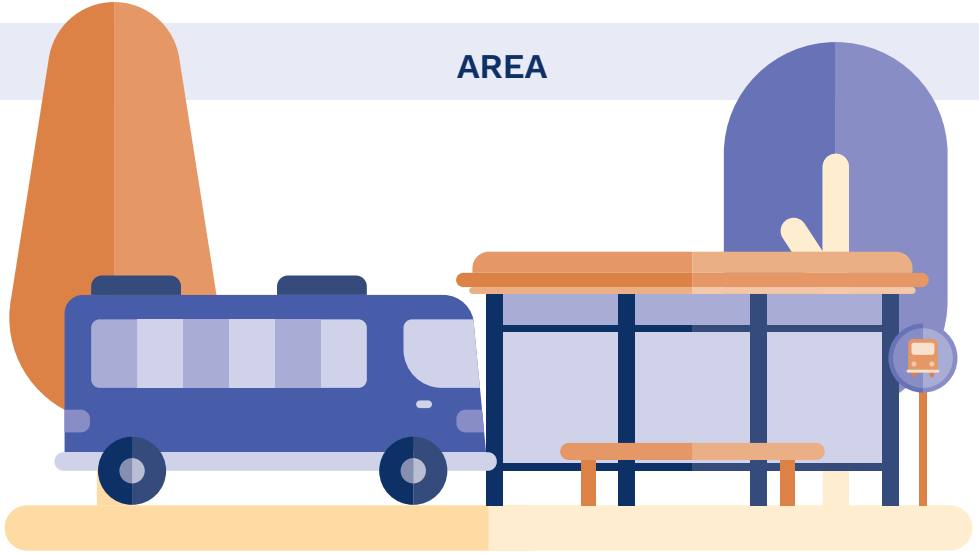
Transport connects communities, supports local businesses, and enables access to jobs, education, essential services and social opportunities such as sporting activities. Efficient transport systems reduce travel time and costs, and enhance safety. Reliable, affordable and sustainable transport can enhance safety, enable efficient movement of goods and reduce environmental impacts.

CURRENTLY

- Limited public transport in outside metropolitan areas reduces access to health services and social activities

- Reduced access to reliable public transport can limit employment opportunities

FUTURE

- Integrated transport networks will need to connect to high-growth areas where affordable housing is often located

- Improvements to public transport networks and infrastructure will open up job opportunities and could reduce commute times by 30%
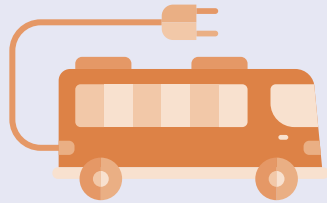
CONSIDERATIONS

Current transport strategies may need to explore:

Connecting housing developments, community spaces and employment opportunities with accessible transport options
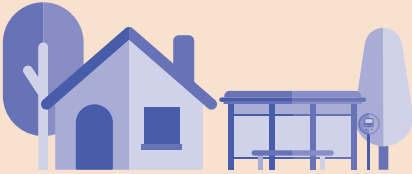
Transitioning public transport to electric vehicles to provide affordable and sustainable options for underserved communities

Future transport strategies may need to consider:

Developing local supply chains and businesses to reduce the need for transport, especially long-haul transport

Improving public transport networks providing access to employment, essential services and social activities

Creating place-based employment programs that meet the local labour market needs and reduce the need for public transport
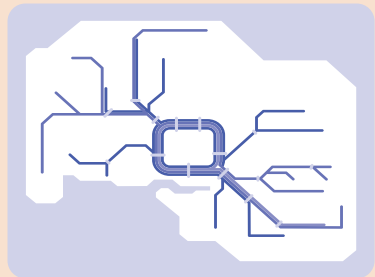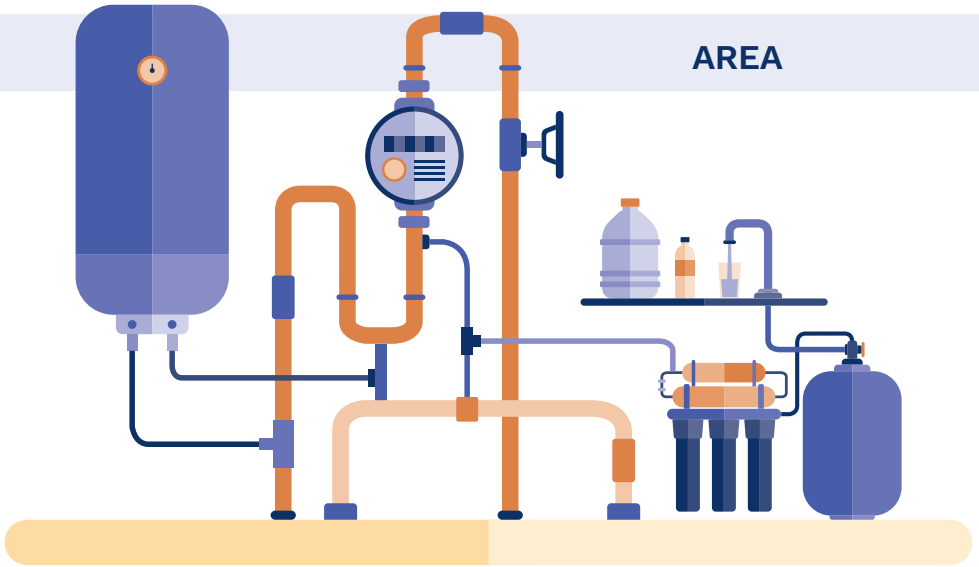
Connecting public transport to new housing developments

WATER SUPPLY

A dependable water supply is essential for supporting health, hygiene, agriculture, and industry. It ensures safe drinking water, helps manage droughts, and sustains natural ecosystems. Protecting and managing the water source. A reliable water supply benefits people by providing clean water for drinking, sanitation, and hygiene, which is essential for health and well-being. It supports agriculture, food production, and industry, ensuring livelihoods and economic stability.

CURRENTLY

- Melbourne's daily water use is currently around 1,090 megalitres per day

- Less than 5% of Melbourne's wastewater is recycled for landscape irrigation, toilet flushing and industrial processes
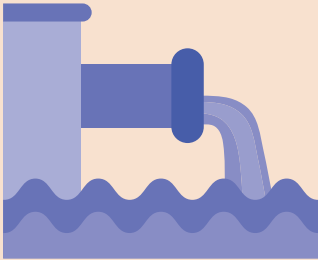
FUTURE

- Water demand based on current trends is projected to rise by 50–70% by 2070

- Increasing water supply issues are likely to also increase salinity and put additional strain on wetlands and water catchments that support both ecosystems and human consumption
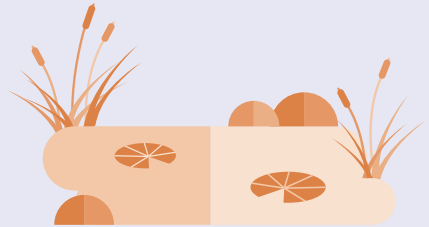
CONSIDERATIONS

Current water supply initiatives may need to:
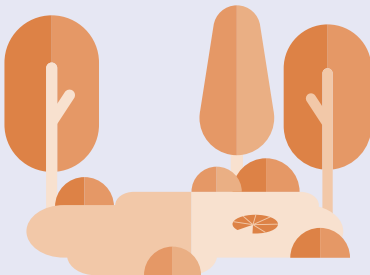
Harness current stormwater runoff

Maintain wetlands to reduce salinity and remove nutrients and sediments before the water enters rivers and bays

Future water supply initiatives may need to:

Increase recycled water schemes to meet both human and ecological water needs

Incorporate innovative designs like green roofs that could absorb up to 70% of rainwater, reducing urban flood risks and stormwater runoff

Ensure sufficient water supply for irrigation of new parks and farmlands

Restore wetlands and floodplains to reduce flood risks, improve water quality and support urban greening strategies

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Effective waste management protects public health, reduces pollution and conserves natural resources. Waste collection and disposal systems can support cleaner communities, minimize landfill impact, and promote recycling and sustainability. It helps to maintain a healthy environment and improve quality of life for current and future generations.

CURRENTLY

- In 2016-17, Victoria managed 12 million tonnes of waste; only 33% went to landfill

- Costs and resources for sorting and cleaning contaminated recycling is high

FUTURE

- Waste per person is likely to remain stable, but higher populations may result in higher overall waste

- By 2046, Victoria's waste management system is projected to manage 20 million tonnes of waste per year
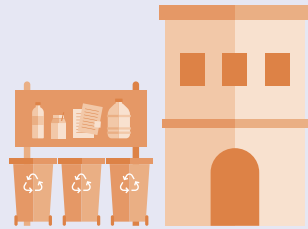
CONSIDERATIONS

Current waste management systems may need to consider:

Reducing high levels of contamination from recycling, including improvements to sorting materials
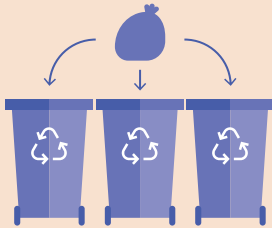
Retro-fitting apartments for the collection and recycling of high volumes of waste from one location

Future waste management strategies may include:

Developing regional and local waste recovery businesses to increase local processing, reduce transport costs and increase employment opportunities

Diversifying the number and types of companies responsible for recycling services
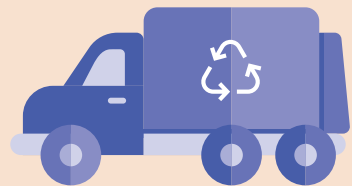
Fostering a circular economy, reducing waste volumes and reliance on landfill

Reducing the amount of food wasted and diverting any food waste from landfill, therefore reducing methane emissions from decomposition