Social Infrastructure Strategy

August 2024

Acknowledgement of Country

This Report acknowledges that the Social Infrastructure Strategy will occur on Dja Dja Wurrung and Barapa Barapa Country.

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council pays respect to their Elders, both past and present.

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Signed by Chief Executive Officer

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This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

Executive Summary

The Social Infrastructure Strategy provides a framework for how the Loddon Shire Council can foster the community's access to the social infrastructure in the Loddon Shire.

The Social Infrastructure Strategy has focused on the following Council facilities and services:

- Indoor Meeting spaces can take various forms, including public halls, community centres, senior citizen centres, and sporting club facilities.
- Recreational[1] spaces and facilities.
- Playgrounds
- Swimming Pools

- Maternal and Child Health Services
- Library Services
- Preschool Centres
- Community Centres – This Report has included Senior Citizens Clubs in this category.
- Waste Management Facilities

These community facilities and services help individuals, families, groups, and communities meet their social needs, maximise their potential for development, and enhance community well-being.

The Report also acknowledges the roles of important community well-being services delivered by other entities and the private sector, including schools, health, emergency, and retail services.

Developing the Social Infrastructure Strategy

The development of the Social Infrastructure Strategy has involved:-

- An extensive analysis of Loddon Shire population and demographic data
- Mapping of the distribution of Council facilities and services across the Shire, as well as the availability of relevant services and facilities provided by other entities
- A review of relevant Council and other documentation
- Consultation with the community, Councillors and Council Officers

Loddon Shire Population

The Loddon Shire population was 7,751 at the 2021 ABS Census; the ABS latest Estimated Resident Population for the Loddon Shire (as of June 30th, 2023) was 7,747. This population is distributed across 100 ABS Localities as follows:

	Locality Population	Total # of Localities	Total Population	% of Loddon Population
Localities with more than 100 people	**Large Town Localities – Wedderburn, Boort, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Bridgewater**	5	3,847	50%
	Small Town Localities – Serpentine, Dingee, Laanecoorie, Newbridge, Tarnagulla, Korong Vale, Mitiamo, Calivil	9	1,441	18%
Localities with a population less than 100 people		86	2,463	32%
	Totals	**100**	**7,751**	**100%**

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[1] Council is also undertaking the development of a Recreation, Open Space and Aquatics Strategy, which will mainly address access to specific types of recreational and sporting activities

Social Infrastructure Strategy – Executive Summary

Population Growth

The State Government's population forecast for the Loddon Shire through 2031 shows a projected growth of 81 people. Population growth in small towns is limited due to constraints on building new dwellings, including limited water supply, absence of effluent management systems, and the risk of flooding. Most of the population growth is expected to occur in the larger centres.

Reliance on Car Travel

The infrequency of public transport and the location of stops in 16 of the Shires' 100 localities requires an emphasis on using a motor vehicle to access facilities and services. This travel includes communities accessing facilities and services unavailable in their locality, including health services and supermarkets.

Larger Towns

The larger towns in the Loddon Shire—i.e., Wedderburn, Inglewood, Bridgewater on Loddon, Boort, and Pyramid Hill—have a range of facilities and services, including health services and supermarkets, unavailable in the small towns. All localities in the Loddon Shire are within 30 minutes of drive time from at least one of the larger towns.

Nearby Towns

Several towns near the Loddon Shire offer facilities, goods, and services not available within the Shire or closer to some Loddon communities. The largest nearby town is Bendigo, a major regional centre offering many facilities and services. Almost 100% of the Loddon Shire population can reach Bendigo within a 60-minute drive.

Distribution of Facilities and Services

The distribution of social infrastructure insured by Council across the Shire is as follows.

Types of Facilities & Services	#	Located in Locality Types		
		Large Towns (5)	Small Towns (8)	Other (87)
Recreation Reserves and Sports Club Facilities	31	21	11	
Public Halls	29	8	10	11
Playgrounds	20	14	6	
Community Centres	7	4	2	1
Maternal & Child Health Services	6	4	2	
Senior Citizen Centres	6	4	2	
Waste Facilities	6	4	2	
Swimming Pools	5	4	1	
Preschools	5	4	1	
Library Services	6	4	2	
totals	125	75	39	12
Populations	7,750	3,847	1,440	2,463

Social Infrastructure Strategy – Executive Summary

Indoor Meeting Spaces

The Shire has many facilities that can provide indoor meeting space, including public halls, community centres, senior citizen centres, and sports clubrooms. This Report calculates that more than 70 indoor meeting spaces exist through Loddon Council facilities; this does not include hotels or cafes.

Asset Management

The Council has yet to complete the development of asset lifecycle plans for Recreation, Leisure, and Community Facilities. The council's Recreation, Leisure, and Community Facilities Asset Management Plan notes the "ageing infrastructure in Council's recreational, leisure, and community facilities." The Report comments that, at present, all decision-making is reactive.

All of the Community Plans include actions to improve or upgrade facilities in the town.

Management Committees

Many Loddon towns have several management committees, including Community Asset Committees, Hall Committees, and Reserve Management committees that may be Council or DEECA committees. In addition to these entities, Committees are involved in running various community groups and sporting clubs. These various committees have to be raised from small populations, particularly in small towns.

Network of Social Infrastructure

Individual towns and communities in Loddon Shire have access to a network of council facilities and services across its urban centres, small towns, and other locations within the Shire. People also access facilities and services outside of the Shire.

Decisions about infrastructure in any town in the Loddon Shire impact the network and the opportunities for communities in other locations.

Access Regime

A regime[2] for reasonable access to facilities has been developed based on analysing the distribution of facilities and services and stakeholder feedback.

Drive Time	Facility or Service	Drive Time	Facility or Service	
	Indoor Meeting Place		M&CH Service	Community Centre
15 minutes or less	Recreation Spaces & Facilities	30 minutes or less	Library Service	Swimming Pool
	Equipped Play Space		Preschool Centre	Waste Facility

The regime would also encourage other outcomes, including understanding facility usage and increased shared usage, increasing the functionality of existing facilities, and improving asset management.

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[2] There are 3 localities in the Shire with an estimated population of 50 that are located outside 15 minutes but within 20 minutes of towns with facilities. Additionally, 2 localities with a population of less than 40 are situated outside 30 minutes of an urban centre but within 30 minutes of larger towns outside the Shire.

Social Infrastructure Strategy – Executive Summary

Many Opportunities for All Towns

Based on the above regime, all towns have access to many facilities and services, including those in Bendigo, Dunolly, and Maryborough. All localities in the Shire are within 15 minutes drive of one or more of the Shire's towns.

| Localities > 100 People | Population | Within 15 Minutes of Driving Time | | | Within 30 Minutes of Driving Time | | | | | |
		Indoor Meeting Places	Recreation Facilities	Playgrounds	M&CH Service	Library Service	Preschool	Community Centres	Swimming Pool	Waste Facility
Wedderburn	951	11	12	6	3	2	2	4	2	2
Boort	940	12	11	4	2	2	2	5	2	2
Inglewood	784	13	18	5	3	2	2	6	4	2
Pyramid Hill	598	8	9	4	3	4	5	5	4	3
Bridgewater	466	13	23	6	4	4	2	6	4	3
Serpentine	221	11	15	5	5	5	4	8	6	5
Dingee	195	7	11	4	4	4	2	6	5	2
Laanecoorie	179	12	16	4	6	4	4	5	5	2
Calivil	175	10	16	6	3	4	3	7	3	3
Newbridge	169	13	10	5	6	7	4	7	6	2
Tarnagulla	153	14	18	7	4	5	3	6	5	2
Korong Vale	143	11	12	6	4	3	3	6	3	3
Mitiamo	111	10	15	5	3	2	2	4	2	2
Eddington	62	5	10	2	3	4	2	4	4	1

In identifying these opportunities, this Report acknowledges that many in the community will be unaware or unwilling to use facilities outside their town; this will require some change management processes to foster the use of other facilities.

Level of Usage

While the analysis indicates that all towns have access to multiple opportunities, more data is needed regarding facility usage, including frequency, purpose, and by whom. A process for gathering data about the usage level of all facilities needs to be developed.

Shared Usage

Encouraging greater shared use of facilities enables understanding whether and where the network can be rationalised and where investment in existing facilities can be best targeted to provide the best value for the community and Council. Fostering a greater level of shared usage will likely require some change management.

Social Infrastructure Strategy – Executive Summary

Contemporary Functionality

The challenge for much of the social infrastructure network is identifying which facilities need to meet contemporary requirements and which warrant investment to meet these requirements.

Asset Condition

Many of the social infrastructure assets available are aged and require investment; there is a need to complete asset management plans for community and recreation facilities. In concert with usage data, clear decisions can be made about a regime for investing in facilities and which facilities do not warrant further Council support.

The Way Forward

This Report recommends the following projects to improve the capability of making long-term decisions about investing in social infrastructure for towns and Localities in the Loddon Shire.

Projects	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y5+
1) Identify the implications for the need or usage of town facilities based on the ROSA, Economic Development Strategy and Visitor Economy Strategy recommendations.	■					
2) Develop a practical data collection process for the Council, "Management Committees" and users to establish actual facility usage — both frequency and type. Collect usage data	■	■	■	■	■	■
3) Complete asset assessments for all social infrastructure facilities that identify facilities that are at, or close to end of life" and for which there are alternate spaces.	■	■	■			
4) Review the Community Planning Framework to include a focus on identifying existing facilities that provide the most appropriate and usable indoor meeting space and spaces that are infrequently used (or not used at all); this process will utilise data made available through the process developed in #2. Update Community Plans as necessary		■	■	■		
5) Develop a "Facilities Management Plan" for each town that establishes priorities for investment in or rationalisation of existing Council facilities within 15 minutes driving time of the "Township Zone" (see Section 10.3[3])				■	■	■
6) Update community profiles for towns (and the other Localities in the Shire) based on the 2026 ABS Census and identify the implications for future social infrastructure development.				■		
7) Update the network of available facilities and services available to towns[4]				■	■	■

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[3] At this time it unknown how long the development of these plans will take
[4] This update will consider any assets that will be discontinued based on usage and asset assessments and will underpin the development of the Facilities Management Plans

Contents

1. Introduction

Social Infrastructure helps individuals, families, groups, and communities meet their social needs, maximise their potential for development, and enhance community well-being.

The Loddon Social Infrastructure Strategy provides a framework for how the Loddon Shire Council can foster access to community facilities and services across the Shire consistent with contemporary demands.

1.1. Policy Context

The Council Plan has some outcomes that provide a context for the Social Infrastructure Strategy, the most notable being:

- *We will have infrastructure that supports our social and economic needs and embraces environmental sustainability*

- *We will implement financially and environmentally sustainable infrastructure that supports our social and economic needs.*

The Council also has a Small Towns Policy that aims to support each town in the Shire "*in appropriate ways so that each town may meet its full potential.*"

1.2. A Network Approach

As depicted in Figure 1-1, Loddon Shire's towns and communities do not operate in isolation when accessing social infrastructure. There is a network of Council and other facilities and services across its urban centres, small towns, and other locations. People also access facilities and services outside of the Loddon Shire.

Figure 1-1 – A Networked Approach
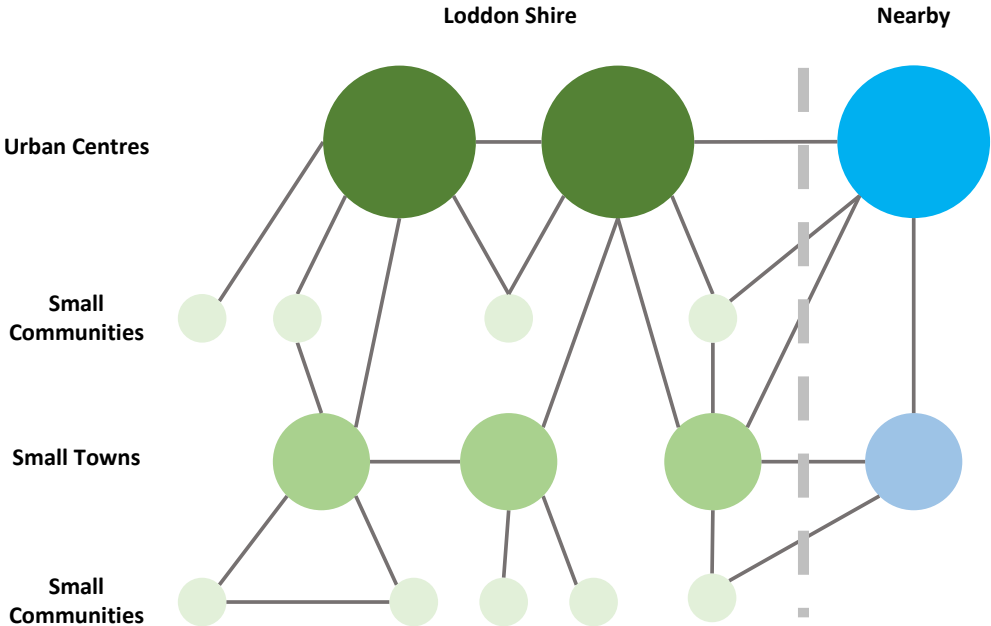
1.2.1. What Types of Social Infrastructure?

This Report has focused on the following types of social infrastructure: Council services and facilities, including:

- Indoor meeting spaces – these take a range of forms, including public halls, community centres, senior citizen centres and sporting club facilities; this Report has also acknowledged the use of commercial spaces such as cafes and public hotels

- Recreational[5] spaces and facilities include sporting reserves and more specialised facilities such as tennis courts and lawn bowl rinks.

- Playgrounds – spaces with play equipment

- Swimming pools

- Maternal and child health services

- Library services – this includes the use of agency services

- Preschool centres

- Community centres – places where community members can socialise with others and access a range of activities and information; this Report has included Senior Citizens Clubs in this category

- Waste management facilities – these include are essential facilities that enable households (and businesses) to function, particularly if they do not receive a "curbside" rubbish collection service

This Report also acknowledges the availability of facilities and services that are not owned or operated by Council but are essential to the social functioning of communities, including:

- Schools

- Health services

- Emergency services

- Retail services – particularly access to food and household goods (i.e. supermarkets) and fuel retailing

1.2.2. Making Decisions about Social Infrastructure

Making decisions about social infrastructure in any of Loddon Shire's towns requires understanding how changing this infrastructure in any one location will impact the wider network.

This understanding requires "mapping" these relationships and maintaining this information. This Report has undertaken an extensive mapping of the current availability of the types of social infrastructure noted in Section 1.2.1 to understand the range of opportunities available to towns or nearby.

Decisions about social infrastructure in Loddon's towns also need to understand the following:

- Current usage of the relevant facilities or services

- Likely future demand and requirements for facilities or services

- Current condition of social infrastructure assets, including their capability and functionality and their ability to meet contemporary requirements and expectations

- Availability of other assets that can meet the needs of the community

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[5] Council is also undertaking the development of a Recreation, Open Space and Aquatics Strategy, which will mainly address access to specific types of recreational and sporting activities

1.3. Project Methodology

The development of the Social Infrastructure Strategy has involved the following:

- An extensive analysis of the Loddon Shire population and demographic data, much of this data was drawn from ABS Census data and data sets prepared by commercial providers for Council. This analysis has also included:

  - Population forecasts for the Loddon Shire prepared by the State Government

  - Land and property sales data provided by the Victorian Valuer General

- A review of Council strategies, documents and data sets, including the following:

  - Council Plan

  - Loddon Settlement Strategy

  - Loddon Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

  - Council Asset Management Strategy and Plans

  - Dataset of community facilities insured by Council

  The review of documentation also includes a review of regional strategies, including:

  - Loddon Mallee Regional Growth Plan

  - Loddon Mallee Regional Economic Development Strategy

- Extensive mapping of Community facilities within 15-minute and 30-minute driving times from the Town Zone of Localities with a population of 100 or more people.

- A review of Council's current asset management strategies and plans for "social infrastructure."

- Workshops with Councillors and Council Staff

- Community consultation included an online survey, in-person drop-in sessions, and online forums.

2.   The Loddon Settlement Strategy

The Loddon Settlement Strategy (2019 – 2035) was adopted in early 2020. The strategy" aims to maximise the potential for population and housing growth in the Loddon Shire. Based on an understanding of capacity and suitability, it identifies the localities in the municipality where Council is planning for people to live and proposes actions to promote development and growth".

2.1.   Growth Towns

The Loddon Settlement Strategy nominates Boort, Inglewood Wedderburn, Pyramid Hill and Bridgewater on Loddon as growth towns. The Strategy identifies criteria to support these nominations, including:

- Land supply for residential development
- Proximity to a major regional centre
- Infrastructure availability
- Free from environmental constraints
- Amenity
- Existing growth trends
- Housing suitability (size, quality)

2.1.1. Newbridge

The Loddon Settlement Strategy nominates the town of Newbridge "as having unique qualities that could stimulate new growth and development. The high amenity location of Newbridge on the Loddon River, along with its proximity to Bendigo, is a growth opportunity. This opportunity cannot be realised without reticulated sewerage and water."

2.2.   Small Townships

The Loddon Settlement Strategy nominates the following as existing small townships

- Serpentine
- Mitiamo
- Eddington[6]
- Laanecoorie
- Dingee
- Korong Vale
- Tarnagulla

2.3.   Township Zones

Loddon Shire Council's planning scheme has several Localities with Township Zone (TZ) areas. The Township Zone provides for residential and other uses in towns and enables moderate housing growth. Figure 3-2 notes the Localities[7] with a TZ. The TZs vary in size (see Section 4.4) and the TZs in the Growth Towns largely align with the ABS Urban Centres. (see Section 3.4) There are no TZs in the Loddon Shire in Localities with less than 100 people.

2.4.   100 plus Populations

The report covers a larger area than the Loddon Settlement Strategy, as it applies to all locations in the Loddon Shire. The Loddon Settlement Strategy outlines a framework to maximise population and housing growth in the Loddon Shire, focusing on "growth" and "small townships." This report aims to identify the social infrastructure needs of communities across the Loddon Shire. It acknowledges the factors that will influence the Shire's population as outlined in the Loddon Settlement Strategy. With a broader scope, the report focuses on all localities with a population of more than 100 people with a designated TZ and the impact on localities with smaller populations. The following section explains the concept of Localities.

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[6] The Eddington Locality spans the Loddon Shire boundary – a population of less than 100 is estimated to reside within the Loddon Shire

[7] Section 3.2 explains the concept of Localities

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3.   Loddon Shire's Population

As listed in Table 3-1, the 2021 ABS Census, the Loddon Shire has a population of 7,759 people, an increase from the 7,512 recorded in the 2016 ABS Census. Much of the population growth was in people aged 60 years or older, and much of the population loss was in people aged 40 to 59.

Table 3-1 – Loddon Shire Population Trends

	ABS Census[8]				Victoria in the Future[9]		
	2016	2021	Change 2016 to 2021		2031	Change 2021 to 2031	
	#	#	#	%	#	#	%
0-4 years	335	317	-18	-5%	356	39	12%
5-9 years	405	373	-32	-8%	341	-32	-9%
10-14 years	451	469	18	4%	348	-121	-26%
15-19 years	413	387	-26	-6%	393	6	2%
20-24 years	230	264	34	15%	314	50	19%
25-29 years	237	275	38	16%	308	33	12%
30-34 years	281	342	61	22%	358	16	5%
35-39 years	316	330	14	4%	379	49	15%
40-44 years	404	364	-40	-10%	445	81	22%
45-49 years	498	438	-60	-12%	414	-24	-5%
50-54 years	581	550	-31	-5%	474	-76	-14%
55-59 years	705	609	-96	-14%	570	-39	-6%
60-64 years	645	781	136	21%	612	-169	-22%
65-69 years	667	679	12	2%	593	-86	-13%
70-74 years	472	620	148	31%	679	59	10%
75-79 years	355	401	46	13%	524	123	31%
80-84 years	262	244	-18	-7%	410	166	68%
85 years +	256	308	52	20%	314	6	2%
totals	7,513	7,751	238	3%	7,832	81	1%

3.1.   Forecast Population

In Table 3.1, according to the Victoria in the Future (ViF) data from the State Government, the population of Loddon is projected to increase by 81 people by 2031 compared to 2021. Most of this growth is expected in the 65+ years and 15 to 39 years population. This growth will be offset by a forecast contraction in the population aged 0 to 14 years and 40 to 64 years. The anticipated growth in the 80-84 age group represents a significant change compared to the census periods between 2016 and 2021. Similarly, the projected decline in the 60-69-year-old population represents a substantial change from the growth observed in this age group between 2016 and 2021.

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8   Data sourced from the 2021 ABS Census
9   Victoria in the Future population projections https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources/data-and-insights/victoria-in-future

3.2. **Estimated Resident Population (ERP)**

The Estimated Resident Population (ERP) is the official measure of Australia's population based on the concept of usual residence. Based on the Census of Population and Housing results, the ERP is adjusted for net undercount and Australian usual residents temporarily overseas on census night. The ERP is compiled as of June 30th of each census year and updated quarterly between censuses for Australia, states and territories and annually for smaller areas such as Local Government Areas.

The most recent ERP for the Loddon Shire (as of June 30th, 2023) was 7,747, a very slight decrease from the 2021 ABS Census figure of 7,751 (see Table 3-1).

3.2.1. **Updated Locality Population Data**

The ABS provides an annual ERP for the Loddon Shire but not for small areas such as Localities and Urban Centres. The next opportunity to understand changes in the population of localities and urban centres will be after the 2026 ABS Census, with data expected to be available from mid-2027.

3.3. **Loddon Shire's ABS-Defined Localities**

The ABS provides population data for a range of area sizes. At the most local level, the ABS defines Suburbs (in cities and larger towns) and Localities (outside of cities and larger towns)

Loddon Shire's population is dispersed across 100 Localities, as shown in Figure 3-1. The Localities range in population from more than 900 people to less than 5.[10]

3.3.1. **Localities with Populations of More Than 100 People**

As noted in Table 3.2, the Localities with more than 100 people account for some 68% of the Shire's total population.

Table 3-2 – Population of Localities in the Loddon Shire – 2021 ABS Census[11]

Locality Population	Total # of Localities	Total Population	% of Loddon Population
Localities with more than 100 people	14	5,249	68%
Localities with a population less than 100 people/more than 50	21	1,252	16%
Localities with a population of less than 50 people	65	1,258	16%
Totals	**100**	**7,759**	**100%**

As noted in Table 3.2, the 14 localities with a population greater than 100 comprise 68% of Loddon Shire's population. The remaining 32% is spread across 86 other localities, 65 of which have a population of less than 50 people.

As illustrated in Figure 3-2, the localities with a population greater than 100 are scattered throughout the Loddon Shire.

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[10]   Figure from Loddon Shire Council's id population dataset
[11]   Data sourced from the 2021 ABS Census

Figure 3-1 - Loddon Shire ABS Localities

— **LGA Boundary**
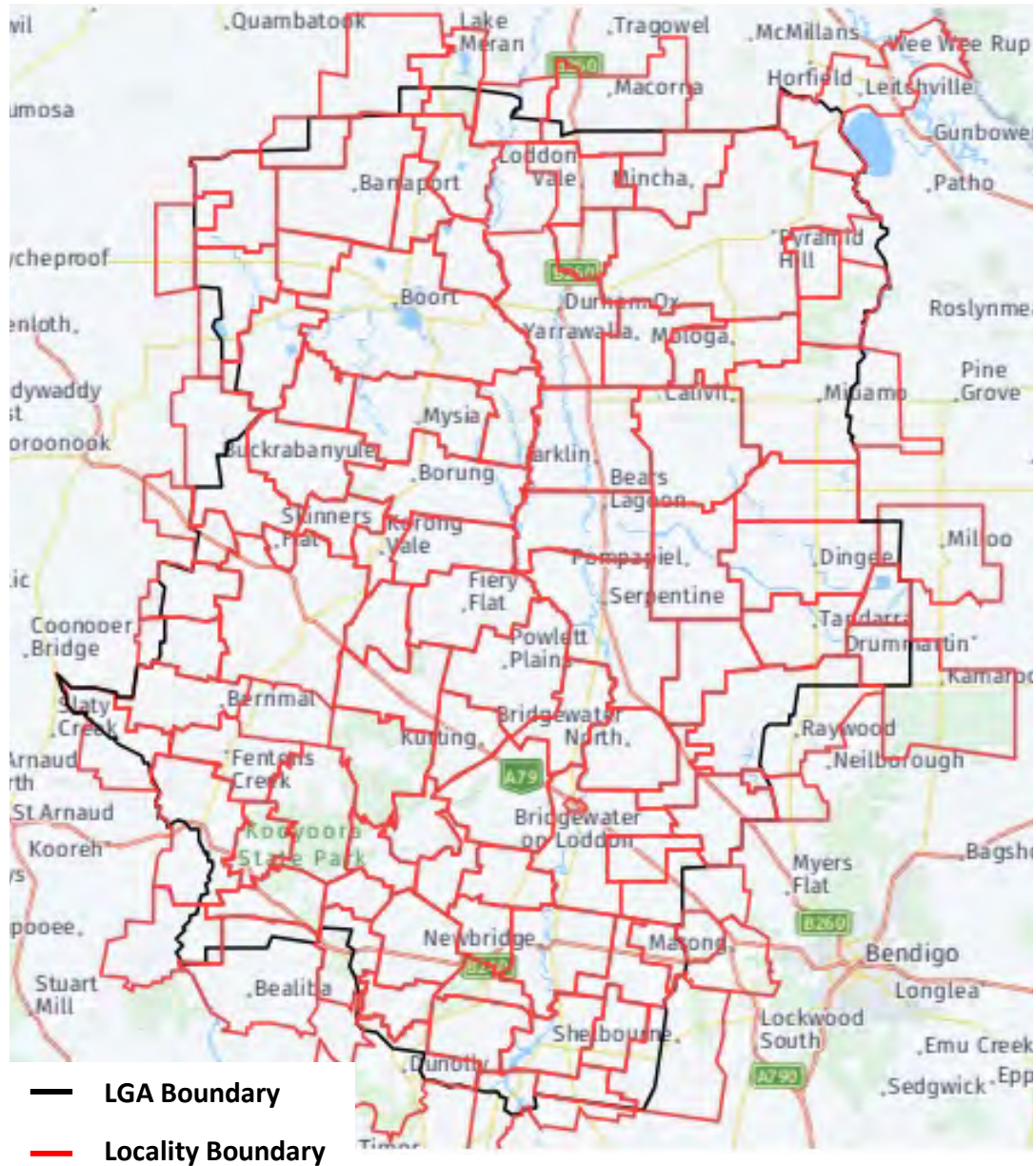
— **Locality Boundary**

3.3.2. Shared Localities – Estimating the Loddon Shire's Population

As shown in Figure 3-1, 14 ABS Localities span the boundary of Loddon Shire and neighbouring LGAs. For instance, the ABS Eddington Locality includes people residing in Loddon and Central Goldfields Shires. To determine the population of Loddon Shire, it is necessary to estimate the percentage of the population in these localities that reside within Loddon Shire. However, the population of these localities is usually very small, making it challenging to accurately estimate the overall population of Loddon Shire, which can result in some variation in calculations.

Figure 3-2 – 100 Plus Population ABS Localities

Locality	Pop.	TZ
Wedderburn	951	✓
Boort	940	✓
Inglewood	886	✓
Pyramid Hill	598	✓
Bridgewater on Loddon	330	✓
Dingee	205	✓
Serpentine	196	✓
Newbridge	190	✓
Laanecoorie	179	✓
Calivil	178	✓
Korong Vale	168	✓
Tarnagulla	136	✓
Bridgewater	133	
Mitiamo	111	✓
Eddington*	57	✓

*Note Estimated population of locality in the Loddon Shire – is identified in this Figure due to inclusion in the Loddon Settlement Strategy

Map labels:
- Pyramid Hill – p 598
- Boort – p 940
- Mitiamo – p 111
- Korong Vale – p 168
- Calivil – p 178
- Dingee – p 205
- Wedderburn – p 951
- Serpentine – p 196
- Inglewood – p 886
- Bridgewater on Loddon – p 330
- Bridgewater – p 133
- Tarnagulla – p 136
- Newbridge – p 190
- Laanecoorie – p 179
- Eddington* – p 57

Legend:
- ● = ABS Urban Centre in the Locality
- TZ = Town Zone in the Locality
- ⦂ = Area of Locality in Adjoining LGA
- Pop/p = Locality Population @ 2021 ABS Census
- (green) = Growth Town
- (orange) = Potential Growth Town
- (yellow) = Existing Small Township

Loddon Settlement Strategy

3.4. Loddon Shire's ABS Urban Centres

The ABS defines urban centres as areas of concentrated urban development with populations of 200 people or more within a Locality. The Loddon Shire has five urban centres in the adjoining listed Localities.

For example, the Boort "Locality" has a population of 928 people; within this Locality is the Boort "Urban Centre" with 801 people. Therefore, 127 people reside outside the Boort Urban Centre but within the Boort Locality.

Bridgewater on Loddon is both an "Urban Centre" and a "Locality" – a slightly confusing anomaly in ABS definitions – (see Section 3.4.1)

	Population	
	Urban Centre	Locality
Localities	# People	# People
Wedderburn	664	944
Boort	801	928
Inglewood	784	902
Pyramid Hill	477	607
Bridgewater on Loddon	330	

Figure 3-3 – ABS Localities and Urban Centres

ABS Boort "Urban Centre"
Population = 808 People

ABS Boort "Locality"
Population = 940 People
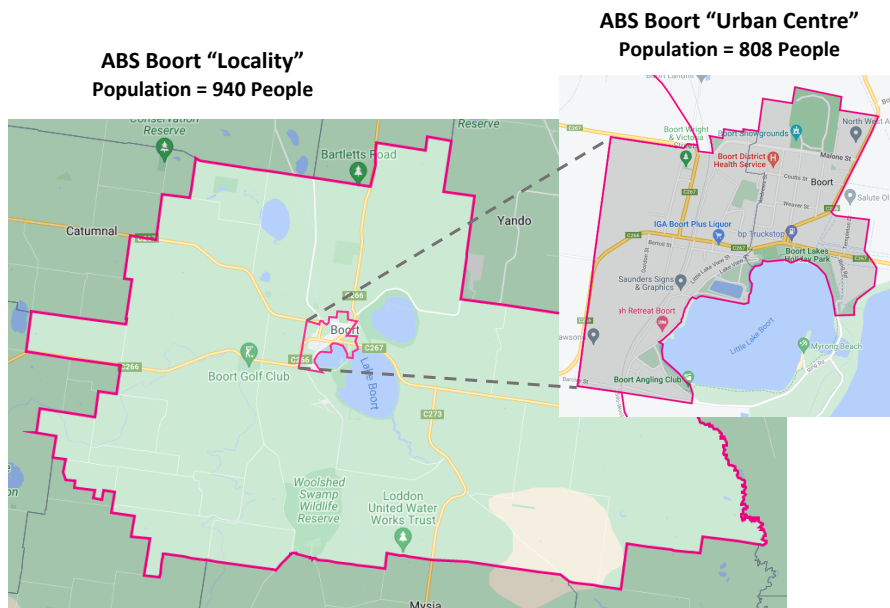
3.4.1. Bridgewater on Loddon and Bridgewater Localities

The "Bridgewater" Locality surrounds the "Bridgewater on Loddon" Locality (see Figure 3-4)

This Report has determined to treat Bridgewater on Loddon as the "Urban Centre" of the combination of the Bridgewater on Loddon and Bridgewater localities with a combined population of 463 people. This combined population is well above any of the existing small townships in the Loddon Shire as defined by the Loddon Settlement Strategy (see Section 2). This Report notes that:

- Like the urban centres of the other Growth Towns, the Bridgewater on Loddon Locality has a TZ. However, the Bridgewater Locality does not have a TZ. It has an area zoned for industrial use (IZ) that adjoins the "Bridgewater on Loddon" locality and has substantive businesses.

- Outside of the Industrial area that adjoins the Bridgewater on Loddon Locality, the Bridgewater Locality is zoned for farming (FZ), which means that there is a very low density of residential dwellings (there is a Public Use Zone (PUZ) that has a sewerage treatment facility.) This combination is consistent with the make-up of the Growth Towns with defined Urban Centres.

- Bridgewater on Loddon has a town water and sewerage system that supports a substantial land supply for additional dwellings. This functionality contrasts the small towns, which significantly limit their ability to support an increased population due to water supply or effluent management constraints.

- Bridgewater on Loddon also has a substantial "visitor" population, with many attracted by the activities on the Loddon River. The combination of the following facilitates the visitor population:

  - 64 or 32% of dwellings[12] are "unoccupied residential dwellings" (i.e. many of these are holiday homes); when people occupy these dwellings, this will swell the local population by up to 150[13] people
  - Motel – that accommodates up to 40 people
  - Caravan park –when at total capacity, there may be between 250 and 300 people staying on-site

Figure 3-4 – Bridgewater on Loddon – A Wider Population
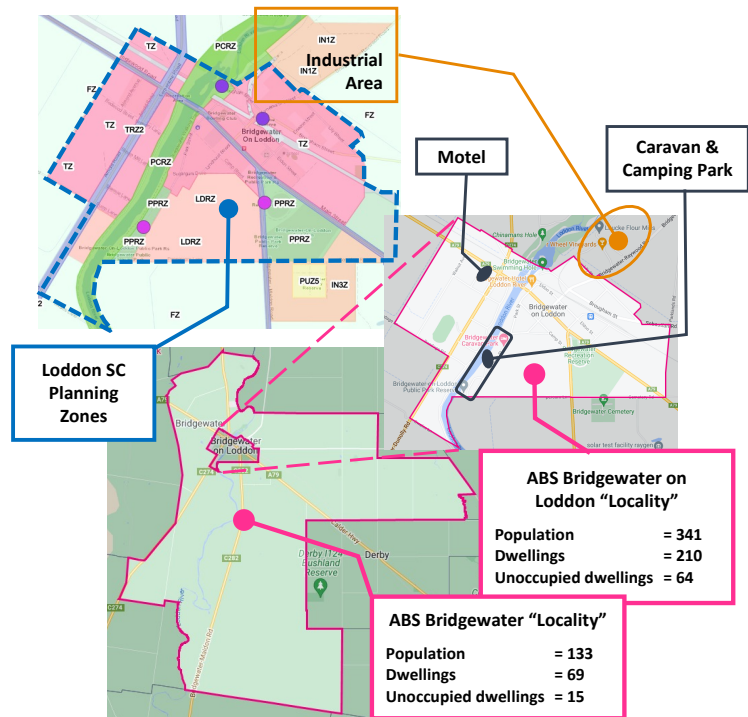
Site		People
BoL residents		341
BoL "Weekenders"	64 x 2.2	140
Caravan Park		300
Motel		40
	total	821
Bridgewater		133
	total	954

Given the above, there will be times when Bridgewater on Loddon's population could swell to more than 850 people (see Figure 3-4.) This figure does not include "day trippers" visiting friends and relatives or experiencing events such as the water skiing competitions.

This Report also notes that Bridgewater on Loddon does not offer the range of services available in the four largest urban centres. This community has to travel to Inglewood or other locations to access health services, a supermarket, a pharmacy, or residential aged care (see Table 7-1 – Facilities and Services Available at Loddon Towns > 100 People).

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[12]   2021 ABS Census

[13]   The 2021 ABS Census notes an average of 2.2 people per dwelling; 64 dwellings x 2.2 = 141; many dwellings likely have additional family or friends staying during popular visiting periods

4. Town Populations

This Section provides an overview of the population trends in towns with more than 100 people with a TZ.

4.1. Population Changes in Large or Growth Towns

The Localities in which the large towns are located experienced population growth between the 2016 and 2021 ABS Census, as noted in Table 4-1. Although the population of the Wedderburn Locality grew during the same period, the population of Wedderburn's urban centre experienced a slight contraction.

Table 4-1 – Population Changes in Large Towns[14]

Large Towns	Urban Centres & Localities				Change 2016 to 2021			
	2016		2021					
	UC	Locality	UC	Locality	UC	Locality	UC	Locality
	#	#	#	#	#	#	%	%
Wedderburn	681	930	664	944	-17	14	-2%	2%
Boort	752	868	801	928	49	60	7%	7%
Inglewood	748	862	784	902	36	40	5%	5%
Pyramid Hill	425	556	477	607	52	51	12%	9%
Bridgewater[15]	321	467	330	466	9	-1	3%	0%
Totals	2,927	3,683	3,056	3,847	129	164	4%	4%

					Change in Loddon LGA Population		
Loddon LGA Population	7,513		7,751		LGA Change	247	3.3 % change
% of Loddon LGA Population	39%	47%	41%	50%	Growth Towns Change	164	69% of LGA Change

UC = Urban Centre

4.1.1. The Percentage of Loddon Shire's Population Residing in the Large Towns

Loddon Shire's urban centres represent 41% of the Shire's total population, and the Large Town Localities represent 50% of Loddon Shire's population. These percentages represent an increase from 2016.

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14   Data sourced from the 2021 ABS Census
15   Bridgewater is the combination of Bridgewater on Loddon and Bridgewater Localities – see Section 3.4.1

4.1.2. Newbridge is a Small Town

The Loddon Settlement Strategy nominates Newbridge as a town with growth potential if there are improved water supply and effluent management systems. This Report considers Newbridge as a small town on the following basis:

- The viability of Newbridge as a Growth Town hinges on Coliban Water's substantial investment in utilities. The timeline and commitment to this investment have yet to be determined.

- Therefore, for the foreseeable future, Newbridge will not have the capacity for additional dwellings available in the Growth Towns.

- Newbridge does have some Council facilities, businesses, and public services operating within a TZ. However, this presence is well below that of the Growth Towns.

- There are two other small towns (Serpentine and Dingee) with larger populations than Newbridge and that have more facilities and services than what is available in Newbridge.

Rather than growing in population, Newbridge experienced a population loss between the 2016 and 2021 ABS Census. notes that Newbridge experienced a population loss across most age cohorts.

This Report is not conclusive about all the factors contributing to this population change. One factor that may have impacted this change was people moving to other locations offering more services or housing options.

For example, as noted in Section 4.6, the Loddon Shire experienced a net loss of people who moved to other Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the Loddon Southern Mallee region, which includes Greater Bendigo.

Table 4-2 Population Change - Newbridge

Age Groups	2016	2021	Diff
0-4 years	0	5	5
5-9 years	5	3	-2
10-14 years	8	11	3
15-19 years	11	6	-5
20-24 years	9	4	-5
25-29 years	5	9	4
30-34 years	5	4	-1
35-39 years	4	9	5
40-44 years	10	7	-3
45-49 years	11	5	-6
50-54 years	20	10	-10
55-59 years	24	17	-7
60-64 years	21	24	3
65-69 years	20	19	-1
70-74 years	12	18	6
75-79 years	13	7	-6
80-84 years	9	3	-6
85 years and over	3	8	5
totals	190	169	-21

Newbridge's proximity to Bendigo may also create both:

- Opportunities – people can find employment in Bendigo and live in a more rural setting in Newbridge

- Challenges – people may be more attracted to what Bendigo offers than what is available in Newbridge or some other towns in the Loddon Shire.

4.1.3. Minimal Population Growth in Larger Towns – The Demand for Social Infrastructure

The Growth Towns have provided for much of the population growth experienced in the Loddon Shire. The population change experienced by the Growth Towns Localities (not including Newbridge[16]) over the 2016 and 2021 ABS Census period was 148 persons. This change represents almost 70% of the population growth experienced in the Loddon Shire. This Report has not included Newbridge as a Growth Town as it has yet to offer the capabilities available in the Growth Towns. (see Section 2.1.1)

These towns can provide for further growth due to the additional dwellings the Growth Towns could accommodate. This report anticipates that much of the population growth forecast through to 2031 will be accommodated in the Growth Towns. (see Section 3.1)

The population growth in urban centres does not indicate a need for additional social infrastructure. As discussed in Section 7.3 and Section 9.17, there are multiple options available for the urban centres, including access to opportunities in nearby LGAs. The challenge is determining whether the existing social infrastructure assets meet the contemporary requirements and provide sufficient functionality, if there is an overlap in the availability of similar functionality, and if so, which facilities should be targeted for ongoing investment.

4.2. Small Townships Populations

The Loddon Settlement Strategy nominates the locations listed in Table 4-3 as existing "Small Townships". This Report has included the Calivil as it has a TZ (albeit a very small TZ - see Section 4.4) and a population of more than 100 people.

4.2.1. Population Changes in Small Townships

Table 4-3 shows that the population of the Localities in which the Small Townships are located account for around 19% of the Loddon Shire's population.

Table 4-3 - Population Changes in Small Townships

Small Townships	Locality Population		Change 2016 to 2021		Private Dwellings			Approx. Growth Capacity*
	2016	2021	#	%	2016	2021	Change	Dwellings
Serpentine	198	238	40	20%	95	97	2	40
Dingee	200	198	-2	-1%	105	92	-13	5
Laanecoorie	183	190	7	4%	102	103	1	13
Calivil[17]	175	178	3	2%	87	86	-1	-
Newbridge	190	169	-21	-11%	106	96	-10	20
Tarnagulla	121	155	34	28%	112	129	17	6
Korong Vale	158	149	-9	-6%	102	109	7	15
Mitiamo	119	101	-18	-15%	51	64	13	15
Eddington	57	62	5	9%	57	45	-12	70
Totals	1,401	1,440	39	2.8%	817	893	9	184
LGA Population	7,513	7,751	LGA Change	238	3.3 % change			
% of LGA Population	19%	19%	Small Towns Change	39	16 % of LGA Change			

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[16] 0

[17] Calivil is not included in the Loddon Settlement Strategy

Key observations from Table 4-3 are as follows:

- Serpentine and Tarnagulla experienced the most significant population growth among the small townships.

- The total population growth for Eddington, Laanecoorie and Calivil was 15, representing 6.3% of the Loddon Shire's total population increase.

- Dingee, Mitiamo, Korong Vale, and Newbridge experienced a population contraction. Feedback from the community consultation indicated that workers from a local gold mining operation have moved into available housing in Mitiamo town and the local area. There was no indication of any additional dwellings being added.

4.2.2. Minimal Population Growth in Small Towns -The Demand for Social Infrastructure

Future population growth in the existing small townships is limited due to restrictions in expanding the "Town Zones." The Loddon Settlement Strategy notes the following:

- "New residential development will be supported in the existing township area of the smaller towns where it can be demonstrated that effluent can be managed in accordance with relevant legislation. In the absence of reticulated sewer, expansion of the urban area cannot be supported."

- "The extent of the urban area in some towns (Serpentine, Laanecoorie and Newbridge) should be reviewed due to flood risk."

As already noted in this Report, the small towns accounted for less than 20% of the population growth experienced in the Loddon Shire since the 2016 ABS Census (see Table 4-3)

Small towns already have access to multiple options for various types of social infrastructure assets, as listed in Table 9-30

When it comes to indoor meeting spaces, smaller towns tend to have fewer people per indoor space compared to larger towns, as shown in Table 9-31 – Supply of Indoor Meeting Spaces (Council Facilities). This suggests that the supply of indoor spaces for the small towns is well above the demand for these spaces. However, similar to larger towns, it's essential to assess whether the current social infrastructure assets meet current needs and offer sufficient functionality, if there is any redundancy in the availability of similar functionality, and if so, which facilities should be prioritised for ongoing investment.

4.3. Localities with a Population of Less than 100

Table 4-4 lists the Localities in the Loddon Shire with a population of less than 100 people as recorded in the 2021 ABS Census.

These Localities account for almost 2,470 or 32% of the Loddon Shire's population. The collective population of these "Less than 100 People" Locations grew by 36 or 1%. There was a mix of Localities that experienced population growth and those that experienced contraction. This growth represents around 15% of the total population growth in the Loddon Shire since the 2016 ABS Census.

The ABS provides minimal data for Localities with less than 50 people to protect against the identification of individuals from specific households. For example, there is no age-specific population data.

Some of these Localities have Council facilities (see Figure 6-1)

Table 4-4 – Loddon Localities with Population < 100 People[18][19]

People <100 >50		People <50 >25		People <25	
Yarrawalla	Borung	Jarklin	Powlett Plains	Buckrabanyule	Catumnal
Dunolly*	Raywood*	Leaghur	Salisbury West	Sylvaterre	Painswick
Eddington*	Woodstock OL	McIntyre	Prairie	Glenalbyn	Minmindie
Llanelly	Waanyarra	Kingower	Leichardt	Lake Marmal	Woolshed Flat
Mincha	Arnold	Murphys Creek	Fernihurst	Mologa	Barraport West
Shelbourne*	Barraport	Woodstock	Gladfield	Terrappee	Cochranes
Moliagul*	Tandarra	West	Brenanah	Wedderburn	Creek
Berrimal	Bears Lagoon	Yando	Wychitella	Junction	Kinypanial
Durham Ox	Bridgewater Nth	Logan	Fentons Creek	Arnold West	Richmond Plains
Kurting	Rheola	Wehla	Fiery Flat	Burkes Flat	Terrick Terrick
	Campbells	Kamarooka Nth	Skinners Flat	Nine Mile	Auchmore
	Forest	Loddon Vale	Mysia	Derby	Kurraca
		Pompapiel		Wychitella Nth	Canary Island
				Yarraberb	Jungaburra
					Kurraca West

* Note – estimated population of the Locality within the Loddon LGA

4.3.1. No Town Zones in Localities with a Population less than 100

These Localities do not have any town zones (TZs). Most of these areas are primarily zoned for farming (FZ), meaning the residential density is very low due to the zoning restrictions. Furthermore, some localities have significant areas zoned as Public Conservation and Resources (PCRZ), including State Forests/Nature Reserves, especially in the southwest of the Shire, where no residential development is allowed.

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[18]   Data sourced from the 2021 ABS Census vis REMPLAN Community
[19]   A further 14 Localities have a small area of the Locality within the Loddon LGA - REMPLAN Community has incorporated the populations listed above. When added to the population figures for the Localities with more than 100 people, the estimates made regarding this inclusion are slightly different from the overall estimate of LGA's population made by the ABS.

4.4. Town Zones, Residential Dwellings and Additional Residential Dwellings

Table 4-5 shows that the designated TZs represent a small percentage of the Locality's land area. The remaining area outside is zoned FZ and PCRZ, resulting in a lower residential density than the TZs.

In larger towns with a designated ABS urban centre, the TZs generally correspond to the ABS urban area and accommodate most people living in the respective Localities. For small-town Localities without an urban centre, the ABS data does not provide information on the population residing in the TZ and the rest of the Locality, nor does it provide a breakdown of residential dwellings. Localities with smaller towns have a wider distribution of dwellings and populations compared to those with urban centres.

Table 4-5 - Approximate Size of TZs, Dwelling Numbers and Potential Additional Dwellings in Towns[20]

Towns	Approx. TZ Area (km²)	Locality Area (km²)	% of Locality	2016 Urban Centre	2016 Locality	2021 Urban Centre	2021 Locality	Change 2016/21 Urban Centre	Change 2016/21 Locality	Potential Additional Dwellings (#)[21]
Inglewood	1.9	107	1.8%	371	440	405	464	34	24	400+
Wedderburn	1.8	207	0.9%	434	634	407	607	-27	-27	340+
Newbridge	1.8	96	2.0%		106		96		-10	20
Bridgewater OL	1.5	2.5	60.0%	192	259	211	283	19	24	270+
Boort	1.2	256	0.5%	381	440	429	491	48	51	70
Pyramid Hill	0.9	333	0.2%	240	304	236	300	-4	-4	80
Tarnagulla	0.8	29	3.0%		112		129		17	6
Laanecoorie	0.7	63	1.2%		102		103		1	13
Korong Vale	0.7	28	2.5%		102		109		7	15
Serpentine	0.6	169	0.4%		95		97		2	40
Dingee	0.4	143	0.3%		105		92		-13	5
Eddington	0.4	20	2.0%		57		45		-12	70
Mitiamo	0.3	139	0.2%		51		64		13	15
Calivil[22]	0.1	139	0.1%		87		86		-1	

4.4.1. Current Private Dwellings

Table 4-5 also presents Census data from 2016 and 2021 showing the number of private dwellings in each town. However, the ABS data does not explain why the number of dwellings has decreased. This Report assumes that the decrease may be due to changes in reporting methods between the two Censuses, the removal of dwellings due to their poor physical condition or plans to redevelop the site that have yet to be implemented.

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[20] Data sourced from the Loddon REMPLAN community dataset, LSC online planning information, Google Maps
[21] Includes dwellings on Low Density Residential Zoned (LDRZ) areas that may adjoin the Town Centres
[22] Calivil is not included in the Loddon Settlement Strategy

4.4.2. Capacity for Additional Dwellings

The Loddon Settlement Strategy has identified the capacity for an increase in the number of dwellings for each of the Growth Towns and existing Small townships. Table 4-5 also provides the estimated growth capacity for additional dwellings, as noted in the Loddon Settlement Strategy, which notes significant limitations on the capacity for additional dwellings in the small townships, as noted in Section 4.2.2.

The ViF data for Loddon Shire projects that there will be 4,379 dwellings by 2026, rising to 4,449 by 2031. This represents an additional 528 dwellings from the 3,921 dwellings recorded in the 2021 ABS Census[23].

The Loddon Settlement Strategy estimates that the Growth Towns can collectively provide for at least 1,100 additional dwellings. The 2021 ABS Census notes that the "Average number of people per household" in the Loddon Shire is 2.2[24] people. More than 2,500[25] people would reside in the Loddon Shire if these additional dwellings were developed and occupied. However, the rate of building approvals suggests that a very small percentage of this capacity has been taken up to date. (see Section 4.5)

4.4.3. Unoccupied Private Dwellings[i]

All areas in Australia have unoccupied private dwellings. Table 4-6 provides the ABS Census data for Loddon Shire's Towns.

The reasons for dwellings being unoccupied vary and include:

- Usual occupants living elsewhere for some time (or at the time of the Census)
- The dwelling could be used as a second home – or non-primary residence
- The condition of the dwelling does not allow for occupation

If and when the unoccupied residences are occupied, this adds to a town's overall population. The 2021 ABS Census notes that the "Average number of people per household" in the Loddon Shire is 2.2 people. For example, if 50% of all unoccupied residential dwellings in the Wedderburn urban area were to be occupied, this would add more than 100 people to the population, representing a 23% increase in the urban centre's population.

As noted in Section 3.4.1, Bridgewater on Loddon has many "weekenders" that are not permanently occupied.

Feedback from Council indicates that many properties in Korong Vale and Tarnagulla may have been abandoned due to their condition.

Table 4-6 – Unoccupied Private Dwellings

Towns	UC #	Locality #	% of all Locality dwellings
Tarnagulla		43	37.4
Korong Vale		34	33.7
Bridgewater OL	64	64	32.2
Wedderburn	89	141	25.3
Loddon		872	22.2
Mitiamo		13	22.0
Calivil		18	21.7
Boort	70	77	18.2
Inglewood	57	68	15.7
Serpentine		14	15.1
Laanecoorie		13	14.6
Pyramid Hill	23	40	14.3
Newbridge		7	8.4
Newbridge		7	8.4
Dingee		7	8.4
Eddington		3	7.1

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[23] The 2016 ABS Census recorded 3,806 dwellings, which means that the number of dwellings grew by 115 to 2021.
[24] Data Sourced from the 2021 ABS Census
[25] This would not represent the total change to the Loddon Shire population as it does not account for other factors, including net migrations, births and deaths

4.5. **Building Approvals in the Loddon Shire**

Table 4-7 notes the number of building approvals made in the Loddon Shire from 2016/17 to 2022/23. This rate is well below the additional dwellings the Growth Towns can accommodate. Some of these developments may have involved the redevelopment of the currently occupied site with a new residential building

This level of approval goes some way to understanding the actual level of population growth experienced in the Loddon Shire. The total number of approvals is well below the number of additional dwellings that can be accommodated in the Loddon Shire. (see Section 4.4.2)

Table 4-7 Building Approvals[26]

Year (ending June 30)	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
# of Approvals	17	18	22	18	25	27	26

4.6. **Net Migration to the Loddon Shire**

Table 4-8 notes a net migration of 27 people to the Loddon Shire from the ABS Census of 2016 to 2021. The most significant population gain was people migrating from Greater Metropolitan Melbourne.

Loddon Shire experienced a population loss compared to all other areas in Victoria and elsewhere. The most significant population loss was to the Greater Bendigo LGA.

There is no data to identify which specific Localities received or lost population due to migration.

Table 4-8 – Net Migration to the Loddon Shire 2016 to 2021[27]

Areas	From	To	Net
Greater Metropolitan Melbourne	241	87	154
Loddon Mallee South[28] region (less Bendigo)	120	142	-22
Other regions	148	191	-43
Greater Bendigo	344	406	-62
totals	853	826	27

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26   Data sourced from the Loddon id Community dataset
27   Data sourced from the Loddon id Community dataset
28   This region includes the LGAs of Greater Bendigo City and the Shires of Central Goldfields, Loddon, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander

4.7. **Economic Impacts on Town Populations**

Characteristics of the local economy impact the populations of towns in the Loddon Shire.

4.7.1. **Where People Work and Live**

As listed in Table 4-9, there were 2,772 jobs in Loddon's local economy, and the number of jobs has increased since the 2016 ABS Census. More than 1,300 jobs are in the agriculture sector, with around 1,000 jobs involved in beef, sheep, grain, or dairy production. Increased jobs are a positive force in terms of population growth in the Shire.

As at the 2021 ABS Census:

- 2,154, or 78% of the jobs in Loddon's economy, are held by people residing in the Loddon Shire.

- 662 people residing in the Loddon Shire worked in jobs outside of the Loddon Shire.

2,816 people with jobs resided in the Loddon Shire, a 2% decrease from 2016. A decrease in the number of people working in the Shire will impact the total expenditure on goods and services.

Table 4-9 - Locations of Work

Category	2016	2021	Change
Work in Loddon	2,734	2,772	1%
Live and Work in Loddon	2,038	2,154	6%
Live in Loddon – Work Elsewhere	834	662	-21%
Total Number of Workers	2,872	2,816	-2%
Work in Bendigo	337	474	41%
Work in Loddon – Live Elsewhere	696	618	-11%
Reside in Bendigo	461	483	5%

The data in Table 4-9 highlights the role of Bendigo in Loddon Shire's local economy as both a source of employment opportunities and a source of workers.

4.7.2. **Most Frequent Industries of Employment**

Table 4-10 shows the diversity of industry sectors in which people residing in localities with more than 100 people are most frequently employed.

As already noted, agriculture is the largest source of employment in the Loddon Shire. The only towns without agricultural production represented in the "most frequent employment industries" are Bridgewater on Loddon, Inglewood, and Tarnagulla.

The Health sector is the next largest employment sector in the Loddon economy. Many of the Shire's towns have people working in hospitals in some capacity, including outside the Shire.

Table 4-10 – Most Frequent Industries of Employment [29]

= large town (green)
= small town (yellow)

Town	Grain/Sheep/Beef Farming	Hospital	Sheep Farming	Primary Education	Supermarket	Dairy Cattle	Other Grains	Secondary Education	Beef Cattle Farming	Poultry Processing	Road Freight Transport	Local Govt Administration	Pig Farming	Horse Farming	Smallgoods Manufacturing	Beverage Manufacturing	Gold Ore Mining	Plumbing	Child Care	Fuel Retailing	Takeaway Food
Boort	●	●		●	●		●	●													
Bridgewater OL		●			●											●		●			
Dingee	●		●	●		●	●	●	●												
Eddington	●			●										●							
Inglewood		●		●	●						●										
Korong Vale					●		●														●
Laanecoorie	●									●					●						
Loddon Shire	●	●	●			●	●														
Mitiamo	●	●	●		●								●								
Newbridge	●	●			●						●									●	
Pyramid Hill		●		●	●									●							
Serpentine	●			●			●	●												●	
Tarnagulla				●	●					●								●			
Wedderburn		●	●	●	●			●				●									

Some sectors most frequently represented in the towns are not frequently represented in the Loddon Shire. This characteristic reflects workers in those towns' dependency on those sectors to generate wages and salaries. For example, Serpentine has "fuel retailing", and Tarnagulla has "Gold Ore Mining" as the most frequent employment industry, yet these sectors are not prevalent in other towns.

It must be understood that the industry sectors in which people are employed may not operate in the town in which they reside – e.g. there are no

- supermarkets in Tarnagulla and Korong Vale – yet people in these towns work in these sectors
- childcare services in the Loddon Shire; however, several workers in this sector reside in Newbridge

There are other industry sectors in which people are employed that are less frequent than those listed in Table 4-10

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[29]   Source – the 2021 ABS Census

4.7.3. Median Weekly Household Income

Median Weekly Household Income levels vary across the growth and small towns, as shown in Table 4-11. Households in Eddington have the highest level of weekly income, and Korong Vale has the lowest.

Two small towns experience a median weekly household income greater than all of the largest growth towns and above the median for the Loddon Shire. Six of the eight small towns experience a level of weekly household income greater than the mean for the Loddon Shire.

Finally, Tarnagulla and Korong Vale have the lowest weekly household incomes of all towns.

Understanding the Median Weekly Household Income levels provides insight into a household's ability to afford various goods and services. These services include participating in activities requiring a membership fee or purchasing equipment or clothing.

The data underscores the impact of household income in operating and maintaining community facilities in small towns. For instance, despite having bowls, tennis, and golf facilities, Korong Vale's clubs are no longer operational, leading to their underutilisation.

Eddington has the highest Median Weekly Household Income. However, it has one community facility on DEECA land, with a Committee of Management appointed by Council. The presence of only one facility is more of a function of Eddington, which has the smallest "town" population in the Loddon Shire.

Table 4-11 - Median Weekly Household Income[30]

Town	Income
Eddington	$1,291
Serpentine	$1,275
Bridgewater OL	$1,242
Laanecoorie	$1,160
Boort	$1,054
Newbridge	$1,041
Loddon Shire	$1,039
Dingee	$1,021
Mitiamo	$982
Pyramid Hill	$964
Wedderburn	$868
Inglewood	$844
Tarnagulla	$779
Korong Vale	$575

▉ = growth town - ▉ = small town

The combination of a small population and relatively low household income means that organisations operating from social infrastructure assets (e.g., sports clubs) in many towns in the Loddon Shire can struggle to generate the revenue needed to sustain their operation through "user pay" mechanisms such as membership fees.

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[30]   Source – the 2021 ABS Census

5. Transport and Driving Times

The Loddon Shire is serviced by public transport with V-Line bus and train services.

5.1. VLine Services

VLine operates services with stops in 16 locations in the Loddon Shire, including the 5 Urban Centres with service stops highlighted in Figure 5-1 and tabled below:-

Train Services	Bus Services				
Pyramid Hill	Barraport	Korong Vale	Tarnagulla	Durham Ox	Borung
Dingee	Boort	Wedderburn	Newbridge	Bears Lagoon	
	Mysia	Inglewood	Bridgewater on Loddon	Serpentine	

These services enable travel to several larger towns, including Bendigo, Echuca, and Maryborough, and through to Melbourne.

With 100 Localities in the Shire, many residents, including some who live within the localities where the stops are, have to travel by other means to get to one of these stops.[31] The infrequency of the services also means that some time is required to travel through this network. These limitations in public transport make it difficult for many residents to access services and facilities, especially in the evening and on weekends.

Figure 5-1 – Train and Coach Network in the Loddon Shire

5.1.1. Car Dominated

With limited public transport, relying on a car is critical to accessing social infrastructure. This limited public transport also means that facilities' location and geographic dispersal are necessary to facilitate access.

The 2021 ABS Census reports that 127 persons reside in households that do not have access to at least one vehicle. This number represents 1.7% of the Shire's population.

5.1.2. Driving Times

Car use dominates access to facilities and services in the Loddon Shire.   Understanding the time required to drive distances to access facilities and services in various towns is necessary to comprehend the appropriate access.

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[31]   This Report understands that some communities within the Loddon Shire will be closer to some VLine stops outside the Shire

5.2. ## Approximate Driving Times

Figure 5-2 provides an overview of the approximate driving times, according to Google Maps, to each of the four largest urban centres in Loddon and the Bendigo CBD[32]. Virtually all Localities[33] in Loddon are within a 30-minute driving time of at least one of the four largest urban centres, with several Localities being within a 30-minute driving time of more than one urban centre.

Most of Loddon Shire's localities and urban centres are within 60 minutes of Bendigo's driving time; the exception is Boort, which is 68 minutes. The locations in the far northwest of the Shire outside of the 60-minute drive to Bendigo are within a 60-minute drive of Kerang and Swan Hill. The Localities in the far West of the Shire that are outside of the 60-minute drive to Bendigo are within a 60 minute drive time to St Arnaud. All of these towns outside of the Loddon Shire have larger populations than Loddon's urban centres and have a wider availability of services.

Figure 5-2 - Approximate Drive Times to Urban Centres and Bendigo

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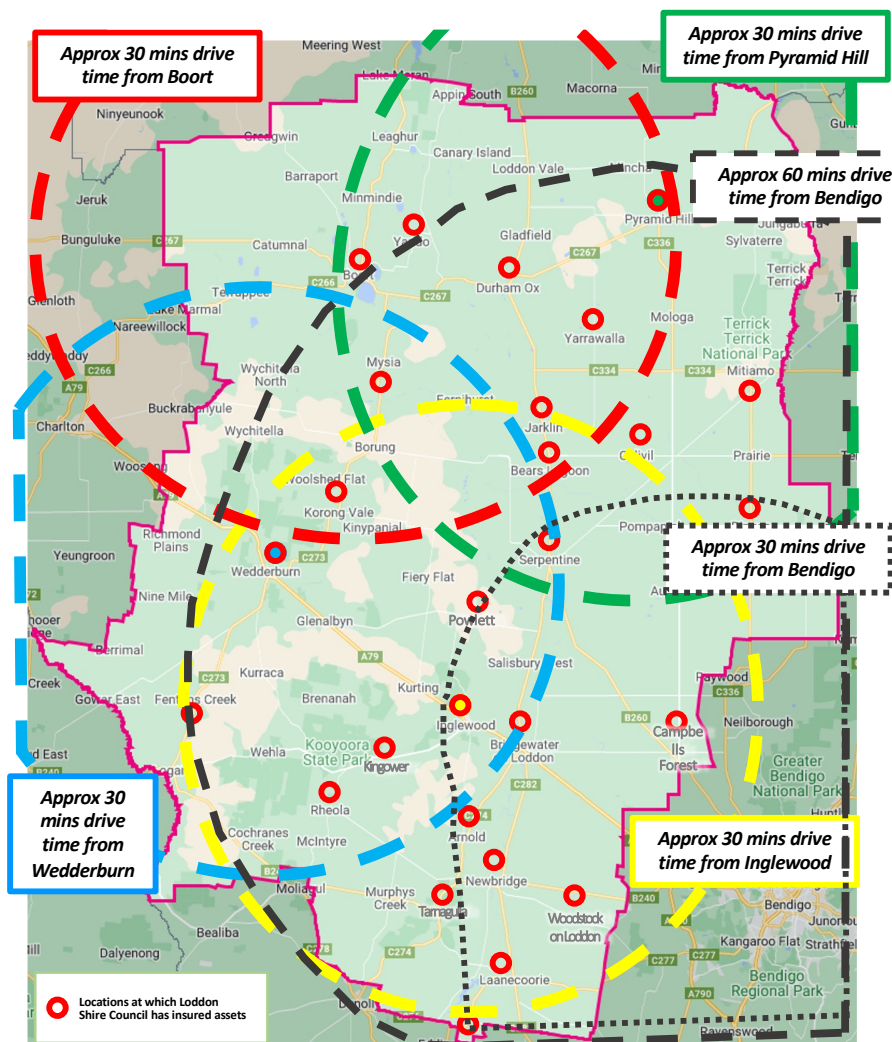
[32] Other areas of Greater Bendigo -e.g. Eaglehawk, Golden Square, Kangaroo Flat and Marong will vary in the travel time from different Localities in the Loddon Shire

[33] Parts of two Localities are outside 30 minutes drive to an urban centre in the Loddon Shire. The Emu Locality (pop 37) in the Shire's SW "corner" is within 20 minutes of St Arnaud. The Kamarooka Locality (pop 89) on the Shire's western border is within a 30 minute drive of Eaglehawk. Most of the population in both of these Localities reside outside the Loddon Shire.

6. Social Infrastructure in the Loddon Shire

As noted in the introduction, communities need access to social infrastructure through facilities, services, and networks that help individuals, families, groups, and communities meet their social needs, maximise their potential for development, and enhance community well-being.

6.1. Facilities and Services

The facilities and services available to communities in the Loddon Shire are a mix of those owned and operated by the Loddon Shire Council and assets on crown land owned by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and managed by the Council. The number of DEECA assets is identified in Sections 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5.

The Council provides insurance and maintenance allocations to Council and DEECA-owned social infrastructure.

Council operates several community services, including maternal and child health and preschools and is a partner in the delivery of library services. These services are available at different times of the week from different locations.

6.1.1. Distribution of Services and Facilities

Table 6-1 provides an overview of the Loddon Shire Council's facilities and services. In some cases, more than one service operates from the same facility, and recreation reserves accommodate more than one sporting club.

Table 6-1 - Distribution of Council Services and Insured Facilities[34]

Types of Facilities & Services	#	Located at		
		Urban Centres	Small Towns	Other
Recreation Reserves and Sports Club Facilities	31	21	11	
Public Halls	29	8	10	11
Playgrounds	20	14	6	
Community Centres	7	4	2	1
Maternal & Child Health Services	6	4	2	
Senior Citizen Centres	6	4	2	
Waste Facilities	6	4	2	
Swimming Pools	5	4	1	
Preschools[35]	5	4	1	
Library Services	6	4	2	
totals	121	71	39	12
Populations	7,750	3,847	1,440	2,463

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[34] Data sourced from the LSC Insured Community Facilities database
[35] The 2021 ABS Census notes that 106 people (i.e. 3 or 4-year-olds) were attending a preschool; this preschool may be outside of the Loddon LGA

6.2. Indoor Meeting Spaces

Access to indoor meeting spaces is a critical element of social infrastructure.   As listed in Table 6-2, 29 public halls are distributed across the Loddon Shire.

6.2.1. More than 70 Indoor Meeting Places

Public halls provide an indoor meeting place for communities and community groups and a space for social functions. These meetings may vary from small groups (say six or fewer) to large functions.

The Loddon Shire has several other indoor meeting facilities, including sporting clubs, community centres, and senior citizen centres. Club members and regular participants usually prefer these facilities to public halls as they are the places where they regularly meet with others, and quite often, these facilities have better functionality than many public halls (e.g. they have toilets within the building)

When these facilities are totalled with public halls, there are more than seventy (70) spaces of varying size and functionality that communities could use for indoor meetings.

6.2.2. Public Hotels and Cafes

The 70 indoor meeting spaces do not include public hotels or cafes. However, the community feedback indicates that public hotels and cafes are popular meeting places for various reasons, including the availability of food and beverages.

Using these facilities is also a positive for the local economy as it supports local businesses and employment.

Table 6-2 Public Halls in Loddon Shire

Localities	Facilities
Boort	Boort Memorial Hall
	Boort RSL Hall
	James Boyle Hall/CWA Building
Bridgewater	Bridgewater Memorial Hall
Inglewood	Inglewood Town Hall & Community Hub
Pyramid Hill	Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall
	Pyramid Hill Scout and CERT Hall
Wedderburn	Wedderburn Mechanics Institute Hall & Library*
	Wedderburn St Andrews Hall
Dingee	Dingee Memorial Hall
	East Loddon Lions Club Hall
Eddington	Eddington Public Hall & Community Centre*
Korong Vale	Korong Vale Mechanics Institute Hall
Laanecoorie	Laanecoorie Mechanics Institute
Newbridge	Newbridge Public Hall
Serpentine	Serpentine Public Hall
Tarnagulla	Tarnagulla Community Centre
	Tarnagulla Public Hall
Calivil	Calivil Public Hall
Localities with > 100 People	Arnold Public Hall
	Campbell's Forest Public Hall and Shed
	Durham Ox Mechanics Institute
	Fenton's Creek Public Hall
	Jarklin Public Hall
	Mysia School Hall
	Powlett Public Hall
	Rheola Public Hall
	Woodstock Public Hall
	Yando Public Hall
	Yarrawalla Community Centre

Note* = DEECA Asset

6.2.3. **Usage of Assets**

Council has established Community Asset Committees (CAC) to oversee the operation of some of its facilities (see Section 6.8.1). CACs collect data regarding facility usage, as noted in Table 6-3.

Based on the data in Table 6-3, two indoor meeting spaces experienced multiple hires per month or more, i.e., the Boort Memorial Hall and the Wedderburn Community Centre. The table includes 7 of the 29 public halls in the Loddon Shire. Usage data is not collected for the remaining 22 public halls, overseen by Committees of Management (see Section 6.8.1). Along with several other assets, there is a need to be able to understand better the level of usage of the facilities and for what purpose.

Table 6-3 Council Report – Casual Hire of Facilities 2022/23

Facility	Type	# of Hires
Boort Aerodrome	Hall/Facility	1
Boort Memorial Hall	Hall/Facility	129
Boort Park	Recreational Reserve	12
Campbell's Forest Hall	Hall/Facility	14
Donaldson Park Wedderburn	Recreational Reserve	2 - Under new construction
East Loddon Community Centre	Community Centre	not listed
Hard Hill (Tourist) Reserve	Hall/Facility	not listed
Inglewood Community Sports Centre	Recreational Reserve	4
Inglewood Town Hall Hub	Hall/Facility	10
Korong Vale Mechanics Hall	Hall/Facility	Nil - new renovations
Korong Vale Sports Centre	Recreational Reserve	Nil
Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall	Hall/Facility	12
Wedderburn Community Centre	Community Centre	131
Wedderburn Engine Park & Market Square Reserve	Engine park	Nil- N/A
Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall	Hall/Facility	not listed
Yando Public Hall	Hall/Facility	3

🟨 = Public Hall

6.3. Recreation Spaces

Access to recreation spaces is also an essential element of social infrastructure. The Loddon Shire has a range of designated recreation reserves, many of which have facilities that house clubs for sports such as football, netball, bowls, tennis, and harness racing. Table 6-4 lists the recreation reserves at which Loddon Shire Council has insured assets.

Table 6-4 Recreation Spaces

Several other recreation reserves are located in Localities with a population of less than 100 people. The recreation reserves listed in Table 6-4 have a council-appointed Committee of Management.

Outside of these spaces, several other recreation spaces are operated and maintained by local communities, such as Eddington Golf Course.

6.3.1. Sporting Clubs

Many recreational reserves in the Loddon Shire accommodate clubs in various sports, such as football, netball, cricket, lawn bowls, and tennis.   These clubs have committees and volunteers to operate them and manage the resources needed.

6.3.2. Travel between Sporting Venues

Participants in many of the sports operating from the various recreation spaces travel to other locations to undertake competition. These locations are in Loddon Shire, adjoining LGAs and beyond.

6.3.3. Recreation, Outdoor Space and Aquatics Strategy

While this Report is being prepared, the Council is also preparing a Recreation, Outdoor Space, and Aquatics Strategy.

This Report assumes that this Strategy will provide a detailed analysis of these spaces and their users.

Localities	Facilities
Boort	Boort Croquet Club Boort Golf Club Boort Lawn Bowls Club Boort Park (Recreation Reserve) Boort Tennis Club
Bridgewater	Bridgewater Recreation Reserve*
Inglewood	Inglewood Bowls Club Inglewood Golf Course* Inglewood Riding Club Inglewood Sports Centre
Pyramid Hill	Pyramid Hill Bowling Club Pyramid Hill Golf Club Pyramid Hill Mitchell Park Sporting Clubs*
Wedderburn	Wedderburn Bowls & Tennis Clubs Wedderburn Cricket Club Market Square Wedderburn Donaldson Park Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve Wedderburn Golf Course
Calivil	Calivil Recreation Reserve Sporting Club Facilities*
Dingee	Dingee Recreation Reserve & Bowls Clubs*****
Korong Vale	Korong Vale Community Sports Centre Korong Vale Golf Club Korong Vale Recreation Reserve
Mitiamo	Mitiamo Golf Club***** Mitiamo Recreation Reserve Sporting Clubs
Newbridge	Newbridge Recreation Reserve*
Serpentine	Serpentine Bowls & Tennis Clubs Serpentine Recreation Reserve*
Tarnagulla	Tarnagulla Golf Club Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve*
Localities with > 100 People	Arnold Recreation Reserve* Bears Lagoon Public Reserve and Tennis Club Kingower Cricket and Recreation Reserve* Rheola Recreation Reserve* Woodstock on Loddon Recreation Reserve Yarrawalla Recreation Reserve* *Without insured assets* Llanelly Public Hall & Reserve Logan Recreation Reserve Moliagul Recreation Reserves Mysia Recreation Reserve Powlett Plains Recreation Reserve

Note* = DEECA Asset

6.4. **Playgrounds**

Table 6-5 notes that the Loddon Shire has 26 playgrounds accessible to the public. These include "exersites"[36] and 6 playgrounds located on DEECA-owned reserves. The playgrounds are different sizes and feature varying equipment, with some equipped with permanent shading.

There are no playgrounds in Laanecoorie. However, playgrounds are within 15 minutes drive of Laanecoorie at Eddington, Newbridge, and Tarnagulla. (see Table 9-22) As shown in Figure 6-1, all communities in the Loddon Shire are within 15 minutes driving time of one or more of the locations listed in Table 6-5. The only exceptions are small areas of the Durham Ox, Yarrawalla and Jarklin, Lake Meran and Appin South localities (see Table 4-4.) Some small communities in the southwest corner of the Shire are within 15 minutes drive of a playground in Bealiba in the adjoining Central Goldfields Shire.

Table 6-5 Playgrounds in the Loddon Shire

Localities	Playgrounds
Boort	Nolens Park Jubilee Park Sunnyside Court Reserve (Nolens Park Exersite)[37]
Bridgewater	Sloans Reserve Bridgewater Tourist Park Bridgewater Recreation Reserve*
Inglewood	J. Sloan Park
Pyramid Hill	Lions Park Kelly Park Lions Park West Mitchell Park*****
Wedderburn	Donaldson Park Jacka Park Cooper Park (Nardoo Trail Exersite) (Cooper Park Exersite)
Calivil	Calivil Recreation Reserve*****
Dingee	Progress Park
Korong Vale	Borella Park
Mitiamo	Mitiamo Recreation Reserve R.J. Phelan Park
Newbridge	Newbridge Recreation Reserve*****
Serpentine	Serpentine Recreation Reserve*****
Tarnagulla	Tarnagulla Public Park
Eddington	Community Hall*****

Note* = Located on a DEECA Asset

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[36]   Exersites provide a range of exercise stations
[37]   Exersites are designed for the use by a wider age range that those that are the "typical" users of playgrounds

6.5. Facilities in Localities with Less than 100 People

A range of Council (or DEECA) facilities are in Localities with populations of less than 100 people. These facilities, locations, and the Locality's population are shown in Figure 6-1. The total population in these localities is 718, representing 9.3% of the Loddon Shire's population.

6.5.1. Additional Options for Small Communities, Small Towns and Urban Centres

Many facilities are within a 15-minute drive of either a small town or an urban centre, and in some cases, both. These locations mean there are many options for communities; these options are provided in Table 9-30.

For example, Jarklin has a public hall and is within a 15-minute drive[38] of the Serpentine and Calivil TZs, both with public halls. This juxtaposition of facilities also means that the communities in Serpentine, Calivil and Jarklin all have additional options for indoor meeting spaces. Other facilities can be used to hold meetings within the 15-minute drive time radius of Jarklin, including Football/Netball Clubs and Bowling/Tennis Clubs at Serpentine and Calivil. In addition to the above, the community feedback also acknowledged that the public hotel[39] in Jarklin is frequently used for local meetings and was used by Centrelink as an agency to provide flood relief to the local communities.

These options vary for different Localities with a population of less than 100 people.

However, as noted in Section 6.2.1, more than 70 indoor meeting spaces are available to the Loddon Shire community. These spaces vary in size, functionality, and physical condition.

Figure 6-1 – Other Locations with Council Facilities

Locality	Pop	H	R
Yarrawalla	78	●	●
Arnold	56	●	●
Rheola	52	●	●
Durham Ox	60	●	
Woodstock	59	●	
Bears Lagoon	53		●
Campbell's For'	50	●	
Jarklin	49	●	
Kingower	46		●
Yando	45	●	
Powlett	38	●	
Fenton's Creek	27	●	
Mysia	26	●	

H = Hall
R = Recreation Space

Map labels: Mysia School Hall, Yando Public Hall, Durham Ox Mechanics Institute, Yarrawalla Community Centre, Yarrawalla Recreation Reserve, Jarklin Public Hall, Bears Lagoon Tennis Club ★, Powlett Public Hall, Campbell's Forest Public Hall and Shed, Woodstock Public Hall, Arnold Cricket Reserve ★, Arnold Public Hall, Fenton's Creek Public Hall, Kingower Cricket Reserve, Rheola Pioneer Memorial Park, Rheola Public Hall

Small Town 15 min drive time
Urban Centre 15 min drive time

▢ Public meeting space
★ DEECA asset

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38   As estimated by Google Maps
39   Public hotels and cafes are popular places for community meetings – see Section 6.2.2

6.6. Swimming Pools

As already noted, the Loddon Shire Council operates five swimming pools. All Towns bar Eddington are within 30 minutes of a swimming pool in the Loddon Shire. Loddon Shire Council collects and reports on the number of visits to pools in Loddon Shire, as flagged in Figure 6-2. Other Towns and localities are within 15 minutes of pools operating in neighbouring local government areas.

6.6.1. 15 Minutes Access to Swimming Pools

As shown in Figure 6-2, access to many locations in the Loddon Shire is much less than 15 minutes. Report 41 estimates that about 5% of the Shire's population lives outside of a 15-minute drive to a swimming pool.

Figure 6-2   15 Minutes Access to Swimming Pools

Estimated % of Loddon Population outside 15 min drive to a pool

314 + 50 = 364 =   5%

Council's 2022/2023 Annual Report note that, in total, there were 14,882 visits to the Council's pools

15 min drive time

Localities	Total Pop	% of Locality in Loddon	% of Locality > 15 mins	Pop > 15 mins
Wehla	38	100%	50%	19
Burkes Flat	19	100%	100%	19
Cochrane Creek	12	100%	100%	12
			total	50

Localities	Total Pop	% of Locality in Loddon	% of Locality > 15 mins	Pop > 15 mins
Serpentine	221	100%	33%	73
Raywood	60	50%	100%	30
Tandarra	55	100%	100%	55
Bears Lagoon	53	100%	100%	53
Jarklin	49	100%	100%	49
Borung	59	100%	50%	30
Pompapiel	38	100%	50%	19
Auchmore	5	100%	5	5
			total	314

6.6.2. Waste Management Facilities

The Loddon Shire operates 6 waste management facilities across the area. While these facilities are not considered "social" facilities, they are used by communities, especially households that do not receive a curbside garbage collection service. Access to these facilities is crucial for their waste disposal needs, daily functioning, and well-being (which is consistent with the purpose of other forms of social infrastructure). These households (or businesses) must travel to access these facilities, and all communities are within a 30-minute drive of one or more waste management facilities.

6.7. Value of Council Assets

Table 6-6 provides data from Council's Building Assets Management Plan and notes the following about the current replacement value of buildings concerning the categories identified in Section 6.1.1.

These assets represent 72% of the overall replacement value, with public halls, clubrooms, community centres and senior citizen centres accounting for just over $36.8 M or 61.1%. These types of facilities can provide an indoor meeting space to various degrees.

Table 6-6 – Replacement Value of Council Buildings

Building asset category	Sub-category	No. of buildings	Replacement value[1] ($)
Children & family services	Pre-school & maternal child health centres	5	$2,184,170
Community facilities	Public halls	14	$16,015,103
	Community centres	6	$7,487,715
	Senior citizen centres	4	$2,804,549
	Other community buildings	15	$1,538,553
Sports & recreation facilities	Swimming pools	11	$1,268,112
	Clubrooms	21	$10,498,739
	Change rooms/toilets	7	$1,105,501
	Other sports & recreation buildings	7	$657,902
⬜ = Capable of providing an indoor meeting space	**Totals**	90	$43,560,344
Note [1] – as at 30/6/2017	**Overall Total for All Building Assets**	**173**	**$60,187,866**
	% of Totals	**52%**	**72.4%**

6.7.1. Ageing Assets

Council's Recreation, Leisure and Community Facilities Asset Management Plan notes the "ageing infrastructure in Council's recreational, leisure and community facilities." The Plan also notes the following:

Adequate Funding   "Without adequate funding, the declining condition of Council's assets will result in reduced levels of service and increased risk of failure."

Lifecycle Management   "Our current approach to managing and operating our recreational, leisure, and community facilities assets is predominantly reactive, with only limited planning. We are striving to improve our approach to lifecycle management to ensure that we deliver on our service commitments in the most cost-effective and efficient manner.

Condition Assessment   "Council is yet to undertake a full valuation and condition assessment of its recreational, leisure and community facilities portfolio. As Council improves its understanding of current asset performance and required levels of service, it will provide Council with the ability to make informed financial decisions.

The replacement values listed in Table 6-6 are as of 30/6/2017; they will likely have changed in response to various factors impacting the construction sector.

6.8. Management of Council Assets

A range of management structures are associated with the operation of Council facilities.

6.8.1. Community Asset Committees and Committees of Management

In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government Act 2020, Loddon Shire Council has established several Community Asset Committees to manage a range of Council assets. Council has also established Committees of Management (CoM) for various assets, including public halls and recreation reserves in the Loddon Shire. DEECA have also established CoMs for its assets. The CACs and CoMs for the towns are listed in Table 6-7.

Communities throughout the Loddon Shire also fill a range of committees that manage the clubs and organisations operating from Council assets, including football and netball clubs, cricket clubs, golf and bowls clubs, and other entities.

Table 6-7 – Localities with Population > 100 Committees

Committees	Pop > 18	Committees	Pop > 18
Boort James Boyle Hall CAC Boort Park CAC Little Lake Boort CAC	762	Calivil Recreation Reserve CoM	114
		Mitiamo Recreation Reserve CoM Mitiamo Golf Course CoM	97
Bridgewater Recreation Reserve CoM Bridgewater Memorial Hall CoM	392	Korong Vale Mechanics Hall CAC Korong Vale Sports Centre CAC[40]	124
Inglewood Bowling Green Reserve CoM Inglewood Community Sports Centre CAC Inglewood Golf Links Reserve CoM Inglewood Sports Riding Club Reserve CoM Inglewood Town Hall Hub CAC Inglewood EUCY Museum CoM	762	Dingee Recreation Reserve CoM Dingee Memorial Hall CoM East Loddon Community Centre CAC	156
		Eddington Public Hall & Community Centre CoM	91[41]
Mitchell Park CoM Incorporated Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall CAC Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool CoM	462	Tarnagulla Public Hall CoM Tarnagulla Community Centre CoM Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve CoM	147
Wedderburn Community Centre CAC Wedderburn Engine Park & Market Square Reserve CAC Wedderburn Mechanics Literary Institute Hall CAC Donaldson Park CAC	796	Laanecoorie Public Hall CoM Laanecoorie South Recreation Reserve CoM Laanecoorie-Loddon River Recreation Reserve CoM	151
Pop > 18 = Locality population aged 18 years plus CAC = Community Asset Committee CoM = Committee of Management		Newbridge Hall CoM Newbridge Recreation Reserve CoM	153
		Serpentine Recreation Reserve CoM Serpentine Bowls/Tennis CoM	154

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[40]   This Report understands that this CAC is in recess
[41]   This includes people who reside in the Eddington Locality but reside outside of the Loddon Shire

6.8.2. Impact on 18 years Plus Population

This Report assumes that the committees (Council, DEECA or community) involve people aged 18. On average, 73% of town populations are aged between 18 and 85. The need for volunteers to fill the committee positions may be challenging in some communities with relatively small populations, particularly for Localities with less than 100 people. This Report acknowledges that people who reside outside of the Locality in which the asset or club is located can join committees.

Table 6-8 - Locations with Less than 100 People

Committees	Population > 18
Campbells Forest Hall CAC	37
Derby Public Hall CoM /Tennis Club	18[*]
Fentons Creek Reserve Recreation Reserve CoM	27[*]
Jarklin Public Hall CoM	49
Kingower Cricket & Recreation Reserve CoM I	46[*]
Llanelly Public Hall & Reserve CoM	55
Logan Recreation Reserve CoM	50
Moliagul Reserves CoM	63
Mysia Recreation Reserve CoM	26[*]
Powlett Plains Recreation Reserve CoM	
Rheola Hall CoM	52[*]
Rheola Recreation Reserve CoM	
Woodstock Public Purposes Reserve CoM	36[*]
Yando Public Hall CAC	45[*]

*Note – total population of Locality –ABS does not provide an age breakdown for these Localities

7. Capability of Loddon's Towns

As noted in Table 7-1, the towns in localities with more than 100 people vary in the available range of services and facilities. Four urban centres (i.e., Boort, Wedderburn, Inglewood, and Pyramid Hill) offer services that many individuals or families regularly use, including supermarkets, health services, and pharmacies, unavailable at other locations in the Loddon Shire.

Table 7-1 – Facilities and Services Available at Loddon Towns > 100 People

Towns	Health/GP	Supermarket	Pharmacy[42]	Hotel/Cafe[43]	Residential Aged Care[44]	M&CH Service	Community Centres	Preschool	Primary School	Secondary School	Senior Citizens Centre	Public Hall	Library Service	Recreation Facilities	Playground	Swimming Pool	Waste Facility	Fuel Retail
Boort	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Pyramid Hill	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Wedderburn	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Inglewood	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Dingee[45][46]	●			●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Tarnagulla				●			●		●		●	●	●	●				
Bridgewater				●					●			●		●	●			●
Serpentine				●		●						●		●	●			●
Mitiamo				●								●		●	●	●		●
Newbridge				●								●		●	●		●	
Laanecoorie												●		●	●			
Korong Vale				●								●		●	●			
Eddington				●								●		●	●			
Calivil												●		●	●			

M&CH = Maternal & Child Health Service

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[42] This pharmacy is a depot service in Pyramid Hill
[43] These services are included as they are popular meeting places – see Section 6.2.2
[44] This Report acknowledges that the aged care services available in the Loddon Shire do not meet the demand for these services. The RCV Older Persons Services and Accommodation report identifies that the Loddon Shire has a significant shortfall in the supply of residential aged care beds. The shortfall is projected to grow significantly based on the population growth of older people should there be no increase in supply.
[45] Dingee Bush Nursing Centre is a nurse-led clinic with visiting health professionals
[46] The primary and secondary schools are located at East Loddon, which is a 6 minute drive from Dingee

7.1. Other Services

The community also requires access to other services and goods for its day-to-day functioning, including:

7.1.1. Health Services

The Loddon Shire has two hospitals located at

- Boort – Boort District Health operates a hospital facility, and Northern District Community Health Service provides various allied health services.

- Inglewood – Inglewood and District Health Services operate a hospital facility and provide a range of allied health services

Medical services are also provided in:

- Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn1 have a General Practice

- Pyramid Hill - which has a community health service provided by the Northern District Community Health Service

- Dingee Bush Nursing Centre is located in Dingee. (Dingee is the only small town with a medical service; this is a nurse-led clinic with visiting health professionals. This service is within a 12-minute drive of Mitiamo)

7.1.2. Primary and Secondary Schools

The Loddon Shire has the following primary and secondary schools

Primary schools

Bridgewater PS	Bridgewater
Inglewood PS	Inglewood
St Mary's PS	Inglewood
St Patricks PS	Pyramid Hill
Tarnagulla PS	Tarnagulla

P to 10 School

Pyramid Hill College	Pyramid Hill

P to 12 Schools

Boort District P-12	Boort
East Loddon P-12	Dingee
Wedderburn P-12	Wedderburn

Many school-aged people residing at the southern end of the Loddon Shire have access to schooling in Maryborough and Dunolly.

The 2021 ABS Census notes the following regarding the number of people attending an educational institution:

- Primary Schools   520
- Secondary Schools   445

The 2021 ABS Census also identifies that 208 people attended a tertiary education institution.

7.1.3. Hotels and Cafes

Public hotels and cafes have been included, as the community's feedback indicates that these are popular meeting places.

7.1.4. Emergency Services and Other Facilities

Table 7 2 provides information on the location of emergency and postal services in the Loddon Shire. The Loddon Shire has 29 CFA brigades.

Table 7-2 – Emergency Services and Other Facilities

Town	Police	CFA	Ambulance	SES	LPO
Boort	●	●	●		●
Pyramid Hill	●	●			●
Wedderburn	●	●	●	●	●
Inglewood	●	●	●		●
Bridgewater	●	●			●
Dingee		●			●
Serpentine	●	●			●
Newbridge		●			●
Laanecoorie		●			
Korong Vale		●			
Tarnagulla	●	●			●
Mitiamo		●			●
Eddington		●			

LPO = Licenced Post Office

7.1.5. Retail Services

Communities need reasonable access to retail services, particularly for food and household items. Supermarkets are located in Wedderburn, Inglewood, Boort and Pyramid Hill.

Table 7-3 provides REMPLAN data for the Loddon Shire, indicating the local economy's retail employment level.

Table 7-3 – Number of Retail and Food and Beverage Services Jobs in Loddon Shire[47]

Retail Service	Jobs (#)	Food & Beverage Services	Jobs (#)
Supermarkets and Grocery Stores	74	Pubs, Taverns and Bars	23
Pharmaceutical, Cosmetic, & Toiletry Goods Retailing	25	Cafes and Restaurants	20
Fuel Retailing	22	Takeaway Food Services	12
Other Specialised Food Retailing	13	*total*	55
Retail Trade, nfd	9		
Hardware and Building Supplies Retailing	8		
Newspaper and Book Retailing	7		
Motor Vehicle Parts and Tyre Retailing	5		
Other Store-Based Retailing, nec	4	nfd - not further defined.
Fresh Meat, Fish and Poultry Retailing	3	nec - not elsewhere classified
Garden Supplies Retailing	3		
Manchester and Other Textile Goods Retailing	3		
total	176		

The ratio of the total number of retail and food and beverage service jobs per capita in

- Loddon Shire is 7759 people/(176 + 55) jobs = 33.5 people per "retail" job
- Loddon Mallee South[48] region is 216,407 people/(9,018 + 5,357) = 15.0 people per "retail" job
- Victoria is 6,625,964 people/(312,616 + 182,846) jobs = 13.4 people per "retail" job

The differences in these ratios point to lower access to retail services in the Loddon Shire and the need for people to travel to other towns to access retail services that people cannot access in the Loddon Shire. The community feedback is that many Loddon residents access retail services in Bendigo.

7.2. Community Plans

Loddon Shire Council has an established a Community Planning Program[49]. Council's Community Planning Framework notes, "The program encourages people to consider and document the social inclusion, capacity building and community participation needs of their community. The information gleaned from the community and provided to Council through the community plan document is used to inform planning, funding, advocacy and community development activities. The development of this Community Planning Framework provides improved governance and guidelines to further strengthen the community plan program."

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[47]   Data sourced from the Loddon REMPLAN Economy dataset
[48]   Consists of Loddon, Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander Shires and Greater Bendigo City
[49]   The information in this Section is drawn from the material provided by Loddon Shire Council via the Council's website

The Community Planning Framework has communities consider if and how the following areas can and would contribute to the desired outcomes that various communities have:

- Community health and wellbeing
- Sport and recreation
- Social opportunities
- Heritage, arts and culture
- Improving where they live
- Built environment and town beautification
- Natural environment
- Improving the local economy
- Tourism and marketing

Seventeen Community Plans are in place, including for all Localities (14) with a population of more than 100 people. All the Community Plans have identified priorities related to improvements to social infrastructure.

7.3. **Capability of Towns outside of the Loddon Shire**

Many of Loddon's population travel to "urban centres" outside the Shire to access various services. These towns have larger populations than Loddon Shire's urban centres, have facilities not available in Loddon, and offer a greater range of retail goods and services.

Bendigo is the largest centre near Loddon and, as the regional centre, offers a wide range of health, educational, retail, cultural and recreational services and facilities.

Most of Loddon's population is within 60 minutes driving time of Bendigo[50] and its various "suburbs."[51]. The feedback from the community indicates that Bendigo is the most visited urban centre outside of Loddon. (see Section 8)

Table 7-4 lists towns with populations larger than those of Loddon's Urban Centres. Different Localities or communities in the Loddon Shire have varying access to these towns. In most cases, Localities or communities in the Loddon Shire can access at least one of these towns in less than 30 minutes of driving time.

Table 7-4 - Towns Outside of Loddon Shire

	Population	Health Service	Supermarket	Primary School	Secondary School	Residential Aged Care	Library Service	Swimming Pool	Recreation Facilities
Bendigo	122,500	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Echuca[52]	13,700	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Maryborough	7,700	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Kerang	3,700	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rochester	2,800	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
St Arnaud	2,130	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cohuna	1,870	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Charlton	995	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Elmore[53]	753	●	●	●			●	●	●
Dunolly[54]	680	●	●	●			●	●	●

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[50] Based on Google Maps, the estimated driving time
[51] These include central Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Golden Square, Kangaroo Flat, and Marong. The travel time to each of these centres varies for different Localities in the Loddon Shire
[52] Echuca is the closest large town to Mitiamo and offers a range of facilities not available in Pyramid Hill, the nearest urban centre within the Loddon Shire. The travel time to Echuca from Mitiamo is 38 minutes.
[53] The Library service in Elmore operates as an Agency, which is how library services are delivered in the Loddon Shire
[54] Dunolly has a smaller population than Wedderburn, Boort or Inglewood but does have a health service, supermarket, preschool, primary school, a swimming pool, as well as a range of other recreation assets and is highly accessible from Localities in the southwest area of the Loddon Shire including Laanecoorie, Tarnagulla and Eddington. The Cricket Club that competes at the Delidio Oval in Dunolly is the Dunolly-Laanecoorie Cricket Club

7.4. Access to Loddon's Urban Centres and Other Towns

Table 7-5 provides the estimated drive times between Loddon Shire's towns, the urban centres, and other towns outside the Shire. Most of Loddon Shire's population (61%) reside outside the four urban centres of Boort, Wedderburn, Inglewood and Pyramid Hill. This population includes people living in the Localities of Boort, Wedderburn, Inglewood, and Pyramid Hill but outside the respective urban centres.

This "non-urban centre" component of the population must travel, most likely by car, to access services unavailable in the Locality where they reside. As noted in the Report (see Section 5.2), all Localities in the Loddon Shire are within a 30-minute drive of at least one urban centre.

Communities in the Loddon Shire's towns can access facilities and services in Loddon's urban centres and other towns outside the Loddon Shire. The urban centre populations also need to access services and facilities that are unavailable in their respective towns.

Table 7-5 – Estimated Driving Times between Towns

Loddon Towns	Loddon Urban Centres				Other Towns									Total Options for Loddon Towns		
	Wedderburn	Inglewood/BoL	Boort	Pyramid Hill	Maryborough	Dunolly	St Arnaud	Echuca	Rochester	Elmore	Kerang	Cohuna	Bendigo	Under 30	Under 45	Under 60
Wedderburn	0	<30	<45	<60	60	<45	<30	>60	>60	>60	>60	>60	<60	3	5	8
Inglewood/BoL	<30	0	<60	45	<60	<30	<45	>60	>60	<60	>60	>60	<30	4	6	8
Boort	<45	<60	0	<30	>60	>60	>60	>60	>60	>60	<45	<60	>60	2	4	6
Pyramid Hill	<60	45	<30	0	>60	>60	>60	<60	<60	<60	<45	<30	60	3	5	10
Dingee	45	30	<60	<30	>60	<60	>60	<60	30	<30	>60	<60	<45	2	4	10
Serpentine	<30	<30	<45	<30	<60	<45	<60	<60	<60	45	<60	<60	30	4	5	12
Newbridge	<45	<30	<60	<60	30	<30	45	>60	>60	60	>60	>60	<30	4	4	9
Laanecoorie	<45	<30	>60	>60	<30	15	<60	>60	>60	60	>60	>60	<30	4	5	7
Korong Vale	<30	<30	<30	<45	>60	<60	<45	>60	>60	>60	<60	>60	<60	3	4	8
Tarnagulla	<45	<30	60	<60	30	<15	45	>60	>60	60	>60	>60	30	4	5	9
Mitiamo	<60	<45	<45	<30	>60	>60	>60	<45	<45	<45	>60	<45	45	1	6	9
Eddington	<60	<30	>60	>60	<30	<15	<60	>60	>60	>60	>60	>60	<45	4	4	6
Calivil	<45	30	<45	<30	>60	<60	>60	<60	<45	<60	<60	<60	<60	2	5	11
Totals for Loddon Towns & Other Towns — Under 30	4	10	3	6	4	5	1		1	1		1	6			
Under 45	10	12	7	8	4	7	5	1	3	3	2	2	8			
Under 60	13	13	11	11	7	10	8	5	5	9	5	6	12			

< Less than
> Greater than

BoL = Bridgewater on Loddon

Wedderburn and Inglewood are the most accessible urban centres. Inglewood is accessible to 9 other towns in 30 minutes or less of driving time.

All Loddon towns without an urban centre can access towns with more facilities within 30 minutes of driving time. Mitiamo has one option for access to a larger town, and all other towns have access to two or more larger towns.

Other findings from the analysis presented in Table 7-5 are as follows:

- Inglewood is the most accessible of Loddon Shire's urban centres, with all other towns being within 60 minutes drive time, 12 being within 45 minutes drive time, and 10 being within 30 minutes drive time

- Serpentine has the most options for access to other towns under 60 minutes, with four of those within 30 minutes drive time.

- Eddington has the least under 60-minute options – but is very accessible to Dunolly, Maryborough and Bendigo.

- Bendigo is the most accessible of the other towns. All Loddon Shire towns, bar Boort, can access Bendigo in 60 minutes or less driving time, with 8 being less than 45 minutes and 6 within 30 minutes.

- Echuca is the least accessible of the other towns – with Mitiamo being the only town in the Loddon Shire that can access Echuca in under 45 minutes.

The feedback from community consultation acknowledged that Inglewood is the most visited town after Bendigo. (see Section 8)

7.4.1. Driving Time Not Always the Key Factor

When people decide which town to go to, they often don't consider the availability of services or the travel distance. Instead, they choose a town based on their connections with friends or family. For instance, many families have relatives living in aged care facilities outside Loddon Shire whom they wish to visit.

This Report also assumes that many people who live in Loddon but work in nearby towns, with Bendigo being the most frequent destination (see Table 4-9), use the opportunity to access services they require, such as a broader range of retail services.

8. Community Feedback

The development of this Report has included feedback from Loddon's community.

8.1. Engagement Program

Over late November and the first week of December, a community engagement program was conducted that involved:

- Drop-in sessions at Serpentine, Durham Ox, Mitiamo, Dingee, Tarnagulla, Korong Vale, Bridgewater on Loddon and Newbridge

- An online survey

- Online focus groups

Council promoted the opportunity for the community to participate in this program through various channels, including:

- Council's website

- Advertising in the local paper

- Direct contact with community organisations and groups

94 people contributed their thoughts via a survey, drop-in sessions, or focus groups. 80% of contributors were aged between 35 and 69, and at most 16 people from any one town participated.

8.2. Access to Halls and Meeting Places

Most (79%) of contributors felt that community halls or meeting places should be within 30 minutes of their homes. This feeling was especially true of contributors who live in Calivil and Boort: 100% and 88% of contributors from these towns (respectively) thought that a maximum of a 30-minute drive to a hall or meeting place was reasonable.

8.3. Access to Recreation Facilities

Contributors were more inclined to agree that travelling up to an hour for sport (16%) was more acceptable than visiting a playground or swimming pool (3%).

Very few people (1% at most) thought that more than 60 minutes of travel to any facility was reasonable.

8.4. Access to Other Services

Bendigo was the most frequently mentioned destination for Loddon residents to travel for common services, predominantly supermarkets and doctors.

Inglewood was the next most commonly mentioned destination, especially for its supermarkets, doctors, and post offices.

8.5. Frequency of Use of Social Infrastructure

90% of contributors advised visiting a public indoor meeting or gathering space at least annually.

9. An Access Regime for Council Facilities and Services

This Report has developed a regime for access to Council facilities based on the following:

- Analysis of the distribution of Loddon Shires' population
- Analysis of the distribution of social infrastructure and services
- Feedback received from the community
- A review of social infrastructure strategies and plans from a range of organisations, including Infrastructure Australia and other local government strategies and plans

9.1. Key Principles

This Report recommends the following Principles:

9.1.1. A Network Approach

Towns do not operate in isolation; the communities access a network of facilities and services across Loddon Shire's urban centres, small towns, and nearby municipalities.

Figure 9-1 – A Networked Approach
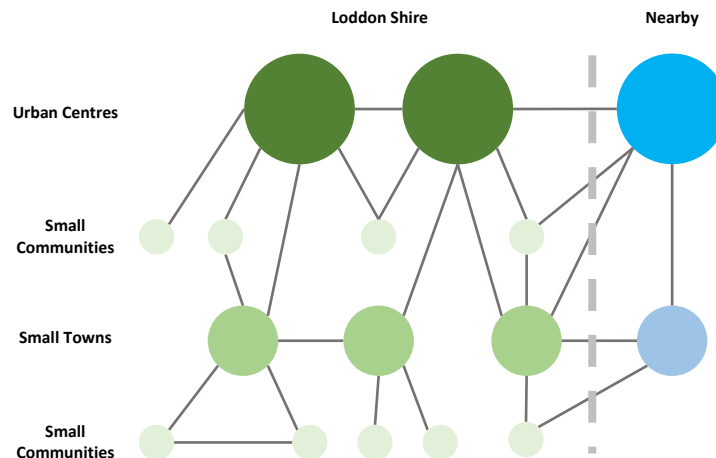
Making decisions about facilities and services in towns needs to understand what communities:

- use in their town
- can reasonably access at other locations.
- do access at different locations
- should access from other locations

Decisions about a change to a facility or service in any one location need to be made after considering the impact on the network.

This Report has mapped the "relationships" that currently exist between the various components of the network as they apply to the Loddon Shire. This mapping is provided in later Sections, including a summary of the total opportunities available to towns (see Section 9.17)

9.1.2. Understanding Usage

The council's Action Plan notes that it will "Ensure community facility use is maximised" and that "we will do this by working with facility managers to identify new ways of expanding use of facilities and by ensuring all facilities have master plans."

Understanding what needs to be available in towns means understanding the current usage of facilities and services across the network. It is necessary to understand better what facilities are used by what groups and organisations, for what purposes, and how frequently.

While some data is collected (see Section 6.2.3), more data about more facilities, particularly indoor meeting spaces, is needed. Collecting this data must be a collaborative effort between the Council and the community, particularly the groups and organisations that manage and operate facilities.

This collaboration will likely require change management involving a combination of investment in systems that facilitate the collection of the information, building this activity into the community planning process, and basing future investment decisions on having groups collect and use data regarding facility usage.

9.1.3. Shared Use of Facilities

Sharing space increases the usage of facilities currently underutilised or only available to a single user group. It can also decrease the need to build new facilities to replicate existing infrastructure.

Fostering shared use may involve change management, including:

- Reviewing management facility models that encourage collaboration and reduce the community resources needed to manage multiple facilities
- Emphasising sharing facilities in community planning processes
- Prioritising investment decisions towards facilities operating with a shared approach across two or more user groups maximising usage.

9.1.4. Improving the Capability of What Already Exists

It is important to prioritise the enhancement of existing capabilities. This involves understanding whether improving or expanding current facilities offers a greater benefit than investing in new ones. It's also important to consider how facilities are managed and operated to determine if current management processes are effective and that they are:

- Enabling the most significant benefit through the most comprehensive access to facilities.
- Minimising the community resources needed to manage and operate facilities

Increasing the capacity of what already exists would involve using tools such as

- Asset management
- Community planning
- Feasibility assessments and
- Investment cases.

9.1.5. Asset Management

Any development of facilities and services must be consistent with the Council's focus on planning that meets the community's future needs. The Council focuses on finalising asset management plans and long-term strategies for all its assets to ensure they reflect the current environment. Currently, the Council does not have life cycle asset management plans for recreational and community assets.

9.1.6. Community Resources

The Council has several Community Asset Committees and Committees of Management that manage facilities on behalf of the Council. As noted in Section 6.8.1, this can challenge community resources, particularly in "non-urban centre" towns. The ongoing development and operation of Council facilities and services should minimise the impact on community resources and ensure that communities are engaged in decision-making regarding facilities.

This Report understands that the Donaldson Park and Boort Park Community Asset Committees are examples of where one governance structure oversights several assets within a precinct.

9.1.7. Safety

The development and operation of facilities and services must be consistent with the Council's relevant Occupational and Safety Policies, its focus on supporting community safety and well-being, and its commitment to providing a safe working environment for its people.

9.1.8. Risk Management

The development and operation of facilities and services must be consistent with Council's Risk Management Policy and risk management processes.

9.1.9. Environmental Sustainability

The development of facilities and services must be consistent with Council's focus on environmental sustainability, including renewables, alternatives, and new technologies that reduce Council's and the community's environmental footprint.

9.1.10. Financial Sustainability and Support

Council is committed to maintaining financial sustainability through prudent decision-making, effective project management processes, and ongoing work to improve the efficiency of its operations. Council provides insurance and maintenance allocations to Council and Crown owned social infrastructure. Through its policies and programs, Council supports community planning groups, progress associations, tourism groups, and other groups within the Shire by providing in-kind and financial support.

9.2. Access Regime

This Report has already noted that:

- Access to facilities and services in the Loddon Shire highly depends on using a motor vehicle (see Section 5.1.2)

  A large percentage of the community has to travel outside of the Locality where they reside to access other services, such as health services and supermarkets (see Section 7)

- All Localities in the Shire are within a 30-minute drive time of one or more of the Shire's Urban Centres – or other Towns - See Section 7.4

- Community feedback identified that access to:

  - Indoor meeting spaces should be no more than 30 minutes (see Section 8)

  - Recreation opportunities should be less than 60 minutes (see Section 8)

This Report has used this information to develop a regime for access to social infrastructure, as provided in Table 9-1.

Table 9-1 –Drive Time Regimes for Access to Council Facilities and Services

Drive Time (mins)	Facility or Service	Description
15 minutes or less from the Township Zone	Indoor Meeting Place	Facility with space (with toilets) for community activities and social functions
	Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Space and facility (with toilets) that enables organised competition, social play, and the opportunity for "non-participants" to engage through volunteer-related roles. Many facilities, such as "clubrooms", can provide an indoor meeting space.
	Equipped Play Space	Play space and equipment that provides opportunities for preschool/primary school age and facilitates interaction and participation by others
30 minutes or less from the Township Zone	Maternal & Child Health Service (M&CH) Service	The M&CH service is free and available to all families with children from birth to school entry age. Loddon Shire Council's M&CH service is staffed by registered nurses with postgraduate qualifications in midwifery and maternal and child health. The service offers an initial home visit to families, followed by appointments at M&CH centres.
	Library Service	The Goldfields Library Corporation provides Loddon Shire Council's library services. Library agencies are available at Boort, Dingee, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Tarnagulla and Wedderburn.
	Preschool Centre	Free Three- and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten programs are available at all Loddon Shire Kindergarten services. Qualified Early Childhood Teachers deliver these programs, offering families 15 hours of kindergarten a week.
	Community Centre[55]	A "community centre" offers a range of regular activities and resources. It can also provide an indoor meeting space. This report considers that the facility can be a Community Centre, Neighborhood House, or Senior Citizens Centre. Local priorities and needs determine the range of services available from these centres.
	Swimming Pool	A swimming pool that is open to the community during the summer period. The pools in Loddon are outdoor pools.[56]
	Waste Facility	A waste facility operated by LSC[57]

9.2.1. Analysis of the Impact on Towns of the Access Regime

All Towns have access to Council facilities and services that meet the access parameters in the regime described above.

The access regime provided in Table 9-1 varies in impact on Towns as described in the following Sections. A summary of the number of access opportunities for each town is provided in Section 9.17

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[55]   This Report has grouped facilities that do or could provide a range of activities for different community cohorts
[56]   Some small towns can access an indoor pool in Bendigo or Maryborough in less than 30 minutes.
[57]   The analysis has not considered waste facilities outside the Loddon Shire

9.3. Wedderburn – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-2 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Wedderburn within a 30-minute drive.

Figure 9-2 – Wedderburn – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

9.3.1. Wedderburn – 15 and 30 Minute Access

Table 9-2 and Table 9-3 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Serpentine within 30 minutes of driving time.

Table 9-2 Wedderburn - Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Wedderburn		Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	PHs (x2) Senior CC Community Centre FNC	Bowls Club Tennis Club Golf Club	8	Fenton's Creek PH Korong Vale PH Korong Vale Bowls & Tennis Club	3			11
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Bowls & Tennis Clubs Market Square Leisure Centre Hockey Club	Donaldson Park Golf Course FNC[58]	9	Korong Vale Reserve Korong Vale Bowls & Tennis	3			12
Equipped Play Space	Donaldson Park Jacka Park Cooper Park (Nardoo Trail Exersite) (Cooper Park Exersite)		5	Korong Vale Reserve	1			6

FNC – Football/Netball Club - PH = Public Hall   SCC – Senior Citizens Centre

Comments

Wedderburn's proximity to Korong Vale enables more opportunities for access to these facilities

Table 9-3 – Wedderburn - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Wedderburn	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service		1	Inglewood Serpentine	2			3
Library Service		1	Inglewood	1			2
Preschool Centre		1	Inglewood	1			2
Community Centre	Senior CC Community Centre	2	Inglewood - Senior CC Community Centre	2			4
Swimming Pool		1	Inglewood	1			2
Waste Facility		1	Inglewood	1			2

CC – Citizens Centre

Comments

Wedderburn's proximity to Inglewood increases the opportunities in the above facilities.

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[58]   This Report has counted Football & Netball Clubs as 2 separate recreation facilities

9.4. Inglewood – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-3 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Inglewood within a 30-minute drive.
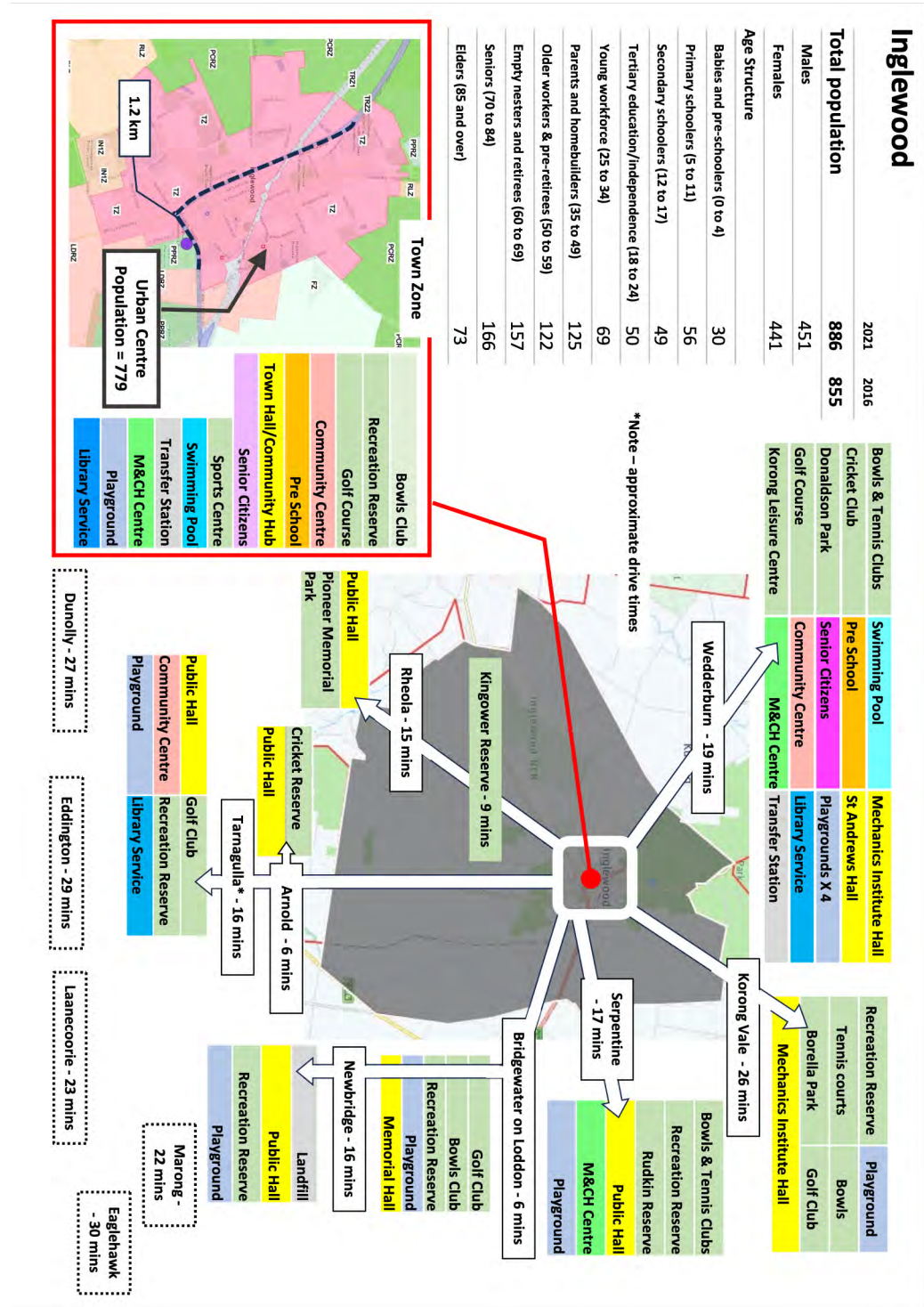
Figure 9-3 – Inglewood – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

9.4.1. Inglewood – 15 and 30 Minute Access

Table 9-4 and Table 9-5 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Inglewood within 30 minutes of driving time.

Table 9-4 – Inglewood[59] - Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Inglewood	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Inglewood Town Hall & Community Hub Eucy Museum Neighbourhood House Senior CC FNC	5	BoL PH BoL FNC BoL Bowls Arnold PH	Rheola PH Tarnagulla* PH Tarnagulla CC Newbridge PH	8			13
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Bowls Club Golf Course Riding Club Sports Centre Recreation Reserve FNC	7	BoL RR BoL FNC BoL Golf Course BoL Bowls Kingower RR	Arnold RR Rheola RR Tarnagulla RR Tarnagulla Golf Course Newbridge RR	11			18
Equipped Play Space	J Sloan Park	1	Bridgewater X 3 Newbridge		4			5

RR – Recreation Reserve, FNC – Football/Netball Club - PH = Public Hall   SCC – Senior Citizens Centre, CC Community Centre

Comments

Inglewood's proximity to Bridgewater and other rural locations expands the options available to the community. At 16 minutes, Newbridge is just outside of the 15 minute access regime

Table 9-5 - Inglewood - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Inglewood	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service		1	Wedderburn Serpentine	2			3
Library Service		1	Wedderburn	1	Eaglehawk		2
Preschool Centre		1	Wedderburn	1			2
Community Centre	Community Hub Senior CC	2	Wedderburn CC Wedderburn SCC	2	Marong Eaglehawk	2	6
Swimming Pool		1	Wedderburn	1	Marong Eaglehawk	2	4
Waste Facility		1	Wedderburn	1			2

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre, CC – Community Centre

Comments

Inglewood's proximity to Wedderburn and the northwest of Bendigo provides a range of opportunities for the community.

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[59] Serpentine at 17 minutes' drive time is just outside of the 15 minute regime but does add additional indoor meeting spaces, recreation spaces and playgrounds that are available in a reasonable time

9.5. Boort – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-4 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Boort within a 30-minute drive.

Figure 9-4 – Boort Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

51

9.5.1. **Boort – 15 and 30 Minute Access**

Table 9-6 and Table 9-7 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Boort within 30 minutes of driving time.

Table 9-6 – Boort - Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Boort		Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	PH x 2 FNC Bowling Club Lawn Bowls Club	N'hood House Senior CC Angling Club Water Ski Club	9	Durham Ox PH Yando PH Mysia School Hall	3			12
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Angling Club Water Ski Club Croquet Club Lawn Bowls Club	Tennis Club Boort Park FNC Nolens Park Golf Club Hockey Club	11					11
Equipped Play Space	X4		4					4

RR – Recreation Reserve, FNC – Football/Netball Club - PH = Public Hall   SCC – Senior Citizens Centre

Comments

Boort does not have access to other large or small towns within a 15 minute driving time

Table 9-7 - Boort - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Boort	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service		1	Pyramid Hill	1			2
Library Service		1	Pyramid Hill	1			2
Preschool Centre		1	Pyramid Hill	1			2
Community Centre	Neighbourhood House Senior CC	2	PH Neighbourhood House PH Senior CC Yarrawalla CC	3			5
Swimming Pool		1	Pyramid Hill	1			2
Waste Facility		1	Pyramid Hill	1			2

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre, CC – Community Centre

Comments

Boort has access to Pyramid Hill within 30 Minutes driving time, but all other larger towns are outside a 30 minute drive time.

9.6. Pyramid Hill – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-5 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Pyramid Hill within a 30-minute drive.
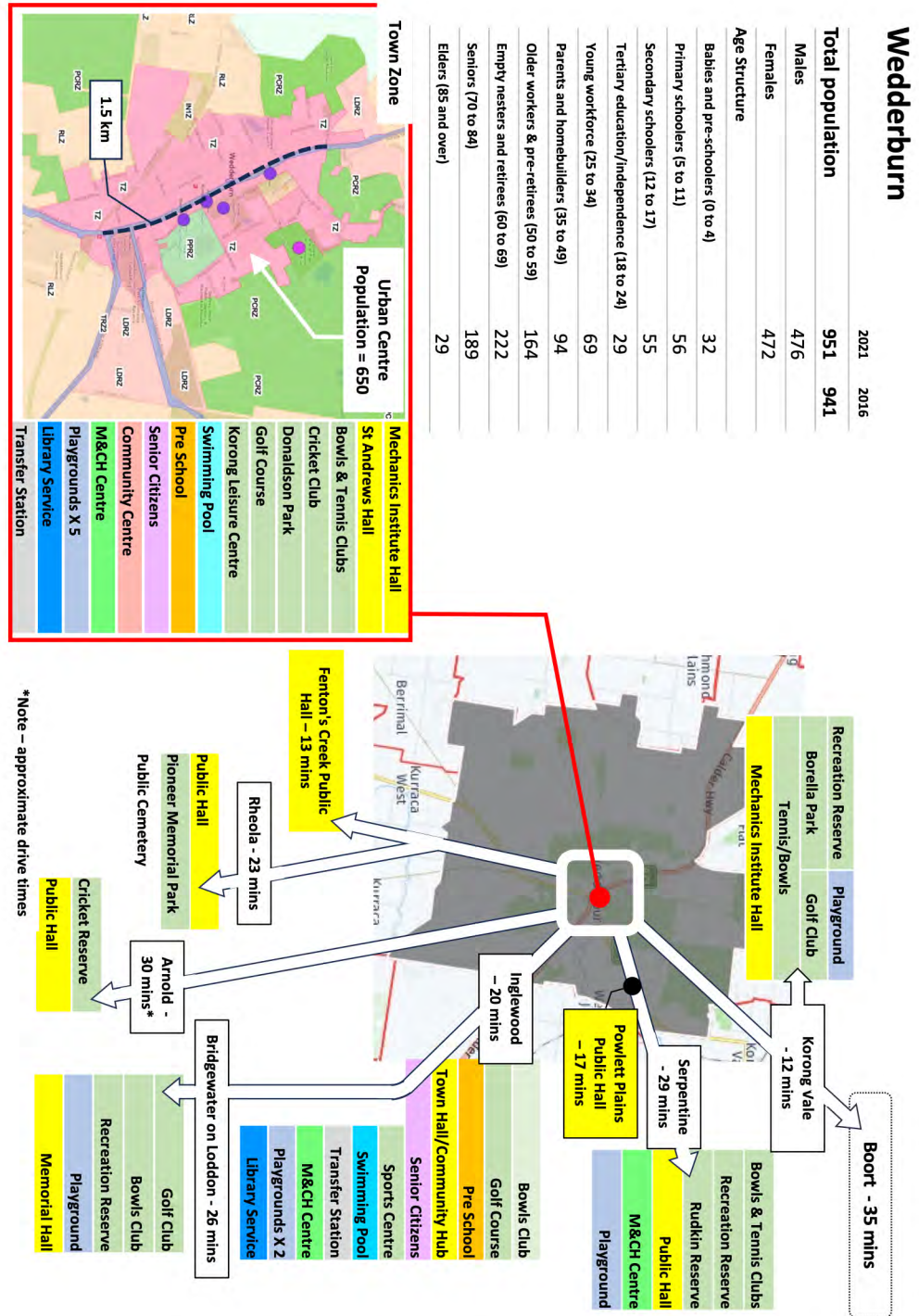

Figure 9-5 Pyramid Hill – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure
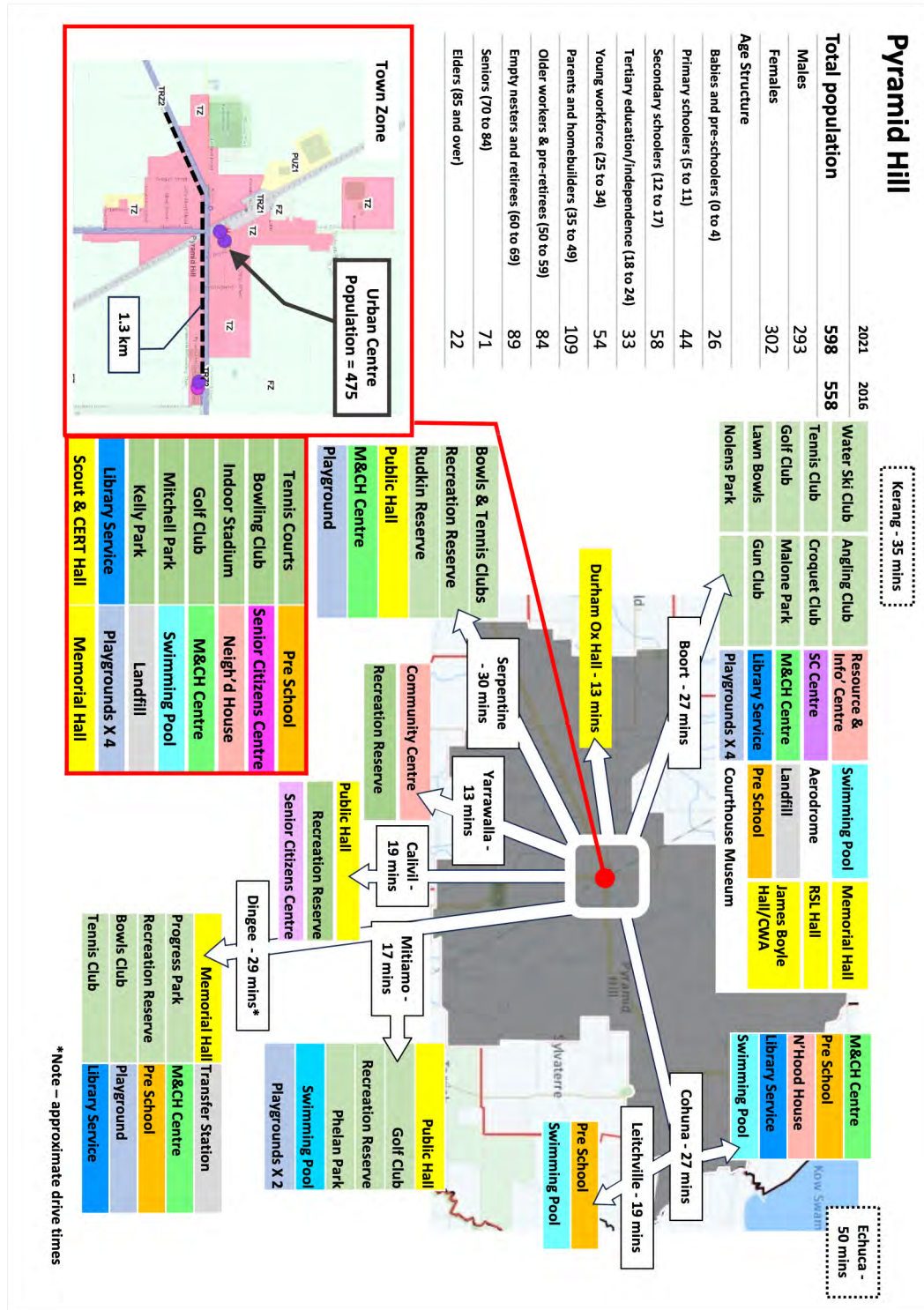
9.6.1. **Pyramid Hill – 15 and 30 Minute Access**

Table 9-8 and Table 9-9 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Pyramid Hill within 30 minutes of driving time.

Table 9-8 – Pyramid Hill - Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Pyramid Hill	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Memorial Hall Scout and CERT Hall N/Hood House Senior CC FNC Lawn Bowls Club	6	Durham Ox PH Yarrawalla CC	2			8
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Tennis Courts Bowling Club Indoor Stadium Golf Club Mitchell Park Kelly Park FNC	8	Yarrawalla RR	1			9
Equipped Play Space	X4	4					4

FNC – Football/Netball Club - PH = Public Hall   SCC – Senior Citizens Centre

Comments

Pyramid Hill is 17 mins drive from Mitiamo which is outside of the 15 minute regime – there is one additional option if Mitiamo was added to the above.

Table 9-9 – Pyramid Hill - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Pyramid Hill	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service		1	Boort	1	Cohuna	1	3
Library Service		1	Boort Dingee	2	Cohuna	1	4
Preschool Centre		1	Boort Dingee	2	Cohuna* Leitchville*	2	5
Community Centre	N/Hood House Senior CC	2	Boort Neighbourhood House Boort SCC	2	Cohuna	1	5
Swimming Pool		1	Mitiamo	1	Cohuna Leitchville	2	4
Waste Facility		1	Boort Dingee	2			3

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre, CC – Community Centre - *Note – subject to registrations

Comments

Pyramid Hill's proximity to Boort, Mitiamo and Dingee provides a range of additional opportunities for the community. All other larger towns are outside of 30 minutes' drive time.

9.7. Bridgewater on Loddon/Bridgewater – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-6 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Bridgewater on Loddon/Bridgewater within a 30-minute drive.
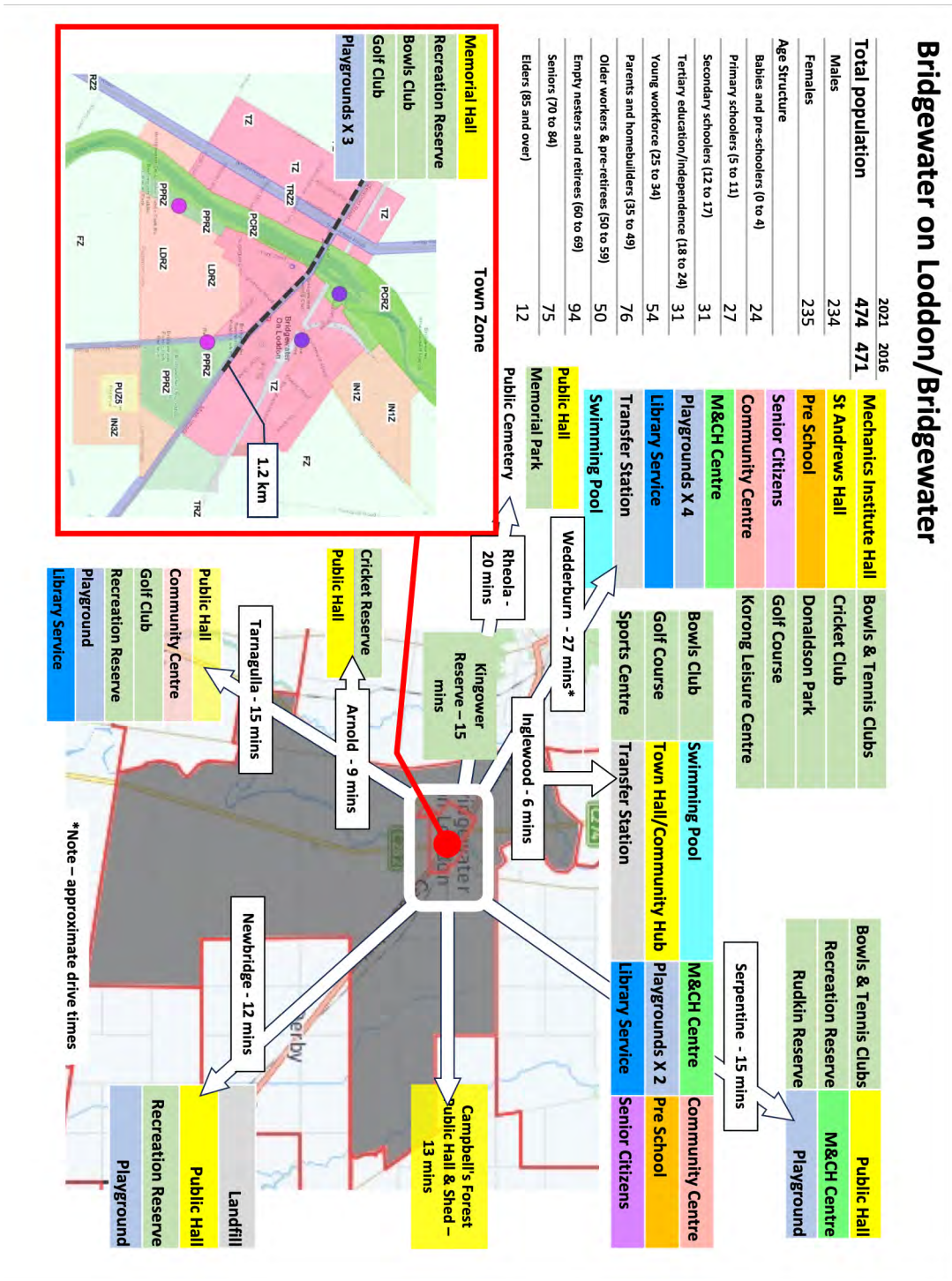

Figure 9-6 Bridgewater – Availability of Social Infrastructure

Bridgewater on Loddon/Bridgewater

	2021	2016
Total population	474	471
Males	234	
Females	235	
Age Structure		
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	24	
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	27	
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	31	
Tertiary education/independence (18 to 24)	31	
Young workforce (25 to 34)	54	
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	76	
Older workers & pre-retirees (50 to 59)	50	
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	94	
Seniors (70 to 84)	75	
Elders (85 and over)	12	

9.7.1. Bridgewater on Loddon/Bridgewater – 15 and 30 Minute Access

Table 9-10 and Table 9-11 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Bridgewater on Loddon within 30 minutes of driving time. The Bridgewater Locality does not have any Council facilities

Table 9-10 – Bridgewater- Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Bridgewater	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall

Indoor Meeting Place	PH
	FNC
	Tennis Club
	Bowls
		4	Inglewood
			  Senior CC
			  Community Centre
			Arnold PH
			Campbells Forest PH
				Rheola PH
				Tarnagulla* PH
				Tarnagulla CC
				Newbridge* PH
				Newbridge FNC
					9			13

Recreation Spaces & Facilities	RR
	FNC
	Tennis Club
	Golf Club
	Bowls
		6	Inglewood
			  Bowls Club
			  Golf Course
			  Riding Club
			  Sports Centre
			Serpentine
			  RR – FNC
			  Tennis - Bowls
				Arnold RR
				Rheola RR
				Tarnagulla* RR
				Tarnagulla Golf Course
				Newbridge RR
				Newbridge FNC
				Kingower RR
					17			23

Equipped Play Space	3	3	Inglewood Serpentine	Newbridge	3			6

RR – Recreation Reserve, FNC – Football/Netball Club - PH = Public Hall   SCC – Senior Citizens Centre

Comments

Bridgewater on Loddon's proximity to the Inglewood urban centre and the small towns of Tarnagulla, Newbridge and Serpentine enables a range of opportunities for the Bridgewater on Loddon/Bridgewater communities. There are also recreation reserves and public halls at Arnold and Rheola.

Table 9-11 - Bridgewater - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Bridgewater	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service			Inglewood Wedderburn	Serpentine	3	Marong	1	4
Library Service			Inglewood Wedderburn		2	Marong Eaglehawk	2	4
Preschool Centre			Inglewood Wedderburn		2			2
Community Centre			Inglewood Hub Wedderburn CC	Inglewood SCC Wedderburn SCC	4	Marong Eaglehawk	2	6
Swimming Pool			Inglewood Wedderburn		2	Marong Eaglehawk	2	4
Waste Facility			Inglewood Wedderburn Newbridge		3			3

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre, CC – Community Centre

Comments

Bridgewater on Loddon's proximity to the Inglewood and Wedderburn urban centres, Serpentine, and Bendigo enables a range of opportunities for the Bridgewater on Loddon/Bridgewater communities.

9.8. Serpentine – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-7 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Serpentine within a 30-minute drive.
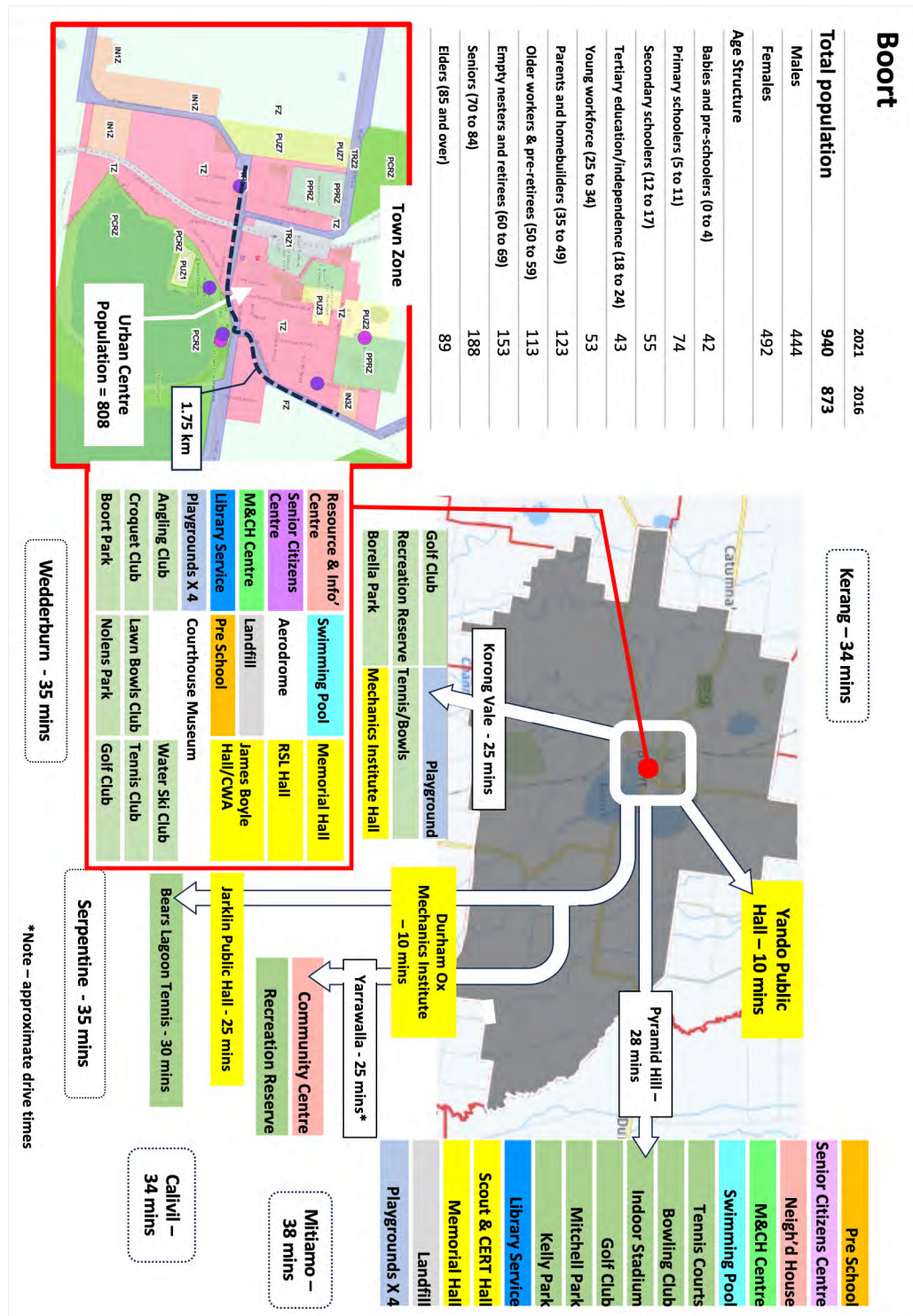

Figure 9-7 – Serpentine – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

9.8.1. Serpentine – 15 and 30 Minute Access

Table 9-12 and Table 9-13 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Serpentine within 30 minutes of driving time.

Table 9-12 – Serpentine -Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Serpentine	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Public Hall Bowls Club Football/Netball	3	Jarklin PH Calivil PH Calivil FNC Calivil SCC	Powlett PH BoL PH BoL FNC East Loddon CC	7	n/a		11

Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Tennis Courts
	Bowls Club
	Football/Netball
	Rudkin Reserve
		5	Bears Lagoon-Tennis
			Calivil
			  Bowls
			  Tennis
			  Football/Netball
				BoL
				  Football -
				  Netball
				  Tennis
				  Bowls
				  Golf Course
					10	n/a		15

Equipped Play Space	Playground	1	BoL Playgrounds (3) Calivil		4	n/a		5

BoL = Bridgewater on Loddon, FNC – Football/Netball Club - PH = Public Hall   SCC – Senior Citizens Centre

Comments

By their proximity to Serpentine, the Jarklin, Calivil, Powlett, and Bears Lagoon Localities and the Bridgewater on Loddon urban centre also have several options for access to facilities within 15 minutes. Dingee is just out of the 15 minute access regime at 18 minutes.

Table 9-13 – Serpentine - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Serpentine	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service	M&CH Centre	1	Dingee Wedderburn	Pyramid Hill	3	Marong	1	5
Library Service	nil		Inglewood LS Dingee LS	Wedderburn LS Pyramid Hill LS	4	Eaglehawk	1	5
Preschool Centre	nil		Inglewood Dingee	Wedderburn Pyramid Hill	4	n/a		4
Community Centre	nil		Calivil SCC Inglewood CC Yarrawalla CC East Loddon CC	Wedderburn CC Pyramid Hill CC Tarnagulla CC	7	Eaglehawk Marong	1	8
Swimming Pool	nil		Inglewood Mitiamo	Wedderburn Pyramid Hill	4	Eaglehawk Marong	2	6
Waste Facility	nil		Dingee Newbridge Inglewood	Wedderburn Pyramid Hill	5	n/a		5

CC – Community Centre

Comments

The proximity of Serpentine to three of Loddon's urban centres, the facilities and services available in Dingee, and being within 30 minutes of Marong and Eaglehawk generate a wide range of options for Serpentine's community.

9.9. Dingee – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-8 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Dingee that are within 30 minutes of driving time.

Figure 9-8 – Dingee – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Dingee

Total population	2021	2016
	195	205

Age Structure	
Males	98
Females	97
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	8
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	14
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	14
Tertiary education/independence (18 to 24)	13
Young workforce (25 to 34)	28
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	18
Older workers & pre-retirees (50 to 59)	27
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	26
Seniors (70 to 84)	37
Elders (85 and over)	7

Town Zone

0.7 km

Businesses
- General Store/PO
- Railway Hotel

Public Services
- East Loddon P – 12 College
- Library Service
- Playground x2
- Pre School
- M&CH Centre
- Transfer Station
- Tennis Club
- Bowls Club
- Recreation Reserve
- Progress Park
- Memorial Hall
- Playground
- M&CH Centre
- Public Hall
- Rudkin Reserve
- Recreation Reserve
- Bowls & Tennis Clubs

Jarklin Public Hall - 23 mins

Swimming Pool | Tennis Courts | Golf Club
Playgrounds X 4 | Bowling Club | M&CH Centre
Library Service | Indoor Stadium | Kelly Park
Community Centre
Recreation Reserve
Mitchell Park | Pre School
Senior Citizens Centre

Bears Lagoon Tennis - 22 mins

Yarrawalla - 26 mins

Serpentine - 17 mins

- East Loddon Community Centre
- Scout Hall – 6 mins

Calivil - 14 mins*

Senior Citizens Centre | Recreation Reserve | Public Hall
Pyramid Hill - 29 mins

Mitiamo - 12 mins

Scout and CERT Hall
Memorial Hall
Landfill
Neigh'd House
Recreation Reserve | Golf Club
Phelan Park | Public Hall
Swimming Pool
Playgrounds X 2

Campbell's Forest Public Hall and Shed – 22 mins

Eaglehawk – 29 mins

*Note – approximate drive times

9.9.1. Dingee – 15 and 30 Minute Access

Table 9-14 and Table 9-15 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Dingee within 15 minutes and 30 minutes of driving time, respectively.

Table 9-14– Dingee -Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Dingee	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Public Hall Bowls Club Tennis Club	3	Mitiamo FNC Clubrooms Mitiamo PH Calivil PH/SCC Calivil FNC Clubrooms		4	n/a		7

Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Tennis Courts
	Bowls Club
	RR
	Progress Park
		4	Calivil
			  Bowls
			  Tennis Courts
			  Football/Netball
				Mitiamo
				  Football/Netball
				  Golf Course
					7			11

Equipped Play Space	Playground	2	Mitiamo Calivil		2	n/a		4

RR – Recreation Reserve, FNC – Football/Netball Club - PH = Public Hall   SCC – Senior Citizens Centre

Comments

The proximity of Dingee to Mitiamo and Calivil enables several options for access to facilities within 15 minutes driving time. Serpentine is just out of the 15 minute access regime at 18 minutes.

Table 9-15 – Dingee - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Dingee	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service	M&CH Centre	1	Serpentine Pyramid Hill	2	Elmore	1	4
Library Service	Library Service	1	Pyramid Hill	1	Elmore Eaglehawk	2	4
Preschool Centre	Preschool*	1	Pyramid Hill	1	n/a		2
Community Centre	nil		East Loddon CC Calivil SCC Yarrawalla CC Pyramid Hill CC Pyramid Hill SCC	4	Elmore Eaglehawk	2	6
Swimming Pool	nil		Mitiamo Pyramid Hill Calivil	3	Elmore Eaglehawk	2	5
Waste Facility	Waste Facility	1	Pyramid Hill	1	n/a		2

*at East Loddon Campus - CC – Community Centre

Comments

Dingee's network is extended by its proximity to Elmore and Eaglehawk.

9.10. Mitiamo – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

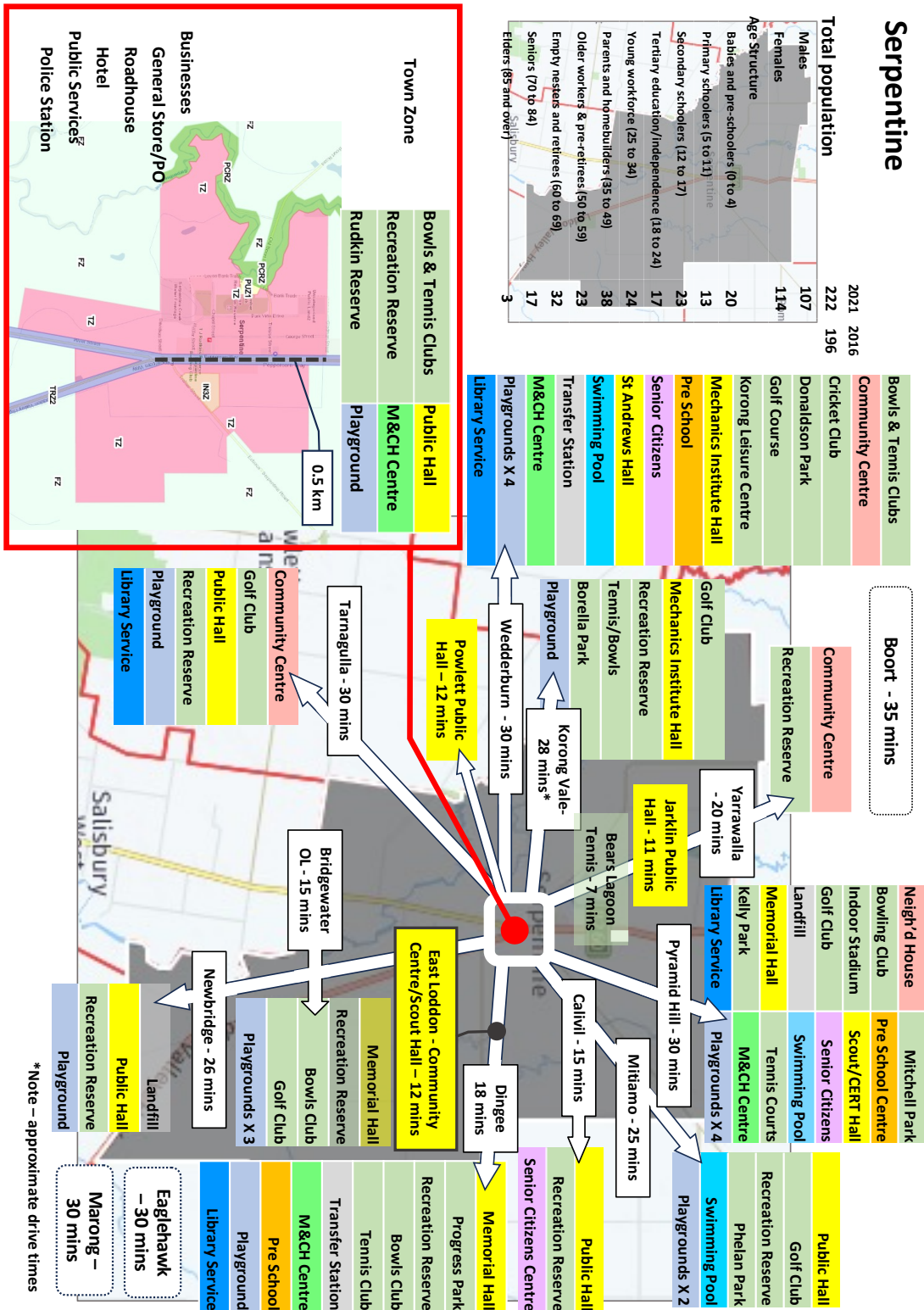Figure 9-9 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Mitiamo within 30 minutes of driving time.

Figure 9-9 – Mitiamo – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Mitiamo

	2021	2016
Total population	116	91
Males	54	
Females	58	
Age Structure		
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	3	
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	11	
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	5	
Tertiary education/independence (18 to 24)	8	
Young workforce (25 to 34)	8	
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	23	
Older workers & pre-retirees (50 to 59)	19	
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	23	
Seniors (70 to 84)	16	
Elders (85 and over)	0	

Boort – 37 mins

Echuca – 33 mins

Eaglehawk – 42 mins

0.7 km

Town Zone

*Note – approximate drive times

Durham Ox Mechanics Institute – 23 mins

Yarrawalla - 15 mins

Calivil - 13 mins

Serpentine – 23 mins

Dingee - 12mins*

Pyramid Hill - 18 mins

These part of the ABS Collection Area is outside of the Loddon Shire

Community Centre
Recreation Reserve
Public Hall
Recreation Reserve
Senior Citizens Centre
Bowls & Tennis Clubs
Recreation Reserve
Rudkin Reserve

Public Hall
M&CH Centre
Playground

Swimming Pool
Tennis Courts
Bowling Club
Indoor Stadium
Playgrounds X 4
Golf Club
Mitchell Park
Kelly Park
Pre School
Senior Citizens Centre
Neigh'd House
M&CH Centre
Library Service
Scout and CERT Hall
Memorial Hall
Landfill

Public Hall
Golf Club
Recreation Reserve
Phelan Park
Swimming Pool
Playgrounds X 2

Businesses
General Store
GrainCorp
Public Service
Post Office

Memorial Hall
Progress Park
Recreation Reserve
Bowls Club
Tennis Club
Transfer Station
M&CH Centre
Pre School
Playground
Library Service

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9.10.1. Mitiamo – 15 and 30-Minute access

Table 9-16 and Table 9-17 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Mitiamo within 15 minutes and 30 minutes, respectively.

Table 9-16 - Mitiamo -Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Mitiamo	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Public Hall* Football/Netball Club *used by the Historical Society*	2	Dingee Public Hall Tennis Club Bowls Club Yarrawalla PH	Calivil PH FNC Bowls Club SCC	8	n/a		10
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	FNC Golf Club	3	Dingee Tennis Club Bowls Club Progress Park RR Yarrawalla Reserve	Calivil FNC Tennis Golf	12	n/a		15
Equipped Play Space	Playgrounds (2)	2	Dingee x2 Calivil		3	n/a		5

FNC – Football/Netball Club - PH = Public Hall   SCC – Senior Citizens Centre

Comments

Mitiamo's public hall operates as a venue for the historical society. Pyramid Hill has several recreation facilities and is slightly outside the 15-minute driving time regime at 18 minutes.

Table 9-17 – Mitiamo - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Mitiamo	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service	nil		Dingee Serpentine	Pyramid Hill	3	n/a		3
Library Service	nil		Dingee LS Pyramid Hill LS		2	n/a		2
Preschool Centre	nil		Dingee Pyramid Hill		2	n/a		2
Community Centre	nil		Calivil SCC Yarrawalla CC	Pyramid Hill CC Pyramid Hill SCC	4	n/a		4
Swimming Pool	Swimming Pool	1	Pyramid Hill		1	n/a		2
Waste Facility	nil		Dingee Pyramid Hill		2	n/a		2

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   CC – Community Centre

Comments

Mitiamo's network is entirely with the Loddon Shire. Echuca is the largest nearby town and is a 36-minute drive time away. The feedback from the community is that this is where they source health services and shopping. The football/netball club depends on people from Echuca (and surrounding areas) to form teams.

9.11. Korong Vale – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-10 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Korong Vale within 30 minutes of driving time.

Figure 9-10 – Korong Vale – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Korong Vale

	2021	2016
Total population	143	170
Males	77	
Females	69	
Age Structure		
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	6	
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	8	
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	6	
Tertiary education/independence (18 to 24)	6	
Young workforce (25 to 34)	9	
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	19	
Older workers & pre-retirees (50 to 59)	25	
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	27	
Seniors (70 to 84)	35	
Elders (85 and over)	3	

Town Zone

1.4 km

Mechanics Institute Hall
Golf Club
Recreation Reserve
Tennis/Bowls
Borella Park
Playground

*Note – approximate drive times

Transfer Station
Library Service
Playgrounds X 4
M&CH Centre
Community Centre
Senior Citizens
Pre School
Swimming Pool
Korong Leisure Centre
Golf Course
Donaldson Park
Cricket Club
Bowls & Tennis Clubs
St Andrews Hall
Mechanics Institute Hall
Biggins Hill Aerodrome

Resource & Info' Centre
Senior Citizens Centre
M&CH Centre
Library Service
Playgrounds X 4

Memorial Hall
James Boyle Hall/CWA
RSL Hall
Pre School

Fenton's Creek Public Hall – 22 mins

Wedderburn - 12 mins
Inglewood - 25 mins
Boort - 28 mins
Mysia - 14 mins*
Serpentine - 28 mins

Nolens Park
Malone Park
Croquet Club
Angling Club

Water Ski Club
Lawn Bowls Club
Gun Club
Golf Club

Boort Landfill
Courthouse Museum
Tennis Club
Swimming Pool

Mysia School Hall

Yando Public Hall – 29 mins

Transfer Station
Town Hall/Community Hub
Swimming Pool
Sports Centre
Golf Course
Bowls Club
Community Centre
Pre School
Senior Citizens
M&CH Centre
Playgrounds X 2
Library Service

M&CH Centre
Public Hall
Rudkin Reserve
Recreation Reserve
Bowls & Tennis Clubs
Playground

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9.11.1. Korong Vale – 15 and 30-Minute Access

Table 9-18 and Table 9-19 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Korong Vale within 15 minutes and 30 minutes, respectively.

Table 9-18 – Korong Vale - Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Korong Vale	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Public Hall Bowls/Tennis Club* *Not operating*	2	Wedderburn Halls (2) FNC Tennis Club Bowls Club	Wedderburn SCC CC Donaldson Park Mysia School Hall	9	n/a		11
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Bowls/Tennis Club* Golf Club* RR	4	Wedderburn FNC Tennis Club Cricket Club Leisure Centre	Wedderburn Bowls Club Donaldson Park Golf Course	8	n/a		12
Equipped Play Space	Playground	1	Wedderburn (5)		5	n/a		6

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   CC – Community Centre

Comments

The combination of facilities in Korong Vale and its proximity to other locations enables several opportunities within 15 minutes.

Korong Vale does not have any recreation clubs that are operating at present. A former community centre facility that is located next to the public hall no longer operates and is being sold by Council.

This situation flags that the community needs to have the capacity and willingness to manage and operate facilities. It also highlights that raising and maintaining multiple management committees can be challenging for a small population.

Table 9-19 – Korong Vale - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Korong Vale	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service	nil		Inglewood Serpentine	Wedderburn Boort	4	n/a		4
Library Service	nil		Wedderburn Boort	Inglewood	3	n/a		3
Preschool Centre	nil		Inglewood Wedderburn	Boort	3	n/a		3
Community Centre	nil		Wedderburn CC Wedderburn SCC Inglewood CC	Inglewood SCC Boort CC Boort SCC	6	n/a		6
Swimming Pool	nil		Wedderburn Inglewood	Boort	3	n/a		3
Waste Facility	nil		Wedderburn Inglewood	Boort	3	n/a		3

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   CC – Community Centre

Comments

Korong Vale's 15/30 minute network is entirely within the Loddon Shire.

9.12. Newbridge – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-11 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Newbridge within 30 minutes of driving time.
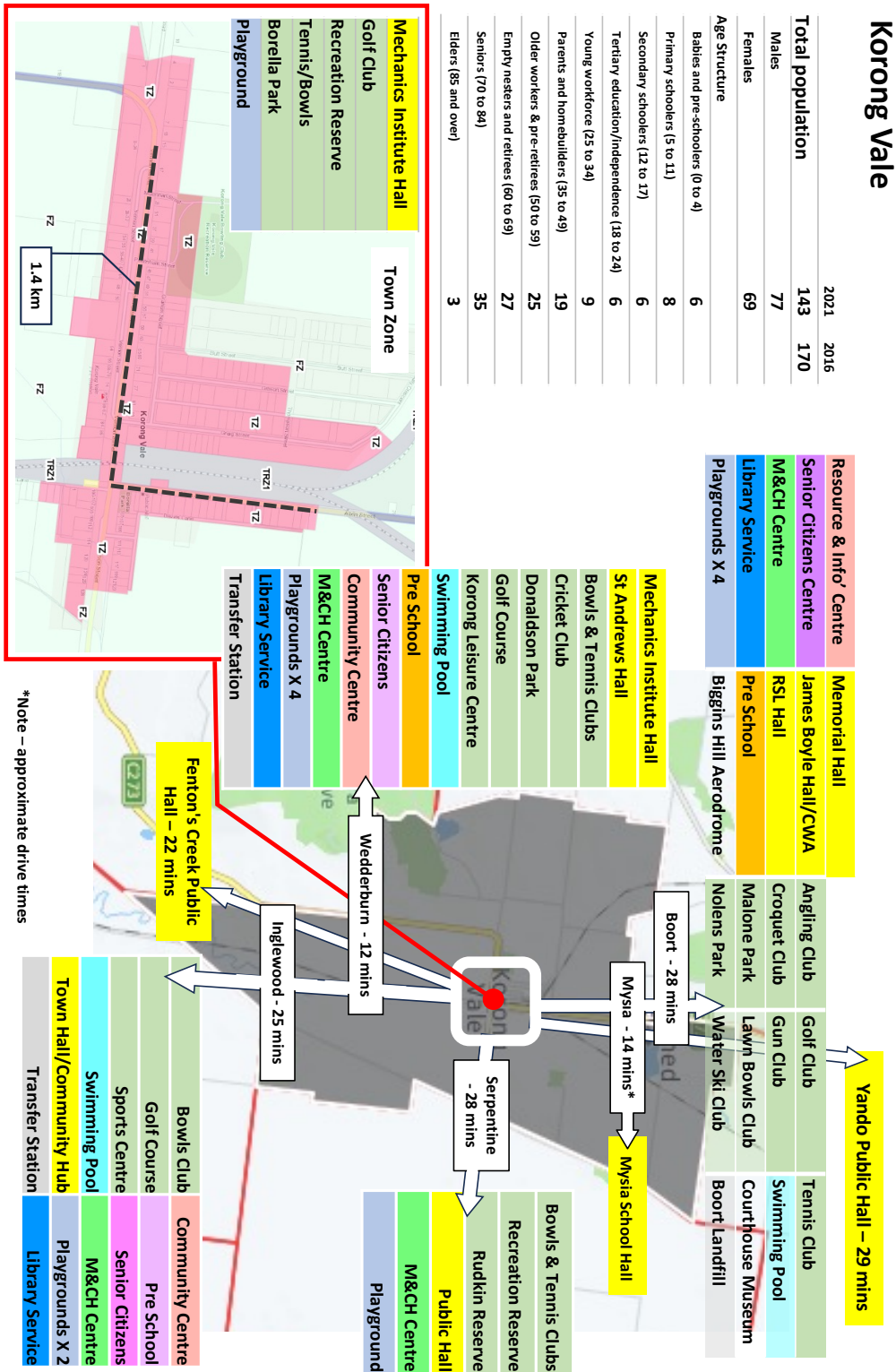

Figure 9-11 – Newbridge – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Newbridge

	2021	2016
Total population	171	190
Males	91	
Females	81	
Age Structure		
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	5	
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	12	
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	7	
Tertiary education/independence (18 to 24)	6	
Young workforce (25 to 34)	9	
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	27	
Older workers & pre-retirees (50 to 59)	26	
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	48	
Seniors (70 to 84)	29	
Elders (85 and over)	8	

9.12.1. Newbridge – 15 and 30 Minute Access

Table 9-20 and Table 9-21 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Newbridge within 15 minutes and 30 minutes, respectively.

Table 9-20– Newbridge - Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Newbridge	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Public Hall Football/Netball Clubrooms	2	Tarnagulla PH Tarnagulla CC Tarnagulla Golf Club Laanecoorie PH Woodstock PH	BoL PH Bol FNC Bol Golf Club BoL Bowls Eddington PH Rheola PH	11	n/a		13
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Tennis Courts Football/Netball	3	Tarnagulla – Golf Tarnagulla RR Bol FNC Bol Golf Club	Bol Bowls BoL Tennis	7	n/a		10
Equipped Play Space	Playground	1	Tarnagulla BoL Playgrounds (3)		4	n/a		5

BoL = Bridgewater on Loddon, RR – Recreation Reserve, FNC – Football/Netball Club   PH = Public Hall   CC – Community Centre

Comments

The proximity of Newbridge to Bridgewater on Loddon, Tarnagulla, Laanecoorie, and several smaller communities enables several options for access to facilities within 15 minutes. Marong, at 16 minutes, is just outside the 15-minute access regime and has a community hall and recreation facilities.

Table 9-21 – Newbridge - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	Newbridge	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby		Total	Overall
M&CH Service	nil		Inglewood Serpentine	2	Marong Maiden Gully	Kangaroo Flat Bendigo	4	6
Library Service	nil		Tarnagulla Inglewood	2	Dunolly Maryborough Kangaroo Flat	Eaglehawk Bendigo	5	7
Preschool Centre	nil		Inglewood	1	Dunolly Maryborough	Bendigo	3	4
Community Centre	nil		Tarnagulla CC Inglewood CC Inglewood SCC	3	Maryborough Bendigo (3)		4	7
Swimming Pool	nil		Inglewood	1	Dunolly Maryborough Marong	Kangaroo Flat Bendigo	5	6
Waste Facility	Waste Facility	1	Inglewood	1	n/a			2

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   CC – Community Centre

Comments

Newbridge's proximity to several nearby locations outside of the Loddon Shire significantly extends its network.

9.13. Laanecoorie – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-12 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Laanecoorie within 30 minutes of driving time.
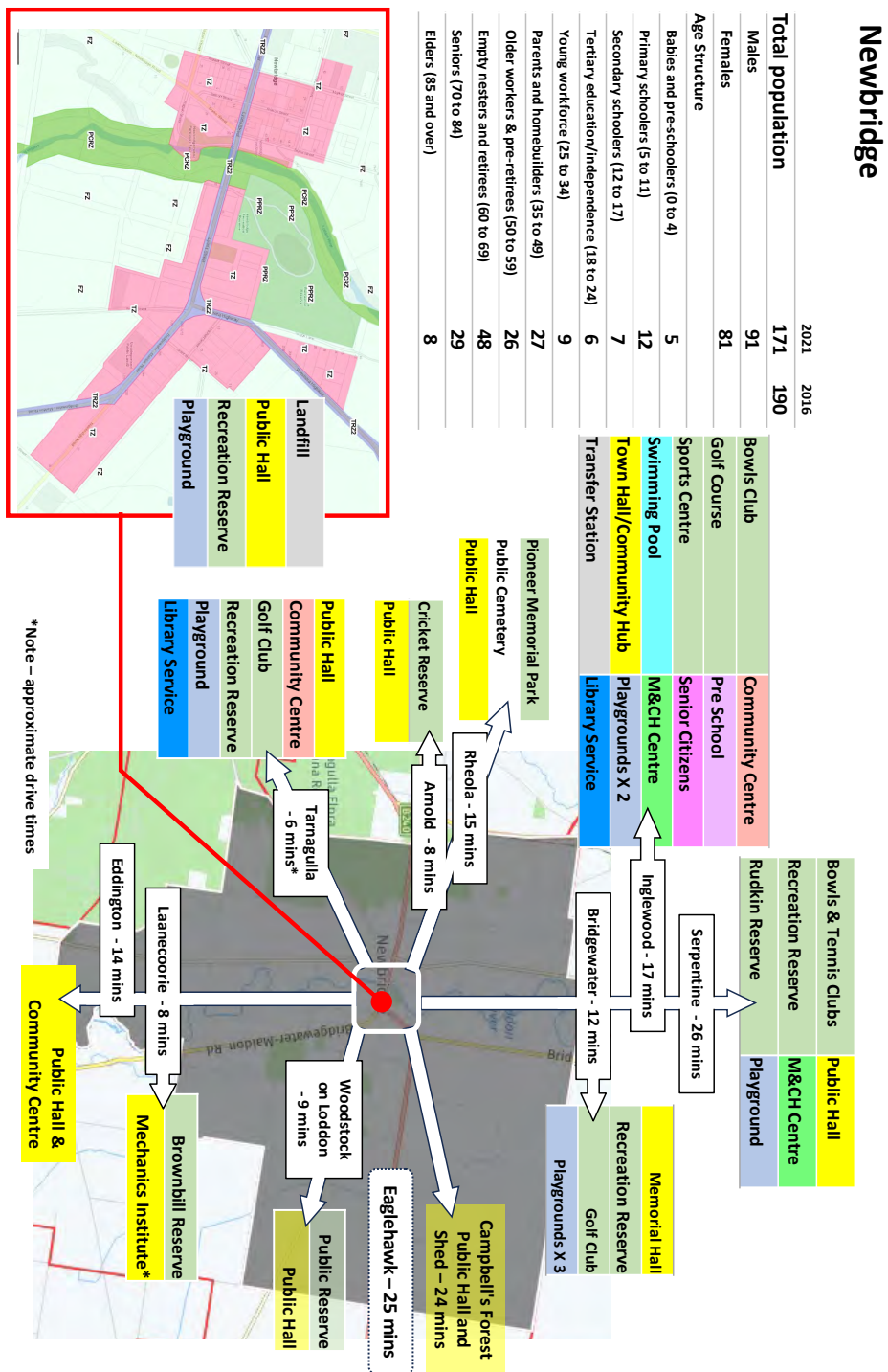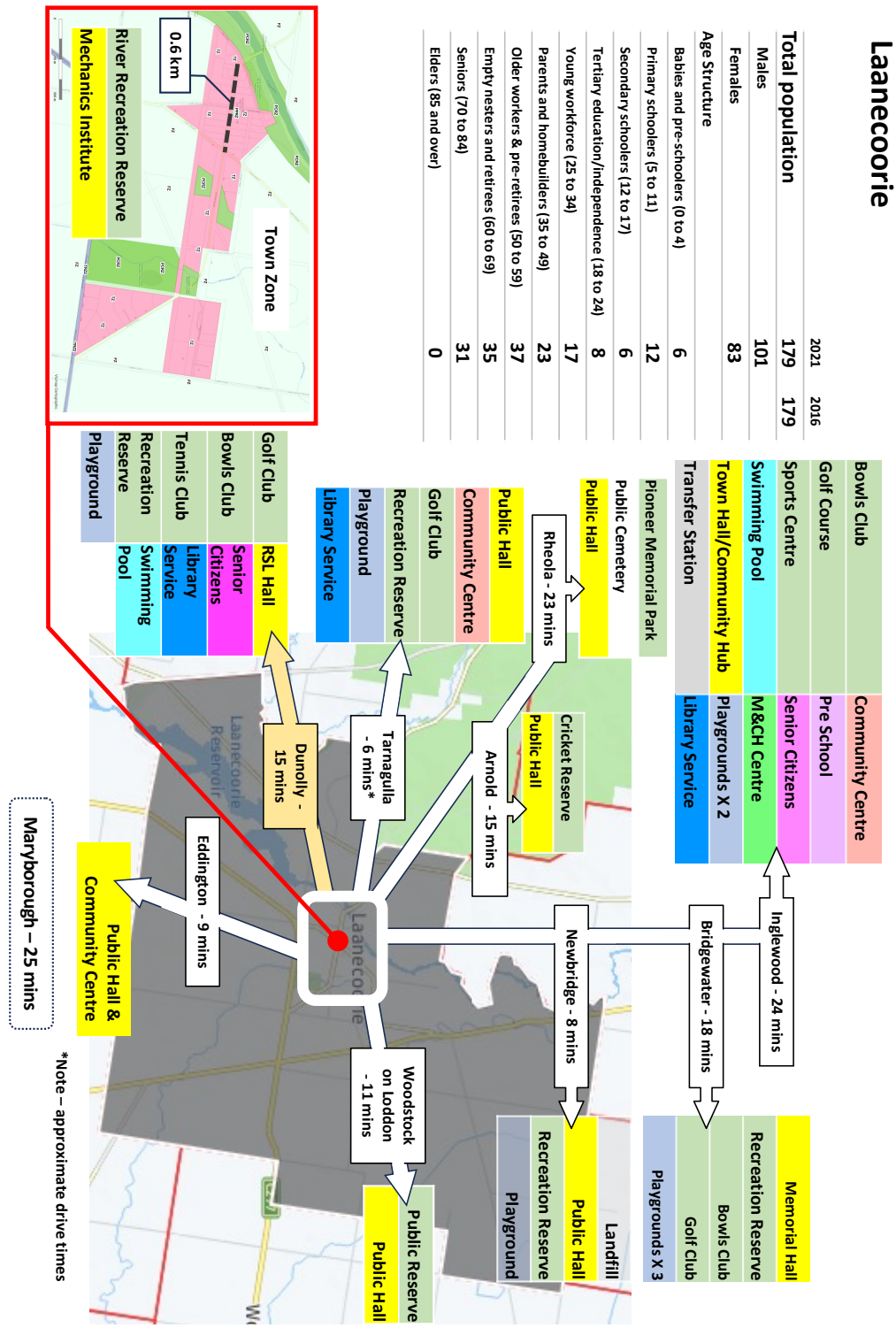

Figure 9-12 – Laanecoorie – Overview of Availability of Social Infrastructure

9.13.1. Laanecoorie – 15 and 30-Minute access

Table 9-22 and Table 9-23 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Laanecoorie within 15 minutes and 30 minutes, respectively.

Table 9-22 – Laanecoorie -Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	Laanecoorie	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Public Hall	1	Tarnagulla PH Tarnagulla CC Tarnagulla GC Newbridge PH	Eddington PH Newbridge FNC Woodstock PH Arnold PH	8	Dunolly RSL Hall Dunolly Senior Dunolly FNC	3	12

Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Recreation Reserve
	Tennis Courts
		2	Tarnagulla
			  Reserve
			  Golf Club
			Newbridge
			  Reserve
			  FNC
			  Tennis
				Eddington
				  Tennis
				  Golf
				Arnold Reserve
					8	Dunolly
						  Bowls
						  Tennis Courts
						  Recreation
						  Reserve
						  Football/Netball
						  Golf Course
							6	16

Equipped Play Space			Tarnagulla Newbridge	Eddington	3	Dunolly	1	4

FNC – Football/Netball Club   PH = Public Hall   GC – Golf Club

Comments

The proximity of Laanecoorie to Tarnagulla, Newbridge, Eddington, and Dunolly enables a range of opportunities. The Dunolly/Laanecoorie Cricket Club, which has its home ground in Dunolly, is an example of the connections between these communities.

Table 9-23 – Laanecoorie - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	Laanecoorie	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Elsewhere		Total	Overall
M&CH Service	nil		Inglewood	1	Maryborough Marong Maiden Gully	Kangaroo Flat Bendigo	5	6
Library Service	nil		Tarnagulla Inglewood	2	Dunolly Maryborough		2	4
Preschool Centre	nil		Inglewood	1	Dunolly Maryborough	Bendigo	3	4
Community Centre	nil		Tarnagulla CC Inglewood CC Inglewood SCC	3	Maryborough CC Dunolly SCC		2	5
Swimming Pool	nil		Inglewood	1	Kangaroo Flat Marong	Dunolly Maryborough	4	5
Waste Facility	nil		Newbridge Inglewood	2				2

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   CC – Community Centre

Comments

Laanecoorie's network is highly contingent upon its proximity to nearby locations.

9.14. Tarnagulla – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-13 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Tarnagulla within 30 minutes of driving time.
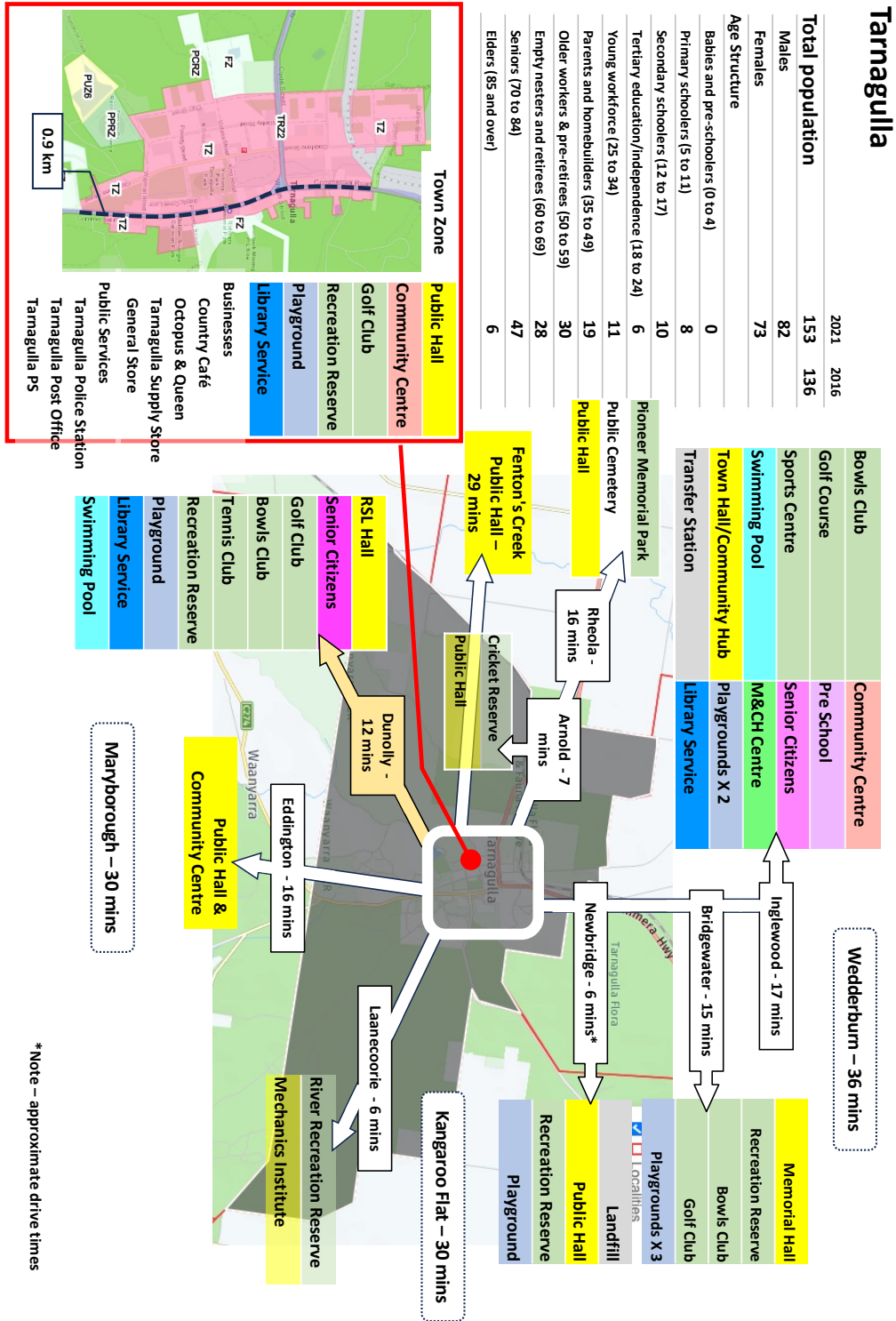

Figure 9-13 – Tarnagulla – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

9.14.1. Tarnagulla – 15 and 30-Minute access

Table 9-24 and Table 9-25 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Tarnagulla within 15 minutes and 30 minutes, respectively.

Table 9-24 – Tarnagulla - Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Tarnagulla	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Public Hall Tarnagulla CC Tarnagulla Golf Club	3	Laanecoorie PH Newbridge PH Newbridge FNC Arnold PH	BoL PH Bol FNC Bol Golf BoL Bowls	8	Dunolly FNC rooms SCC RSL Hall	3	14
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Recreation Reserve/Pavilion Golf Club	2	Laanecoorie Reserve Arnold Reserve Bol FNC Bol Golf Club BoL Bowls	Newbridge FNC Newbridge Tennis	10	Dunolly Bowls Tennis Courts Recreation Reserve Football/Netball Golf Course	6	18
Equipped Play Space	Playground	1	Newbridge Eddington	Bol (3)	5	Dunolly	1	7

BoL = Bridgewater on Loddon, SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   FNC – Football/Netball Club   PH = Public Hall

Comments

Tarnagulla's proximity to Dunolly greatly extends the options within 15 minutes. Inglewood is just outside the 15 minute regime at 17 minutes and adds several additional opportunities that have not been counted in this Report.

Table 9-25 – Tarnagulla - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Tarnagulla	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service	nil		Inglewood	1	Maryborough Marong Kangaroo Flat	3	4
Library Service	Library Service	1	Inglewood	1	Dunolly Maryborough Kangaroo Flat	3	5
Preschool Centre	nil		Inglewood	1	Dunolly Maryborough	2	3
Community Centre	Community Centre	1	Inglewood CC Inglewood Senior CC	2	Dunolly Senior CC Maryborough CC Marong CC	3	6
Swimming Pool	nil		Inglewood	1	Dunolly Maryborough Marong Kangaroo Flat	4	5
Waste Facility	nil		Newbridge Inglewood	2			2

CC – Community Centre

Comments

Tarnagulla's proximity to nearby locations outside the Loddon Shire significantly extends its network.

9.15. Eddington – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-14 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Eddington that are within 30 minutes of driving time.
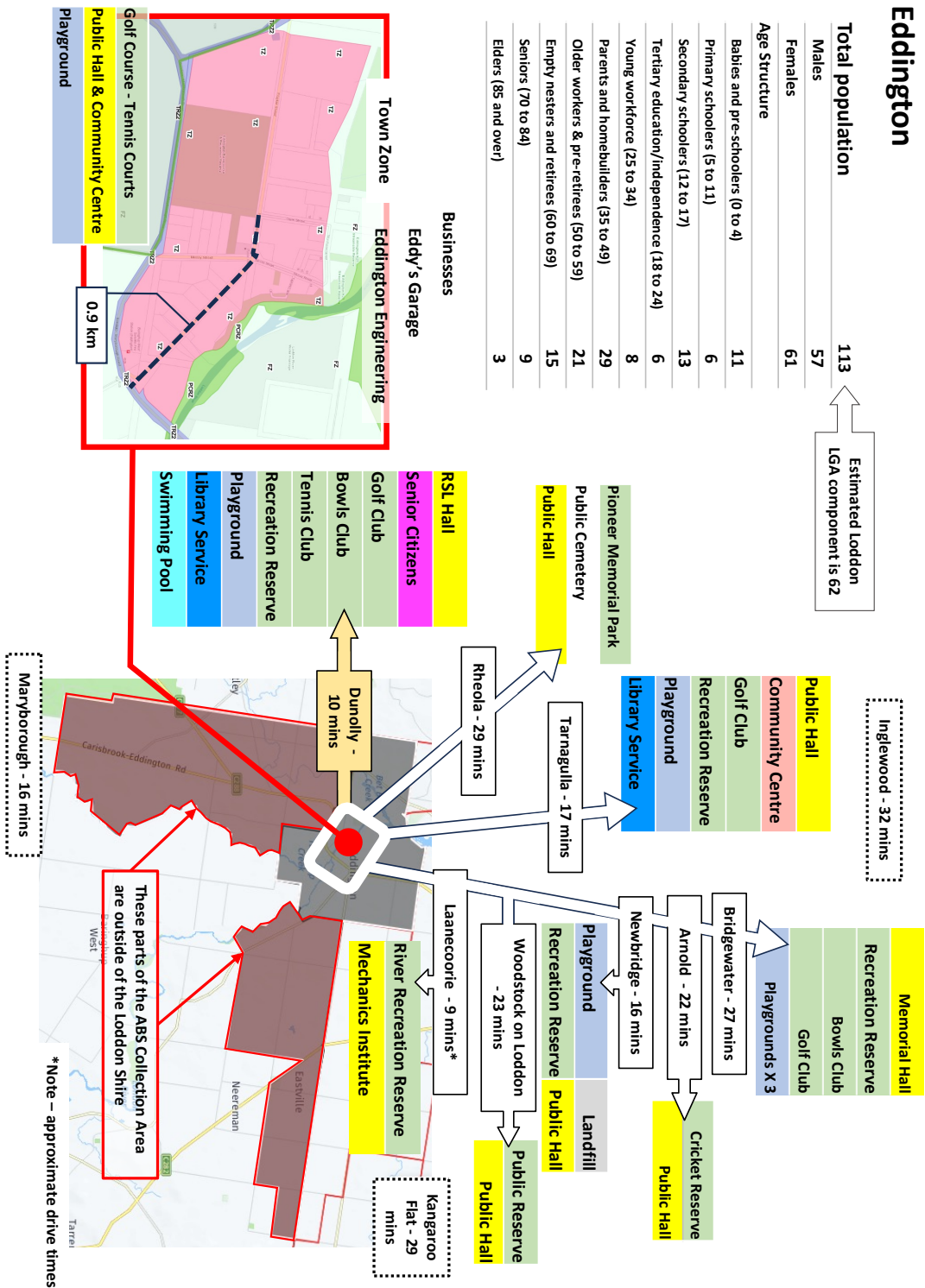
Figure 9-14 – Eddington – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Eddington

Total population	113
Males	57
Females	61

Estimated Loddon LGA component is 62

Age Structure	
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	11
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	6
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	13
Tertiary education/independence (18 to 24)	6
Young workforce (25 to 34)	8
Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49)	29
Older workers & pre-retirees (50 to 59)	21
Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69)	15
Seniors (70 to 84)	9
Elders (85 and over)	3

Town Zone

Businesses
- Eddy's Garage
- Eddington Engineering

Golf Course - Tennis Courts
Public Hall & Community Centre
Playground

0.9 km

Dunolly - 10 mins:
- Recreation Reserve
- Tennis Club
- Bowls Club
- Golf Club
- Senior Citizens
- RSL Hall
- Playground
- Library Service
- Swimming Pool

Pioneer Memorial Park
Public Cemetery
Public Hall

Rheola - 29 mins

Tarnagulla - 17 mins:
- Public Hall
- Community Centre
- Golf Club
- Recreation Reserve
- Playground
- Library Service

Inglewood - 32 mins

Newbridge - 16 mins:
- Playground
- Recreation Reserve
- Public Hall

Arnold - 22 mins

Bridgewater - 27 mins:
- Memorial Hall
- Recreation Reserve
- Bowls Club
- Golf Club
- Playgrounds X 3
- Public Hall

Cricket Reserve
Landfill

Woodstock on Loddon - 23 mins:
- Public Reserve
- Public Hall

Laanecoorie - 9 mins*:
- Mechanics Institute
- River Recreation Reserve

Kangaroo Flat - 29 mins

Maryborough - 16 mins

These parts of the ABS Collection Area are outside of the Loddon Shire

*Note – approximate drive times

9.15.1. Eddington – 15 and 30-Minute access

Table 9-26 and Table 9-27 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Eddington within 15 minutes and 30 minutes, respectively.

Table 9-26 – Eddington - Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Eddington	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Public Hall	1	Laanecoorie PH	1	Dunolly RSL Hall FNC rooms SCC	3	5
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Tennis Courts Golf Course	2	Laanecoorie Reserve Laanecoorie Tennis Courts	2	Dunolly Bowls Tennis Courts Recreation Reserve Football/Netball Golf Course	6	10
Equipped Play Space	Community Hall				Dunolly	1	2

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   FNC – Football/Netball Club   PH = Public Hall

Comments

The proximity of Eddington to Dunolly (i.e., 10 minutes' driving time) enables access to several facilities and services that are not available within 15 minutes' driving time within the Loddon Shire.

Table 9-27 – Eddington - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

| Facilities & Services	In Eddington	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon	Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service	nil				Maryborough Marong Kangaroo Flat	3	3
Library Service	nil		Tarnagulla	1	Dunolly Maryborough Kangaroo Flat	3	4
Preschool Centre	nil				Dunolly Maryborough	2	2
Community Centre	nil		Tarnagulla CC	1	Dunolly SCC Maryborough CC Marong CC	3	4
Swimming Pool	nil				Dunolly Maryborough Marong Kangaroo Flat	4	4
Waste Facility	nil		Newbridge	1			1

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   CC – Community Centre

Comments

Eddington is more than thirty minutes drive from any urban centre in the Loddon Shire (Inglewood is 32 minutes away). Its network of facilities and services is highly dependent on its proximity to nearby locations.

9.16. Calivil – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure

Figure 9-15 provides an overview of the facilities and services available to Calivil within 30 minutes of driving time.

Figure 9-15 – Calivil – Overview of Available Social Infrastructure
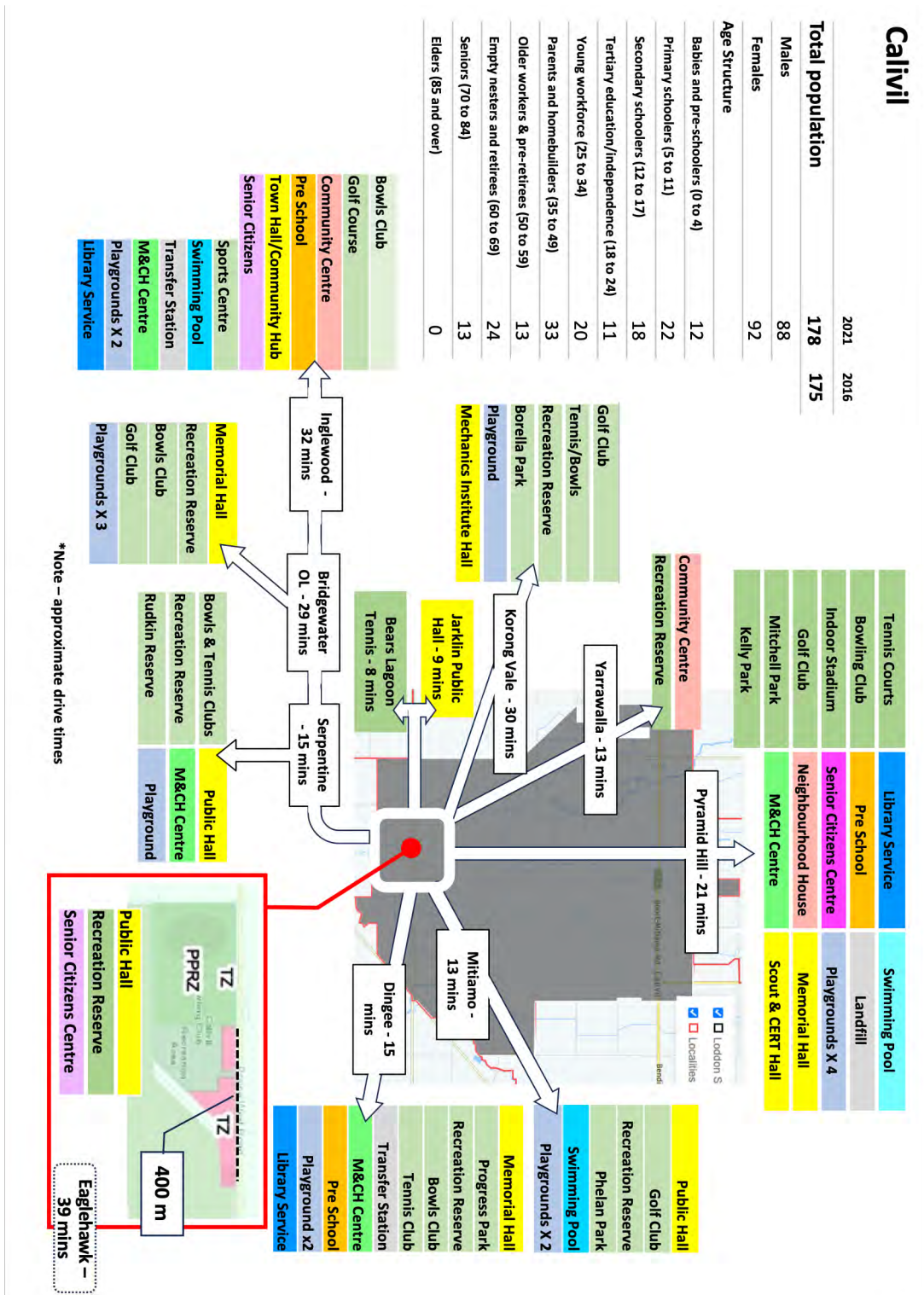
9.16.1. Calivil – 15 and 30-Minute access

Table 9-28 and Table 9-29 provide a breakdown of the facilities and services available to Calivil within 15 minutes and 30 minutes, respectively.

Table 9-28 – Calivil - Facilities and Services within 15 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Calivil	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
Indoor Meeting Place	Public Hall Bowls Club	2	Jarklin PH Yarrawalla CC Mitiamo PH Mitiamo FNC	Dingee PH Dingee Bowls Club Serpentine PH Serpentine FNC	8			10
Recreation Spaces & Facilities	Tennis Courts Bowls Club Recreation Reserve Netball Court	4	Bears Lagoon Tennis Yarrawalla RR Mitiamo Golf Club Mitiamo FNC	Mitiamo RR Dingee RR Dingee Bowls Club Serpentine Bowls & Tennis Serpentine FNC	12			16
Equipped Play Space		1	Dingee Mitiamo X2	Serpentine	4			6

RR = Recreation Reserve, SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   FNC – Football/Netball Club   PH = Public Hall

Comments

The proximity of Mitiamo, Dingee and Serpentine, Yarrawalla and Jarklin enables access to several facilities and services. (By way of indoor meeting spaces, Jarklin also has a public hotel)

Table 9-29 – Calivil - Facilities and Services within 30 minutes

Facilities & Services	In Calivil	Total	Elsewhere in Loddon		Total	Nearby	Total	Overall
M&CH Service			Dingee Serpentine	Pyramid Hill Inglewood	4			3
Library Service			Dingee Pyramid Hill	Inglewood	3			4
Preschool Centre			Dingee Pyramid Hill	Inglewood	3			3
Community Centre	Senior CC	1	Yarrawalla Pyramid Hill x2	Inglewood x3	6			7
Swimming Pool			Mitiamo Pyramid Hill	Inglewood	3			3
Waste Facility			Dingee Pyramid Hill	Inglewood	3			3

SCC – Senior Citizens Centre   CC – Community Centre

Comments

The proximity of Mitiamo, Dingee and Serpentine, Pyramid Hill enables access to several options for "30-minute" facilities and services none of which, other than the senior citizens centre, are located in Calivil. Inglewood is 32 minutes drive from the Calivil TZ; however, several households in the Calivil Locality would be within 30 minutes drive of Inglewood. (see Figure 3-2)

9.17. **Total Number of Social Infrastructure Options for Towns**

Table 9-30 shows each town's options for accessing facilities and services within 15—and 30-minute driving distances from its Township Zone. These options include those within the Loddon Shire and neighbouring LGAs.

The table demonstrates that all towns have multiple options for access to all types of social infrastructure within the 15-minute and 30-minute drive time regimes. The exception is Eddington, which has one option for a playground and a waste facility and is highly dependent on facilities and services in other locations, including outside of the Loddon Shire.

Table 9-30 – Total Social Infrastructure Options for Towns

Localities > 100 People	Population	Within 15 Minutes of Driving Time			Within 30 Minutes of Driving Time					
		Indoor Meeting Places	*Recreation Facilities*	*Playgrounds*	*M&CH Service*	*Library Service*	*Preschool*	*Community Centres*	*Swimming Pool*	*Waste Facility*
Wedderburn	951	11	12	6	3	2	2	4	2	2
Boort	940	12	11	4	2	2	2	5	2	2
Inglewood	784	13	18	5	3	2	2	6	4	2
Pyramid Hill	598	8	9	4	3	4	5	5	4	3
Bridgewater	466	13	23	6	4	4	2	6	4	3
Serpentine	221	11	15	5	5	5	4	8	6	5
Dingee	195	7	11	4	4	4	2	6	5	2
Laanecoorie	179	12	16	4	6	4	4	5	5	2
Calivil	175	10	16	6	3	4	3	7	3	3
Newbridge	169	13	10	5	6	7	4	7	6	2
Tarnagulla	153	14	18	7	4	5	3	6	5	2
Korong Vale	143	11	12	6	4	3	3	6	3	3
Mitiamo	111	10	15	5	3	2	2	4	2	2
Eddington	62	5	10	2	3	4	2	4	4	1

9.17.1. **All Other Localities**

The other 86 localities in the Shire (see Table 4-4) that are not listed in Table 9-30 are within a 15 minute drive of one or more of the towns listed in the above table, with 11 of these localities having some form of a Council facility (see Figure 6-1.)

9.17.2. Obstacles to Wider Usage

In identifying the opportunities listed in Section 9.17, this Report acknowledges that many in the community will be unaware or unwilling to use facilities outside their town; this will require some change management processes to foster the use of other facilities. There will be obstacles to people and groups making use of a broader range of facilities – in part, these will be:

Awareness   People, groups, and organisations may need to be made aware of opportunities to use different facilities.

Groups or organisations that "operate" a facility may not have the resources or expertise to promote its availability to others.

Cultural   Groups or organisations that:

- "Operate" or regularly use a facility unwilling to have others use it when they are not using it.

- Are accustomed to using a particular facility and are not willing to use another space or an even more appropriate space that differs from the one they usually use

Functional   The available spaces do not support contemporary needs or meet current requirements and are unattractive to potential users.

Procedural   systems and processes are needed to enable different groups to more easily identify when facilities are available, how to access them, and the conditions of access or use. Often, this relies on a tacit understanding that may not be widely held within the community.

Organisational   Groups or organisations that "operate" a facility do not have the organisational capability to facilitate the use of the facility by different groups at different times; this may be partly due to cultural, functional or procedural factors.

9.18. Indoor Meeting Places

All towns have multiple indoor meeting options within 15 minutes of their TZs' driving time. The spaces included in the calculations include public halls, sporting club facilities, community centres, and senior citizen centres. These spaces vary in size, functionality, and condition. Many groups prefer to meet at local hotels or cafes, extending the options for indoor meeting spaces. These "commercial" spaces are available in all but two towns.

9.18.1. Persons/Space

All towns have access to multiple indoor meeting spaces. When the number of persons/spaces is considered, the opportunities for access to indoor meeting spaces in Small Towns are greater than those in urban centres. Table 9-31 compares the relative availability of options for indoor meeting spaces.

Table 9-31 – Supply of Indoor Meeting Spaces (Council Facilities)

	Locality Population	Number of Indoor Spaces	Persons/Space	Access to Hotels- Cafes
Mitiamo	111	10	11	Yes
Tarnagulla	153	14	11	Yes
Eddington	62	5	12	Yes
Korong Vale	143	11	13	Yes
Newbridge	169	13	13	Yes
Laanecoorie	179	12	15	No
Calivil	175	10	18	No
Serpentine	221	11	22	Yes
Dingee	195	7	28	Yes
Bridgewater	463	13	36	Yes
Inglewood	886	13	68	Yes
Pyramid Hill	598	8	75	Yes
Boort	940	12	78	Yes
Wedderburn	951	11	86	Yes

9.18.2. Future Demand for Indoor Meeting Spaces

The analysis in Table 9-31 suggests that all towns have a more than adequate number of facilities that communities and groups could use. Given the anecdotal evidence regarding the infrequent or non-use of some facilities, there is an oversupply of meeting space, particularly in small towns.

While the population is projected to increase (see Section 3.1), the analysis in the table above strongly indicates that there are more than enough indoor meeting space options. The greater challenge is providing indoor spaces consistent with contemporary needs and expectations.

9.18.3. Contemporary Functionality

The challenge is not the availability of indoor spaces but rather the need for spaces to meet contemporary needs instead of conforming to outdated expectations. Improving functionality may be difficult due to the age and condition of some of the spaces. Completing asset assessments of the indoor meeting spaces will help determine which ones best serve future needs and warrant ongoing investment.

9.18.4. Level of Usage

The facilities also vary in frequency of usage. Some spaces are highly utilised, particularly by the sporting/community groups operating from the facility—e.g., Football/Netball Clubrooms during the football/netball season. It is unknown what level of use such facilities may have outside competition seasons.

There is limited data on how often these facilities are used, by how many people, and for what purposes has yet to be collected. The anecdotal feedback provided by Council is that several public halls are utilised infrequently, if at all.

With this data, it will be easier to identify opportunities for future usage or decisions regarding the future of facilities.

9.18.5. Accessing Facilities Outside of the Towns

This Report acknowledges that while many facilities are available, the prevailing practice is that communities and groups are less likely to use facilities outside of the town where they reside due to a range of reasons, including:

- A lack of functionality that makes the facility not fit for purpose for use by different groups or for other events

- There is a "culture" of some individuals or groups being unwilling to use nearby facilities that are not in the location where they reside.

- A lack of awareness amongst the community of the opportunities or the availability of facilities located elsewhere

- A lack of ability of clubs or CoMs to make the facilities available at times that potential users desire and

- In some cases, an unwillingness of clubs or management committees to make the facility available for use for purposes other than what it has historically been used for or to other groups or users

9.18.6. Impact on Community Resources

The presence of a range of facilities with associated management committees located in communities with a small population places a strain on the capacity of those communities. The ability of these clubs or committees to maintain and "market" these facilities and generate the revenue needed is challenging in a small community.

In some cases, these clubs or committees have become dormant or ceased to operate – e.g. Korong Vale (see Section 9.11.1.) Auditing and updating the status of these clubs and committees is necessary.

Identifying models that can streamline the management and operation of facilities is necessary to reduce the burden on community resources and foster increased use.

9.18.7. **Impact on Council Resources**

The presence of Council facilities that offer overlapping functionality or facilities used infrequently (or not at all) presents a challenge to the Council's resources regarding staff time and the capital required to maintain these facilities.

A process is needed to ensure that communities have access to facilities that offer functionality consistent with contemporary requirements and that this is achieved in a manner that ensures the most effective use of Council's resources. This process would include identifying facilities that Council should prioritise for ongoing investment and others that will not be supported or closed.

9.18.8. **Asset Management**

The facilities vary in size, capacity, functionality and condition of the buildings. The Council's Asset Management Plan acknowledges that many community and recreational facilities have yet to be subject to a review of the asset's condition. This process would identify the following:

- needs of the assets about their ability to operate to current standards, and the
- feasibility of bringing a wide range of facilities up to current standards

9.19. **Recreational Facilities**

The access regime has included town communities having access to a recreational facility or space within 15 minutes of driving time of the town's TZ. As shown in Table 9-30, all towns have such access. In some cases, this accessibility is dependent on facilities in towns outside of the Loddon Shire.

9.19.1. **Future Investment in Recreation Facilities**

The report acknowledges that the population of Loddon Shire is expected to grow (see Section 3.1). However, this growth is unlikely to create a significant demand for additional recreational spaces and facilities, as all communities already have access to multiple recreation areas and facilities. It is challenging to argue for additional facilities; however, the purpose for which they are utilised may change. For instance, the increasing participation in pickleball in Australia may impact the use of some indoor facilities.

Furthermore, the Council is developing a Recreation, Open Space, and Aquatics Strategy (ROSA). This strategy will guide priorities for the future development and operation of recreational facilities.

9.19.2. **Community Capability**

The situation in Korong Vale (see Section 9.11.1) highlights that the presence of facilities does not guarantee that the community will or can use them. Future investment in such facilities needs to consider the community's capacity or willingness to operate the facilities in the town.

In turn, systems and processes that would ease the burden of running a club and operating a facility need to be investigated. Such an investigation could coincide with a review of management structures for these facilities (see Section 6.8.1)

9.19.3. **Social and Competition Play**

Communities need access to opportunities to participate in activities that support well-being. Opportunities for competitive play also attract visitors to the town. This visitation expands social interaction and allows visitors to spend money on recreation facilities and local businesses. Future investment decisions regarding recreational facilities should consider the participation of local clubs in broader competition.

10. Moving Forward

The following section provides a framework for future decision-making regarding social infrastructure in the Loddon Shire.

10.1. Key Findings

This Report has identified the following.

Facilities Network	All towns have a network of community facilities within 30 minutes of their respective town zones that provide residents with a range of options—this includes access to facilities and services in towns near the Loddon Shire.
Indoor Meeting Spaces	All towns have a wide range of potential meeting spaces available; in most cases, the number of options is likely well beyond their needs.
Community Plans	Community Plans have been established for each town, including references to improving facilities and services. However, the plans provide little regarding current usage patterns, opportunities for greater use, or asset conditions.
Population	The town populations range between 65 and 950. All towns are not likely to experience any substantive change to their respective populations in the foreseeable future; given the current supply of spaces and services, there is no basis for providing demand for additional facilities
Usage of Facilities	While information is collected by most CACs regarding facility usage more data is needed to identify the usage level of many facilities, particularly those capable of providing indoor meeting space.
Asset Functionality	The challenge for many facilities and spaces in Loddon's towns is their ability to meet contemporary demands and needs.
Ageing Assets	Loddon Shire Council's recreational, leisure, and community facility assets are ageing. Without adequate funding, their declining condition will result in reduced levels of service and increased risk of failure. Rationalising the range of facilities will enable increased investment in those facilities that are worthy of having their asset life extended.
Asset Management	Asset management plans have yet to be developed for the Council's recreational, leisure, and community facilities assets; decision-making is predominantly reactive with limited planning.
Management Committees	Some towns (and Localities with a population of less than 100 people) have two or more committees responsible for managing facilities and committees associated with organisations operating from those facilities. Populating and operating these committees can place a high demand on community resources in towns with small populations that are unlikely to grow in total numbers.
Council Finances	Council has finite financial resources that must be used for a wide range of requirements. With a range of social infrastructure options available to all towns, there is a need to determine how financial resources are best expended; this may extend to revising the current practice of funding insurance premiums and maintenance allowances for DEECA facilities.

Future decisions regarding social infrastructure need to consider or address the above.

10.2. Decision Making

Decision-making regarding social infrastructure in towns needs to consider the following criteria.

Criteria	Decisions need to consider -
A Network Approach	The impact on the broader network of social infrastructure of a decision regarding a Council facility or service
Usage	Actual usage refers to which facilities are used, by what groups and organisations, for what purposes, and how frequently. Decisions need to consider whether recreational facilities are being used to support organised competition between clubs or groups.
Shared Use of Facilities	How shared use of facilities by different users can be fostered.
Improving Existing Capability	If improving existing capability will be of more significant benefit than undertaking any new development
Accessibility	The requirements for a facility to meet contemporary requirements regarding access and inclusion (As per Council Policy)
Asset Management	Life cycle asset management plans for the facility (As per Council Policy)
Community Resources	Minimising the impact on community resources associated with the management and operation of facilities in towns without increasing the impact on Council resources
Safety	The requirements for the safe use and operation of the facility (As per Council Policy)
Risk	The requirements to minimise or mitigate risks to a level that Council is willing to accept (As per Council Policy)
Environmental Sustainability	The requirements to reduce the footprint created by the facility and its operation (As per Council Policy)
Financial Sustainability	The requirements to improve long-term financial sustainability (As per Council Policy)

10.2.1. 15 minutes Catchment

As noted earlier in this Report (see Section 9.2.1) each town has a range of options within 15 and 30-minute driving times. Given the range of options available to all towns, decision-making regarding future investment in such facilities needs to consider all of these options and identify opportunities to:

- Maximise the usage of existing assets[60] Establishing a baseline of current usage is necessary. As also noted in Section 9.1.2, data regarding the usage of many facilities is not collected. The Council is aware that some public halls are used infrequently, some not at all.

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[60]   Maximising usage is a stated focus in Council's current Action Plan

- Opportunities for consolidation or reduction or duplicated assets so that any future investment is focused on delivering maximum benefit through improved functionality of fewer assets and reducing the burden on Council and community resources

10.3. Towns Facilities Management Plans

Given the analysis regarding the range of existing opportunities for the towns and the previous discussion in Section 9.17, this Report recommends the development of a "Facilities Management Plan" for each of the Towns that establishes priorities for existing Council facilities within 15 minutes' driving time of the Town's "Township Zone." This concept is depicted in Figure 10-1 and described in the following Sections.

Figure 10-1 - Facilities Management Planning Process

10.3.1. Inputs

The "Facilities Management Plan(s)" will draw upon:

- Needs expressed in Community Plans as well as opportunities for shared or multi-use
- Assess assessment and the subsequent Asset Management outcomes
- Usage data – including type and frequency of use
- The analysis of access to facilities provided in the Social Infrastructure Strategy

10.3.2. Usage Maximisation and Consolidation

The "Facilities Management Plan(s)" will investigate opportunities to:

- Maximise facility usage, including two or more groups collaborating to maximise the usage of existing facilities.

- Consolidate or reduce duplicated assets

10.3.3. Future Investment

The "Facilities Management Plan(s) will identify facilities that warrant future investment (from Council or other sources), including the:

- Identification of the functionality any investment in a facility aims to deliver.

- Establishment of an investment case that includes a form of cost-benefit prioritisation approved by Council.

- Prioritisation of investment in facilities that are experiencing maximum usage through the collaboration of multiple users,

- Preferred timeframe for the delivery of improvement (subject to Council approval)

10.3.4. Divestment or Reduction of Facilities

The "Facilities Management Plan(s) will identify the most appropriate means to reduce or divest of facilities are deemed:

- Not a priority for the future use of the town's community (or the community within the 15-minute catchment)

- To have significant challenges concerning future cost-effective asset management

- Replicate other facilities that offer greater functionality or capacity

This process may include discontinuing support for facilities under the ownership of DEECA, for which there are alternatives within 15 minutes of the driving time of those facilities.

10.3.5. Governance

The "Facilities Management Plan(s) would also explore opportunities to streamline the governance structures involved across the combination of facilities to reduce the call on community and Council resources.

10.3.6. Outcomes

The "Facilities Management Plan(s)" would support the following outcomes.

- Improved functionality of existing assets

- Increased use of existing assets

- Rationalised asset mix

- Reduced Council expenditure

- Reduced demand for community resources

- Streamlined governance processes regarding the management of community facilities

10.4. Recommended Projects

This Report recommends the following projects to improve the capability of making long-term decisions about investing in social infrastructure for towns and Localities in the Loddon Shire.

Projects	Timeframe					
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y5+
1) Identify the implications for the need or usage of town facilities based on the ROSA, Economic Development Strategy and Visitor Economy Strategy recommendations.	■					
2) Develop a practical data collection process for the Council, "Management Committees" and users to establish actual facility usage — both frequency and type. Collect usage data	■	■	■	■	■	■
3) Complete asset assessments for all social infrastructure facilities that identify facilities that are at, or close to, end of life" and for which there are alternate spaces.	■	■	■			
4) Review the Community Planning Framework to include a focus on identifying existing facilities that provide the most appropriate and usable indoor meeting space and spaces that are infrequently used (or not used at all); this process will utilise data made available through the process developed in #2. Update Community Plans as necessary		■	■	■		
5) Develop a "Facilities Management Plan" for each town that establishes priorities for investment in or rationalisation of existing Council facilities within 15 minutes driving time of the "Township Zone" (see Section 10.3[61])				■	■	■
6) Update community profiles for towns (and the other Localities in the Shire) based on the 2026 ABS Census and identify the implications for future social infrastructure development.				■		
7) Update the network of available facilities and services available to towns[62]				■	■	

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[61] At this time, it is unknown how long the development of these plans will take

[62] This update will consider any assets that will be discontinued based on usage and asset assessments and will underpin the development of the Facilities Management Plans