

**21.05 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

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**21.05-1 Overview**

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Strathbogie Shire, similar to national trends, has an ageing population. Forecasts indicate the municipality will soon have the second highest population aged over 60 years in Victoria.

Our residents, in particular the aged and people with disabilities, often rely on community services to meet their various needs. The Shire has a range of medical and educational facilities, community services, aged care, libraries, maternal and child health and youth services.

Residents have a sense of wellbeing if they are connected to others in their community and feel like they belong. By planning ahead, Council can create opportunities for people of all abilities to actively participate in community life.

**Key Issues**

- There are no tertiary education providers within the municipality.
- Only one secondary college provider in the municipality which is located in Euroa.
- Increased demand for services to support both disability and ageing trends.
- No public hospital beds within the Shire.

**21.05-2 Learning for life**

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**Objective**

To provide places for people of all ages to engage in learning.

**Strategies**

- Support education/community hubs, which may include libraries and youth centres.
- Support the establishment of a Secondary College in Nagambie.
- Support education facilities which provide services for the wider community.

**21.05-3 Social services and infrastructure**

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**Objective**

To provide networked communities.

**Strategies**

- Encourage equitable access to facilities and services.
- Support the expansion of aged care facilities and services, where appropriate.
- Support health, community and education hubs in Euroa and Nagambie.
- Consider transport and telecommunications infrastructure when planning for growth.

**21.05-4 Implementation**

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The strategies will be implemented through the planning scheme by:

**Scheme Implementation**

- Apply appropriate zones to land to allow the development of community and education hubs.

**Others actions of Council**

- Investigate the potential for Higher Education and Research facilities/programs in the Strathbogie Shire, in areas of food technology, food processing, equine, poultry, wind energy or any other studies that would support our local industries.
- Develop Master Plans for public recreation facilities, where required.
- Prepare a long term integrated Aged Care Plan.

**Future strategic work**

- Prepare a Gambling Policy Framework and implement the recommendations into the planning scheme.