INTRODUCTION

Municipal profile

The City of Melton is a key part of Melbourne’s western growth corridor. It comprises three distinct areas; the existing urban areas known as the established areas, the growth areas, and the rural areas which lie outside the Urban Growth Boundary and are part of the ‘Green Wedge’ which forms a ring around Melbourne.

The city is adjacent to the municipalities of Wyndham, Brimbank, Macedon Ranges, Hume, and Moorabool. The municipality encompasses 52,730 hectares of land and is strategically located with good access to Melbourne’s key freeways, airports and the Port of Melbourne.

The City of Melton is one of Australia’s fastest growing communities. The population grew from 52,029 in 2001, to 146,979 in 2017 and is forecast to be more than 381,000 by 2041. When the City of Melton reaches its ultimate population it will be a city of more than 400,000 people. This unprecedented growth brings great challenges as well as opportunities.

This population growth has led to the establishment of eleven new suburbs across the growth corridor between the existing suburbs of Melton and Caroline Springs and in areas including Plumpton, Rockbank and Truganina. Boundary changes have also occurred in long-established localities such as Melton, Melton South and Melton West.

Increasingly, the focus of development is dispersing to the smaller townships of Eynesbury, and Diggers Rest, and the growth suburbs of Aintree, Bonnie Brook, Cobblebank, Deanside, Fieldstone, Fraser Rise, Grangefields, Ravenhall, Rockbank, Strathbulloh, Thornhill Park, Truganina, Harkness and Weir Views.

A future Metropolitan Activity Centre (MAC) is identified within the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan area, this activity centre will eventually be the largest in the City of Melton. It will be a significant retail, employment and business generator into the future and will provide civic, education and health facilities for the growing population of the City of Melton and the wider western region.

The City of Melton also contains state significant industrial land in the east of the municipality which incorporates the Ravenhall Precinct a waste and resource recovery hub of state importance (including Boral Quarry, Cleanaway Melbourne Regional Landfill Ravenhall). This state significant industrial land will be a key employment generator for the City of Melton and the wider western region.

Melton also has a number of rural areas including Parwan, Plumpton, Mount Cottrell, Exford, parts of Diggers Rest, Toolern Vale and the rural part of Eynesbury Station.

The municipality has a variety of significant natural and cultural heritage places and landscapes associated with pre-contact, post contact settlement and pastoral activity that is fundamental to the city’s identity.
Key influences

Council’s role is to provide clear directions for future growth that results in a well-planned and built City and respond to the following key influences:

- Rapid population growth.
- Adapting to climate change.
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Infrastructure provision to service existing and future residents.
- Natural environment and significant landscapes.
- Housing diversity and housing character.
- The local economy and local employment opportunities.
- Liveability and resident wellbeing.
- Urban design and image.
- Green wedge areas.

**Key issues**
The key issues facing Melton are focused around ten strategic themes:

1. Settlement
2. Environment and landscape values
3. Environmental risks
4. Natural resource management
5. Activity centres and retail provision
6. Built environment and heritage
7. Housing
8. Economic development
9. Transport
10. Infrastructure

**Vision**

The Melton City Council is committed to strategically and inclusively planning for the future. Council’s vision is to create a *thriving community where everyone belongs.*

Council seeks to achieve the following outcomes for its community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A City of people leading happy and healthy lives</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A City that preserves and enhances its natural environment for future generations</td>
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<tr>
<td>A City with a clear vision to manage growth in a sustainable and accessible way</td>
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<tr>
<td>A City rich in local employment and education opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>An organisation operating with innovation, transparency, accountability and sustainability</td>
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</tbody>
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Strategic framework plan

The Strategic Framework Plan identifies the major strategic directions for the municipality. This plan sets out the general pattern for land use and development to respond to the key influences and issues to achieve Council’s strategic vision for the municipality.

The Strategic Framework Plan illustrates the municipality’s regional context, provides an overview of land use in the municipality and identifies the following:

- Transport connections including proposed train stations.
- Areas identified for significant urban growth.
- The location and hierarchy of existing and proposed Activity Centres.
- Major employment nodes.
- Areas of environmental and landscape significance.
- Key open space and recreation nodes.
Figure 2 – Strategic Framework Plan