

## CONTEXT

Murrindindi Shire is situated northeast of metropolitan Melbourne, and forms part of Melbourne's peri-urban interface. It extends from the Kinglake Ranges and Great Dividing Range in the south to the Strathbogie Ranges to the north. The municipality comprises 3,873 square kilometres, of which 48% is public land.

The estimated residential population (ABS) for Murrindindi Shire was 14,000 as of 2016. The main towns of Alexandra, Yea, Eildon and Marysville are all serviced. Other larger towns are Kinglake and Kinglake West - Pheasant Creek. Smaller towns and settlements include Buxton, Flowerdale, Glenburn, Molesworth, Narbethong, Strath Creek, Taggerty, Taylor Bay, Thornton, Toolangi and Yarck, with other smaller settlements existing throughout the municipality.

The existing road network provides access to metropolitan Melbourne, the Hume Freeway and Melbourne International Airport.

Murrindindi Shire has a large range of natural features and built attractions that contribute significantly towards the municipality's environment, economy, character and appeal.

Features of economic and social significance in the municipality are Lake Eildon, the Goulburn River and valley, the Strathbogie Ranges, the Melba, Maroondah and Goulburn Valley Highways, the Great Dividing Range and the Lake Mountain Alpine Resort.

Natural disasters, including the 2009 bushfires, have affected many areas of the municipality. The rebuilding of affected towns and the protection of settlements from bushfire are critical issues for the community.