

21.01 NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE STRATEGIC THEMES AND VISION

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21.01-1 Introduction

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The Municipal Strategic Statement is the land use planning framework for the Northern Grampians Shire. The Municipal Strategic Statement provides strategic direction for the planning, land use and development of the municipality, considering the range of environmental, social and economic factors influencing the shire.

21.01-2 Local context

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Northern Grampians Shire is located in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Region of Victoria, and shares its boundaries with Yarriambiack Shire and Buloke Shire to the north, the Loddon Shire, Central Goldfields Shire and Pyrenees Shire to the east, the Rural City of Ararat and Southern Grampians Shire to the south and the Rural City of Horsham to the west.

The shire covers 5,918 km² of land and is traversed by the Wimmera River. The Grampian Ranges dominate the shire's southern reaches and the Avoca River forms part of the municipality's eastern boundary. The north east part of the municipality consists of the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains and the north western area is part of the Wimmera Plains. The shire also contains the headwaters of the Richardson and Avon Rivers (Refer Map 1 – Northern Grampians Shire - Strategic Framework Plan).

The majority of the shire's population reside in the district towns of Stawell and St Arnaud. Halls Gap is a significant regional town and the small settlements of Great Western, Navarre, Stuart Mill, Marnoo and Glenorchy provide important focal points for local communities.

21.01-03 Strategic vision

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Council has as its guiding document, the Council Plan (2013 – 2017). Council's central vision and objective for the municipality is to:

“Improve the social and economic viability of the shire.

Deliver targeted projects and core services.”

Key strategies developed to deliver the vision, include:

- Economic strategy
- Social, community and environment strategy
- Emergency and risk strategy
- Data & information strategy
- Waste strategy
- Asset strategy
- Red tape reduction strategy
- Financial sustainability strategy

Council's Land Development Strategy, 2013 – 2017 encourages commercial and industrial development across the Northern Grampians Shire to generate jobs and stimulate economic growth. The Strategy is the foundation of the Northern Grampians Shire Strategic Framework Plan for the future development of the shire.

21.01-04 Northern Grampians Shire Strategic Framework Plan

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The Northern Grampians Shire Strategic Framework Plan sets out the general pattern for land use and development to respond to the objectives of the Land Development Strategy 2013-2017 to achieve the strategic vision for the shire.

This strategy seeks to develop commercial and industrial land across the Northern Grampians Shire through public and private investment which will generate jobs and stimulate economic growth.

The purpose of the Strategic Framework Plan is to provide an overview of land use in the shire and to identify locations where specific land use outcomes will be supported and promoted.

The Local Planning Policy Framework delivers these outcomes through the five key planning themes of:

- Settlement, housing, built environment and heritage
- Environmental risk and landscape values
- Economic development
- Infrastructure and community development
- Transport

Map 1: Northern Grampians Shire – Strategic Framework Plan

