

# The Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi Plan and Design Framework

## Implementation Strategy (Feb 2014)

The Kinglake, Flowerdale and Toolangi Plan and Design Framework has been developed by the Murrindindi Shire Council in partnership with the Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi Community Recovery Committees and the State Government of Victoria.



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# Implementation Strategy

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This document comprises the Implementation Strategy for The Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi Plan and Design Framework (2014). It is intended to sit as a supplementary document to the Plan and Design Framework, and to be updated regularly as actions are achieved. This Implementation Strategy is a live document and it is intended that it will be used as a tool by the identified responsible agencies for future.

The Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi Plan and Design Framework is a vision for a sustainable future for the local communities of Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Kinglake West- Pheasant Creek, Flowerdale (including Hazeldene) and Toolangi (including Castella). The Plan and Design Framework outlines seven Key Directions to achieve the vision, including:

**Key Direction 1** – Maintain Tranquil Lifestyles

**Key Direction 2** – Ensure a Viable Local Economy

**Key Direction 3** – Protect and Enhance the Environment

**Key Direction 4** – Create Attractive, Distinctive and Vibrant Towns

**Key Direction 5** – Support the Wellbeing of Local Communities

**Key Direction 6** – Support Resilience, Safety and Adaptability

**Key Direction 7** - Improve Connections

This Implementation Strategy contains tables which identify specific actions to implement the Plan and Design Framework. The tables are structured around the seven Key Directions identified within the Plan and Design Framework.

February 2014

# Implementation Strategy

## Implementation Strategy

### Introduction

The Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi KFT Plan and Design Framework (the KFT Plan) is a vision for a sustainable future for the local communities of Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Kinglake West- Pheasant Creek, Flowerdale (including Hazeldene) and Toolangi (including Castella). All these communities are in the municipality of Murrindindi Shire. The KFT Plan is founded on the values that these local communities have identified as important to their future.

The KFT Plan will guide future population growth, land use and development, infrastructure and service provision, community safety and the character and identity of local communities.

This Implementation Strategy identifies specific actions to implement the KFT Plan.

The tables that follow in this Implementation Strategy are structured around the Future Directions identified on pages 26-29 of the KFT Plan. It is intended that this Implementation Strategy will be used as a tool by the identified responsible agencies for future resourcing, and be regularly updated to reflect progress.

### How to use this Implementation Strategy

This Implementation Strategy identifies Actions under each of the seven (7) Future Directions contained in the KFT Plan.

Each Action is accompanied by nominated timing, the Lead Agency responsible for pursuing the Action, commentary as to how the Action is to be achieved and current status.

The timeframe indicated should be interpreted as follows:

- Immediate – for action within 6 months
- Short Term – for action within 1-2 years
- Medium Term – for action within 2-5 years
- Long Term – for action within 5-10 years

Table 1 below identifies a number of catalyst projects which should be progressed as a priority to address issues identified in this KFT Plan. Some of these projects have recently been completed.

Catalyst Projects	Action
Recognise the Design Frameworks in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme	A1.1 - 1.6
Improve road cyclist infrastructure	A2.3
Re-establish service station at Kinglake	A2.4
Undertake groundwater modelling and communicate results to the community	A3.4
Resolve boundary and identity issues in Flowerdale and Hazeldene and Kinglake West/Pheasant Creek	A4.1
Provide a general practitioner medical service in Kinglake (Completed)	A5.6
Designate additional Neighbourhood Safer Places within the study area for each community	A6.2
Improve fire risk management	A6.2
Construct off road paths between Hazeldene to Spring Valley Recreation Reserve, Kinglake Central to Kinglake (Completed)	A7.2

**Table 1 - Catalyst Projects**

## Key Direction 1 - Maintain Tranquil Lifestyles

The picturesque, rural setting and identity of Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi region is highly valued by local communities.

The features and characteristics which underpin virtually every aspect of life in the region include:

- Natural assets such as the Kinglake National Park and state forest
- Rolling hills, valleys and pastures
- Roadside vegetation and introduced plantings in settled areas
- The forested setting of townships and settlements

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A1.1	<b>Manage growth through the establishment of clear settlement boundaries and civic hubs, and limit growth to existing zoned areas in most locations.</b>	Short Term	Large scale urban, commercial or industrial development within the study area would undermine the tranquil rural ambience which has attracted residents and others to the area.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Department of Transport, Planning and local Infrastructure	Recognise the Design Frameworks contained in the KFT Plan in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.	Confirmed in the adopted KFT Plan and to be included in the Planning Scheme Amendment prepared to implement the plan.
A1.2	<b>Consolidate and recognise existing rural residential development and limited infill growth in Kinglake subject to servicing and safety (i.e. bushfire risk) considerations.</b>	Short Term	Emerging State policy on small settlement growth and from the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission significantly influences these initiatives.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Department of Transport, Planning and local Infrastructure	Recognise the Design Frameworks contained in the KFT Plan in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.	Confirmed in the adopted KFT Plan and to be included in the Planning Scheme Amendment prepared to implement the plan.

## Key Direction 1 – cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A1.3	<b>Look for opportunities to provide greater housing diversity in established settlements.</b>	Short – Long Term	Housing diversity will provide existing and future residents with greater choice and the ability to age in place and continue their enjoyment of the region.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Department of Transport, Planning and local Infrastructure	Ensure zoning of land in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme to reflect the recommendations of the KFT Plan.	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.	Council continues to explore opportunities for greater housing diversity with developers.
A1.4	<b>Consolidate growth in existing zoned areas.</b>	Short – Long Term	Growth needs to be consolidated and the “green” separation between developments and along key connecting routes reinforced.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Department of Transport, Planning and local Infrastructure	Recognise the Design Frameworks contained in the KFT Plan in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1.	Confirmed in the adopted KFT Plan and to be included in the Planning Scheme Amendment prepared to implement the plan.
A1.5	<b>Reinforce the landscape buffers, agricultural areas and public forests between settlements by managing growth through the establishment of clear settlement boundaries and civic hubs, and limiting growth to existing zoned areas in most locations.</b>	Short – Long Term	Scattered and continued urban growth will continue to threaten viable existing and future agricultural activity.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure	Recognise the Design Frameworks (including the settlement boundaries identified within these) in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.3, 3.1, 4.3, 4.4.	Confirmed in the adopted KFT Plan and to be included in the Planning Scheme Amendment prepared to implement the plan.
A1.6	<b>Establish clearly defined boundaries around existing settlements to provide certainty regarding future rural land use.</b>	Short Term	Rural land within the study area is of relatively high quality with excellent soils and high rainfall and close proximity to metropolitan markets.  The opportunities for agri-business ventures to re-establish in the study area should be maintained.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure	Recognise the Design Frameworks (including the settlement boundaries identified within these) in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.3, 3.1, 4.3, 4.4.	Confirmed in the adopted KFT Plan and to be included in the Planning Scheme Amendment prepared to implement the plan.

## Key Direction 2 - Ensure a Viable Local Economy

The Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi region needs to provide sufficient levels of employment, services and business opportunities to support the livelihood and wellbeing of local communities, recognising that as part of Melbourne's hinterland, these communities also benefit from close proximity to employment and services in the metropolitan area.

Local economic development should harness, protect and enhance those factors that give the region its competitive advantage including fertile soils and farming land, tranquil rural townships, natural beauty, environmental values, and self-reliant and creative people.

A more sustainable future will embrace opportunities in the new green economy based around greater self-sufficiency, new agri-business and tourism that draw on the natural assets of the region including the Kinglake National Park and highly productive agricultural land.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
<p><b>A2.1</b></p> <p><b>Establish a brand identity for the study area which captures the strengths and advantages of the region such as the natural and recreational values of the area (e.g. "Melbourne's playground of the north").</b></p> <p><b>The brand identity must be consistent with the core values held by the community.</b></p>	Medium Term	<p>A brand identity can contribute to economic development through promoting tourism visitation and the sale of local produce.</p> <p>The Kinglake National Park will continue to generate the highest visitation.</p>	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Tourism Victoria</p> <p>Kinglake Ranges Business Network</p> <p>Goulburn River Valley Tourism</p> <p>Parks Victoria</p>	Council's Economic Development Strategy.	1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4	<p>There is a need to consider the cost and implications of creating and promoting a unique brand for the study area, given work undertaken to date to promote the broader attractions of "Murrindindi" as a region.</p> <p>Focus could be on area specific marketing/promotional features within context of overall regional marketing initiatives.</p> <p>The Kinglake Ranges Business Network is seeking to lead the development of improved tourism product, including themed product tours encompassing associated attractions, sites and businesses with the focus on creating feature marketing initiatives within existing regional tourism marketing initiatives.</p>

## Key Direction 2 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A2.2	<p><b>Support improved infrastructure, including high speed internet to support small, creative and innovative businesses.</b></p>	Medium Term	<p>Small, creative and innovative businesses are consistent with the core values expressed by residents and will provide opportunities for local residents to remain in the area.</p>	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Federal Government</p>	<p>Lobby the National Broadband Network Co. and telecommunications providers to provide improved infrastructure to the area.</p>	<p>2.2, 2.5, 5.3, 7.2</p>	<p>Council has made representation to the Federal Government to seek improved outcomes for Murrindindi, including the Plan area, with respect to the provision of telecommunications/broadband services.</p> <p>The most recent information indicated that NBN Fibre rollout is to commence in area of Kinglake to Kinglake West within 3 years. Fixed wireless roll out in areas adjoining Kinglake is also scheduled in next three years.</p>
A2.3	<p><b>Improve the tourism offer through:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Linking settlements directly, or by way of information, with improved tourist facilities in the Kinglake National Park promoting towns as gateways to the National Park (for example, Visitor Interpretative Centre, Visitor Information Boards in settlement nodes, viewing platform at Mt. Sugarloaf, downhill Mountain bike course, improved walking trails).</b></li> <li>• <b>Improved road cyclist infrastructure including mileage markers and signage on mountain climbs approaching study area (Humevale Road and Heidelberg – Kinglake Road).</b></li> <li>• <b>Establish tourist walking/cycling and driving routes that guide visitors to local attractions.</b></li> <li>• <b>Improved park visitor facilities (improved picnic area at Masons Falls).</b></li> </ul>	Short Term	<p>Existing links between settlements and the natural assets of the region are fragmented and uncoordinated.</p> <p>Alignment of key settlement linkages with natural assets will provide for better integration and synergies for settlements and local communities.</p>	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Whittlesea and Nillumbik Councils (cyclist infrastructure)</p> <p>VicRoads</p> <p>Tourism Victoria</p> <p>Parks Victoria for Kinglake National Park facilities</p>	<p>Kinglake National Park Master Plan</p> <p>Council capital works budgets (signage)</p>	<p>2.1, 2.4, 3.5, 5.1, 5.4, 7.1, 7.3</p>	<p>Council has supported the Kinglake Ranges Business Network with financial input and content advice and editing in relation to one refurbished and six new visitor information boards across the Kinglake Ranges.</p> <p>Through 2012/13 Parks Victoria progressed restoration and improvement works at a number of sites identified as priorities in the Kinglake National Park Master Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masons Falls,</li> <li>• Jehosaphat Gully, and</li> <li>• Bowden Spur Mountain Bike Trail.</li> </ul> <p>Additional works identified in the Master Plan will be progressed by Parks Victoria as funding becomes available.</p> <p>This will be an ongoing action to improve tourism offerings through appropriate infrastructure as resources become available.</p>

## Key Direction 2 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A2.4	<b>Support the re-establishment of a petrol station in Kinglake.</b>	Short Term	Residents have no choice but to travel off the mountain to purchase fuel. This contributes to the leakage of retail expenditure. A permanent petrol station in the study area would help to limit trade leakage.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Council's land use planning and economic development officers to work with potential developers.	4.3	A temporary fuel station has been in operation in Kinglake for several years on land leased by Council and with support of Regional Development Victoria.  Council has continued to facilitate opportunities for the re-establishment of permanent facilities and recently approved a planning application from a potential developer/ operator.
A2.5	<b>Undertake a detailed study to determine the rate of breakdown of Dieldrin in soils within the study area in order to better understand longer term production issues including for organic farming.</b>	Short Term	Undertake a detailed study to determine the rate of breakdown of Dieldrin in soils within the study area in order to better understand longer term production issues including for organic farming.	Department of Environment and Primary Industries	Detailed environmental study.	1.2, 2.2, 2.3	This action is yet to be progressed with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries as lead agency.
A2.6	<b>Include the study area in relevant agribusiness development programs run by DPI.</b>	Short Term	The high quality soils and high rainfall of much of the study area presents opportunities for agri-business to establish in the study area.	Department of Environment and Primary Industries	Agfutures Program.	1.2, 2.2, 2.3	This action is yet to be progressed with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries as the lead agency.

## Key Direction 2 - cont.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date	
A2.7	Explore opportunities for agriculture related tourism such as farm gate sales and farmers market.	Short - Medium Term	The highly productive agricultural land within the study area and the proximity to Melbourne provide opportunities for agriculture related tourism.	Murrindindi Shire Council Tourism Victoria	Council's Economic Development Strategy.	2.2, 2.3	<p>Council has made comment/submission to the Minister for Planning in relation to the potential revisions to the farming zone to provide opportunities for tourism/agriculture uses.</p> <p>The Kinglake Framers Market has been established, with funding support provided by RDV.</p> <p>The Kinglake Ranges Business Network is seeking to lead develop of improved tourism product, including farm gate themed product tours and a Local Business Directory.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to new opportunities that may arise for the Study Area following the State Government review of the Farming Zones.</p>
A2.8	Review the appropriateness of the Farming Zone provisions as they apply to small lots within the study area located outside of recognized settlements (following Government review of planning zones).	Short - Medium Term	<p>The application of the Farming Zone to small lots within the study area that are located outside of recognized settlements is problematic as many of these lots are too small to be used for productive agriculture.</p> <p>The Farming Zone does not reflect the use of these lots and places limitations on their use and development.</p>	Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure	Murrindindi Planning Scheme.	1.4, 2.2	The Council is currently reviewing the outcomes of the Ministerial review of planning zones with the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure as the lead agency.

## Key Direction 3 - Protect and Enhance the Environment

The Kinglake Ranges, Flowerdale and Toolangi region features highly valued natural landscapes and areas of environmental significance that must be protected and restored. These features directly and indirectly influence all activity in the region and are its strongest asset. This is reflected in the high level of community awareness about the importance of the local environment.

The natural landscape attracts residents and visitors alike and distinguishes this region from any other, but it is facing significant challenges. The ecological restoration process following the bushfires is underway but will take many years.

External pressures such as climate change and urban and agricultural land uses present critical challenges to the environmental values of the area. There is a need to focus on improving the resilience of the environment to face these challenges while allowing for the necessary interaction between the community and the environment.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
<p><b>A3.1</b></p> <p><b>Re-cast the townships as gateways to the natural assets of the area through improved signage and wayfinding.</b></p> <p><b>Undertake a retail development strategy specifically for the study area to realise the potential for eco-tourism related expenditure.</b></p>	Medium Term	<p>The settlements of the Kinglake Ranges should be re-cast as gateways to the natural assets of the area.</p> <p>The high numbers forecast for future visitation of the Kinglake National Park present an opportunity to provide tourists with a logical pathway to stop in the townships and for local business to earn revenue from retail activities.</p>	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Parks Victoria</p> <p>Tourism Victoria</p>	<p>Prepare a wayfinding strategy to improve signage and way finding.</p> <p>Implement the recommendations of the Design Frameworks through Councils capital works program.</p>	2.1, 2.5, 7.1	<p>New Shire and Town Entry signage has been installed by Council in the study area following the loss of signage during the fires.</p> <p>Council has recently provided planning approval for the development of retail premises in the Kinglake township.</p>

## Key Direction 3 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A3.2	<b>Monitor outcomes from the Yarra Valley Water Kinglake West demonstration project and apply relevant learnings elsewhere in the study area.</b>	Medium - Long Term	The environmental impacts of effluent entering waterways are significant and need to be addressed particularly in locations such as Flowerdale and Hazeldene with houses in close proximity to the King Parrot Creek.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure  Department of Environment and Primary Industries  Environment Protection Authority	Murrindindi Planning Scheme (for new development proposals that generate waste water).  Council's role in Environmental Health management.	3.2, 3.4	It will be some time before proper evaluation can be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the project and to apply these learnings elsewhere.  It is unlikely that this sewerage treatment system will be replicated in areas such as Kinglake township, Flowerdale or Hazeldene in the near future unless funded by government.  Although Council made representation on this issue, the opportunity to pursue innovative approaches to waste water management in the study area was not pursued by Government as part of the bushfire rebuilding program.
A3.3	<b>Undertake technical assessments of the wastewater treatment system installed as part of the Kinglake temporary village to ascertain its level of performance and ability to support development in the long term.</b>	Short Term	The waste water system is a significant government investment and may provide an opportunity for retrofit commercial centre.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Environment Protection Authority	Council in conjunction with the EPA undertake the assessment.	2.1, 2.4, 3.5, 5.1, 5.4, 7.1, 7.3	A decision was made by Department of Human Services to decommission the system as part of the decommissioning of the temporary village.  The decision was made by the State Government not to support the investigation of further development at this site in recognition of its proximity to areas of high bushfire risk.

## Key Direction 3 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A3.4	<b>Work with the EPA to evaluate improved onsite wastewater disposal solutions that are affordable and reduce environmental and health risks.</b>	Medium - Long Term	Outdated and poorly maintained onsite waste water systems are leading to environmental degradation and potential health risks in a number of settlement locations.	Murrindindi Shire Council Environment Protection Authority	Council to continue engagement with the EPA.		Council has worked with landowners as part of the rebuilding program to encourage septic tank system upgrades, which has resulted in improved wastewater management outcomes in the study area.
A3.5	<b>Promote further education within the community on the environmental impacts and health risks associated with run-off from septic tanks entering waterways and groundwater.</b>	Long Term	Better maintenance of individual on site waste water systems is a land holder responsibility.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Council communication with residents.		Council has increased its resources to improve monitoring of septic waste water systems in the Shire, including the Study Area.
A3.6	<b>Pursue funding for a reticulated waste water treatment system for Hazeldene and Flowerdale and other settlements within the study area.</b>	Medium – Long Term	The environmental and health benefits from retrofitting existing settlements with wastewater treatment systems are significant.  Hazeldene and Flowerdale have been identified as the highest priorities for a reticulated system given lot sizes and proximity to the King Parrot Creek.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Engagement with relevant water authorities.	3.1, 3.2	No specific action taken by Council to date.  It is unlikely that a reticulated waste water treatment system will be implemented in areas such as Kinglake township, Flowerdale or Hazeldene in the medium term (if at all) due to prohibitive infrastructure costs.  Despite Council representation on this issue, the opportunity to pursue this approach was not pursued by the Government as part of the bushfire rebuilding program.  Council has worked with landowners as part of the rebuilding program to encourage septic tank system upgrades, which has resulted in improved wastewater management outcomes in the study area.

## Key Direction 3 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A3.7	<b>Establish biolinks (habitat corridors) between forested land.</b>	Medium-Long Term	Providing safe and protected habitat corridors will maximise the movement and migration of fauna and the viability of flora.	Department of Environment and Primary Industries Parks Victoria	To be determined.	3.1	The action has not been actively pursued at this point in time.
A3.8	<b>Undertake detailed modelling of the Kinglake Groundwater Management Area to better understand the aquifer and quantity of water that can be extracted sustainably and inform the development of a Groundwater Management Strategy.</b>  <b>Communicate to the community the facts regarding sustainable groundwater use in the region.</b>	Short Term	Groundwater is an important resource to farmers and residents within the study area. A better understanding of the aquifer and a consequent management strategy will ensure that its long term sustainability is ensured.	Goulburn Murray Water	Groundwater Management Strategy for the Kinglake Groundwater Management Area.	3.1, 3.2	GMW is in the process of reviewing its Ground Water Management Plan for the study area (particularly Kinglake).  Water licensing for commercial/irrigation ground and surface water will remain capped in study area.

## Key Direction 4 - Create Attractive, Distinctive and Vibrant Towns

Local towns provide the services and businesses that meet the daily needs of local communities and support rural lifestyles. Having evolved with different histories and for different reasons, linked to farming, forests or the Kinglake National Park, each town in the study area contributes strongly to a sense of place and community identity for local residents. In recent years, they have also offered lifestyle and affordable housing choices close to Melbourne. However, in some instances, the decline of farming, along with fragmented patterns of development, has detracted from the attractiveness, function and viability of these townships.

Attributes that should be strengthened through the Plan and Design Framework include:

- local township identity and sense of place
- distinctive cultural heritage
- unique natural settings
- the right mix of businesses and services that support viable towns and local settlements.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A4.1 <b>Remove the inconsistencies between locality boundaries recognised by existing signage, Government agencies (i.e. Australia Post) and local residents understanding of locality boundaries.</b>	Short Term	The identity issue has been raised by many residents. This issue is widespread in many areas such as Kinglake West/Pheasant Creek, Hazeldene and Flowerdale and Toolangi and Castella.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure	Through the process outlined in the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010.	4.4	A preliminary review to confirm current official boundaries between Kinglake West/Pheasant Creek and Castella / Toolangi has been undertaken by Council.  Work is well advanced with Geographical Place Names to consolidate Flowerdale and Hazeldene into one locality called Flowerdale.

## Key Direction 4 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A4.2	<b>Implement design frameworks prepared as part of this study to improve the attractiveness and functionality of settlements within the study area. This should also include protection of significant views, vistas and the establishment of landscape buffers.</b>	Short – Long Term	Improving the attractiveness of settlements via the creation of logical nodes and meeting places will benefit both residents and the overall viability of settlements.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Recognise the Design Frameworks contained in this document in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.	1.1,1.3,4.1 4.2,4.3, 4.4,5.1	To action this item, further work is being undertaken to develop elements of the design frameworks within each settlement to identify and scope specific improvements to the main streetscapes.
A4.3	<b>Develop and implement design guidelines to ensure that new development within the study area does not compete or detract from its natural landscape setting.</b>	Short – Long Term	The unique landscape setting of the study area should not be impacted upon by new development.  It is generally accepted that built form contributes to (or can detract from) the character and identity of a place.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Recognise the Design Frameworks contained in this document in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.	1.1, 4.2	To action this item further work is being undertaken to develop elements of the design frameworks within each settlement to identify and scope specific improvements to the main streetscapes.
A4.4	<b>Improve identity through a comprehensive Way Finding strategy which includes urban design elements such as community nodes, civic hubs, pathways, gateways and entry features and varied public open spaces.</b>	Short Term	The legibility of individual settlements and the presentation and identity of the region as a whole will benefit from a coordinated approach to linkages, presentation and information.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Prepare a wayfinding strategy to improve signage and way finding.	2.1, 2.5, 7.1	To action this item further work is being undertaken to develop elements of the design frameworks within each settlement to identify and scope specific improvements to the main streetscapes.

## Key Direction 5 - Support the Wellbeing of Local Communities

Wellbeing is influenced by the social, economic and physical environments in which we live and the way we interact with those living conditions. Wellbeing is not just about being healthy or sick, but about the quality of our lives and our communities.

This Plan seeks to support and enhance:

- the services, facilities and amenity of each township that will enable community wellbeing to flourish
- the capacity of groups and individuals to initiate community activities and participate in community life
- the resilience, safety and sense of belonging of all residents.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
<p><b>A5.1</b></p> <p><b>Ensure access to well-located base-line community infrastructure in each settlement, including; community meeting space, local open space and play facilities and community information (including access to information technology).</b></p> <p><b>Community infrastructure should be co-located (e.g. Clustering of community facilities) and adjacent to public transport where available.</b></p>	Medium Term	All communities should have access to flexible community infrastructure which supports the needs of all ages and can respond to changing needs over time. Emphasis should be placed on the capacity and sustainability of walkable local facilities.	Murrindindi Shire Council	<p>Working with local service providers and residents in each settlement to respond to the findings of the Community Wellbeing Issues Paper.</p> <p>Adopting locational criteria for the provision of any future facilities.</p>	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	<p>Through the Bushfire Recovery response a significant amount of new or enhanced community infrastructure has been built (or is near completion) across the study area pertaining to health/medical services, recreational, youth space, open / play space and multi-use meeting space needs.</p> <p>Co-location has been sought wherever possible to create hubs of activity (e.g. Kinglake municipal offices and library with medical centre and play space. Kinglake Central new school, early learning centre, play space, senior citizens and recreation reserve. Flowerdale school, early learning centre, youth facility, community meeting space etc.).</p>

## Key Direction 5 - cont.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date	
A5.2	<b>Develop local open space and play opportunities in each settlement catering for a range of ages and interests, supporting the role of local open space for community gathering and informal recreation.</b>	Medium – Long Term	Supporting the role local open space plays in providing opportunities for physical activity and social interaction. Local open space play opportunities should be developed for settlements that lack these, particularly at Flowerdale/Hazeldene and Kinglake.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Preparation and implementation of Open Space Strategy.	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	Several open space projects have recently been completed in the Study Area including Castella Park, Bollygum Adventure Park, Kinglake Memorial Reserve re-development, Kinglake Lions Park re-development, Kinglake West Reserve Reflective Gardens, Flowerdale Community House playspace, Moores Road playspace Flowerdale, Spring Valley Recreation Reserve sporting and facility enhancements.  There is unlikely to be further development of facilities in the short to medium term.
A5.3	<b>Identify opportunities to improve walking and cycling access within townships, as well as links to Kinglake National Park and State Forest.</b>	Medium – Long Term	Strong interest in supporting physical connections between towns and optimising the health benefits of physical activity.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Preparation and implementation of Active Transport Strategy.	5.1	No specific strategy work has been undertaken by Council to date, although several pathways have recently been constructed (see A7.2).
A5.4	<b>Continue to explore opportunities with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) to identify a sustainable model for post-Primary education to be provided in the study area (e.g. Primary to year 9).</b>	Medium – Long Term	The research and consultation process identified the potential role of secondary education in supporting young people to maintain their social connections and support networks in the local area and to reduce long daily commutes for children.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	Formation of “Post-Primary Education Options” Working Group.	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	DEECD has advised that there are no specific short to medium term plans to provide post-primary education in the Study area.  Currently there is concern regarding the impacts of a new school opening on existing secondary schools in the region.

## Key Direction 5 - cont.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
<p><b>A5.5</b> Permanent consulting rooms should be constructed in the Kinglake Ranges to enable provision of GP services and other complimentary health and allied health services.</p> <p>Rural Workforce Agency of Victoria to assist with the procurement of permanent general practice services to operate from the consulting rooms at the level determined by assessment of community need.</p>	Short Term	The study area needs to build its capacity to respond to models of health service delivery which are based on the flexible delivery of services where they are most needed and to support service coordination and cross-referral. The current administrative reference north to the Hume region is at odds with the natural service usage patterns of this peri-urban community back towards Melbourne.	Federal Government Department of Health Rural workforce Agency of Victoria	Pending.	5.2, 5.3	Permanent medical facilities (GP Consulting rooms) have now been constructed in Kinglake on Council land adjacent to the Council offices.  Nexus Primary Health operate the medical facilities and provide GP services.
<p><b>A5.6</b> Prepare an Arts and Cultural strategy to identify ways in which arts and cultural activities contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of local communities and to guide investment in the development of arts and cultural facilities.</p>	Short Term	Arts and culture enriches the local communities and strengthens social fabric.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Development and implementation of an Arts and Cultural Strategy.	5.4	Council has recently developed an Arts and Culture policy for the municipality which describes Council's roles as a supporter and facilitator of arts and culture initiatives, but not a driver or provider of such.  Council will continue to support community initiatives aimed at developing arts and cultural opportunities.
<p><b>A5.7</b> Work with local primary schools to enhance community use of facilities out of school hours.</p>	Immediate	There has been considerable investment in infrastructure for primary education, this project has identified the opportunity to optimise the value from this investment by ensure the facilities with primary school are made available to the wider community.	Murrindindi Shire Council Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)	MOU between Council and primary schools.	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	Joint use agreements with DEECD have been established where Council has a financial interest in the facilities (Marysville, Kinglake Central and Flowerdale).

## Key Direction 5 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status/ Work Completed to Date
A5.8	<b>Work with training providers to offer targeted vocational training to support employment pathways for young people (e.g. Hospitality training) and those returning to work.</b>	Medium-Long Term	The project has identified demand for vocational training from local businesses and individuals to improve employment skills and capacity.	Education & training providers. Murrindindi Shire Council	Identify funding for a training needs assessment to be undertaken in association with local employers.	5.2, 5.3	Council has recently worked with the Local Learning and Employment Network in the conduct of a Training Demand Study across the municipality, including the Study Area. The outcomes identify current skill and training gaps and opportunities to address the gaps.
A5.9	<b>Provide on-going support and training for community volunteers.</b>	Medium - Long Term	The nature of community activity and community service provision in the study area requires on-going support to the volunteers who provide these activities.	Murrindindi Shire Council Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure Community organisations	Utilising appropriate funding programs to support volunteer training and development.	5.2, 5.3	Council continues to provide ongoing support and training to volunteers assisting within Council run programs in the area.  Other key organisations utilising volunteers in the study area include Berry Street and Catholic Care, these organisations have Volunteer Coordination resources to assist in the provision of training and ongoing support.  DHS is currently developing a model whereby three or four agencies will provide a qualified clinician on a rostered basis to provide support to community leaders who themselves are relied upon by 'in need' community members.
A5.10	<b>Identify opportunities to increase whole-of-life participation in recreation opportunities (e.g. Age-appropriate programming of recreation facilities).</b>	Immediate	There has been considerable investment in recreational infrastructure, this project has identified the opportunity to optimise the value from this investment by ensuring recreation facilities are welcoming and appropriate to all ages and interests.	Murrindindi Shire Council Community Organisations	Audit of current usage of recreation facilities.	5.2, 5.3	Council is currently reviewing its recreation strategy and it is envisaged whole-of-life participation in recreation will be a significant theme.

## Key Direction 5 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A5.11	<b>Identify opportunities for regular information exchange between council, service providers and local residents (e.g. On-line forums, regular community meetings).</b>	Medium-Term	Service provision is dispersed across the study area, with fragmented access to information.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Community Service Providers	Audit of existing information strategies.	5.3	<p>A Council representative currently attends the Kinglake Ranges Service Collaborative Meetings.</p> <p>These meetings provide a platform for information sharing and action amongst funded community service organisations providing both bushfire specific services and ongoing generic services. Membership to the Kinglake Ranges Community and Services Collaborative includes 21 Community Service Organisations, Local, State and Federal Government department representatives and local community members. The Department of Human Services funded a project officer to assist in the development of a plan for the group as well as funding for venue and catering for monthly meetings.</p> <p>Many of the agencies involved in the Kinglake Collaborative are partners of the local Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs). PCPs are funded to improve access to services and continuity of care for people through improved service coordination, as well as chronic disease prevention, integrated health promotion, and partnership development. The majority of service providers in the Kinglake, Flowerdale and Toolangi area are also members of the Murrindindi Community Services Network. These meetings and membership lists provide a good framework for distribution of information.</p>
A5.12	<b>Investigate opportunities for the development of community enterprises which support local economic and employment opportunities (e.g. Food co-op, coordinated marketing of local businesses, cultural initiatives, community events).</b>	Medium-Term	During the course of this study there has been considerable interest in developing community enterprise opportunities which build on local strengths, increase local economic activity and generate local jobs.	Murrindindi Shire Council  Regional Development Victoria	Identification of funding for a community enterprise strategy.	5.3	<p>Council officers have held discussions with the North East Community Initiatives Ltd., based in Kinglake, on the development of a social enterprise around recycling and waste management and aimed at providing employment opportunities for unemployed youth.</p>

## Key Direction 5 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status/ Work Completed to Date
A5.13	<b>Work with young people to provide on-going support for information access and social opportunities.</b>	Short Term	Social and recreational opportunities for young people have been identified as a priority during this project.	Murrindindi Shire Council	On-going consultation with young people.	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	The Murrindindi Youth Strategy is aimed at the needs of young people across the Shire. The Youth Partnership Group have provided funding to resource Youth workers in the Kinglake Ranges area and the Coordinator Youth Development is working closely with Ellimata Youth Group to assist in the development of a sustainable and successful youth space in Kinglake.
A5.14	<b>Identify an accessible location (co-located with other support services and transport) as a focus for young people in the study area.</b>	Short Term	Social and recreational opportunities for young people have been identified as a priority during this project.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Audit of the capacity & suitability of existing infrastructure to accommodate the needs of young people.	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	Dedicated youth spaces have now been developed for both Kinglake and Flowerdale.
A5.15	<b>Work with government and community service providers to develop an integrated strategy to enable older adults to 'age in place'.</b>	Medium-Long Term	The consultation and research process identified a trend for older adults to leave the study area as they age.	Murrindindi Shire Council Department of Health	Identification for funding for and Ageing In Place Strategy.	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	Council has developed a Positive Aging Action Plan which will address this issue from a shire-wide perspective.

## Key Direction 5 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A5.16	Investigate the availability of the existing cemetery reserve in Kinglake West to be utilised for a cemetery or memorial reserve.	Medium-Term	There is no currently active cemetery reserve within the study area. Local community members have expressed support for a cemetery within the study area.	Murrindindi Shire Council	To be determined.	5.4	No action has been taken to date by Council. Existing Reserve is Crown Land under DEPI management.
A5.17	Review demand for aged care services in the Study Area.		To determine if there has been an impact on demand for, and/or provision of aged care services to residents of the study area post the 2009 bushfires. To adjust services if required to support ageing in place.	Department of Health Hume Region	Ageing In Place Strategy.	5.1, 5.2, 5.3	Council has developed a Positive Aging Action Plan which will address this issue from a shire-wide perspective.

## Key Direction 6 - Support Resilience, Safety and Adaptability

The natural environment and landscape and the hinterland setting of the area provides both opportunities and challenges for people living there.

Residents should be equipped to live within this unique environment so they are fully aware and prepared for future extreme weather events.

Residents and visitors can contribute to the sustainability of the region if they are fully engaged in building self-reliance and local partnerships, while recognising and managing the inherent natural risks and challenges of isolation and separation.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A6.1	<b>Adopt a local planning policy for bushfire management (Consistent with Rec. No. 45 of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission).</b>	Short Term	Greater guidance should be provided to landowners and decision makers, including local government planners, of the need to comprehensively consider and address fire risk when considering proposals for new land use and development.	Murrindindi Shire Council	Murrindindi Planning Scheme Amendment.	5.1, 6.1, 6.2	This action has been completed.

## Key Direction 6 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status/ Work Completed to Date
<b>A6.2</b>	<p><b>Improve fire risk management through:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of a Municipal Fire Management Plan.</li> <li>Preparation of a Fire Risk Register for the study area.</li> <li>Designation of Neighbourhood Safer Places.</li> <li>Preparation of Community Information Guides- Bushfires.</li> <li>Improved fire risk mapping in the study area to better understand the risk profile.</li> <li>Establishment of designated buffers and landscape strategies to reduce risk.</li> <li>Improved management of fuel loads on public land and private land, particularly in proximity to settlements.</li> </ul>	Medium - Long Term	The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission identified numerous actions to improve fire management. Many of these recommendations are of direct relevance to the study area and should be implemented in the short term.	<p>Country Fire Authority</p> <p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure</p> <p>Department of Environment and Primary Industries</p> <p>Parks Victoria</p>	<p>Municipal Fire Management Plan.</p> <p>Victorian Fire Risk Register Process.</p> <p>Community Reference Guides.</p> <p>Murrindindi Planning Scheme (fire risk mapping).</p> <p>Public Land Management Processes including the Kinglake National Park Management Plan.</p>	5.1, 6.1, 6.2	<p>Council adopted the Municipal Fire Management Plan in December 2012.</p> <p>To date NSP's have been designated for Flowerdale and Kinglake West.</p> <p>Community Reference Guides are in place for Toolangi, Kinglake, Kinglake West and Flowerdale.</p> <p>Council implements an annual program of inspection of private properties in the study area to assess and manage fuel loads prior to the fire season.</p> <p>Council is not the lead agency for fire risk mapping or establishing a fire risk register (CFA, DTPLI, DEPI).</p>
<b>A6.3</b>	<b>Remove the potential for further residential subdivision to occur within the rural residential estate in Castella.</b>	Short Term	The removal of subdivision potential in Castella will ensure that the intensity of development within an established rural residential estate will not increase.	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.</p>	Murrindindi Planning Scheme	6.1	Confirmed in the adopted KFT Plan and to be included in the Planning Scheme Amendment prepared to implement the Plan.

## Key Direction 6 - cont.

Action		Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
A6.4	<b>Undertake improved flood modelling along the King Parrot Creek in Hazeldene and Flowerdale to better understand flood risk and provide the basis for a management strategy.</b>	Immediate	There are many dwellings located along the narrow valley of the King Parrot Creek in Hazeldene and Flowerdale that may be at risk from flooding events.	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA)	Flood Management Study.	5.1, 6.1, 6.2,	A Flood Management Study has been completed by the GBCMA.
A6.5	<b>Identify land which may be subject to extreme fire behaviour and incorporate under the Bushfire Management Overlay.</b>	Short Term	Land which meets the criteria for being included into the Bushfire Management Overlay.	Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI)	Amendment to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme implemented by DTPLI.	6.1	Updated mapping for the Bushfire Management Overlay will be progressed in 2014. This will include landowner notification. DTPLI will advise further on final timing and arrangements for the planning scheme amendment.

## Key Direction 7 - Improve Connections

Building strong, reliable and safe connections within these peri-urban communities, across the region and to metropolitan Melbourne and beyond, will allow for greater choice in terms of employment, recreation, education and cultural activities. It also helps to reduce the isolation of small towns and farm living.

Better local physical connections expand opportunities for recreation and active lifestyles, and enhanced community safety and social interaction, while improved telecommunications are important in connecting home-based and local businesses, and in reducing the need to travel.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status/ Work Completed to Date	
A7.1	Consolidating key services, information and activity around key nodes in each settlement as part of design frameworks and services planning.	Short-Long Term	The consolidation of facilities delivers synergies and economies of scale that make service and information provision more viable and accessible to the community.	Murrindindi Shire Council Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure Department of Health	Recognise the Design Frameworks contained in this document in the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.	1.3, 4.1, 4.3, 5.4, 7.3	Confirmed in the adopted KFT Plan and to be included in the Planning Scheme Amendment prepared to implement the plan.

## Key Direction 7 - cont.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status/ Work Completed to Date	
<p><b>A7.2</b></p>	<p><b>Construct off road pedestrian, cyclist and bridle trails within and between settlements and to natural attractions including the Kinglake National Park where there are missing links.</b></p>	<p>Short – Long Term</p>	<p>The ability of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to travel safely within the study area is limited by the lack of off road trails in some locations.</p>	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p>	<p>Allocating funding in Councils capital works budget.</p>	<p>3.3, 3.5, 5.1, 5.4, 6.1, 7.1, 7.3.</p>	<p>Council has completed or progressed several recent projects in the study area including:</p> <p>Flowerdale – new working/cycling path connecting Flowerdale community with Spring Valley Recreational Reserve.</p> <p>Flowerdale – reconstructed walking/cycling path connecting school and residential areas (to Riverside Drive).</p> <p>Kinglake – new walking/cycle path connecting Kinglake to Kinglake Central and community facilities in Extons Road.</p> <p>Kinglake West – reconstructed and extended walking/cycling path between KW and Kinglake Central (effectively connecting KW to Kinglake).</p> <p>Kinglake History Art Walk – project under development.</p> <p>Kinglake to Mt Slide walking path – project commencing construction.</p> <p>Toolangi Tall Trees Trail – 7km multipurpose (walk/cycle/horse) trail constructed around Toolangi.</p>
<p><b>A7.3</b></p>	<p><b>Explore opportunities to improve all telecommunications (telephony, television, radio, wireless and broadband) access within the Shire of Murrindindi.</b></p> <p><b>Investigate the revised governing frameworks around the rollout of the National Broadband Network and develop a positioning strategy to prioritise rollout in the region.</b></p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>	<p>Improved telecommunications will provide greater local connectivity and information, better support networks, greater support for business, opportunities to work at home and reduce travel to work and improve safety during emergencies.</p>	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council Regional Development Victoria</p>	<p>Lobby the National Broadband Network Co. and telecommunications providers to provide improved infrastructure to the area.</p>	<p>2.2, 2.5, 3.3, 5.3, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 7.2, 7.3.</p>	<p>NBN Fibre rollout is scheduled to commence in the area of Kinglake to Kinglake West within 3 years.</p>

## Key Direction 7 - cont.

Action	Timing	Rationale	Lead Agency	How will this be achieved	Implements Future Strategies	Current Status / Work Completed to Date
<p><b>A7.4</b>    <b>Develop and implement local information strategies which utilise a range of media, including community noticeboards (hard copy and electronic) access to on-line information and staffed information at Kinglake Town Centre.</b></p>	<p>Short – Long Term</p>	<p>Improved delivery of information will result in a more informed and engaged community.</p>	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p>	<p>Council Communications Strategy.</p>	<p>1.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 7.3.</p>	<p>Council has installed community noticeboards in towns within the study area.</p> <p>Council has an existing communications strategy and protocols that includes the study area.</p>
<p><b>A7.5</b>    <b>Explore opportunities for improved and alternative public and community transport within the study area and improved connections to key local, regional and metropolitan destinations.</b></p> <p><b>Work with local business and community service providers to promote the role and potential of existing community transport facilities to enhance local access (e.g. Regular community bus link to retail and community facilities).</b></p>	<p>Short – Long term</p>	<p>Providing greater variety of transport options better linked to destinations will support social and economic well-being.</p>	<p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure</p> <p>Regional Development Victoria</p>	<p>To be determined.</p>	<p>1.3, 3.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 7.1, 7.3.</p>	<p>Public transport trials connecting the Kinglake Ranges to metropolitan centres were undertaken by the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.</p> <p>The Transport Connection Project has highlighted a number of these issues and work is currently being focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving access to health services</li> <li>• Local innovations projects including Youth Commute and Community Connect with the aim of utilising existing transport infrastructure to resolve issues of access for young people and older adults.</li> </ul>

# More information

More information on the Kinglake, Flowerdale and Toolangi Plan and Design Framework and this Implementation Strategy can be found at

- [www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au), or by
- contacting Murrindindi Shire Council on (03) 5772 0333 or by email at [msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

