



*South Gippsland*  
Shire Council

# Foster Community Infrastructure Plan

2016



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Foster Community Infrastructure Plan 2016

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Foster was established following the discovery of gold in the 1860s. Foster has become the main service town for the southern part of South Gippsland Shire to a significant dairy and grazing industry. It houses a range of government bodies, health services, business and industry.

1

### Background and Context

The Foster Community Infrastructure Plan adopts an integrated approach to planning. Current and projected demographic information is used to assess requirements for community infrastructure and services over the next 20 years. It seeks to maximise the use of existing facilities for Foster residents and visitors of all ages and supports planning for multipurpose facilities in the future. It is one of a series of community infrastructure plans developed for South Gippsland.

Council and the community are aware that innovative models for the use and funding of community infrastructure are required in the current financial climate to ensure the needs of the current and future residents of Foster are met. Support for volunteers is an essential part of any model where the community assesses and manages their own infrastructure needs, shortfalls and its capacity to better utilise existing community infrastructure.

Council recognises the contribution volunteers make to supporting community infrastructure and services in Foster. The rate of volunteering is higher in Foster than for South Gippsland or Victoria, however the capacity of volunteers varies across the services and facilities in the town. Support in recruitment and training for volunteers provides confidence and efficiency and results in reduced burn out and greater retention of volunteers for organisations and committees of management.

Overall key directions will support the delivery of area specific recommendations. A set of key recommendations delivered in the next 5 – 20 years provide a guide to action to support multipurpose community infrastructure and support to volunteers. Detailed recommendations are included in Appendix 1.

### Key Recommendations

1. Encourage committees of management of all Council facilities to develop Master Plans prior to seeking support for funding from Council. Master Plans should include priorities for action, consultation with the broader community and or user groups and have investigated possible funding opportunities.
2. That Council assess applications on funding for improvement to community infrastructure against criteria set out in the Blueprint for Social Community Infrastructure (Appendix 1).
3. Investigate alternatives for one or more tenants of the Stockyard Gallery to provide increased space.

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<sup>1</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council Foster Live, Work Invest Accessed 9 July 2014

4. Increase capacity of facilities with multiple meeting rooms to allow simultaneous use of shared facilities. Design access between meeting rooms and kitchens, toilets and offices, and provide secure storage for user groups.
5. Provide connection between existing public parks and open space via path and cycle networks including linking the Great Southern Rail Trail with the town centre.
6. Undertake training needs analysis of all volunteers in Foster and establish ongoing training and support programs for volunteers in organisations and the community.
7. Consider shared promotion by the community of
  - a. Adult education and training by all providers via community website or newsletters
  - b. Meeting rooms available to organisations and the community. Maintain the meeting room matrix included in this report
  - c. Volunteer opportunities, training and support.
8. By 2030 investigate the development of a community learning hub. Tenants in the hub could include a library, adult education facilities and the Visitor Information Centre.

## Summary

Over the next 20 years Foster's population will gradually increase with the majority of people continuing to be aged 50 years and over. Community infrastructure supply is in most cases adequate for the current population. With flexibility in the use of facilities to ensure they are multi-functional for a range of users, current community infrastructure should, in most cases meet future needs of the population. Addressing the lack of space for tenants in the Stockyard Gallery building is required in the short term and may require at least one tenant to find alternative facilities from which to operate.

On the whole, Foster has a generous supply of community infrastructure and services. Ongoing support to a broad range of community infrastructure requires a mix of funding options and support to community volunteers that are tasked with most of the decision making, management and maintenance of public facilities. The funding of community infrastructure cannot sit with Council alone and relies on the community working in partnership with Council and funding organisations to identify and prioritise specific needs and funding sources to maintain community infrastructure and services that meet the needs of the Foster community.

## Conclusion

Community infrastructure provides spaces and places for participation in community life and provides the physical backbone that supports the community.

To provide best value for the community's investment in community infrastructure, Council aims to maximise use of existing facilities and plan for multi-use community infrastructure in the future. Support to volunteers and investigation of a range of funding options is required by both Council and the community to achieve preferred outcomes to suit the specific requirements of Foster into the future.

## INTRODUCTION

Foster is the fourth largest town in South Gippsland has become the service centre to a significant dairy and grazing industry. It has well established health services, primary and secondary schools and emergency services. One quarter of the population are people living alone, over the age of 65 years.

2

Foster is the principal service town for the eastern part of the Shire. Foster is rich in heritage and benefits from a broader range of education, health and community services than similar towns its size. Foster's close proximity to Wilsons Promontory National Park provides it with a leading role in tourism for the region. With a broad range of services and infrastructure coupled with a pristine environment and open farmed landscapes, Foster has become an attractive location for retirement living and 'lifestyle change'.

Foster has a current population of 1,677<sup>3</sup> with the majority of residents (56%) over the age of 50 years. Community infrastructure in Foster provides for the local community and an estimated additional 6,000 people accessing this service centre for the east of the Shire.

Community infrastructure includes the public and private facilities and services required to accommodate and support community services, programs, activities and a person's access to them. Foster has an adequate quantity of community infrastructure for its current population. Its management is impacted by a declining capacity of volunteers in some community infrastructure management roles and limited funding opportunities.

This community infrastructure plan provides facts and rationale for services and infrastructure specific to the needs of the current and future Foster community and seeks to find opportunities to increase use of existing community infrastructure where it is underutilised.

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- ▶ Present key recommendations for use and management of current community infrastructure
- ▶ Guide the development, timing, design and location of any future community infrastructure over the next 20 years
- ▶ Identify and prioritise any services required for an emerging population
- ▶ Determine where additional resources are required to achieve recommendations

This document will be available for a number of Council actions:

- ▶ Inform community planning discussions
- ▶ Identify current best practice
- ▶ Rationalise spending on underutilised Council facilities.

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<sup>2</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* (accessed July 2014)

<sup>3</sup> ABS Census 2011 State Suburb SSC20500



Council is seeking to work in partnership with the community and other organisations and providers to offer an enhanced sense of community identity through the establishment of multi-purpose, shared community infrastructure to promote participation in social, education, arts, sport and recreation activities and programs. The Foster Community Plan and Master Plans for community infrastructure include priorities which inform and complement this plan.

## Integrated Planning

Community infrastructure plans support integrated planning. They draw on key policies and strategies of State and Federal government and Council and bring together recommendations and actions from existing Council plans and apply them specifically to Foster.

This report analyses the current and forecast demographics for Foster to assess needs for the community. Existing strategic plans and guides and current best practice examples are used to make recommendations and priorities for the future.

## Background and Context

Community infrastructure includes both 'hard infrastructure', and 'soft infrastructure'. Hard infrastructure is the physical built infrastructure that includes facilities and environments; soft infrastructure includes the services, programs, community supports, volunteers, processes and information which support lifestyle opportunities, a sense of belonging and enhance quality of life. In combination these are essential components of what can make Foster an attractive place for residents and visitors.

The *Blueprint for Social Community Infrastructure (2014)*<sup>4</sup> and *Strategy and Audit*<sup>5</sup> provided a strategic overview for the whole Shire of current facilities, population profile and trends, facility standards and facility triggers and an Action Plan based on short, medium and long term need.

This community infrastructure plan builds on the *Blueprint* to provide a detailed, comprehensive review of Council owned and managed and community managed infrastructure in Foster. It also notes infrastructure owned and managed by private businesses and Government organisations as these impact on the overall availability of infrastructure for the town.

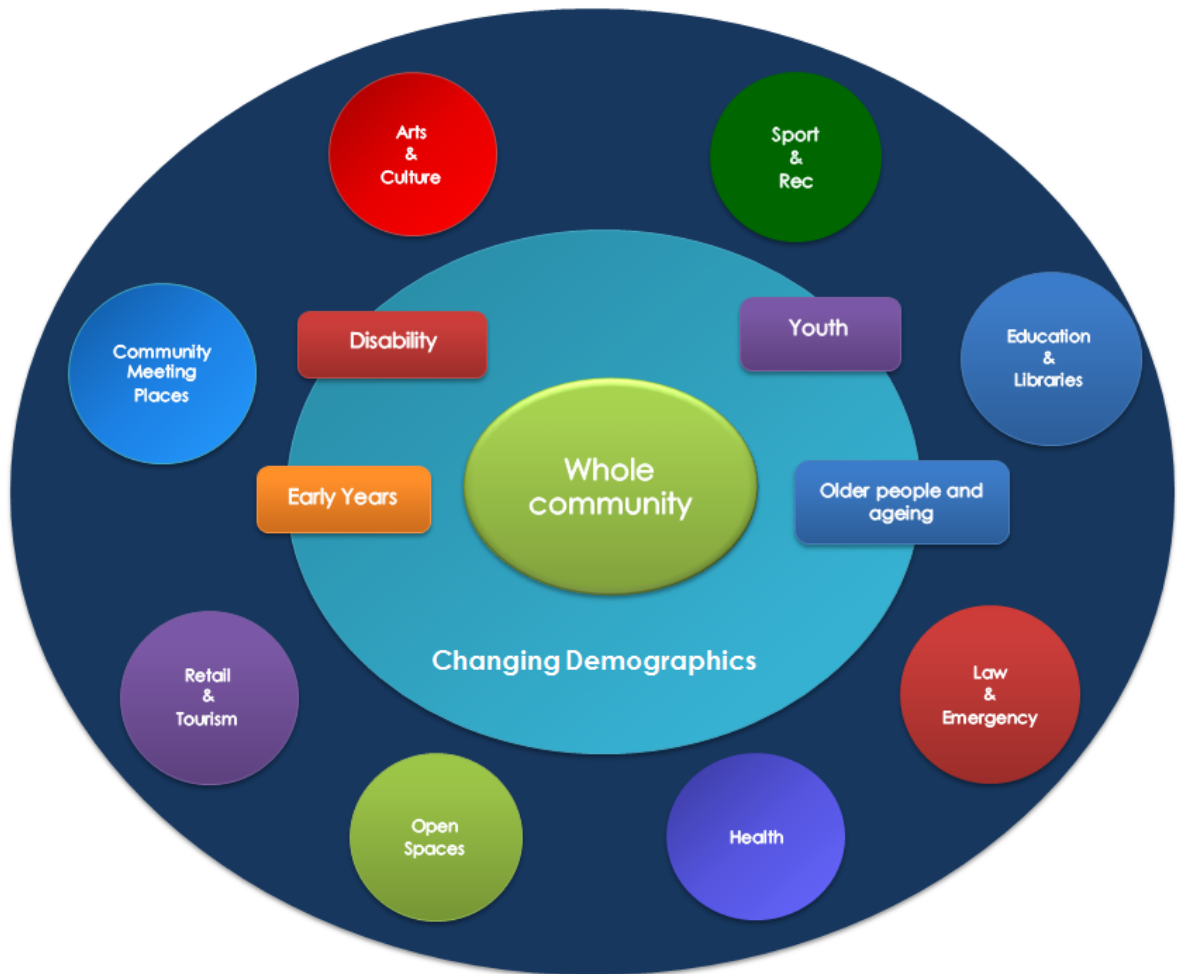
From birth to frail aged the needs by community members for services and infrastructure change. Maximising the use of community infrastructure across the life stages is important for efficiency of the supply and management of the infrastructure. This report provides a detailed review of the demographic characteristics of the Foster community and proposes specific needs. It also provides details of types of infrastructure, its use and the capacity of any volunteers involved in its maintenance or services provided from the site. Figure 1 illustrates how all aspects of the local demographics, community infrastructure and services contribute to the whole community.

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<sup>4</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council (2014) *Blueprint for Social Community Infrastructure 2014 – 2019* Andrew Nixon Land Use Management

<sup>5</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council (2014) *Strategy & Audit 2014 - 2029* Andrew Nixon Land Use Management

FIGURE 1 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE RELATIONSHIPS



## FOSTER CURRENT AND FORECAST DEMOGRAPHICS

The following provides a general description of the demographic profile for Foster in 2011. It relies heavily on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 and 2006 Census.

With a current population of 1,677 Foster is the fourth largest urban settlement in South Gippsland Shire. Foster is a main service town for the east of the Shire with a range of government bodies, health services, business and industry.

### Current demographics

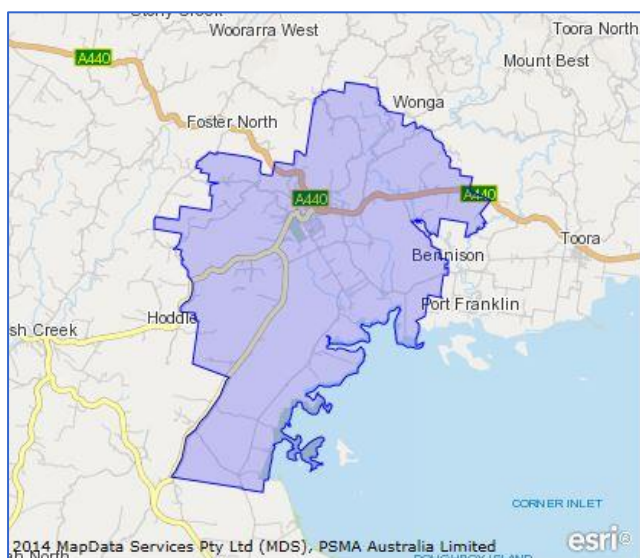
#### Summary

TABLE 1: FOSTER DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

|                              | 2011  |
|------------------------------|-------|
| People                       | 1,677 |
| Males                        | 800   |
| Females                      | 877   |
| Over 18                      | 1,490 |
| All private dwellings        | 925   |
| Average people per household | 2.1   |

6

MAP 1: FOSTER STATE SUBURB 2011



7

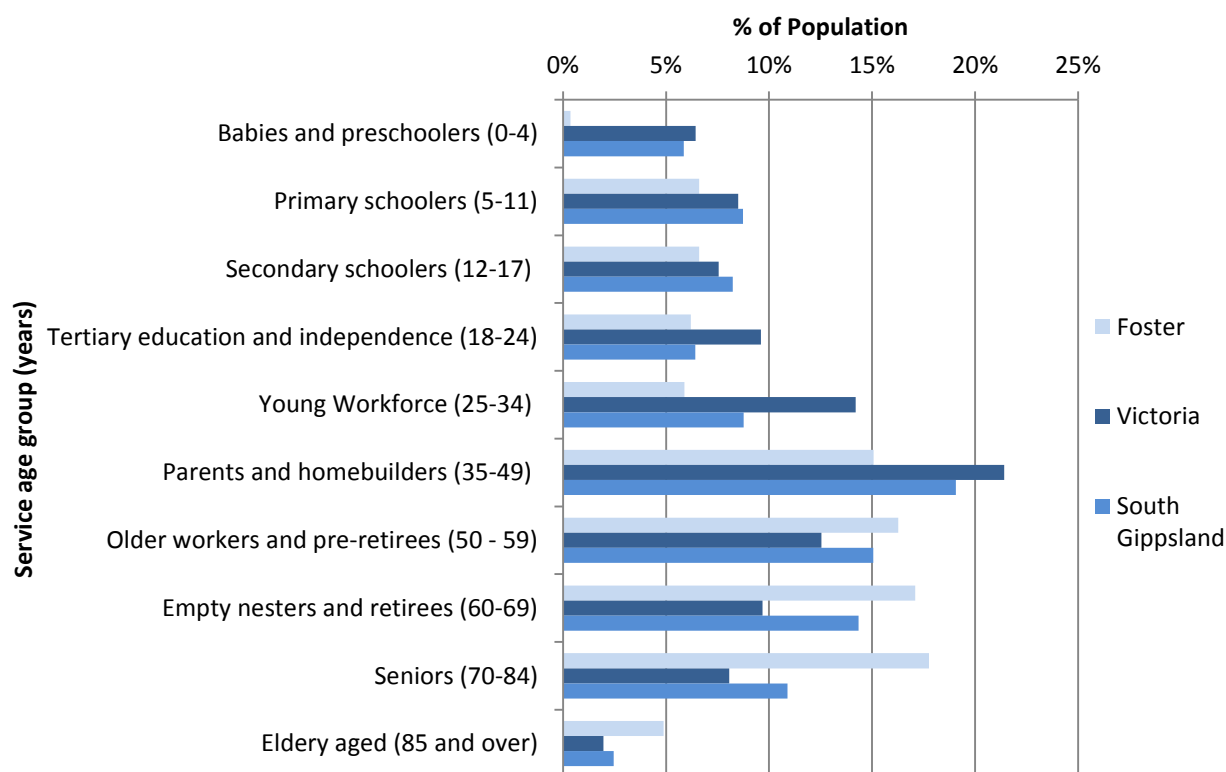
#### Population

Currently (2011 Census) there are 1,677 people in Foster living in 925 households with an average household size of 2.1. There were 156 unoccupied dwellings on census night. Of those who identified as usual residents there were 53 fewer people present on Census night. It is expected that residents out of town on holiday, in a medical centre outside the area or away on business would account for this difference.

<sup>6</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* (accessed July 2014)

<sup>7</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* (accessed July 2014)

FIGURE 2 AGE STRUCTURE 2011



8

The graph above shows variation in the age structure in Foster (2011) compared with South Gippsland and Victoria. This graph shows a considerably lower proportion of some age groups in Foster compared to South Gippsland and Victoria. The proportion of babies and preschoolers is significantly lower (0.4%) when compared with South Gippsland (5.9%) and Victoria (6.4%). The proportion of the young workforce in Foster aged 25 – 34 years (5.9%) less than half that of Victoria (14.2) and only 19 % of the population were aged between birth and 19 years, a lower proportion of younger people compared to South Gippsland (25%) and Victoria (25%).

As with other areas to the east of South Gippsland, Foster has a higher proportion of the population aged over 50 years (56%) compared to South Gippsland (42.8) and Victoria (32%). There are significantly higher proportions of people aged 50 – 54 years (8.1%), 55 – 59 years (8.2%) and 60 – 64 years (9.3%) than most other towns in South Gippsland. As a result the median age for people in Foster is 54 in comparison with the median age for South Gippsland (44).

Neighbouring small towns and settlements surrounding Foster also have a large proportion people aged over 50. Only Port Welshpool has a median age higher than that of Foster. Foster service providers of health and aged care services should be aware that the majority of clients and patients from outside town are also likely to be people aged over 50 years.

<sup>8</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011*,(accessed July 2014)

TABLE 2 MEDIAN AGE OF RESIDENTS IN EASTERN DISTRICT INCLUDING FOSTER

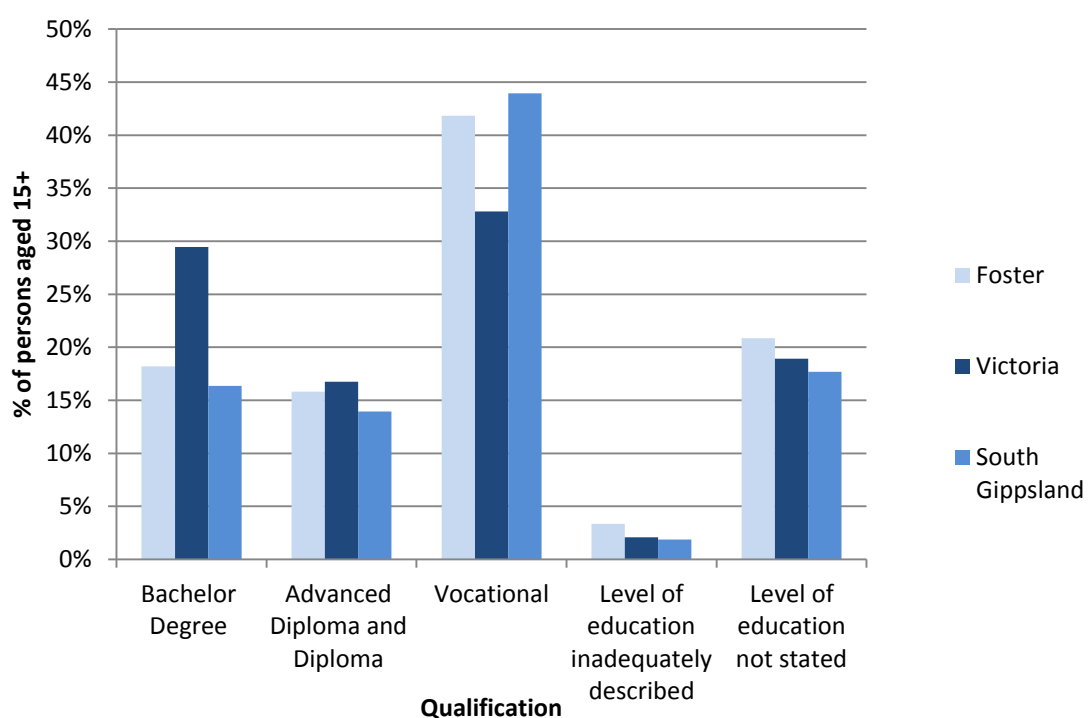
| TOWN                     | TOTAL POPULATION | MEDIAN AGE |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Foster                   | 1,677            | 54         |
| Fish Creek               | 791              | 48         |
| Port Welshpool           | 179              | 61         |
| Stony Creek & Foster Nth | 446              | 43         |
| Toora / Port Franklin    | 887              | 52         |
| Welshpool                | 439              | 49         |

In Foster 5.5% of people speak a language other than English at home. The dominant languages spoken at home, other than English were Italian, with 0.9% (15 people) and Dutch 0.7% (11 people). There were no people who reported difficulty understanding English in the 2011 Census and 22 people identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

*Education*

Of people aged 15 years and older, a higher proportion had vocational training qualifications (41.8%) and a lower proportion held a Bachelor / higher degree or Advanced Diploma / Diploma (33.9%) compared to Victoria. The proportion of people who did not state their level of education in Foster (20.8%) was similar to that in Victoria (18.9%) and South Gippsland (17.7%).

FIGURE 3 HIGHEST QUALIFICATION ACHIEVED 2011

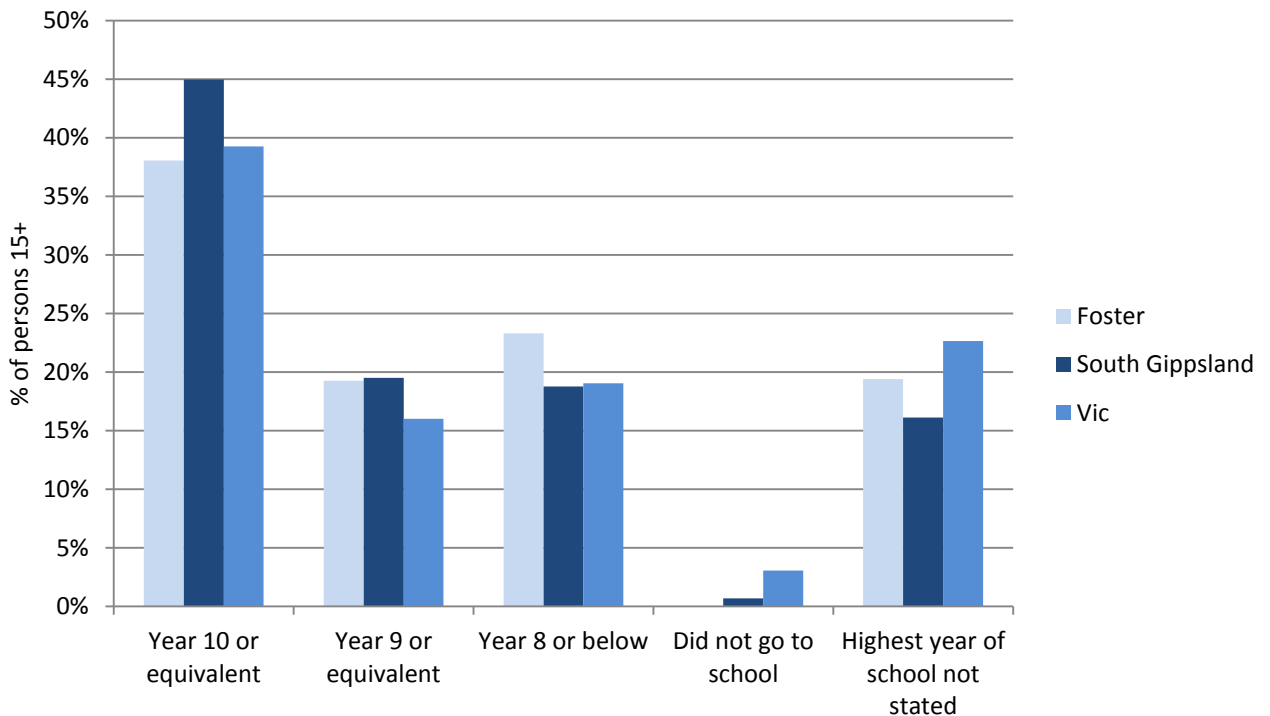


The data 'level of schooling completed by the residents of Foster' is likely to reflect the age and industry of employment of the residents rather than the level of schooling of the younger population. The proportion of people with vocational qualifications can be attributed to older people and agricultural industries.

9

Overall 38.6% of the Foster population left school at year 10 or below. This is equivalent to the South Gippsland population and slightly higher than Victoria 27.8%. There were 33.7% of the population completed Year 12 in Foster compared to 34.4% in South Gippsland and 51.7% for Victoria.

FIGURE 4 HIGHEST YEAR OF SECONDARY SCHOOLING COMPLETED



10

## Employment

*"The labour force is a fundamental input to domestic production. Its size and composition are therefore crucial factors in economic growth. From the viewpoint of social development, earnings from paid work are a major influence on levels of economic well-being."<sup>11</sup>*

There were 722 people aged 15 and over in the workforce in Foster in 2011. Of these 301 were employed part time and 357 employed full time, 17 people did not state the hours

<sup>9</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* (accessed July 2014)

<sup>10</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011*, (accessed October 2015)

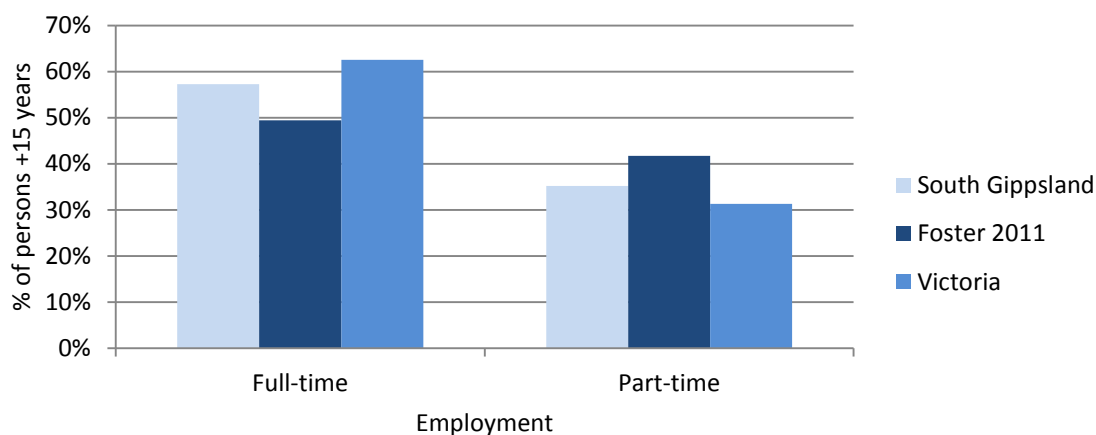
<sup>11</sup> ABS, 1995, *Australian Social Trends 1995*, viewed on 30 November 2012,

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/2f762f95845417aeca25706c00834efa/5776C5B40EE1EBC8CA2569EE0015D892?opendocument>

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they worked, and 18 people were unemployed. The proportion people unemployed (2.4%) is considerably lower than Victoria (6.2%). South Gippsland also has relatively low unemployment (3.8%) in comparison with Victoria<sup>12</sup>.

FIGURE 5 EMPLOYMENT



13

Analysis of individual income levels in Foster<sup>14</sup> compared to South Gippsland shows a lower proportion of people with incomes of \$1,500 per week or more. There were also a high proportion of people earning less than \$400 per week. Overall, 6% of the population earned a high income, and 43.7% earned a low income, compared with 6.9% and 40.4% respectively for South Gippsland.

### Industry of Employment

Industries of employment statistics identify the business of the resident’s employer. The graph below shows the areas of work of Foster residents. The workplace is not necessarily in the local area. In many cases this information better informs the type of employment than the type of occupation.

The three most common industries of employment for residents of Foster were agriculture, forestry and fishing (101 people or 14%), Retail (92 people or 13%) followed by healthcare and social assistance (80 people or 11%). In combination these three industries employed 273 people in total or 38% of the employed resident population. Farming is a key industry of employment in Foster and for South Gippsland.

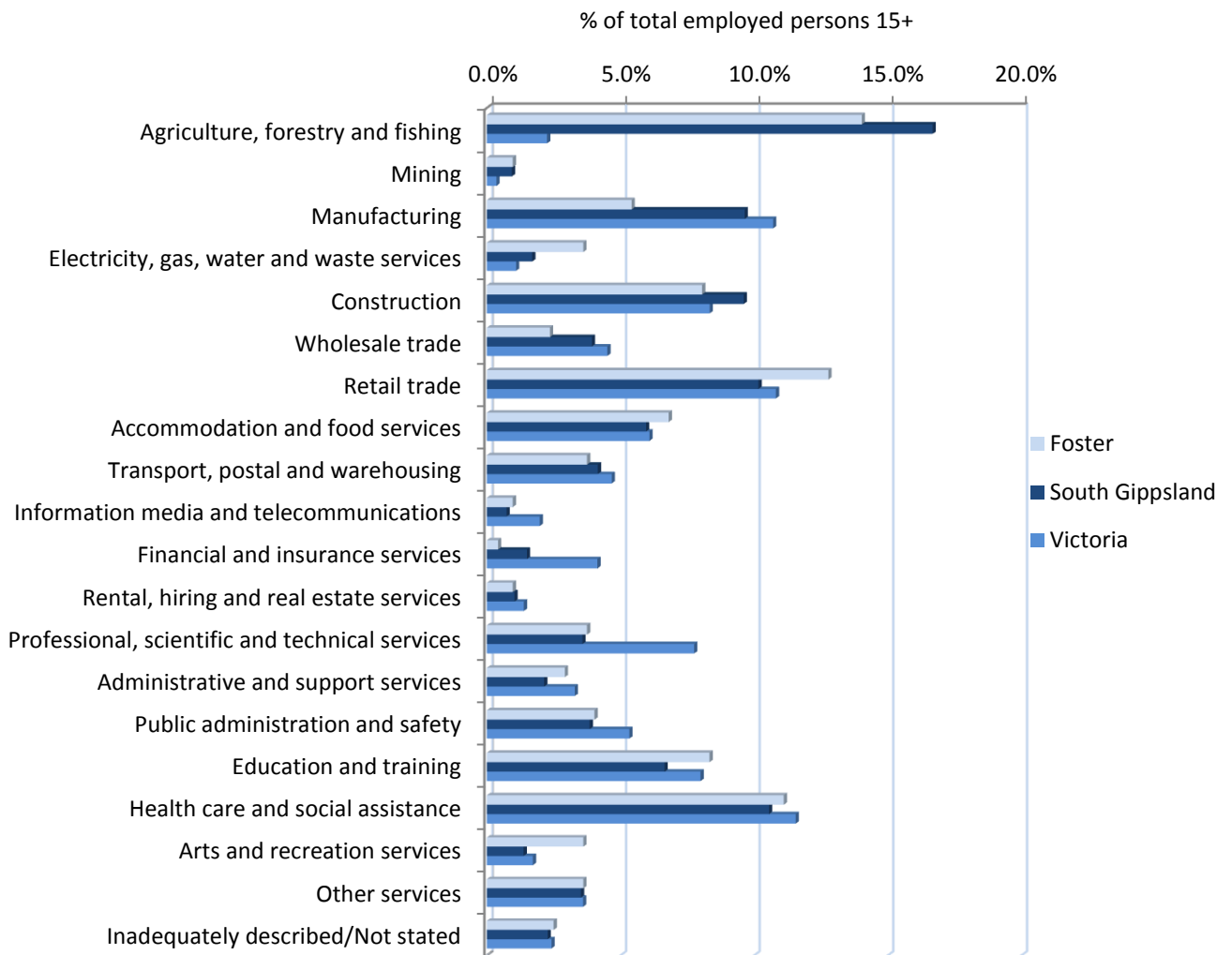
The proportion of the Foster population employed in retail trade, accommodation and food services reflects the influence of tourism on the town. The hospital, community health centre, primary and secondary schools are also large employers of the local community.

<sup>12</sup> September Quarter 2015

<sup>13</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011*,(accessed July 2014)



FIGURE 6 INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT



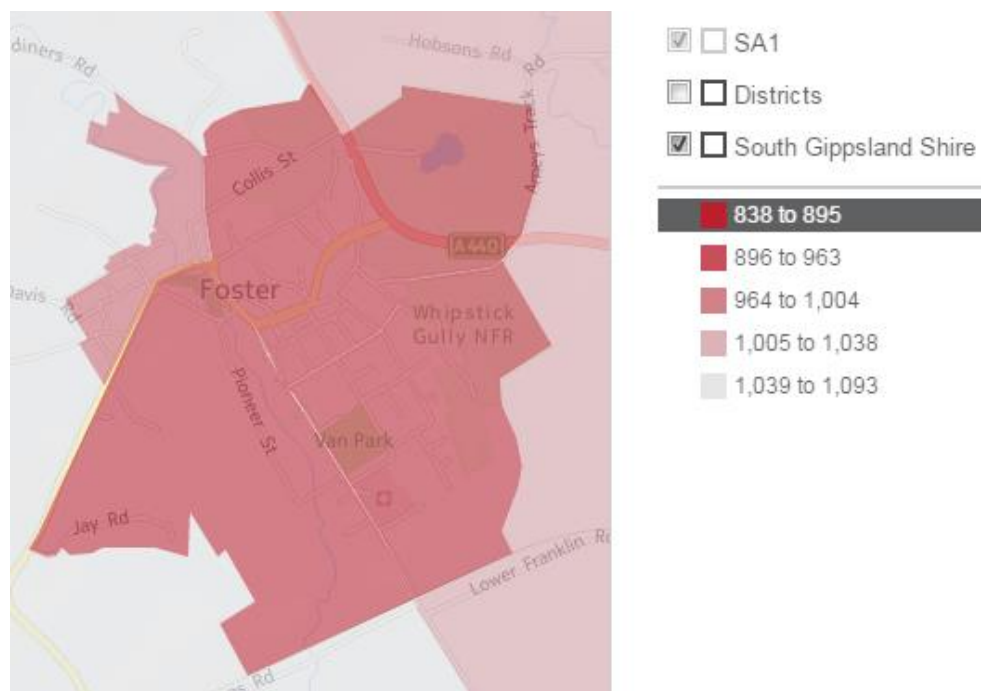
15

*Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA)*

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA) is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage (e.g. Indigenous or Separated/Divorced). The average for Victoria and for South Gippsland is 1000. Scores above 1000 are considered relatively advantaged and those below relatively disadvantaged. SEIFA is applied to a geographical area and does not necessarily imply anything about individuals living in the area. The index of relative socio economic disadvantage (SEIFA) is a relative measure and can be represented as the overall town relative to other areas or as areas within a town relative to other areas in the same town.

<sup>15</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* (accessed July 2014)

## MAP 2 FOSTER RELATIVE SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS



The map above indicates that SEIFA scores within the township range between 936 and 977 and 54% of the area ranged between 936 and 958. The SEIFA for the town area is relatively low when compared to the rural surrounds (1, 029 – 1,049) and South Gippsland as a whole (1,000). This would be expected in a community where most residents are retired or are employed part time.

TABLE 4 INDEX OF RELATIVE DISADVANTAGE FOSTER

| AREA                  | 2011 INDEX |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Foster                | 936-958    |
| Regional VIC          | 978        |
| South Gippsland Shire | 1000       |
| Australia             | 1002       |
| Victoria              | 1010       |

16

### *The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)*

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a population measure of children's development as they enter school. The AEDC measures children's development across five developmental domains: physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills; and communication skills and general knowledge. Data are collected every 3 years, most recently collected in 2015.

<sup>16</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting

TABLE 5 PROPORTION OF DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE CHILDREN – SOUTH GIPPSLAND

| LOCAL COMMUNITY                    | VULNERABLE ON ONE OR MORE DOMAINS |             | VULNERABLE ON TWO OR MORE DOMAINS |            |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
|                                    | Number of Children                | %           | Number of Children                | %          |
| Fish Creek/Yanakie/Foster          | 46                                | 17.4        | 46                                | 10.9       |
| Koonwarra/Tarwin Lower & surrounds | 41                                | 12.2        | 43                                | 9.3        |
| Korumburra                         | 65                                | 16.9        | 65                                | 10.8       |
| Leongatha & surrounds              | 23                                | 4.3         | 23                                | 4.3        |
| Mirboo North & surrounds           | 37                                | 16.2        | 37                                | 8.1        |
| Poowong/Nyora and surrounds        | 38                                | 10.5        | 40                                | 5.0        |
| South Gippsland                    | 250                               | 14.0        | 254                               | 8.7        |
| <b>Victoria</b>                    | <b>63,584</b>                     | <b>19.5</b> | <b>63,889</b>                     | <b>9.5</b> |

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### *Internet Connection*

In Foster the proportion of households with internet connection in 2011 were 65%. There were 32% of households with no internet connection, dial up connection or no internet connection stated. Of those households with internet connection, 57.2% have broadband (ADSL) internet connection. A fast internet connection is increasingly required for accessing essential information and undertaking domestic and non-domestic business. Households with dial-up or no internet service can be left behind as business is increasingly being conducted on-line. Rural areas surrounding Foster have access to fixed wireless services providing very fast internet. Fixed line services to Foster town is expected to commence in the first quarter of the 2017 year.

### *Household and family structure*

In 2011 there were 740 family households in Foster 452 (61%). There are a higher proportion of lone person households (17.8%) and 2 person households (54.9%) compared with South Gippsland and Victoria reflecting the high proportion of older people in the town. As a reflection of the importance of tourism to Foster, there were 51 visitor only households on census night.

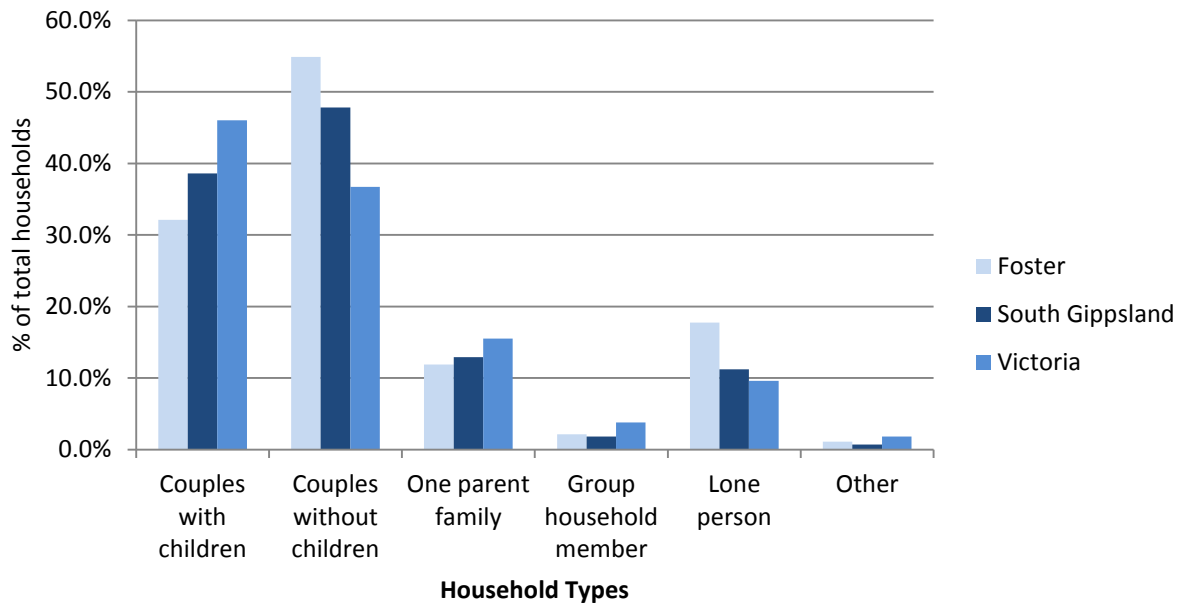
Due to the age of the majority of the population in Foster most households can be categorised as 'empty nester' households or 'older lone person' households. Due to the tendency for young people to move out of Foster on completion of secondary school for study or work, the number of young lone person households or group households would be expected to be low.

Of lone person households in Foster, 15 have people aged 15 - 44 years and 136 have people aged over 65 years and a further 81 households are older couples without children.

Overall, 32.1% of total families were couple families with children, and 11.9% were one-parent families. This is a lower proportion of each family type in comparison with Victoria.

<sup>17</sup> Australian Early Development Census, 2012, *Australian Early Development Index Community Profile South Gippsland*

FIGURE 7 FOSTER HOUSEHOLD TYPES

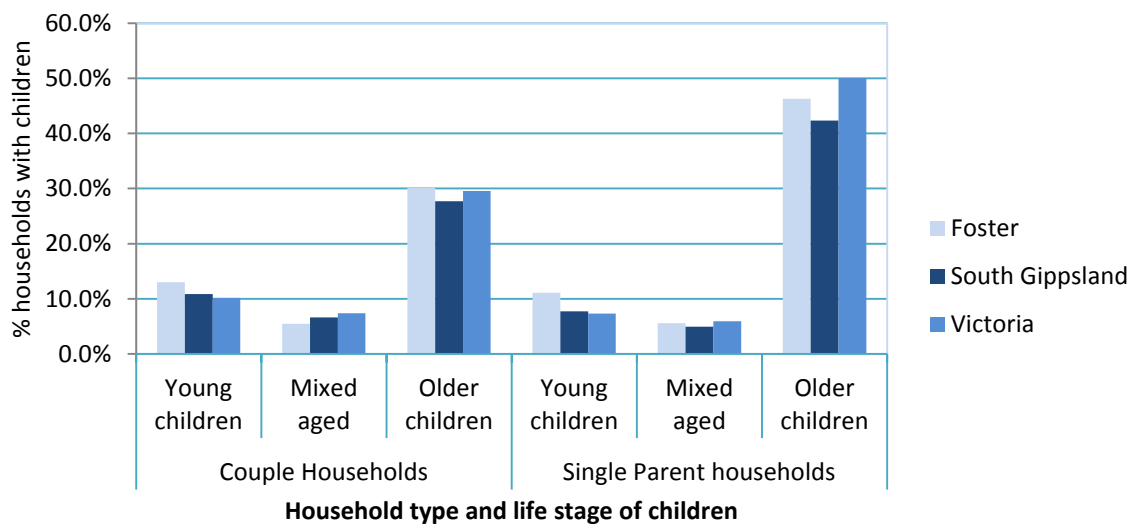


18

*Families with Children*

In Foster there were 19 couples with young children, comprising 13% of households. Households with children require different services and facilities than other household types, and their needs change as both adults and children age. When many families in an area are at the same stage in their individual lifecycles, it creates a town lifecycle. Knowing where a town is in a cycle of change helps planners make decisions about the demand for services both now and in the future.

FIGURE 8 HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN



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<sup>18</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011*,(accessed July 2014)

<sup>19</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011*,(accessed July 2014)

### *Number of Cars per Household*

The ability of the population to access services, post-secondary education, training and employment is strongly influenced by access to transport. With limited public transport available in Foster, the number of motor vehicles per household can be seen as a measure of advantage or disadvantage which impact on the environment and quality of life. The VLine bus service provides some access to Melbourne and larger towns for residents without a car and those living close to shops may be able to walk to access groceries and services.

There were 36 households in Foster with no motor vehicle in 2011 (4.9%). In South Gippsland there are a slightly lower proportion of households with no motor vehicle (3.8%) and a higher number of households in Victoria with no motor vehicle (8.3%). In Foster, 39.5% of households owned at least one vehicle which was higher than in South Gippsland (31.6%) and higher than the Victorian average (34.7%).

### *Public Transport*

Foster is on the Melbourne to Yarram VLine bus route. There are three services to Melbourne and four services to Yarram weekdays and three services each way on weekends. The bus stop is at the Museum in Main Street opposite Pearl Park. All coaches are wheelchair accessible, however bookings must be made. Public transport is discussed in detail in a chapter later in this document.

### *Dwellings*

In 2011, there were 643 separate houses in Foster (86.9%). Medium density dwellings are usually flats, units or apartments. Foster has the highest percentage of medium density dwellings (10.4%) of towns in South Gippsland. There are no high density dwellings in South Gippsland.

In 2011 a total of 82.6% of the dwellings in Foster were occupied on Census night compared to 71.9% in South Gippsland and 89.0% in Victoria. There are a number of possible reasons for vacant dwellings such as residents temporarily away (e.g. on holiday, in hospital out of the town), the dwelling is vacant and for sale, the dwelling has just been built and is not yet occupied, or the dwelling is a holiday house which is unoccupied most of the time (particularly in winter when the Census is conducted). Large percentages of unoccupied dwellings may indicate a holiday area, an area with a high population turnover, or a declining area with abandoned dwellings. In Foster it would be expected that vacant dwellings could be attributed to holiday homes or residents away on holiday in warmer areas of Australia during August when the Census is taken.

## FUTURE POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Future population projections heavily rely on information sources from the Housing and Settlement Strategy 2013 and analysis drawn from Forecast id for the area identified as the South East Coastal District. Reliable forecast data is not able to be analysed for populations of less than 2000 people so a detailed analysis for the town of Foster is not available.

### Forecast population summary

Foster is more than 170 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD. Population growth in Foster is likely to be attributed to people seeking a rural lifestyle and retirement or early retirement.

TABLE 6 FORECAST GROWTH IN POPULATION AND HOUSING FOSTER 2011 – 2031

| FOSTER                                   | FORECAST YEAR |        |
|--|---------------|--------|
|  | 2011          | 2031   |
| Population                               | 1,677         | 2,251* |
| Total New occupied dwellings (2011-2031) | 333*          |        |
| New Occupied dwellings per annum         | 17*           |        |

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The Housing and Settlement Strategy 2013 provided a population forecast for the period 2011 – 2031. In 2011 the total population of Foster was 1,677. It is expected to increase by over 574 people to 2,251 by 2031. This is based on an increase of over 333 dwellings.

### *Drivers of population change*

The South Gippsland Housing and Settlement Strategy describes the role of Foster as follows: *Foster has a significant retiree and holiday home role. The most prevalent dwelling type is detached houses, most with 3 bedrooms. However, it also has the largest proportion of medium density (units) in the Shire (10% of all Foster dwellings in 2011).*

*Its key housing markets are retirees and 'tree-changers' from Melbourne or Mornington Peninsula and surrounds. There is an increasing demand for smaller dwellings due to the ageing population in Foster (91% dwelling approvals in General Residential Zone in the past 5 years).*

*There is high demand for aged care services and facilities in the township. South Gippsland Hospital is located in Foster and a 60 bed (high and low) care facilities is being developed in the town.*

**\*\*** Prom Country Aged Care facility has now been completed and have plans already in place for expansion over the next 10 – 20 years.

<sup>20</sup> South Gippsland Shire, Housing and Settlement Strategy 2013

\*Moderate Growth Projection resource: South Gippsland Shire, Housing and Settlement Strategy 2013

### *Eastern District Population and Forecast*

For this plan, the Eastern District Forecast area<sup>21</sup> includes Foster, Fish Creek, Mt Best, Port Welshpool, Port Franklin, Sandy Point, Toora, Walkerville, Waratah Bay, Welshpool and Yanakie and all settlements in between.

The population of this larger area is 5,306 and is expected to grow by 7.16% to 5,686 by 2036. Births are relatively low in the area and are expected to decrease over the forecast period. Conversely, as a reflection of the older population, the number of deaths is expected to increase over the same period.

Migration into the area is expected to increase as people seek retirement or lifestyle change. Foster and district provides choices of a rural lifestyle, small town or coastal town lifestyle.

### *Residential Development*

Some residential development is expected in Eastern District towns including Fish Creek, Sandy Point, Toora, Welshpool and Waratah Bay. Most residential development will occur in Foster where 42 dwellings are predicted to be constructed in the Forest Park Estate between 2014 and 2020. Future rural residential development of around 50 dwellings is expected from 2018 – 2036. A moderate to high infill development across the Eastern District of between 19 – 24 dwellings per annum will also contribute to the total population seeking services from Foster as the local service town.

### *Growth Pressures*

The growth pressures for Foster include the following demands for:

- ▶ Smaller dwellings (lot size 180-400m<sup>2</sup>);
- ▶ Aged care facilities (low and high); and
- ▶ More retail services.

The availability of a broad range of health services in Foster is recognised by health service providers as an attraction to retirees and tree changers moving to the town. Migration is one of the most important components of population change. While births and deaths are relatively easy to predict due to reliable age specific behaviour; migration is volatile, often changing due to housing market preferences, economic opportunities and changing household circumstances.

Young adults tend to move away from small rural areas to attend educational institutions, seek work and a change in lifestyle. In the Eastern District, forecasts indicate a decrease of 1.6% of people under working age, an increase of 38.1% of people of retirement age, and a decrease of people of working age of 9.7%. Of significance for Foster is the increase in the older, non-working population and a decrease in those of working age. Employment in service industries in the town particularly in retail and health services is likely to increase.

Market research has shown that 'empty nesters' are more likely to move to smaller accommodation if appropriate and affordable alternative housing is supplied. This housing should also be in the local area and accessible to established social networks.<sup>22</sup> It is this group of 'empty nesters' which is expected to become the larger proportion of residents

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<sup>21</sup> ID consulting, 2012, South Gippsland Shire Council Population Forecast, viewed October 2015

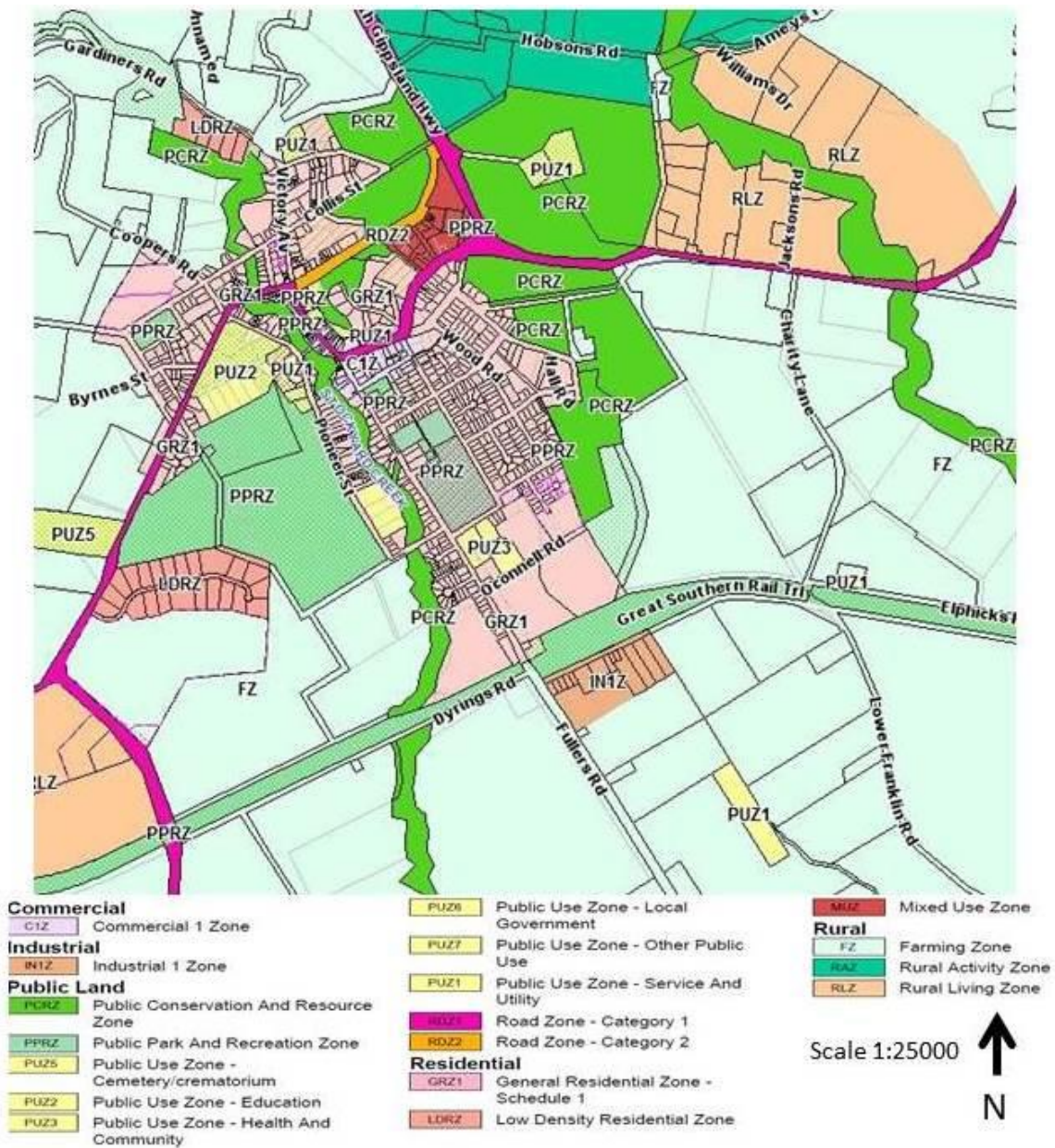
<sup>22</sup> ID consulting, 2012, South Gippsland Shire Council Population Forecast, viewed October 2015



moving to Foster over the next 20 years. The largest increase in household types in the Eastern District is forecast to be lone persons households that will increase to 34.6% of all households in the area by 2026. In contrast couples with dependents are forecast to decrease by 28 households by 2026 to comprise 19.3% of all households rather than 22% in 2011.

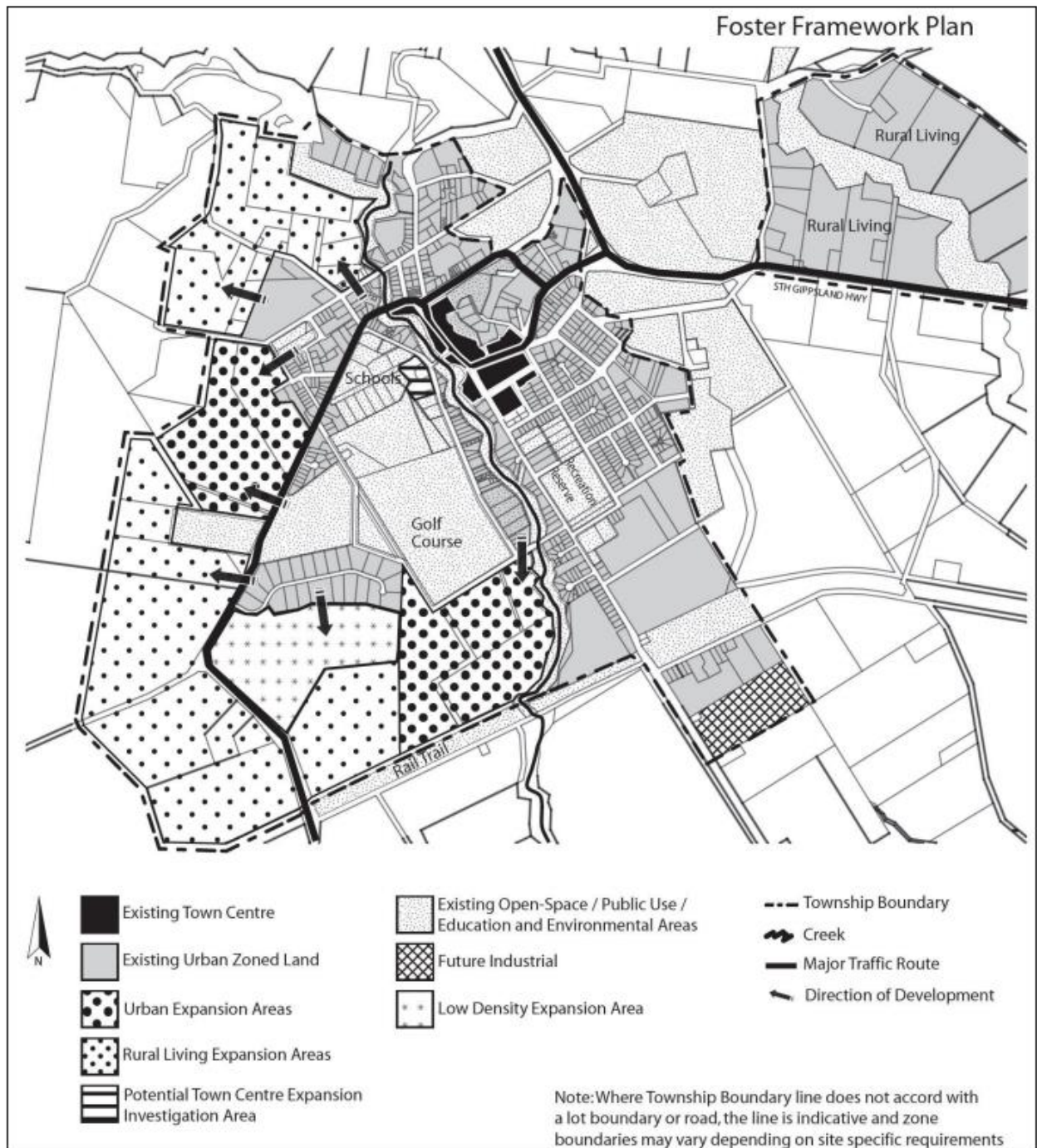
Map 3 below shows the existing planning zones in Foster township. The planning zones in a township assist in controlling where industry and businesses are allowed to establish in relation to residential areas. They also guide where future residential development may occur.

MAP 3 FOSTER EXISTING PLANNING ZONES



Map 4, taken from the Foster Framework Plan indicates the current and predicted direction for growth of the town for urban, rural, low density zones. Future industrial areas are also shown.

**MAP 4 FOSTER EXPECTED GROWTH AREA**



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<sup>23</sup> South Gippsland Planning Scheme, Clause 21.15-4 Foster, Foster Framework Plan, June 2008



*Summary*

The population of Foster will increase at a consistent rate with older age groups being the most likely to move to the area. Infill development and new residential areas close to the town centre will see the town become more densely populated. Overall older couples without children and older lone people are expected to be attracted to live in Foster and take advantage of the extensive and coordinated health services, lifestyle opportunities and the active community.



# EARLY YEARS

## Introduction

Prom Coast Centres for Children is an integrated children's centre providing Long Day Care, Maternal and Child Health, 3 year old Kindergarten and Early Intervention Services.

The Prom Coast Centres for Children is managed by a community based committee of management.

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

### *Children and Families – a plan for the future in South Gippsland 2016 - 2021*

The South Gippsland Shire Council's Children and Families – a plan for the future in South Gippsland 2016 - 2021 outlines a partnership approach to supporting children and families. Key outcomes allow shared actions with the community, other levels of Government and service providers to create an environment that provides children with opportunities to grow and develop and their families with the support they need to fulfil their parenting roles.

### *South Gippsland Central Enrolment Policy*

The Central Enrolment Policy guides the co-ordination of the Central Enrolment Scheme by South Gippsland Shire Council. The policy aims to provide an efficient, convenient and transparent process for families to enrol their eligible children in funded kindergarten.

### *Kindergarten Guide 2015*

Provides detailed information about the types of kindergarten funding available, eligibility criteria for funding, how to apply for funding and how to comply with operational requirements once funding has been granted.

### *South Gippsland Early Childhood Services Building Assets Policy Framework March 2013*

Provides a framework for how and where new early years facilities are to be provided and existing facilities upgraded. It provides an overview of:

- ▶ Current early childhood policy
- ▶ Standards and operational requirements
- ▶ Current services and facilities
- ▶ Guidelines for assessing how and where new facilities are to be provided
- ▶ What existing facilities are to be upgraded

A range of broader policies influencing the provision of early years services include:

- ▶ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ▶ The UN Framework for creating Child Friendly Cities
- ▶ Universal Access (preschool program geared at reaching all children the year before they start school)
- ▶ National Quality Framework for Early Education and Care services
- ▶ No Jab, No Play – immunisation policies

## Current Provision

### *Prom Coast Centres for Children*

Prom Coast Centres for Children is an integrated children's centre purpose built and completed in 2012. The centre has three rooms in total which are used five days per week. There are fewer children attending in the Koala room during school holidays.

TABLE 7 PROM COAST CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AGE AND STAFFING

| ROOM           | AGE   | CAPACITY | CURRENT ENROLMENT | STAFFING                         |
|----------------|---|----------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Dolphin</b> | 0 to 2.5 years  | 16       | 12 average        | 1 educator to 4 children         |
| <b>Rosella</b> | 2.5 – 5 years   | 19       | 15                | 1 educator to 11 children over 3 |
| <b>Koala</b>   | Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday our Koala room is our 4 year old kindergarten | 30       | 30                | 1 educator to 11 children        |
|                | Thursday & Friday 3-5 years Education & Care Program                      | 30       | 30                | 1 educator to 11 children        |

### *Visiting and Outreach Services at the Prom Coast Centres for Children*

There is a consultation room and waiting room utilised by the Maternal and Child Health service and Noah's Ark for children with a disability. These rooms may be opened up to a larger room if needed. There is also a shared staff/lunchroom.

Outside specialist early years services visit the centre. Grow up Smiling is a free dental screening service provided to the Prom Coast Centres for Children by the Dental Health Services Victoria. Other services are provided by the Preschool Field Officer (Council), speech pathology (Gippsland Southern Health Service), and services for children with a disability (Noah's Ark).

Bush Link mobile educational service provides a toy library and resources to local families and playgroups in the Corner Inlet area. The Bush Link van is housed at the Prom Coast Centres for Children and funded by Uniting Care Gippsland.

### *Childcare*

There are permanent bookings for all rooms and a waiting list for the Education and Care Program. Parents also call for casual bookings as required. Children from the towns of Foster, Fish Creek, Waratah Bay, Walkerville, Toora, Welshpool, Buffalo, Sandy Point and Yanakie access services at Prom Coast Centres for Children.

Before and after kindergarten and school care is also available with the centre opening at 7.30am and closing at 6.00pm.

### *School Holiday Program*

From September 2014 a school holiday program has been offered 3 days per week in each school holiday period. Activities are varied both in the centre and outside the centre with a bus to the movies in Leongatha provided as part of the program in past holidays. Taking children outside the centre creates greater demand on staffing. Participation in the program is varied with 2 and 11 children attending per day. Participants so far have been from Prep to grade 4 from towns across the Eastern District and to Meeniyah to the west. The Committee of Management have committed to continue this service to meet a recognised need for the town and district.

### *Kindergarten*

Kindergarten enrolments are at capacity (30 children). Kindergarten programs for 4 – 5 year olds operate Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Each session is 5 hours per day with each child receiving 15 hours of kindergarten per week. Children attending the kindergarten program are residents of Foster, Yanakie, Waratah Bay, Sandy Point and Walkerville.

Prom Coast Centres for Children also provide kindergarten services in Fish Creek, Toora and Welshpool.

### *Family Day Care*

Family day care is managed by Uniting Care Gippsland. Family day care is available in Foster. A family day care educator can care for up to four children under school age and up to three school aged children under 12 years. It is reported that new legislative and qualification requirements have become a barrier to recruitment of new family day care educators however an additional family day care educator has recently been recruited in Foster.

### *Playgroups*

The Foster playgroup is a parent run playgroup which meets at the Scout Hall, Pioneer Street on Wednesdays 10am – 12noon.

### *Family Services*

Foster care, Child First (child protection), integrated family services for vulnerable children, and disability services are provided via services based in Leongatha and provide outreach services across the shire. The West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation provides Story Time at the Foster library which is well attended by up to 30 children each week.

Many offices of family service providers are located in Leongatha with staff available to the population of Foster for initial assessment, however often families must travel to Leongatha for ongoing services.

### *Maternal and Child Health*

Maternal and Child Health services are provided by Council from consulting rooms at Prom Coast Centres for Children on Wednesdays and alternative Fridays between 8.30am and 4.30pm. An Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program is available via a referral from the Maternal and Child Health nurse. Families most likely to benefit from this program are mothers with post-natal depression, significant parent/infant bonding issues, teenage parents, mothers with physical and intellectual disabilities, families with multiple births or other special needs.

Maternal and Child Health Nurses work closely with maternity services at the hospital to maintain contact with new parents from Foster and surrounding areas who use birthing services at the hospital.

#### *Supported Playgroup*

Supported Playgroups in South Gippsland are funded by the Department of Education and delivered by the Council. Supported Playgroups are a referred service and provide additional support to parents and children.

Playgroups provide opportunities for children and parents to learn in a supportive environment and where families can build friendships in the communities where they live.

**TABLE 8 FOSTER EARLY YEARS FACILITIES & SERVICES SUMMARY**

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE   | PROVIDER                                    | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Education: 4 year old kindergarten<br/>3 – 5 year old education and care program</b> | Prom Coast Centres for Children             | 4 year old – 15 hrs/week<br>Licenced capacity: 30<br>3 – 5 year olds<br>Licenced capacity: 30  |
| <b>Long day / occasional childcare/out of school hours care</b>                         | Prom Coast Centres for Children             | 7.30am – 6.00pm weekdays   |
| <b>Family Day Care</b>  | Uniting Care Gippsland                      | Two family day care educators operate in the Foster area   |
| <b>Playgroups</b>   | Parent run service                          | Scout Hall Wednesday 10 - 12   |
| <b>Maternal and Child Health Service</b>  | Council                                     | Prom Coast Centres for Children consultation Wednesdays and alternative Fridays between 8.30am and 4.30pm<br>An Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program is available via a referral from the Maternal and Child Health nurse. |
| <b>Family Services</b>  | West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation | Story Time is available at the Foster Library. Up to 30 children attend each week.   |



TABLE 9 EARLY YEARS AND FAMILY SERVICES SOUTH GIPPSLAND

| SERVICE PROVIDER                      | LOCATION  | SERVICE  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Berry St</b>                       | Uniting Care Gippsland Church St, Leongatha   | Provides the Early Childhood Development Project servicing South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires.  |
| <b>Child First</b>                    | UnitingCare Gippsland Church St, Leongatha  | Advice & referral for schools, service providers, community members or families concerned about a child/children's welfare.  |
| <b>South Gippsland Hospital</b>       | Services by appointment located at South Gippsland Hospital Community Health Service consulting rooms | Occupational Therapy<br>Physiotherapy<br>Speech Therapy<br>Continence nurse  |
| <b>Integrated Family Services</b>     | Anglicare Smith St, Leongatha   | Case management & in home support for vulnerable children, young people and families.  |
| <b>Emergency Relief</b>               | Salvocare Community House and Learning Centre   | Food relief available  |
| <b>General Practice Counselling</b>   | South Gippsland Hospital UnitingCare Gippsland  | Referral from GP required  |
| <b>Bush Link</b>                      | Prom Coast Centres for Children Pioneer St Foster   | A mobile service, lending toys and providing information to resource local families and playgroups in the Corner Inlet district.   |
| <b>Noah's Ark Inc.</b>                | Wonthaggi with visiting services to Foster  | Inclusion Support, Family Services Coordination, Occupational Therapy  |
| <b>Scope</b>                          | Gippsland Specialist Services George Street, Warragul   | Individual child support/therapy, Family support & training, Family services coordination, Small groups, Signposts, Community support and education                                      |
| <b>Specialist Children's Services</b> | Department of Education and Training Bruce Street Leongatha   | Speech & Occupational Therapy, Information and support, Individual program plans, Family services coordination, Assistance and support with transitions, Community Support and Education |
| <b>DHHS – Disability Intake</b>       | Morwell   | To register for eligibility  |
| <b>Supported Playgroup</b>            | Council   | A referred service for families funded by the Victorian Government   |

## Consultation

Consultation in development of this chapter has been conducted on an individual basis with the administrative staff member of Prom Coast Centres for Children, Maternal Child Health Nurses and the Maternal and Child Health Team Leader and the Preschool Field Officer.

The Children’s Services Provider’s Network meets quarterly to discuss current issues, services, enrolments and strategic planning. These meetings provide an opportunity for kindergartens, child care centres, family day care, Council and out of school hours care providers to share best practice, discuss issues or identify areas of need in this sector.

## Future Demand

In 2011 there were 60 children aged 0 – 4 years (3.6%) in Foster, 2.8% lower than Victoria (6.4%) and a lower proportion than for South Gippsland. There is expected to be little change in the number of children aged 0 – 4 years in Foster to 2036 (60 children).

TABLE 10 EARLY YEARS POPULATION 2011

| AGE/YEARS     | 2011 |
|---------------|------|
| 0             | 9    |
| 1             | 11   |
| 2             | 15   |
| 3             | 12   |
| 4             | 13   |
| 5             | 18   |
| Total 5 under | 78   |

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TABLE 11 BIRTHS 2012 – 2014

| YEAR      | FOSTER             | FOSTER & DISTRICT |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2010/2011 | 18                 | 49                |
| 2011/2012 | ** <sup>(24)</sup> |                   |
| 2012/2013 | 18                 | 57                |
| 2013/2014 | 17                 | 47                |

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Early years services in Foster are accessed by the residents from the eastern end of the Shire. There was an average of 18 births in the Foster township per year from 2010 to present. Census data suggests there were more children aged five years than in younger age groups.

Early years services in Foster should meet the needs of children aged under 5 in the next 30 years. The co-location of integrated early years services delivered from the Prom Coast Centres for Children provides a model of best practice that should meet the needs of children 5 years and under in Foster for the next 30 years. Monitoring of participation in the school holiday program would be expecting to see increased use of the service as families in the area become aware of the service and plan to use it on a regular basis.

Prom Coast Centres for Children is the only long day care centre in the eastern area of South Gippsland. The closest alternatives are 35 minutes by car west of Foster in Leongatha. Kindergarten programs are offered in Toora/ Welshpool and Fish Creek. South Gippsland Shire Council manages the buildings in which all these services are provided.

<sup>24</sup> Data is not available for this year

<sup>25</sup> ABS Census 2011

<sup>26</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council Maternal and Child Health Birth Notices, Accessed July 2014

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

TABLE 11 GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS EARLY YEARS SERVICES

| SERVICE                | BENCHMARK   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Kindergarten</b>    | 3-year old kindergarten – 1 place per 3 children aged 3 years<br>4-year old kindergarten – 1 place per child aged 4 years<br>1 x 4 year old kindergarten to 10,000 people |
| <b>Long Day Care</b>   | 1 centre licensed for 120 places to 8,000 – 10,000 people   |
| <b>Family Day Care</b> | Dependent on availability of educators and community demand   |
| <b>Playgroup</b>       | 1 playgroup to 5,000 people   |

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## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council, independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE  | WHO                              |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <p><i>Maximise use of buildings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Continue school holiday program</li> <li>▶ Promote availability of Maternal and Child Health consultation room to other early years service providers (Speech pathology etc.)</li> </ul> | <p>PCCC<br/>Council and PCCC</p> |

### *Best Practice*

Integrated children's services provide better outcomes for children and families, particularly vulnerable or hard to reach families. The co-location of services supports community building and local connections, social and economic capital. Integrated children's centres provide a one stop shop for busy parents and parents with multiple needs and reduce confusion for families about where to seek help and provide a more comprehensive service delivery.

Integrated children's centres can provide a multi-disciplinary approach for professionals with opportunities to transfer knowledge and practices. Service coordination is enhanced resulting in less delay for access to services.

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<sup>27</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority, April 2008

<sup>28</sup> Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 'Research and Evidence', in *Integrated Children's services*, last updated 9 March 2011, viewed on 17 December 2012, <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement/integratedservices/research.htm>.

## YOUTH

Places for youth specific activity out of school settings is limited in Foster. Investigating how to maximise use of community infrastructure and also provide unique spaces for youth requires further investigation in the town.

### Introduction

This chapter describes services and facilities specifically designed and allocated to youth aged between 12 and 19 in Foster. Further discussion of the education and training needs of young people are included in the chapter Education, Learning and Libraries.

Youth services and infrastructure may include youth counselling, youth engagement, youth development, support and advocacy, access and meeting places both indoor and outdoor and provision of local service information.

### Council Plans and Strategies / Government Policy

#### *South Gippsland Shire Council Youth Policy*

The youth policy supports South Gippsland Shire Council's facilitation of the Youth Council. The Youth Council gives young people a voice in local government planning and decision making regarding strategies, policies and programs in South Gippsland.

#### *Office for Youth*

The Office for Youth is a State Government agency driving a whole of government programs for Victorians aged 12 – 25. It is responsible for policy advice, research and planning as they relate to youth. It delivers programs and initiatives that support social, civic and economic participation of young people that are sustainable.

#### *Youth Affairs Council of Victoria*

This is a peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria.

#### *Schools as Community Facilities*

The Victorian Government has released guidelines designed to help government schools and communities develop partnerships around sharing school facilities. The guidelines discuss the benefit of entering into a sharing agreement and provide information on the legal framework that surrounds this type of agreement.

### Current Provision

Currently there are 150 people aged 12 - 19 years comprising 9% of the community. Many young people move away from Foster for education and work on completion of secondary education. Some travel to secondary school outside of Foster or board in Melbourne or in regional towns to attend secondary school.

The table below shows fluctuation of certain age groups or marked differences in gender balance in certain years that are difficult to explain. Service providers catering for participation of certain age groups or genders in programs or sports may find the information useful in planning.

TABLE 12 SINGLE YEAR OF AGE 12 – 19 YEARS 2011

| AGE          | 2011<br>MALE | 2011<br>FEMALE | 2011<br>TOTAL |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>12</b>    | 11           | 8              | 19            |
| <b>13</b>    | 3            | 14             | 17            |
| <b>14</b>    | 7            | 13             | 20            |
| <b>15</b>    | 10           | 8              | 18            |
| <b>16</b>    | 10           | 18             | 28            |
| <b>17</b>    | 4            | 5              | 9             |
| <b>18</b>    | 11           | 11             | 22            |
| <b>19</b>    | 7            | 10             | 17            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>63</b>    | <b>87</b>      | <b>150</b>    |

Extensive sports and recreation facilities and clubs cater for young people as part of the broader community. Youth specific services listed below cater for a range of social, sporting, health and education needs.

#### *Youth Council*

South Gippsland Shire Council encourages young people to have input into local government planning, strategy, policy and program decisions via the Youth Council. The main function of the Youth Council is for young people to get together and take an active role in helping youth activity in South Gippsland. Youth Council members range between 12 to 25 years of age. Generally there are about 15 young people on the team from across South Gippsland. Young people from Foster have expressed an interest in participating in a youth council for their local town. Most Youth Council meetings take place in Leongatha necessitating members from Foster to find their own transport to and from Leongatha to attend.

#### *Recreation and Leisure*

For a detailed description of recreation and leisure for the broader community in Foster refer to the sport and recreation chapter in this document.

*Foster Skate Bowl* is located in Pioneer Street adjacent to the Scout Hall at the rear of the South Gippsland Shire Council depot. The bowl is a capsule shaped spine with round bowl and includes a metal half pipe and vertical ramp. There is a seat and a drinking fountain at the skate bowl.

There are numerous sporting clubs in Foster, most welcoming young members. Many Foster sporting clubs have junior competitions and training sessions.

*The Corner Inlet Swimming Club* meets at Toora Swimming Pool. They compete in competitions against neighbouring towns in January and February each year and host at least one carnival during this competition period.

*Corner Inlet Inter Athletics* meet Saturday mornings 9am – 11am at the South Gippsland Secondary College from September to March.

*Corner Inlet Pony Club* meets at Bennison Recreation Reserve, O’Sullivan’s Road. Facilities include a clubhouse with canteen, a large 60 x 45m all-purpose fenced sand arena, a fenced grass arena and large grass riding areas. A cross-country course including a water jump is also available. Rallies are run 16 times per year beginning at 9.30am and finishing 3.30pm.

*Foster Cub Scouts* meet in the Scout Hall, Pioneer Street Tuesdays 4.30pm – 6pm. Scouts meet at Fish Creek.

*Church youth clubs* provide activities to their younger congregation who use church halls and facilities during the week as well as on worship days.

### *Youth Access Clinic*

The Youth Access Clinic operates from the Foster War Memorial Hall /Arts Centre. It is a drop in service for 10 – 25 year olds, Mondays 1.30pm – 3.30pm. The majority of patients are aged between 15 – 19 years. The clinic is a partnership between South Gippsland Hospital, Foster Medical Centre and South Gippsland Secondary College. The Hospital provides 2 nurses and the Medical Centre provides a General Practitioner. The Secondary School allows students to walk to the clinic during school hours.

### *Foster Library*

Foster library provides a place where young people can interact, discuss and develop ideas together and find a quiet study area away from home and school. A library may also act as a place of refuge for youth.

**TABLE 13 YOUTH SPECIFIC FACILITIES & SERVICES SUMMARY**

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE               | PROVIDER  | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Youth outdoor recreation</b>             | Council<br>Department of Education  | Skate bowl, showgrounds, swimming pool, Secondary College grounds   |
| <b>Youth specific indoor meeting spaces</b> | Scouts  | Scouts – cubs only  |
| <b>Study spaces</b>                         | West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation<br>School                               | Library – (open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)<br>School – (closed to students at conclusion of formal teaching) |
| <b>Public Realm</b>                         | Council<br>Great Southern Rail Trail Committee of Management                        | Pearl Park, Great Southern Rail Trail, town centre and town laneways  |
| <b>Youth services</b>                       | South Gippsland Hospital, Foster Medical Centre & South Gippsland Secondary College | Youth Access Clinic<br>Foster War Memorial Arts Centre  |
| <b>Arts activities</b>                      | Department of Education<br>Private business   | School Music Program<br>Tribes Youth Theatre<br>Suzie Green School of Dance                                     |

## Consultation

A health focus group conducted in preparation of this plan discussed the high use of the Youth Access Clinic by young people mainly attending the Secondary College. The partners involved continue to be satisfied that the patients being served by the initiative would not otherwise access GP services through the main clinic. The venue allows for private consultation rooms for the GP and a nurse; however the mental health nurse does not have an area to meet with patients privately.

An informal discussion with some young people at the skate bowl highlighted the need for a rubbish bin at the bowl to prevent rubbish being left to litter the local area. The same young people were also concerned with the proximity of the cyclone wire mesh fence close to the perimeter of the skate bowl. Currently this is a protective fence to the entrance of the Council works depot.

## Future Demand

Since 2006 the proportion of young people aged 12 – 17 in the Eastern District including Foster has been in decline dropping from 9.5% of the total population in 2006 to 7.5% in 2011. The proportion of this age group is higher in Foster than in the broader Eastern District. The decline in the proportion of young people in Foster reflects the lifecycle of families within the town, ageing of the existing older residents, and an increase in the proportion of older people moving to the area.

Whilst the proportion of young people is in decline there remains a need to provide places where young people can meet which are safe and easily seen and where young people can participate in youth specific programs outside of schools and sporting clubs if they wish. Foster is fortunate to have a strong arts community that includes youth theatre that is likely to continue and the Library offers a place to meet friends of find retreat three days a week.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Some states have developed urban design guidelines for children and youth as part of broader youth policies<sup>29</sup>, as crime prevention strategic planning<sup>30</sup>, and to improve safety and inclusion of children and youth in the local community<sup>31</sup>. Neighbouring Councils such as Casey Shire Council have developed extensive youth strategies to address needs of their large youth population.

The youth specific urban design guidelines reflect themes of access and circulation, inclusive design, mixed uses (and users), safety and surveillance, separate but visible areas, performance needs and basic services. Below is a summary of these guidelines.

TABLE 14 YOUTH DESIGN GUIDELINES – FOR YOUTH FRIENDLY PUBLIC AREAS

| SUMMARY  | DETAILS   |
|--|---|
| <b>Access and Circulation</b><br>Allow for access and circulation on foot, bikes, skateboards or | Maximise access to public transport.<br>Locate pick up and drop off points as close as possible to public spaces and young people's activities.<br>Bus pick up and drop off points should be well-lit, have seating, 10 minute parking, increased public space for school bags, secure bike |

<sup>29</sup> Department Urban Affairs and Planning, 1999, *Urban Design Guidelines With Young People In Mind*, Planning NSW.

<sup>30</sup> R. White, 1998, *Public Spaces for Young People*, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

<sup>31</sup> NSW Commission for Children and Young People, 2009.



|   |  |
|---|--|
| scooters.   | <p>storage facilities, are positioned in active locations with casual surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Walking and cycling paths that are well-lit and provide surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Safe, easy to use, connecting routes to youth facilities such as skate bowls, basketball courts where skateboards, bikes and scooters can be used.</p> <p>Allow shared use of public areas that are varied, lively and safe suitable for a variety of users or groups.</p>   |
| <p><b>Range of users</b><br/>Integrate rather than segregate young people from the wider community.</p> | <p>Public spaces that are flexible to accommodate wide range of users. Larger spaces and wider paths to accommodate walkers and a wheeled item such as pram, wheelchair, bike or skateboard.</p> <p>Seating in public areas at the edge of footpaths where through movement and access to shops is not blocked and can be easily observed. This provides opportunities for watching passers-by and hanging out as an activity rather than an obstruction.</p>  |
| <p><b>Mix of Uses</b><br/>Encourage range of uses</p>   | <p>Encourage range of uses including 'magnets' for young people such as food outlets and cafes.</p> <p>Include a mix of retail, commercial and entertainment as well as government agencies and community services.</p> <p>Consider use of shop fronts in town centre to facilitate activity, providing youth services and facilities at street level.</p>   |
| <p><b>Making safer places</b><br/>Improve perception of safety in public spaces.</p>                    | <p>Avoid extensive blank walls at ground level. Active edges such as glazed shop fronts are preferable and provide casual surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Activate the public domain through maximising the number of entries to buildings from the street.</p> <p>Provide adequate lighting to back lanes to support their use as safe shortcuts and pedestrian routes.</p> <p>Landscaping of public spaces should not obscure pedestrian eye-level sight lines or sterilize large areas.</p>                                |
| <p><b>The public stage</b><br/>Provide venues for public entertainment and public communication</p>     | <p>Design formal and informal spaces for public entertainment.</p> <p>Design street furniture to be multi-functional for both seating and as a stage.</p> <p>Design spaces large enough for a variety of uses/users including markets, public performances, and other community activities.</p> <p>Public noticeboards or poster kiosks as a forum for community communication and to control bill posting.</p> <p>Public art to channel youth self-expression and control graffiti via sculptural or walls, murals, paving.</p> |
| <p><b>Keep public space public</b><br/>Retain free public spaces, open at all times.</p>                | <p>Provide spaces in the public realm in addition to any shopping malls or arcades.</p> <p>Keep public spaces uncluttered, simple and flexible.</p> <p>Prevent car parking in public spaces.</p>   |
| <b>Separate but visible</b>   | <p>Provide skate parks in public areas in locations that are visible to other public space users but separate from main paths of travel.</p>   |



**Basic services**

Public services that are discreet but accessible

Co-locate public toilets, sanitary facilities and phones in public areas where they are easy to find, discreet and where surveillance opportunities exist.

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*Best Practice*

The best approach to youth-related issues is one which is holistic, community-based and involves young people in the process. As members of the broader community, young people's human rights should be consulted and catered for in relation to community infrastructure including public spaces and service provision. Provision of a diverse range of options, youth services, public transport, formal and informal means of participation and inclusion, development of competencies, clear guidelines and codes of conduct all support the rights of young people.

## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council, independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE   | WHO                                  |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Skate bowl</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Review position of skate bowl as part of review of Foster works depots</li> <li>▶ Provide litter bin and litter collection service</li> </ul>  | <p>Council<br/>Council</p>           |
| <p><i>Indoor youth space</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Consult with youth to determine need and possible sites for youth space – youth access clinic, study space, activity space</li> <li>▶ Consider Scout Hall, Pioneer Road, Showgrounds buildings, library</li> </ul> | <p>Council<br/>and<br/>community</p> |
| <p><i>Public Realm / Arts and Culture</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Laneways / Streetscape redevelopment project</li> </ul>   | <p>Council</p>                       |

<sup>32</sup> R. White, 1998 *Public Spaces for Young People*, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

# OLDER PEOPLE AND AGEING

## Introduction

The population of Foster and surrounds has a higher proportion of people aged over 60 years (36.4%) than in South Gippsland (27.8%). The proportion of people aged over 60 years increased by 13.2% between 2006 and 2011 and is expected to continue to grow in the next 20 years. People aged between 50 and 59 comprise an additional 16.3% providing forecast for the needs of older residents as they age over the next 10 years.

By 2026 it is forecast that 43% of the population in the Eastern Coastal District (including Foster) will be over 60 with the largest age group being people aged 70 – 84 comprising 20.8% of the population up from 13.8% in 2011.

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For the purpose of this project, aged care facilities and services include:

- ▶ Retirement villages
- ▶ Residential aged care (low and high care)
- ▶ Aged care public housing
- ▶ Home and Community Care (HACC): Assessment services, home care, personal care, respite, property maintenance, meals on wheels and community transport
- ▶ Senior citizens centre
- ▶ Services including Planned Activity Groups (PAG), one on one respite and community outreach programs
- ▶ People aged 60 years and over.

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

### *South Gippsland Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016 (AAP)*

The Active Ageing Plan focuses on addressing issues that older residents have identified as important in enabling them to participate in the community as they age. It includes actions of Council and partner organisations. A new plan is currently being developed.

### *South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) 2013 - 2017*

The MPHWP is a key strategic document and a legislative requirement for all Local Governments under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The MPHWP contains actions and measures to improve the health and wellbeing of the whole community including older residents and those with a disability.

### *Community Transport Policy*

Community transport aims to support individuals to remain independent, safe and secure in their community through the provision of transport opportunities for frail-aged and people with disabilities. Clients may include but are not limited to Home and Community Care (HACC) clients and their carers. The service may be used to transport clients to a range of

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<sup>33</sup> Id Population Forecast for South Gippsland

medical, social and community appointments. It aims to supplement, and not replace existing commercial services.

### *Broader Policies*

#### *My Aged Care*

My Aged Care aims to create a single service and information resource for the aged care system, simplify and standardise the aged care needs assessment and provide support for locating and accessing services. In Victoria a central entry point for aged care assessments will commence in July 2016.

#### *The Living Longer Living Better*

This aged care reform package aims to

- ▶ Help older people stay at home
- ▶ Increase support for carers
- ▶ Provide better access to residential care
- ▶ Strengthen the aged care workforce
- ▶ Provide more support for those with dementia
- ▶ Support older Australians from diverse backgrounds.

#### *Community Common Care Standards*

These standards are applicable to the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program, Community Aged Care Packages, Extended Aged Care at Home and Extended Aged Care at Home Dementia. There are three standards:

- ▶ Effective Management
- ▶ Appropriate Access and Service Delivery and
- ▶ Service User Rights and Responsibilities.

#### *The Active Service Model*

This quality improvement initiative focuses on promoting capacity building and restorative care in community care service delivery. The goal of the Active Service Model is to assist people in the Home and Community Care target group to live in the community as independently and autonomously as possible. The goal of this initiative is to ensure that clients are able to gain the greatest level of independence they can possibly achieve and that they can be as actively involved in making decisions about their life as possible – such as the type of services they receive and the goals they wish to achieve.

#### *The Aged Care Act 1997*

This Act makes sure that everyone who needs aged care has access to it where it is available and regardless of their race, culture, language, gender, economic circumstance or geographic location. Under the Act, care can be provided as residential care (in an aged care home), home care or flexible care. The Act sets out rules for the payment of fees and charges for people who can afford to contribute towards their care and accommodation.

## *Charter of Care Recipient's Rights and Responsibilities – Residential Care and Home Care*

The charter outlines the rights of recipients of care and comprises Schedule 1 User Rights and Principles of the Aged Care Act 1997.

### *The Age Discrimination Act 2004*

This act makes direct and indirect age discrimination unlawful in areas including employment, the provision of goods and services, accommodation and requests for information.

## Current Provision

Services for older people in Foster are provided in purpose built facilities, community meeting places and in the home. Council provides home and community care (HACC) services frail older people, people with a disability and their carers. Many older residents are unable to readily leave the home to access the services they need. Carer support services are also provided by a number of providers under a brokerage system funded by a variety of sources including but not limited to the Department of Health and Human Services, Home and Community Care, Department of Veterans Affairs, Latrobe Community Health Service and Traffic Accident Commission. South Gippsland Hospital provides a range of services on site in the Community Health Centre and to the home.

### *Home and Community Care (HACC)*

Home and Community Care (HACC) Program provides basic support services to frail older people, people with a disability and their carers assisting them to live independently. Assessment is required for a person's eligibility. Eligibility is based on a person's current health and wellbeing, their priority of need and availability of services. An officer visits the client, their family and other networks to develop a Care Plan reflecting the client's needs and goals.

Council provides HACC Services to eligible community members in all areas of South Gippsland. Latrobe Community Health Service provides aged care assessment services, carer programs, linkages packages and veterans home care. South Gippsland Hospital Community Health Centre provides district nursing, allied health and planned activity groups. Gippsland Southern Health Service provides palliative care.

**TABLE 15 HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Home Care</b>       | Home care assists clients to maintain a safe, healthy and hygienic home environment.<br>Assistance may include tasks such as vacuuming, sweeping and washing floors, cleaning bathrooms and toilets, changing bed linen, basic shopping and assistance with paying bills and banking. |
| <b>Personal Care</b>   | Personal care services provide support to people who have difficulty with daily personal care tasks such as showering, dressing, meal preparation and application of pressure stockings.  |
| <b>Respite Care</b>    | Respite enables carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities. Individual respite requirements are discussed and time spent during respite is based on activities that are meaningful and of interest to the client.  |
| <b>Meals on Wheels</b> | Meals are prepared by South Gippsland Hospital and delivered to client's homes by volunteers. Menu choice on a 5 week cycle, each meal includes a   |

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
|                             | soup, main meal, sweet (or fruit/yogurt) and juice.  |
| <b>Community Transport</b>  | Assistance with transport aims to support individuals where no other form of transport is available, for activities such as medical appointments or shopping for essential needs.<br>The program is supported by Council, with the provision of Council owned cars and buses, and volunteers who complete the driving.<br>The community car is kept at Prom Country House with volunteers drivers providing the service. |
| <b>Home Maintenance</b>     | This program provides basic assistance to clients with the maintenance of their home to ensure a safe and secure environment such as installation of ramps and rails. Gutter cleaning is available annually.   |
| <b>Travel Squad Program</b> | Older people are familiarized with using public transport by being matched with volunteers. In Foster there are two volunteers willing to assist any eligible HACC clients.  |

### *Home Care Packages*

Community aged care packages are provided by service providers external to Council that bid for government funding to deliver services or provide private services on a user pays basis to case managed clients. Currently Community Aged Care packages are provided by Bapcare, Benetas and Calvary Silver Circle, Latrobe Community Health Service, Dutch Care, Southern Cross Care and Villa Maria to people with ongoing care needs. These services are flexible depending on the client's needs and may include case management, personal care, transport, home care, shopping, laundry, respite carer support, after hours support, medical referral to other services, home and garden maintenance and access to social activities.

### *Carer Support and Respite Services*

Council provides carer support via their HACC services. Bapcare, Benetas, Calvary Silver Circle, Scope Victoria, Villa Maria, Latrobe Community Health Service and Mental Illness Fellowship also provide support to carers of frail aged. Support includes in-home respite, helping with leisure activities for the carer, day programs, camps weekends and accommodation support and short term residential respite and study assistance for the carer.

### *Residential Aged Care and Housing*

#### *Prom Country Aged Care*

Prom Country Aged Care is a community based residential aged care service which was established in 1985 to meet the need of people in the Prom Coast District. The newly constructed Prom Country House has a 60 bed capacity and is located in the health precinct in O'Connell Road off Station Street. It is registered as an incorporated association with a voluntary board of management. Prom Country Aged Care provides ageing in place residential services, short term respite care and permanent residential accommodation. This allows Prom Country House to provide continual care for a resident as their needs shift from low to high without having to leave Prom Country House. Prom Country House is at capacity with a waiting list.

### *Linton Court Elderly People's Home Society*

Linton Court Elderly People's Home Society has constructed 23 accessible independent living units on the large site, 300m from the town centre available to people aged over 55 years. In 1975 a long term lease provided to Department of Housing allows for 8 units for people with low incomes. The large site has capacity for more units to be constructed. One unit has been vacant for the last 12 months. Linton Court is a registered benevolent institution, is GST exempt and pays rates.

**TABLE 16 AGED AND DISABILITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES SUMMARY**

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE                           | PROVIDER  | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL  |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Home and Community Care (HACC)</b>                   | South Gippsland Shire Council<br><br>Veterans Affairs   | In home care provided via intake and assessment criteria to determine eligibility.<br><br>Specific service for veterans with a current Gold Card. |
| <b>Commonwealth Home Care Packages (HCP)</b>            | Baptcare<br>Benetas<br>Calvary Silver Circle<br>Dutch Care<br>Villa Maria<br>Southern Cross<br>Latrobe Community Health Service | Eligibility assessed via the Aged Care Assessment Service.<br>Services provided in the home   |
| <b>Carer and respite support services</b>               | Latrobe Community Health Service<br>Baptcare<br>Benetas<br>Mental Illness Fellowship<br>Scope Victoria                          | Eligibility assessed via intake system. Service provided in the home  |
| <b>Residential Aged Care</b>                            | Prom Country Aged Care –<br>Prom Country House  | 60 bed facility with respite beds available<br>Funding application for an additional 5 bed licenses and additional 10 beds in next 5 years        |
| <b>Independent Living Units for people aged over 55</b> | Linton Court Elderly People's Home Society  | 8 x Department of Housing Units<br>23 x Linton Court benevolent society units   |

### Consultation

Health services and community members were invited to participate in a focus group discussion in September 2014 to discuss community infrastructure needs in Foster. There were 19 people participating from a range of services including aged care providers.

Individual interviews with the Manager Community Health, South Gippsland Hospital and the Chief Executive Officer, Prom Country Aged Care were undertaken to confirm details raised in the focus group meeting in which they also participated.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016 included extensive consultation in its development. Methods of consultation included surveying 1200 residents (with a 20% response rate); community forums, contact with local community groups, information to Home and Community Care clients, partnership input from health services and Council officers. A recent review of the plan has provided further information regarding services for older residents of South Gippsland.

The South Gippsland Shire Council Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 was developed with extensive consultation across the South Gippsland community and with service providers via interview, focus groups, print and online survey. It included discussions with the Foster community during this consultation period.

## Future Demand

Forecast data is not available for areas with a population less than 2,000 people. Foster with its current population of 1,677 is a service town for the broader eastern area of the Shire. Forecasts are available for the South East Coastal District and include the towns of Foster, Foster North, Fish Creek, Toora, Welshpool, Sandy Point, Waratah Bay, Walkerville, Port Franklin, Port Welshpool and Mount Best. Whilst this is not specific to Foster and should be considered with caution, it provides an indication of trends for the types of communities living in the area.

Currently 510 people 30% of the Foster population are aged 65 and over. In some areas of the town 42% of the population are in this age group. Of all Foster residents, 136 are living alone with most in the town centre and an additional 21 in surrounding rural areas. These statistics do not include residents in Prom Country House.

It is expected that the proportion of the population over 65 will increase over the next 20 years with the greatest increases in people aged 70 – 84 years. People aged 70 – 74 are expected to increase from 6.9% to 8.5% of the population in the same period.

It is expected the proportion of the population over 65 years living alone will continue to be higher in this area than larger towns in South Gippsland.

“The level of participation in the community is often dependent on the level of physical and cognitive ability of people. Maintaining health and wellbeing as we age is therefore integral to continuing participation.”



## *Residential Aged Care and Housing*

### *Home and Community Care*

Council currently contributes approximately 17% of the cost of the HACC program with the remainder funded through State and Federal Governments and service user fees charged to clients. Home and Community Care Services can be provided by a range of service providers and are not always provided by the local Council. A review of Home and Community Care will take place in 2016 as part of a transition to My Aged Care.

The need for home and community care will continue with the level of provision likely to change over the next couple of decades in response to people living longer and managing chronic disease in their own homes. Aged services provision will become more diverse extending into partnerships with health services. One such area could include supporting people with specific conditions such as dementia. While services provided in the home will see increased demand with a growing older population, the need for residential aged care will also increase.

Within Foster the current supply of small accessible housing close to the town centre is likely to also meet the need of people requiring housing for accessible independent living.

### *Transport*

Public and community transport will be in greater demand as the Foster community ages and becomes less able to drive independently. Promoting use of public transport to attend local appointments and events is important in developing independence in people previously accustomed to driving themselves whilst also easing demand on the community cars available in Foster.

The Travel Squad Program matches volunteers with Home and Community Care eligible clients to introduce them to the public transport system to build confidence in using VLine bus services. Increasing the number of older people using public transport independently will ease demand on community transport services that are better used by frail, less independent community members.

Encouraging public transport use will provide links into services provided in Foster for those living in the Eastern District also provides links for Foster residents with services in Leongatha or Melbourne.

### *Residential aged care*

Prom Country House opened in 2013 but is already at capacity of 60 beds with a waiting list. An additional five bed licences will be added in 2016. To stay abreast of need, an additional 10 beds will be added in the next five years through expansion within existing infrastructure. It is anticipated an additional two x 10 bed wings will be constructed in the next 10 – 25 years with capacity to expand to two story and double capacity as required.

Whilst rooms at Banksia Lodge are still available, provision of services to residents over two sites would be resource intensive and prohibitive. Banksia Lodge is currently being used for health student accommodation, specialist accommodation and planned activity groups. Retaining Banksia Lodge could provide a valuable resource in the event of emergency management housing for relief staff or residents. The Prom Country Aged Care (PCAC) board would need to weigh up the budgetary impacts of maintaining this facility against the

overall value to their service, neighbouring health services and the broader community. Banksia Lodge is owned by Prom Country Aged Care and is located on South Gippsland Hospital land.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning guidelines are provided as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns where much of the population requiring services are located out of town on rural properties. Provision of services and facilities for older people should consider availability of accessible public facilities within a town the size of Foster located in the central town area.

The following planning criteria have been applied by State Government in growth areas to define provision of aged care services:

**TABLE 17 AGED CARE SERVICES GROWTH PLANNING CRITERIA**

| SERVICE                        | PER CAPITAL PROVISION RECOMMENDED  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Residential aged care</b>   | 88 places per 1,000 residents aged 70 and over                                     |
| <b>Respite care</b>            | 1 respite / planned activity group per 40,000 to 60,000 people                     |
| <b>Meals on Wheels</b>         | 1 dispatch centre per 40,000 to 60,000 people                                      |
| <b>Senior Citizen’s Centre</b> | Provision to meet in 1 large multi-purpose meeting place per 8,000 – 10,000 people |



## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE   | WHO   |
|--|---|
| <p><i>Residential aged care – Prom Country Aged Care (PCAC)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Expand bed capacity of Prom Country House as proposed by staff research and Board recommendations</li> <li>▶ Support applications for building expansion for next 5 – 25 years</li> </ul>   | <p>PCAC</p> <p>Council</p>                                  |
| <p><i>Mobility aids and easy access</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Construct footpaths appropriate for shared use by pedestrians and mobility scooters</li> <li>▶ Ensure gutters and road crossings are accessible by mobility scooters, wheelchairs</li> <li>▶ Mark mobility scooter parking bays at 3 places in town centre and provide education program for scooter users</li> <li>▶ Provide mobility scooter training annually</li> </ul> | <p>Council</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Council</p> |
| <p><i>Transport</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote availability of the community car to eligible clients</li> <li>▶ Encourage use of Travel Squad program through using the service to attend events in closer towns such as Leongatha</li> <li>▶ Continue recruitment drive for volunteer drivers. Support volunteer drivers with training and networking activities on a regular basis</li> </ul>  | <p>South Gippsland Hospital</p> <p>Council</p>              |
| <p><i>Independent living</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote carer respite and support services to eligible carers</li> <li>▶ Lobby for ongoing provision of services to people with disabilities and older people in the home</li> </ul>   | <p>Council</p> <p>South Gippsland Hospital</p>              |

# DISABILITY

## Introduction

Foster has a higher than average proportion of people with disabilities than South Gippsland and Victoria.

Some services for people with disabilities are provided to Foster residents in the home. Many services require people to travel to Leongatha for services.

Employment support services for people with disabilities try to source opportunities for work in the client's home town where possible. The range of job opportunities is limited in smaller towns such as Foster.

For the purpose of this project this chapter includes:

- ▶ Diversity within the Foster population
- ▶ Disability assessment
- ▶ Aged Care Mental Health Service
- ▶ Day programs
- ▶ Home and Community Care (HACC) (Assessment services, home care, personal care, respite, property maintenance, meals on wheels and community transport)
- ▶ Employment services

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

### *South Gippsland Disability Action Plan (DAP)*

The Disability Action Plan is mandated by the *Disability Act 2006* for all public sector bodies. This plan works to improve the way Council services respond to the needs of people with disabilities, their families and carers and service providers. At a strategic level, the plan seeks a community and partnership approach towards building a more inclusive community, in which people with a disability have increased opportunity to participate in their community and make meaningful choices about their lives.

### *South Gippsland Active Ageing Plan 2012 - 2016 (AAP)*

The Active Ageing Plan focuses on addressing issues that older residents have identified as important in enabling them to participate in the community as they age. It includes actions of Council and partner organisations.

### *South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP)*

This plan is a key strategic document which is a legislative requirement for all Local Governments under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The MPHWP Plan contains actions and measures to improve the health and wellbeing of the whole community including residents with a disability.

### *Victorian State Disability Plan 2013 – 2016*

The plan provides a direction across the Victorian Government so that all government policies, programs, services and infrastructure are able to take full account of people with a disability, their families and carers.

### *The Disability Act 2006 and the Disability Regulations 2007*

These regulations replaced the Intellectually Disabled Persons' Services Act 1986 and the Disability Services Act 1991. The Disability Act (Victoria) provides for a whole-of-government response to the rights and needs of people with a disability and a framework for the provision of high quality services and supports for people with a disability.

### *Federal (Disability Discrimination Act 1992) and State (Equal Opportunity Act 2010)*

These acts state that it is against the law to discriminate on the grounds of disability.

## Current Provision

### *Disability*

'Disability' is an umbrella term for any or all of the components: impairment, activity limitation and participation restriction, as influenced by environmental factors. Impairments are 'problems in body function or structure such as significant deviation or loss'. Activity limitations are 'difficulties an individual may have in executing activities'. Participation restrictions are 'problems an individual may experience in involvement in life situations'<sup>35</sup> Disabilities can be categorised as intellectual, psychiatric, sensory/speech, acquired brain injury and physical/diverse. Physical/diverse disabilities are the most commonly reported disabilities.

People with a profound or severe disability are defined as those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a disability, long term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age.

In Foster 102 people or 6.0% of the population needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability, higher than South Gippsland (5.3%) and Victoria (4.7%). It would be expected that more people with disabilities live in the larger towns of South Gippsland rather than smaller more remote areas due to the necessity to access services and facilities with greater ease.

Of the 102 people needing assistance in Foster, 73 people were aged over 65 years. This reflects the likelihood that people experience increased disability as they age. Further details regarding aged care and the older population of Foster is described in a separate chapter of this document.

TABLE 18 FOSTER PEOPLE NEEDING ASSISTANCE IN DAY TO DAY LIVES 2011

| POPULATION   | NUMBER | % | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE % | VICTORIA % |
|--|--------|---|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>People needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability</b> | 102    | 6 | 5.3                     | 4.7        |

<sup>36</sup>

### *Dementia*

Dementia describes the symptoms of a large group of illnesses including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, alcohol-related

<sup>35</sup> WHO (World Health Organization) 2001a. International classification of functioning, disability and health Geneva: WHO p 7 - 10.

<sup>36</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting (accessed Jan 2014)

dementia, AIDS-related dementia and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Symptoms include loss of memory, intellect, rationality, social skills and normal emotional reactions.

Dementia is not a normal part of ageing. Most people with dementia are older, but most older people do not get dementia. Dementia can happen to anybody, but it is more common after the age of 65 years. People in their 40s and 50s can also have dementia.

“Dementia is considered to be the leading cause of disability in older Australians aged 65 years and over. It is the fastest growing source of major disease burden, and is projected to overtake coronary heart disease in relation to total wellbeing costs by 2023. Within two decades, dementia is expected to become the third greatest source of health and residential aged care spending.”

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Prevalence of dementia within South Gippsland is shown in the table below, showing an increase in prevalence of nearly 36% expected in the ten years from 2010.

TABLE 19 PREVALENCE OF DEMENTIA IN SOUTH GIPPSLAND

|                 | 2010         |                | 2015         |                | 2020         |                | CHANGE IN DEMENTIA PREVALENCE 2010-2020 % |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---|
|                 | No OF PEOPLE | PERCENT OF LGA | No OF PEOPLE | PERCENT OF LGA | No OF PEOPLE | PERCENT OF LGA |   |
| South Gippsland | 424          | 1.5            | 524          | 1.8            | 622          | 2.1            | 35.8                                      |

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### Disability support

Residents of Foster access disability support services in the home or must travel to Leongatha for day activities, education and employment programs.

Increasingly, disability support provides the person with a disability with more flexibility and control to choose the support they receive. Support packages are funded by the Department of Health and Human Services to assist a person to meet their disability support needs. Outreach support provides up to 15 hours per week of home and community support to people with a disability to assist them to live independently.

The Victorian Aids and Equipment Program provides people with a permanent or long term disability with subsidised aids, equipment, home and vehicle modifications.

Community life and jobs support is provided through a range of programs and approaches. Young adults are supported through a transitioning program providing support to young people with a disability who want to pursue further education, training and employment. Specialist disability employment services are also available.

<sup>37</sup> Department of Health (Gippsland), 2011Gippsland Dementia plan 2011-2014

<sup>38</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council Diversity Plan 2012 – 2015 *Access Economics: Projections of dementia prevalence and incidence in Victoria 2010 – 2050, Victoria in Future 2008 as published in the Gippsland Dementia plan 2011-2014.*



People with disabilities also live independently or with others in shared accommodation that is not specifically designated for people with disabilities.

### *Carer and family support*

Support is available for families of children with a disability and carers of adults with a disability living in Foster. Respite support provides short-term breaks for carers of people with a disability and families. Short-term breaks can be overnight, or during the day, breaks can be in-home, in residential settings, with another family, out in the community or other flexible arrangements. Flexible Support Packages provide a range of supports for people with a disability and their families. Individual Support Packages provide flexible funding, based on planning, to suit the particular needs of people with a disability. ‘Family Options’ provides short term and long term alternative family placements for people with a disability who are unable to live with their own family.

### *Service Provision*

Offices for many community and care services for people with disabilities are located in Leongatha and include Yooralla FirstBase, Anglicare, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Uniting Care Gippsland, Salvation Army, Villa Maria and Max Employment. Increasingly clients living in Foster who meet eligible age, ability and funding criteria must travel to Leongatha to access out of home services.

Many disability services in Foster are provided in the home. Carer support services are also provided by a range of providers under a brokerage system funded by a variety of sources including but not limited to Department of Health and Human Services, Home and Community Care, Department of Veterans Affairs and Traffic Accident Commission.

### *Disability Services*

Group services, employment services and education for people with a disability are available in Foster. Additional services are provided to clients in Foster by services based outside the area.

### *Council Services and Provisions for People with Disabilities*

Council provides a range of services and programs for the South Gippsland community, many of which are accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities, their families and carers.<sup>39</sup>

TABLE 20 DISABILITY SERVICES AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF FOSTER

| SERVICE/S   | ORGANISATIONS                               |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Range of Council services</b></p> <p>Preschool Field Officer – offers support to children with additional needs and their families to assist inclusion into State funded kindergarten programs including children with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and children with a non-English speaking background</p> <p>Rural Access Project Officer works with local groups and</p> | <p><b>South Gippsland Shire Council</b></p> |

<sup>39</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council Disability Action Plan 2013 - 2016



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>organisations, businesses and the broader community to strengthen the community's capacity to provide support to people of all abilities and their families</p> <p>Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee provides strategic and practical advice to Council on matters related to access, inclusion and disability.</p> <p>Home and Community Care (HACC) The Home and Community Care team has a Diversity Plan to guide the provision of suitable services to the full range of clients eligible to access HACC services</p> <p>Council issues parking permits to people with disabilities</p> <p>Volunteer visiting service for the aged and those with disabilities</p> <p>Community transport - supports individuals in activities such as medical appointments and shopping where no other form of transport is available</p> <p>Foster mobility map - outlines accessible paths of travel, accessible parking and toilets.</p> <p>Hearing augmentation - 6 individual hearing devices with speaker microphone</p> <p>Companion card – accepted at all Council events.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Range of services – external organisations</b></p> <p>Provide a range of services and support to people in South Gippsland with a disability. This includes individual support packages, education, recreation, aids and equipment, community connections, independent living skills, individual support and pre vocational training. Occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech pathology, community health care, generalist counselling, disability support and day programs are also provided. Foster residents must travel to Leongatha for services</p> <p>Individual programs include gaining access to educational courses, sporting and recreational groups and finding employment</p>  | <p><b>Yooralla FirstBase Scope</b></p> <p><b>Vista Community Support</b></p> |
| <p><b>Specific in-home services</b></p> <p>Extended aged care at-home (EACH) packages for the aged and people with disabilities.</p> <p>District nursing, allied health palliative care, home based withdrawal for alcohol and other drugs. Subcontracted to provide linkages and EACH packages in the home</p>  | <p><b>Villa Maria</b></p> <p><b>South Gippsland Hospital</b></p>             |
| <p><b>Respite services</b></p> <p>Shared family care, respite accommodation funded by Department of Health and Human Services – out of home care for infants and children aged 0 – 6 years with developmental delay and 6 – 17 with</p>  | <p><b>Anglicare funded by Department of Health and Human</b></p>             |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>intellectual disabilities</p> <p>Respite accommodation for children and young people up to 18 years old with intellectual, sensory or physical disabilities or autism spectrum disorders. Host program and family choices programs.</p>   | <p><b>Services</b></p> <p><b>Interchange Gippsland</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Employment services</b></p> <p>Specialised employment service providing placement, training and support in the open labour market for young people and adults with disabilities and particularly people with mental health illness.</p> <p>Employment may be found in Foster however consultation with people seeking employment usually occurs in Leongatha.</p>  | <p><b>CRS Australia</b></p> <p><b>Ostara Australia</b></p> <p><b>Employment Innovations</b></p> <p><b>Max Employment</b></p> <p><b>Yooralla</b></p> |
| <p>Provides a range of funding services for people with disabilities including community care and housing, eligibility assessment according to the Disability Act 2006, individual support packages, educational and vocational support and disability employment service.</p>   | <p><b>Department of Health and Human Services</b></p>   |
| <p>Provide information about deaf and hard of hearing to service providers and general community.</p> <p>Advocates for those who are deaf and hard of hearing to access services equally.</p>  | <p><b>Deafaccess</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Self Help and Advocacy</b></p> <p>Based in Morwell, provide advocacy and support to individuals with disability.</p> <p>New Wave Advocacy is an advocacy support service for people with disability by people with disability</p> <p>Self-help support group provides support and information for people who are providing disability care for friends and relatives including children and adults</p>       | <p><b>Gippsland Disability Advocacy</b></p> <p><b>New Wave Advocacy</b></p> <p><b>South Gippsland Carer's Group</b></p>                             |
| <p><b>Psychiatric Support Programs</b></p> <p>Psychiatric disability rehabilitation support service for young people and adults aged 16 – 24 who have serious enduring or recurring mental illness and associated psychiatric disabilities. Psychiatric disability program – outreach support for young people and adults aged 18 and over with psychiatric disabilities to support independent living skills.</p> | <p><b>SNAP Gippsland</b></p> <p><b>Salvation Army Social Housing Service</b></p>  |

## Consultation

The Disability Action Plan 2013 – 2016 has been developed by Council with input from the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee. This plan outlines practical and strategic

activities that will be undertaken by Council across four key areas, as designated by the Disability Act. As such, the Plan addresses the barriers to participation by people with disability and seeks to achieve tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against persons with a disability.

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan for the period, 2013 – 2017 included extensive consultation including recognising needs of people with disabilities and links to Council's Disability Action Plan.

Telephone interviews were undertaken with key five disability service providers to discuss current service provision and to enquire any future infrastructure needs. The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee was consulted during the exhibition period of the draft Foster Community Infrastructure Plan.

## Future Demand

Improvements in physical infrastructure via the Foster Streetscape Plan and the Laneways Project will provide easier access to people with mobility limitations and in turn make Foster a more desirable place to live for people of all ages with disabilities. With support, mainstream facilities and services will become better able to include people with disabilities in mainstream programs.

As Foster residents age, the number of people reporting need for assistance due to disability will increase and an increase in services for older people with disabilities will be required. Community services are responsive to need on an individual basis.

The self-directed approach adopted by the Department of Health Human Services allows people with disabilities to take charge of the planning, design and implementation of services and supports they need. Traditional funded disability supports will remain but increasingly this will include informal supports, community supports that all people use and the existing funded disability supports. Community supports including recreation providers, training providers and social groups will need to prepare to be inclusive of additional people with a variety of disabilities who may elect to be part of their group or service.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

### *Disability standards, legislation and policy*

Standards, legislation and policy seek to ensure that people with disabilities have the access they need to live, work and participate in their communities. These standards include:

- ▶ Disability standards for accessible public transport – providers and operators of public transport must comply with these standards that set out the minimum requirements for access by people with disabilities, their families and carers.
- ▶ Disability standards for education – these standards aim to ensure that students with disabilities are able to access and participate in education and training free from discrimination, and on the same basis as other students.
- ▶ Disability standards for premises – these standards aim to give people with disabilities better access to a wider range of public buildings. Many of these standards are incorporated into the Building Code of Australia and include guidance on bathrooms, kitchens and paths of travel that are capable of being adopted in any development.

### *Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM)*

The Infrastructure Design Manual was designed to document and standardise Council requirements for the design and development of municipal infrastructure. It provides greater clarity and consistency for consultants, developers and residents who need to know more about the rules, regulations and standards for new infrastructure when developing land. It aims to expedite Council engineering approvals and ensure that minimum design criteria are met in regard to the design and construction of municipal infrastructure regardless of whether it is constructed by Council or a developer.

### *The self-directed approach*

The self-directed approach means that the person with a disability is at the centre, and to the extent that they are able, in charge of the planning, design and implementation of the services and supports they need.

People can consider who is best able to provide those supports. This includes informal supports, community supports that all people use and, where needed, funded disability supports.

The self-directed approach means the person is at the centre of the decision making in relation to:

- ▶ Planning based on their expressed goals and disability-related support needs
- ▶ Deciding what supports they need and who will provide them
- ▶ Knowing how much funding they are allocated, managing it wherever possible and being able to take it with them if they change services or where they live
- ▶ Taking responsibility for their decisions.

### *The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)*

The Act was enacted by the Federal Government to promote fairness and equity for people with a disability and to ensure that people who have a disability have the same rights and level of access to opportunities and services as other members of the community. The DDA makes it unlawful to discriminate in the provision or goods, services or facilities, against people on the basis that they have, or may have a disability.

### *The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)*

This scheme aims to allow people with significant and permanent disability to choose the support they need and how that support is provided. DisabilityCare Australia has been launched in four sites in Australia; the full scheme is rolled out nationally by July 2019. DisabilityCare will provide information and referral services to help people with disability access mainstream, disability and community supports.

## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE  | WHO  |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Access</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Complete Streetscape redevelopment and laneways project with access for all in design and construction</li> <li>▶ Complete access audit on all Council buildings in Foster</li> <li>▶ Audit main street retail outlets to determine disability access to shops</li> <li>▶ Provide information sessions for Foster community groups to improve access to mainstream activities for people with disabilities</li> </ul> | <p>Council</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Main Street retailers</p> <p>Council with disability support organisation</p> |
| <p><i>Accommodation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote accessible visitor accommodation in Foster via Visitor Information Centre and Foster Community Website.</li> </ul>   | <p>Visitor Information</p>   |

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<sup>40</sup> Department of Human Services <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/disability> accessed 30 July 2013

## DIVERSITY

A greater proportion of people in Foster are born overseas than in South Gippsland. Less people speak a language other than English in the home with no residents indicating difficulty in understanding English. The median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Foster is half that of the remainder of the population

For the purpose of this project this chapter includes:

- ▶ Cultural diversity and ancestry of the population
- ▶ Overseas migration and refugee population

### Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

#### *South Gippsland Shire Council HACC Diversity Plan*

HACC Diversity Plan is a strategic population planning initiative that support and encourages Home and Community Care service delivery which is responsive to and respectful of the specific characteristics of the person seeking services.

#### *Active Service Model Implementation Plan*

Described actions for Council and partner health services to reflect an approach of 'working together with' clients to meet their service needs rather than 'doing for' the client. The plan describes the options for flexible choice and delivery of services for all clients of Home and Community Care.

#### *South Gippsland Hospital Diversity Plan and Gippsland Southern Health Service Diversity Plan*

These plans describe the provision of services to people from Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) background and people with dementia. The plans include actions to identify these groups within the Corner Inlet area and partnerships between the health services and Council in delivery of home and community care services.

### Current Provision

#### *Population Diversity*

TABLE 21 FOSTER POPULATION DIVERSITY 2011

| POPULATION  | FOSTER | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE | VICTORIA |
|---|--------|-----------------------|----------|
| <b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population</b> | 22     | 203                   | 37,991   |
| <b>Overseas born</b>                                    | 13.2%  | 11.2%                 | 26.2%    |
| <b>Speaks a language other than English at home</b>     | 3%     | 3.5%                  | 23.1%    |

In 2011 there were 22 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Foster with a median age of 24 years. Of these 10 were male and 12 female. A larger proportion of the Foster population were born overseas (13.2%) than in South Gippsland (11.2%) and less than Victoria (26.2%).

### Ancestry

The majority of the Foster population are Australian born. Of those people born in another country the most common countries were the United Kingdom, Italy, New Zealand, Netherlands, and Germany.

### Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Support Services

No respondents to the Census (2011) reported having difficulty understanding English. For people who are deaf to communicate with hearing people, interpreter services using Auslan (Australian sign language) are available.

Gippsland PHN is funded for two specific indigenous health programs in the Gippsland Region:

#### 1. Care Coordination and Supplementary Services (CCSS)

Qualified health workers provide care coordination consistent with a care plan prepared by a general practitioner.

#### 2. Improving Indigenous Access to Mainstream Primary Care (IIAMPC)

Increases uptake of ATSI specific MBS items, support mainstream primary care to encourage ATSI people to self-identify and work to ensure ATSI people are able to access a range of primary care services.

## Consultation

South Gippsland Hospital actively engages with local Aboriginal communities to support their health. Discussions with the hospital staff member responsible revealed difficulty in identifying local community members identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This is a common problem across South Gippsland.

## Future Demand

Forecasting population diversity is an inaccurate process. As people move into Foster there is likely to be greater diversity. Increasingly in each Census more people identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Welcoming diversity across the population in planning and service provision should continue to build connections between the community, service providers and residents of Foster and district.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE  | WHO        |
|---|------------|
| <p>▶ Continue to cater for diverse range of community members in all services and infrastructure planning and delivery.</p> | <p>All</p> |



# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers support the provision of infrastructure and services for community and organisations in Foster at a higher proportion to other areas of South Gippsland and Victoria.

For the purpose of this project this chapter includes:

- ▶ Population data about volunteers in Foster
- ▶ The range of services that rely on volunteers in Foster

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

### *Volunteer Policy 2013*

A policy of the South Gippsland Shire Council that demonstrates Council’s commitment to encouraging volunteer and community participation in the delivery of services to the community.

### *National Standards for Volunteer Involvement*

Provide a framework for organisations to consider the role of volunteers within the organisation and the impact effective volunteer involvement can have on achieving the strategic goals and aims of the organisation.

## Current Provision

### *Volunteering*

Volunteers contribute to an important part of Australia's and Foster’s economy. The level of volunteering can indicate the cohesiveness of the community and how readily individuals are able to contribute to that community. South Gippsland (29.3%) has a higher percentage of volunteers in comparison to Victoria (17.7%) and Australia. In Foster this is higher again with 32.6% of the population over the age of 15 or 472 people reporting doing volunteer work in the previous 12 months in comparison. Many volunteers do not report their work in less formal community settings or occasional participation through a year so the number of volunteers would be expected to be higher than those reported in the Census.

TABLE 22 VOLUNTEER WORK 2011

| VOLUNTEER STATUS          | NUMBER IN FOSTER | %     | SOUTH GIPPSLAND % | VICTORIA % |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------|------------|
| Volunteer                 | 472              | 32.6  | 29.3              | 17.7       |
| Not a volunteer           | 869              | 61    | 63.7              | 74.4       |
| Volunteer work not stated | 108              | 6     | 7                 | 7.9        |
| Total persons aged 15+    | 1,449            | 100.0 |                   | 100.0      |

<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup> ABS, *Housing and Population Data 2011* analysed by id Consulting (accessed Jan 2014)

Volunteering is an important way for people to connect with one another. Volunteering is important to providing services and meeting the critical needs of communities that are not met by other means. Volunteering in Foster is part of the social fabric of the community with volunteers involved across all services and management of community infrastructure.

Many volunteers provide services such as mowing or maintenance as in-kind payment for rent or membership fees. The variety of roles undertaken by volunteers in Foster include committees of management; community transport; carer support; meals on wheels; visitor information; learner driving programs; administration; leisure and lifestyle support; pet/art / music therapy; gardening; maintenance; cleaning; event coordination; website maintenance; adult education; community meals; and specialised roles for people with skills or training.

Many people volunteer with an aim to enhance the local community or bring about change. People want more for their community than rates or taxes can provide. In response to this they may develop interest groups, plan for infrastructure development, seek funding for projects or events and support interests specific to the community and generally occurs outside of a formal organisation. Examples community initiated action with the purpose of invigorating the town or community of Foster includes: initiating physical infrastructure such as the laneways project; contributing to community consultations by organisations including Council; developing and maintaining the Foster website; and participating in organising events such as the Seachange Festival that aim to create change in the community.

## Future Demand

With an increase in early retirees and older people to Foster, there is potential to recruit more volunteers to clubs, health services, community services, community infrastructure committees of management and unpaid work in the home.

The increase in people from outside the area can invigorate a community with additional enthusiasm, professional skills and access to larger networks. There is a need to plan for succession planning for volunteers and consideration that the interests and capacity of volunteers change over time.

New residents to the area come with successful ideas from other areas which may be implemented to enhance the town including how residents come together and events which may bring visitors to the town.

For the current and future provision of community infrastructure in Foster, support for volunteers is essential. Ongoing support provided to volunteers should reflect the support provided to a paid employee and should include professional development or training opportunities, regular recruitment and induction activities, and revision of volunteer roles within a club or organisation.

## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDATION   | WHO  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establish regular training or skill development for volunteers</li> <li>▶ Review volunteer roles in all clubs and organisations to cater for changing needs of volunteers and the club or organisation</li> <li>▶ When recruiting volunteers, clearly specify range of roles available, expectations for time and commitment and transition options</li> <li>▶ Establish a register of support to committees of management listing skilled professionals who can provide 'pro bono' advice on accounting, grounds management, trades and information technology from within the community or via adult education providers. This would suit professionals wishing to volunteer their skills but without time to commit to a volunteer position on an ongoing basis</li> </ul> | <p>All organisations and groups involved in volunteering</p> |



# ARTS AND CULTURE

## Introduction

Foster and District has a vibrant arts community with a number of award winning artists living in the area. An increasing number of private galleries are operating in the district. A range of arts related groups support the visual arts, drama and music.

Many arts and culture groups collectively title their organisations as 'Corner Inlet' or Prom Coast. These organisations draw on membership across the district and in some cases beyond Shire boundaries.

There is a growing interest in the arts and the work of artists working in Foster resulting in an increase in the number of private and public galleries and exhibitions. The galleries and exhibitions attract visitors to the area and engenders community pride.

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Arts Victoria is pursuing policy initiatives that support the contribution of arts and culture to liveability and competitiveness. Investment in cultural precincts, along with support for vibrant and diverse arts programming Statewide, are two ways of enhancing the reputation and attractiveness of Victoria as a place in which to live, work and invest.

## Current Provision

### *Stockyard Gallery*

The Stockyard Gallery is a not for profit public gallery with a long history of servicing the local and broader community. It is run by 42 volunteers and is administered by a Section 86 Committee of Council. The Gallery is open every day except Christmas and Boxing Days and Good Friday between 10am and 4pm.

Stockyard Gallery runs an average of 12 exhibitions per year featuring local artists including an annual NAIDOC Week exhibition and school exhibitions.

### *Foster War Memorial Arts Centre*

Performance, drama, music, meeting spaces

#### *Foster Amateur Music and Drama Association (FAMDA)*

Community theatre and singing company established since 1953. Meets and performs at the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre. Prom Coast Film Society (part of FAMDA) screens films at Fish Creek Hall once a month.

#### *Prom Coast Singers*

The Prom Coast Singers is a community choir based in Foster practicing Tuesday nights in the Planned Activity Group room at Banksia Lodge

### *Tribes Theatre and Education*

Provides theatre resources to the performing arts industry, schools and universities. Runs youth theatre activities at Community House and Learning Centre and Primary School.

### *Suzie Green School of Dance*

Runs dance classes from the old Masonic Hall, Nelson Road.

### *Foster and District Historical Society*

The Foster and District Historical Society (previously the South Gippsland Historical Society) was formed on 3 August 1973. It is located adjacent to the Stockyard Gallery complex in Main Street.

- ▶ A volunteer run museum complex set in a terraced garden below Kaffir Hill, a former gold-mining site contains:
  - ▶ the former Foster Post Office, built in 1890
  - ▶ Agnes State School (100 yrs in 2012) but the building itself is much older
  - ▶ a furnished pioneer cottage and bark hut
  - ▶ a wooden model of Foster in the 1940s and 50s
  - ▶ the former Foster Gaol (decommissioned in 2009)
  - ▶ the boat belonging to gold-seeker H.B. Lasseter and
  - ▶ the post-war prefabricated building – now Crawford Hall - the old Yanakie School.

Foster and District Historical Society members undertake research of the local area and have written a number of local histories.

### *Manna Gum Community House*

Manna Gum Community House is located in the old courthouse a Council building located on Crown Land on the corner of Station Road and Court Street. The building is leased from Council by the Community House Committee of Management. In addition to providing an extensive range of community services and training, films are screened at regular intervals in the historic hall contained within the facility.

### *Prom Coast Arts Council*

Prom Coast Arts Council is a not-for-profit arts organisation based in Fish Creek Victoria. They run a variety of activities during the year to promote and broaden the awareness of the work of local artists. The Great Southern Portrait Prize is exhibited at the Stockyard Gallery, Foster.

Council is an active member of Creative Gippsland and support arts and cultural events across South Gippsland. Creative Gippsland is a collaborative partnership of Council officers responsible for arts and culture in each of the 6 Gippsland Shire Councils. Each member supports their own network of artists, performers, galleries and venues. It is also supported by Regional Arts Victoria's Wellington-based Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO). A range of festivals and events are on offer across a variety of venues in Gippsland throughout the year.

Council facilitates an Arts Network which provides an opportunity for members to discuss cultural events and celebrations and explore possible opportunities to work together. Meetings are held in Foster, Leongatha, Korumburra and Foster.

TABLE 22 ARTS AND CULTURE FACILITIES & SERVICES SUMMARY

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE          | PROVIDER  | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL   |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Buildings</i>                       |   |  |
| <b>War Memorial Arts Centre</b>        | Section 86 Committee of Management (Council)  | Performance, drama, music, meeting spaces  |
| <b>Historical Museum</b>               | Foster Historical Society   | Historical village   |
| <b>Old Court House</b>                 | Section 86 Committee of Management<br>Community House and Learning Centre<br>Incorporated Association | Community house, film screenings, community meetings. Youth theatre.                             |
| <b>Stockyard Gallery</b>               | Stockyard Gallery Section 86 Committee (Council)  | Art shows/displays   |
| <b>Old Masonic Lodge</b>               | Private business  | Dance school   |
| <i>Outdoor festival / music space:</i> |   |  |
| <b>Showgrounds</b>                     | Committee of Management of Council  | Visiting circus, meetings, sport   |
| <i>Technology</i>                      | Not yet extensively available in Foster<br>Historical Society   | Film society films screened in Fish Creek<br>Printed resources and website                       |
| <i>People and organisations</i>        | Skills, expertise and experience of the people of Foster is rich and varied                           | Skills and expertise of community is directed via individual community groups and organisations. |

## Future Demand

The variety of existing groups and events in arts and culture attracts likeminded people to settle in Foster. The diversity of arts and cultural activities in Foster is expected to expand with the growth of the population.

The Foster War Memorial Arts Centre provides a venue for music and theatrical performances. FAMDA contributes through funding to improvements to the arts centre that allow storage, curtaining and performers rooms to enhance the facility for the performing arts. With regular maintenance and improvements, the War Memorial Arts Centre has capacity to meet the needs of arts and cultural activities in Foster for the next 20 years.

The old courthouse currently leased from Council by the Manna Gum Community House and Learning Centre includes a small hall with stage for events. Maintenance and improvements to the hall to allow better access for all will extend the number of people able to access programs and services provided in this building. With an ageing community in Foster there



are likely to be increased people with disabilities wishing to access arts and cultural activities offered at the Community House.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are often not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns.

TABLE 23 GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR ARTS CENTRES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Regional Arts Centre</b>              | 1 per municipality – closest Warragul Regional Arts Centre |
| <b>Co-located Performing Arts Centre</b> | 1 to 40,000 – 60,000 people                                |
| <b>Community Arts Centre</b>             | 1 to 40,000 – 60,000 people                                |
| <b>Multi-purpose Community Centre</b>    | 1 to 40,000 – 50,000 people – high level                   |
| <b>Multi-purpose Community Centre</b>    | 1 to 8,000 – 10,000 people – low level                     |

### *Best Practice*

Cultural infrastructure includes people and organisations, technology and places and buildings. “People and organisations, with their skills, expertise and experience, sometimes referred to as ‘soft infrastructure’, are critical to cultural infrastructure...” (Cultural Infrastructure Directions 2012-2014) Technology enables innovation and artistic practice. Different forms of technology contribute to the wide range of cultural and artistic work. Arts and cultural activity happens in many different ways and in varied places.





## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE   | WHO  |
|--|--|
| <p><i>History</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Extend the development of historical walks with interpretive signs and maps</li> <li>▶ Promote history of the Great Southern Rail Trail (GSRT) along the trail and in the town of Foster</li> </ul>   | <p>Historical Society / Parks Vic</p> <p>GSRT<sup>42</sup> committee</p> |
| <p><i>Performing Arts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Seek funding to install permanent film screen in Arts Centre or Old Courthouse at Community House</li> <li>▶ Contribute to the creativity in the local community through funding applications to support skill and professional development</li> </ul>  | <p>Community House</p> <p>FAMDA Schools</p>                              |
| <p><i>Foster War Memorial Arts Centre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Extend availability of all meeting rooms to allow broader use</li> <li>▶ Complete access audit to identify issues restricting access for all</li> </ul>   | <p>Committee of Management</p> <p>Council</p>                            |
| <p><i>Stockyard Gallery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Appendix 1, Table 1 provides a full matrix of analysis for each tenant to inform decision making on tenancy of the Stockyard Gallery Building</li> <li>▶ Stockyard Gallery cooperative are encouraged to work with Council to explore options for funding to conduct a feasibility study for the gallery including site restrictions and alternative site options.</li> </ul> | <p>Council</p> <p>Stockyard Gallery cooperative</p>                      |
| <p><i>Foster Showgrounds as venue for events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Audit cost of water and refurbishment of grassed surfaces following events</li> <li>▶ Incorporate costs of water and refurbishment of grassed surfaces into hire fees for events booked by outside user groups.</li> </ul>   | <p>Showgrounds committee</p>   |

<sup>42</sup> Great Southern Rail Trail

# COMMERCIAL, RETAIL AND TOURISM

## Introduction

The Foster town centre is vibrant and compact and provides a range of good, services and facilities for the local population and visitors. Foster has a role as a tourism centre and gateway to visitors to Wilson's Promontory and the east of the Shire.

## Policy and Council Plans and Strategies

### *South Gippsland Council Plan 2013 - 2017*

The Council Plan aims to work with the business community to support existing businesses, diversify employment opportunities and to attract new businesses is a key goal in the Council plan.

### *South Gippsland Shire Council Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2015 – 2020*

South Gippsland Shire has a strong and growing economy of national significance. Council, through its Council Plan, seeks to build on that strength to enhance the economic prosperity and quality of life of its residents.

The Economic Development and Tourism Strategy is Council's plan to achieve these objectives. Council established an Economic Development and Tourism committee to review the Strategy to ensure it meets these requirements.

The Economic Development and Tourism Plan is its recognition of Foster in its investment and infrastructure priorities. Working with the Foster Chamber of Commerce to develop and market the commercial centre of the town and implementing the marketing of the Great Southern Rail Trail at its opening in February 2016 current actions.

### *South Gippsland Recreational Vehicle RV Strategy 2014*

The Recreational Vehicle (RV) Strategy aims to promote the South Gippsland Shire as an attractive region for Recreational Vehicle users. It describes existing locations potential future locations for camping, dump points and long vehicle parking. An action plan describes management of current sites and makes recommendations for the future.

### *Foster Structure Plan 2008*

The Foster Structure Plan provides a strategic framework for the future physical development of Foster over 20 years. It provides areas in and around Foster that are considered suitable for future residential, industrial and commercial development. Foster's town centre and the specific issues and opportunities it faces and the role the town centre has in the future of Foster.

### *Tourism Victoria: 2020 Tourism Strategy*

This strategy focuses on industry wide, strategic issues across both the tourism and events sectors. Through seven priority areas, the 2020 Tourism Strategy outlines how Tourism Victoria, working with key stakeholders, will implement identified actions to realise the potential of the tourism market.

## Current Provision

### *Commercial and Retail*

Foster continues to be the main service town for the southern part of the South Gippsland Shire. It plays an important role in servicing visitors to South Gippsland as the district centre for the Corner Inlet and Wilsons Promontory National Park. The town is able to maintain a higher level of retail that similar towns its size due to the town's expanded role as service centre for the area including holiday areas on the coast where populations increase significantly in the summer period.

The main streets of Foster have a mix of gift, homeware, and clothing stores, a range of cafes, bakeries, butchers, seafood and two supermarkets. A range of goods, services and facilities is appropriate for the current local population and visitors. Foster has a broader range of shops than larger centres in the Shire including a fruit and vegetable retailer, fresh fish retailer and a book shop. Customers travel to Foster for some of the specialist retailers in the town. The provision of land in the town centre is preferred with development outside the town centre discouraged.

### *Industry*

The majority of industrial and associated activity is located in an industrial estate to the south east of the town adjacent to the former railway station. The existing industrial zone has capacity to accommodate future demand for industrial development for the next 20 years with opportunity to expand the industrial area to the south with rezoning of farmland when required.

### *Tourism*

#### *Visitor Information Centre*

Tourism in South Gippsland centres on nature based attractions, visiting family and friends and the holiday home market. Many visitors come to Foster as part visiting Wilsons Promontory National Park, a key attraction for local, interstate and international visitors. One of two accredited Visitor Information Centres in South Gippsland is located in Foster and is open daily between 9am and 5pm. Visitors to the Visitor Information Centre seek information about accommodation and other local attractions. The Visitor Information Services are being delivered from the Stockyard Gallery Building in Main Street.

#### *Wilsons Promontory National Park*

Wilsons Promontory National Park protects 50,460 hectares including pristine beaches, cool shaded rainforests, cloud soaked mountain peaks and rugged offshore islands.

Tidal River is the main location for accommodation and camping in Wilsons Promontory National Park, offering 484 camping and caravan sites situated near the beach and river. The wide range of roofed accommodation includes cabins, huts, group lodges and Wilderness Retreats. Foster is the major gateway to Wilsons Promontory attracting local and international visitors. Many visitors seek accommodation and other activities outside the park.

### *Local Attractions*

Stockyard Creek and Pearl Park provides a picturesque setting within the town centre. A number of walks managed by Parks Victoria and located within the Foster Flora Reserve leave from within Foster.

A mountain bike trail runs through Cement Creek Natural Features Reserve linking to the Great Southern Rail Trail at Foster Station Park. The circuit of 5km was used for a mountain bike championship held in February 2015.

Foster North Scenic Lookout on the South Gippsland Highway 6 kilometres north-west of town, provides good views over Corner Inlet with the mountain ranges of Wilsons Promontory providing an attractive backdrop.

The Historical Museum and Stockyard Gallery are located adjacent in Main Street near the corner of McDonald Street

### *The Great Southern Rail Trail*

The Great Southern Rail Trail is an important tourism and access feature for the town and can be used as a pedestrian and cycle link for tourists and visitors as well as the local community. The Rail Trail runs from Leongatha to Port Welshpool and passes to the south of the town centre.

### *Prom Country Regional Tourism*

Prom Country Regional Tourism markets South Gippsland and offers industry development opportunities for local businesses. The organisation operates via a subscription membership matched by South Gippsland Shire Council. The funds facilitate campaigns, create promotional material and organise industry development events.

Prom Country Regional Tourism produces a number of publications to attract visitation and expenditure to South Gippsland and administers Prom Country website and app.

### *Corner Inlet Tourism Development Project*

The Corner Inlet Tourism Development Project comprises five separate initiatives that will see a major economic development in the Corner Inlet area east of the Shire around Foster. These initiatives support and enhance Council's desire to make Corner Inlet a 'coastal destination' leveraging off the strength and proximity to Wilsons Promontory National Park and the location of Corner Inlet to popular tourist routes.

## Consultation

The development of the Economic Development and Tourism Plan 2015 – 2020 and South Gippsland Recreational Vehicle RV Strategy 2014 involved a public exhibition period when public comment was invited.

Submissions relating to Foster for the Recreational Vehicle Strategy included a proposal to establish a RV site at Foster Station Park. This proposal is not currently feasible as the land is owned by the Crown and is managed by a volunteer committee of management.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> South Gippsland RV Strategy 2014

The Great Southern Rail Trail redevelopment marketing included extensive consultation with the community, organisations and committees of management including representatives from Foster.

The Economic Development and Tourism team provided input in the development of the draft chapter. The Tourism Development Officer and Visitor Information Centre Coordinator were consulted in the development of this chapter prior to initial community consultations to identify key features and future demand to tourism in Foster.

## Future Demand

### *Retail*

In Foster there is a contained retail market which is responsive to the changing nature of retail and visitors to the town. People relocating from Melbourne will continue to bring new and different approaches to the town.

The Foster Structure Plan 2008 discusses commercial and retail issues and information identifying that additional floor space is required for the expansion of Foster's commercial centre. Online trading is likely to impact the need for additional floor space in small towns such as Foster.

### *National Broadband Network/ Telecommunications*

The areas surrounding the town of Foster have recently been connected to the National Broadband Network significantly enhancing connectivity. The town of Foster is likely to be announced for connection to the fixed line broadband service in the near future which will bring faster internet connection to the town. Opportunities for business, industry and tourism will result from this connection allowing for varied business models including online retail and businesses operating from the home.

Foster is connected to 4G mobile allowing use of smart phone applications in town fast and telephone connection reliable.

### *Industry and Commercial*

The Foster Structure Plan notes the development of light industrial / service businesses on land adjoining the heavy vehicle bypass to the north of the town centre and recommends this area should not be permitted to develop as an alternative to the identified industrial area.

Development at Barry's Beach has potential to produce additional industrial development in Foster over the next 20 to 30 years.

### *Tourism*

Foster with its shopping centre, accommodation and visitor information centre is a major service centre for tourism in South Gippsland. The Visitor Information Centre located in Foster remains a busy facility open 7 days a week. The Visitor Information Centre in Foster benefits the town by bringing visitors into the town centre.

The Great Southern Rail Trail runs to the south of Foster township. The Rail Trail is soon to open as a continuous trail of over 68 kilometres from Leongatha to Port Welshpool. A refreshed branding and marketing of the trail will attract more people to use the trail and stop at Foster along the way or use it as a starting or stopping point for its use.

Opportunities for tourism businesses supporting users of the Rail Trail will emerge with its popularity. Some of these may include transport support to riders, overnight accommodation and bed and breakfast options. An example of this is the recent opening of a mountain bike / kayak hire store in the town.

Visitors to Foster fluctuate greatly between low numbers in winter and significantly higher numbers in summer. Current seasonal fluctuation of visitors prevents many small businesses in Foster from meeting the needs for accommodation in peak seasons and staying viable in winter seasons.

In the future it is expected that the number of visitors to Foster and the broader area will increase across the year. Summer months will continue to attract considerably larger numbers of visitors than winter months. Finding effective models to meet demand in peak periods may require flexibility for tourism providers including accommodation providers to open for the peak season only and closing temporarily in the quiet season.

**TABLE 24 RETAIL & TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | MAIN PROVIDER  | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Retail</b>                 | Range of retail stores greater than similar sized towns in other areas of the Shire  | Independently managed and owned businesses   |
| <b>Tourism</b>                | Accredited Visitor Information Centre<br>Great Southern Rail Trail<br>Local walks<br>Town centre would benefit from vibrancy and ease of pedestrian access in some areas | Council<br>Committee of Management<br>Parks Vic<br>Council and Chamber of Commerce |
| <b>Industry</b>               | Industrial land is not in great demand with some space remaining available<br>South Gippsland Water, Parks Victoria and Council have depots located in Foster            | Private business & Council<br>South Gippsland Water<br>Parks Victoria<br>Council   |

## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE  | WHO   |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Tourism</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Investigate opportunities for visitor attraction from Rail Trail marketing and promotion.</li> <li>▶ An accredited Visitor Information Centre located in Foster is highly recommended</li> <li>▶ Increase storage and consultation space for Visitor Information Services (see Appendix 1, Table 1 Stockyard Gallery site)</li> <li>▶ Provide ongoing maintenance to local walks to allow access throughout the year</li> <li>▶ Allocate long vehicle parking in town for caravans and campervans</li> <li>▶ Provide clear directional signs from Rail Trail to town centre</li> <li>▶ Develop smart phone application (app) highlighting history of Foster and Corner Inlet area for download by visitors to Foster at the Visitor Information Centre, Library or other free WiFi points</li> </ul> | <p>Community and business</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Parks Victoria</p> <p>Council</p> <p>GSRT<sup>44</sup> committee</p> <p>Historical Society</p> |
| <p><i>Retail</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Additional floor space is required for the expansion of Foster’s commercial centre. Expansion of the commercial centre must be contiguous with the existing town centre in accordance with the requirements of the Foster Structure Plan.</li> <li>▶ Investigate increased options for online retail pending introduction of fast internet</li> </ul>   | <p>Council</p> <p>Local or new retailers</p>  |
| <p><i>Industry</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Monitor current industrial supply in relation to Barry Beach developments</li> <li>▶ Investigate location of works depots in relation to town centre with consideration of land contamination, need for public access and movement of heavy vehicles</li> </ul>   | <p>Council</p> <p>Council, South Gippsland Water, Parks Victoria</p>  |

<sup>44</sup> Great Southern Rail Trail



# COMMUNITY MEETING ROOMS

## Introduction

Foster has a broad range of community groups working together to advance community projects and activities for the broader community.

Foster has a broad range of meeting spaces managed by Council, the community and commercial organisations.

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Department of Education and Training (2005) *Schools and Community Facilities, Melbourne*

Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission, (2009) *Getting it Together: An Inquiry into the Sharing of Government and Community Facilities*

Department of Planning and Community Development, (2010a) *A Guide to Delivering Community Precincts*

Department of Planning and Community Development (2010b) *A Guide to Governing Shared Community Facilities*

South Gippsland Shire Council *Social Community Infrastructure Blueprint 2014 – 2019, Andrew Nixon Land Use Management*

South Gippsland Shire Council *Cluster Review for Social Community Infrastructure, 2015 Andrew Nixon Land Use Management*

## Current Provision

The Foster community has access to a good supply of spaces for meetings and events for current and future use. Foster has a broad range of staffed and unstaffed venues suitable for meetings. As with other larger towns in South Gippsland, schools also have space for community meetings outside of school hours by arrangement. Health services in Foster also provide additional meeting spaces for community use and for private consultants and services visiting the town.

### *Community meeting rooms*

An audit of community facilities in Foster identified a broad range of meeting rooms located in a variety of buildings in the town providing a good supply for the current and future population of Foster.

Map 5 illustrates the location of meeting rooms and other infrastructure in Foster. Table 26 describes Council owned meeting rooms the location of the meeting room, management, current function, capacity and availability for outside user groups. Table 27 describes non-Council meeting rooms located in a variety of buildings including churches, health services, schools, and privately owned facilities.

## MAP 5 FOSTER COMMUNITY MEETING ROOMS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

- |                                 |                                      |                                    |                       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Community Hall                | ● Public Open Space                  | ◆ Education                        | ★ Toilets             |
| ■ Function Centre               | ▲ Indoor Leisure Centre              | ◆ Emergency Services               | ★ Tourism Centres     |
| ■ Meeting Room                  | ▲ Pools                              | ■ Health                           | ★ Walking Trails      |
| ■ Multipurpose Community Centre | ◆ Early Childhood Education and Care | ■ Maternal and Child Health Centre | ▲ Youth Centre        |
| ● Cultural Facilities           | ▲ Recreation Reserves                | ■ Library                          | ▼ Other               |
| ● Parks                         | ◆ Caravan Parks                      | ■ Men's Sheds                      | ■ Shire owned/managed |
| ● Playgrounds                   | ▲ Aged and Disability                | ★ Neighbourhood Houses             | ■ Crown Land          |
|                                 |                                      |                                    | ■ Commercial centre   |



TABLE 25 FOSTER COMMUNITY MEETING ROOMS MATRIX – COUNCIL BUILDINGS

| MEETING ROOM & ADDRESS  | MANAGEMENT       | OUTSIDE GROUPS | CURRENT FUNCTIONS  | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |
|---|------------------|----------------|--|---|
| Manna Gum Community House<br>33 Station St cnr Station Rd and Court St (Old courthouse) | CM <sup>45</sup> | ✓              | Community / neighbourhood house  | Yes capacity to increase use<br>Limitations include<br>Funding<br>Volunteer capacity<br>Restricted accessibility of whole building to people with mobility restrictions |
|   |                  |                | Hall with stage, community meetings, youth theatre, films, training course | Restricted access to hall for people with mobility aids from front entrance and kitchen.<br>Restricted access to stage for people with disabilities                     |
|   |                  |                | Kitchen  | Restricted access to main hall for trolleys, mobility aides or wheelchairs is restricted  |
|   |                  |                | Lounge / café  | Limitation volunteer capacity   |
|   |                  |                | Office/ consultation room/ food bank/                                      | Privacy for government client meetings/ food bank   |
|   |                  |                | Opportunity shop   | Space for second hand goods   |
| Foster Showgrounds<br>61 – 79 Station Rd  | CM               | ✓              | Main stadium, basketball, badminton, boot camp, Prom Coast U3A             | Yes - as outlined in Showgrounds Masterplan<br>Need to comply with regulations for food   |

<sup>45</sup> Committee of Management

| MEETING ROOM & ADDRESS                            | MANAGEMENT  | OUTSIDE GROUPS | CURRENT FUNCTIONS  | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |
|---|-------------|----------------|--|---|
|   |             |                |  | handling, basketball run-off  |
|   |             |                | Exhibition Shed, Agricultural Society  | Planning restrictions are in place to protect the appearance of the building.   |
|   |             |                | Football clubrooms – on a separate title to Showgrounds  | Yes - as outlined in Showgrounds Masterplan   |
|   |             |                | Netball courts   | Yes - as outlined in Masterplan   |
|   |             |                | Robbie Allen Pavillion, boxing club, Rotary train  | Yes - as outlined in Showgrounds Masterplan   |
|   |             |                | Public area – playgrounds, toilets, picnic areas, oval<br>Used for Foster Show, Markets, visiting circus         | A second entrance, location of car parking close to stadium and playground risk to pedestrian and children movement, improve traffic flow |
| Historical Society and Museum<br>9 Main St        | CM          | X              | Miners cottage, Agnus School, Yanakie School, Storage Shed, Boat Shed, Main building, Historical Hut, Jail House | Yes - Capacity to open building for external community meeting room use   |
| Old Shire Offices Op Shop<br>Pioneer St           | SGSC        | ✓              | Opportunity Shop   | No – limitations to space available for other uses  |
| Prom Coast Centres for Children<br>Pioneer St     | CM          | ✓              | Maternal and Child Health consultation rooms, visiting specialists children services                             | Yes – increase visiting children services requiring office consultation space   |
| Stockyard Gallery<br>12 McDonald St / Main Street | SGSC/<br>CM |                | Library, loans, children’s story time, student study area  | No – Space for current library services are inadequate  |

| MEETING ROOM & ADDRESS                         | MANAGEMENT | OUTSIDE GROUPS | CURRENT FUNCTIONS  | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |
|--|------------|----------------|--|---|
| *Appendix 1 Table 1 provides detailed analysis |            | X              | Gallery, exhibitions, displays and sales   | No – cooperative representative indicated a need for increased storage space and shelving. Currently using public toilet space for storage  |
|  |            | ✓              | Visitor Information Centre   | No – Located in foyer of building   |
|  |            | X              | Parks Victoria, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP), seasonal firefighting staff x 18 – 34 weeks               | No – meeting room required at short notice in case of emergency   |
| War Memorial Arts Centre<br>79 Main St         | CM         | ✓              | Public auditorium, FAMDA, funerals, dance concerts   | Yes – can increase use by broader community and outside groups  |
|  |            | X              | Foster Senior Citizens Club room   | Yes – can increase use by other groups  |
|  |            | ✓              | General meeting rooms (supper room, 2 x meeting rooms) – Foster Probus Club, South Gippsland Shire Immunisation, Youth Access Clinic | Yes – can increase use by other groups. Youth Access Clinic requires additional private consultation space<br>Limitations – noise from main auditorium                                  |
|  |            | ✓              | Storage, kitchen – Prom Country Farmers Market, FAMDA, Probus  | Yes – further storage space may provide opportunity for increased use of venue by more groups.<br>Limitation – access from one end of building to other and shelter at back of building |

TABLE 26 FOSTER COMMUNITY MEETING ROOMS MATRIX – NON COUNCIL BUILDINGS

| MEETING ROOM      | MANAGEMENT                                       | OUTSIDE GROUPS | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE   |
|-------------------|--|----------------|---|--|
| Banksia Lodge     | PCAC <sup>46</sup><br>SGHS <sup>47</sup><br>land | ✓              | South Gippsland Hospital<br>Community Health Centre - Planned Activity Group<br>Accommodation – students and registrars<br>Foster Medical Centre<br>Accommodation – students and registrars | Yes – space to increase use, consultation rooms for visiting specialists, SGHS.<br>May be used for accommodation of volunteers and staff in case of emergency or natural disaster. |
| CFA <sup>48</sup> | CFA  | X              | Housing fire vehicles and equipment<br>CFA meetings   | No – emergency services buildings may be used without notice   |
| Churches          |  |                |   |  |
| Anglican Church   |  | ✓              | Worship,<br>Foster CWA, Prom Coast Singers  | Limited –<br>must be available in case of funerals<br>volunteer capacity   |
| Uniting Church    |  | ✓              | Worship, bible study, Men’s breakfast,<br>Conservation Society, cancer support group,<br>photography club, stamp collectors, Prom<br>Coast Quilters,  | Limited<br>Must be available in case of emergency<br>Parishioners concerned about noise disturbance to<br>people wishing to use the church   |
| Catholic Church   |  | X              | Worship   |  |
| Golf Club         | Priv   | ✓              | Golf club,  | Yes  |

<sup>46</sup> Prom Country Aged Care

<sup>47</sup> South Gippsland Hospital

<sup>48</sup> County Fire Authority

| MEETING ROOM                                  | MANAGEMENT    | OUTSIDE GROUPS | CURRENT FUNCTIONS  | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE   |
|---|---------------|----------------|--|--|
|   |               |                | meals, community events,   |  |
| Exchange Hotel                                | Priv          | ✓              | Meals,<br>community meetings Foster Chamber of<br>Commerce, Card nights  | Yes  |
| Masonic Hall                                  | Priv          | X              | Suzie Greens Dance School  | No at capacity   |
| Men's Shed                                    | Men's<br>Shed | ✓              | Corner Inlet Men's Shed,<br>community meetings with kitchen x 20<br>people<br>Classes in woodworking   | Yes, recent change of management from Manna<br>Gum Community House to Men's Shed Committee<br>Yes – on completion of kitchen/meeting room        |
| Wilson's Promontory Motel                     | Priv          | ✓              | Accommodation,<br>Rotary Club  | Yes  |
| Returned Services League                      | RSL           | ✓              | RSL monthly meetings, Anzac Day<br>Club, bar and bistro, U3A, netball,<br>community events   | Yes – Needs to extend to increase capacity   |
| School – Foster Primary<br>School             | DET           | ✓              | School,<br>music room used for private music lessons,<br>drama group Tribes,   | Yes – have hiring policy for outside user groups<br>limitations – building is alarmed, staff member must<br>be present unlock and lock buildings |
| School – South Gippsland<br>Secondary College | DET           | ✓              | School,<br>Gymnasium – Tai Chi, Gymnastics,<br>Basketball, Netball, casual bookings<br>Flexible learning centre – casual bookings<br>Outdoor undercover – fitness classes<br>Ovals – Little Athletics, Primary Schools | Yes<br>Limitations – security access   |



| MEETING ROOM             | MANAGEMENT | OUTSIDE GROUPS | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------|---|---|
|                          |            |                | sports days, Soccer Club  |   |
| Scout Hall               | Scouts     | ✓              | Cub Scouts<br>Foster Playgroup  | Yes   |
| South Gippsland Hospital | SGHS       | ✓              | Boardroom – meetings,<br>PCAC board meetings  | Yes   |
| Community Health Centre  | SGHS       | ✓              | Consultation rooms  | Yes – reaching capacity but offer rent free rooms to attract services to Foster |
|                          |            |                | Main meeting room with kitchen<br>yoga, Pilates, health support groups,<br>community group meetings – FAMDA,<br>Foster Community Association, Hospital<br>Auxiliary | Yes – with move of Planned Activity Group to Banksia Lodge                      |

## *Community Groups and Priorities*

A broad range of community groups work towards a range of priorities for Foster and district often working together to achieve shared outcomes.

The Foster Community Association has conducted a number of 'Planning for Real<sup>®</sup>' activities to collect ideas for community areas of focus. The Foster Community Plan used data from these activities to develop priorities for seven areas of community focus. The seven areas include a town centre streetscape and other; roads, social infrastructure, Council, Recreation and Environment. Another Planning for Real activity was conducted at polling booths during State elections in November 2014.

## Consultation

Consultation with key tenants of community facilities was undertaken via survey, interview or focus group. The Foster chapter of the South Gippsland Strategy and Audit for Social Community Infrastructure<sup>49</sup> was used to prompt discussion. Key tenants were asked to contribute to a discussion about optimising use of the facility and any specific needs for the facility which would allow increased use.

Consultation via the 'Planning for Real<sup>®</sup>' process and the Foster Community Plan has allowed extensive input into community facilities and groups in Foster. Input into this draft plan is welcomed to provide further information to the use of meeting rooms and the interaction of community groups in Foster.

## Future Demand

### *Community meeting rooms*

With small growth expected in Foster the number of meeting rooms is adequate for the community for the next 20 years. Accessible buildings are a priority for an ageing community in Foster. All people using mobility aides or feel unsure on their feet will be more likely to continue to attend community activities in community meeting rooms if they are easily navigated.

Meeting rooms in Foster should be flexible and able to be used for a variety of uses. It is expected that the range of uses and community groups will expand as people moving to Foster for a change in lifestyle or early retirement bring experience and enthusiasm for a range of activities not previously offered in the town. These same people should be seen as possible contributors to the existing volunteer pool to assist in the delivery of activities and the management of community facilities.

The Foster War Memorial Arts Centre and Manna Gum Community House have multiple rooms that are able to be used by a range of groups and individuals. Increasing the capacity of both facilities will be required with the growth of the population.

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<sup>49</sup> A reference document for the South Gippsland Blueprint for Social Community Infrastructure 2014 - 2029.

### Barriers to efficient use of meeting rooms

Barriers to efficient use of meeting rooms are applicable to all towns including Foster and may include:

- ▶ Lack of knowledge within broader community regarding cost, access and booking arrangements for current meeting rooms
- ▶ Perception by outside user groups that meeting rooms such as the Senior Citizens meeting rooms or sporting club rooms are limited to use by those groups only
- ▶ Committees of management reluctant about sharing use and management of their meeting rooms due to risk of damage or cleaning costs
- ▶ Physical access of older buildings restricts use by older people and people with a disability
- ▶ Cost for use of some meeting rooms can be prohibitive for some groups
- ▶ Church based meeting rooms often have good quality meeting rooms, halls with stages and kitchens but are unavailable at short notice if there is a funeral
- ▶ Disrepair of some meeting rooms
- ▶ Lack of community capacity to manage rooms
- ▶ Insurance costs a deterrent to groups to make the rooms available for hiring.

### Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns. The following should be considered as a guide only.

**TABLE 27 GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR MEETING ROOMS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Level 1 Meeting Space for Community Activities (local government, schools, churches, private-for-profit) | 1 - 20 people (30m <sup>2</sup> )<br>21 – 50 people<br>51 – 100 people<br>101- 200 people (400m <sup>2</sup> ) |
| Level 3 Community or Government Secondary College  | 200+ people (400m <sup>2</sup> )   |

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<sup>50</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority

## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

### *Consolidation of community facilities for meetings*

Identifying current use of meeting rooms including which groups, times used and available times would allow possible consolidation of meetings to the most suitable, well equipped meeting rooms in Foster. This has potential to ease the burden on committees of management responsible for the maintenance and servicing of meeting rooms.

Ensure a business case presented for future maintenance includes consideration of the facility's multipurpose use and access by a broad range of community groups. Single purpose facilities do not meet the needs of a broader, changing community.

Meeting rooms used by a single group less than 5 days a week cannot be accommodated in the climate of budget restraints and a growing population. All users of community meeting rooms must be prepared to share facilities with other community groups.

### *Best Practice*

There has been an increasing trend over recent years towards the aggregation of community infrastructure in activity hubs. An activity hub may be an existing meeting room or hall used by a variety of community groups and clubs.

Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas (2008) describes the objectives of hubs to:

- ▶ Meet the functional needs of communities
- ▶ Provide a vibrant focal point for community life by offering a diverse range of community service providers
- ▶ Provide for the co-location of services and clubs to enable the sharing of resources, increase the level of service integration and encourage greater resident utilization and participation
- ▶ Enable residents to more easily and freely access services and participate in community activities
- ▶ Provide for the co-location and integration of facilities to optimise the use of land and support infrastructure such as carparks and pavilions, reduce car travel, encourage social interaction, reduce maintenance and enhance sustainability.
- ▶ Provide for the co-location and integration of facilities to optimize the use of land and support infrastructure such as car parks and pavilions, reduce car travel, encourage social interaction, reduce maintenance and enhance sustainability.

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<sup>51</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE  | WHO  |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Community meeting room promotion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Community maintenance of meeting room matrix to promote and coordinate availability of space to meet</li> </ul>   | Community Association  |
| <p><i>War Memorial Arts Centre and Community House</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Improve access between meeting rooms to allow simultaneously use of shared facilities</li> <li>▶ Improve soundproofing where possible between meeting rooms and main halls</li> <li>▶ Increase storage to allow for increased range of users</li> </ul> | Committees of management<br>*with external funding required              |
| <p><i>Foster Showgrounds Meeting Rooms</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ As outlined in Foster Showgrounds Master Plan</li> </ul>  | As identified in plan  |
| <p><i>Prom Coast Centres for Children</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote Maternal and Child Health Consultation Room for visiting early years services including speech pathology, public dental service, counselling for families</li> </ul>   | Committee of Management  |
| <p><i>Community Health Centre, Banksia Lodge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Investigate potential for further use of Banksia Lodge between current users.</li> <li>▶ Promote large meeting room for community or external organisation use</li> </ul>   | PCAC <sup>52</sup> ,<br>SGHS <sup>53</sup> Foster Medical Centre<br>SGHS |
| <p><i>Community based meeting rooms (Men's Shed, Golf Club, RSL, Hotel, Motel, Scout Hall)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote meeting rooms available and conditions of booking and hire</li> </ul>   | Community groups and organisations as listed                             |

<sup>52</sup> Prom Country Aged Care

<sup>53</sup> South Gippsland Hospital

# EDUCATION AND LEARNING AND LIBRARIES

## Introduction

Foster has a primary school and secondary school located in Pioneer Street. The Foster Library is co-located with the Visitor Information Centre and Stockyard Gallery. Adult education is provided via the Manna Gum Community House and Learning Centre, one of four community houses in South Gippsland Shire. The Prom Coast U3A is very active with the largest membership in the region.

The infrastructure types described in this section are:

- ▶ Primary schools
- ▶ Secondary schools
- ▶ Libraries
- ▶ Adult and post-secondary education

Kindergarten and Childcare is described in the Early Years chapter of this document.

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Department of Education and Training (2005) *Schools and Community Facilities, Melbourne*

The Victorian Government has released guidelines designed to help government schools and communities develop partnerships around sharing school facilities. The guidelines discuss the benefit of entering into a sharing agreement and provide information on the legal framework that surrounds this type of agreement.

Foster Primary School *Hiring Policy for Outside User Groups*

South Gippsland Secondary School *Hire of School Facilities Policy*

*People Places – A guide to public library buildings in New South Wales 2012 (3rd edition)* The West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation has adopted a service model based on the NSW benchmarks.

## Current Provision

### *Schools*

Foster Primary School is located within walking distance of the town centre in Pioneer Street. In 2015 the school had 205 students and 15 teaching staff<sup>54</sup>. The student population includes 3 percent indigenous students and 4 percent with a language other than English. The school has a diverse curriculum with specialist subjects offered including a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. The school is located at 75 Pioneer Street approximately 1km from the South Gippsland Secondary College.

South Gippsland Secondary College had a student population of around 298 and 40 teaching staff<sup>55</sup>. The college draws its student population from a broad area with the nearest secondary colleges in Leongatha, 40 kilometres away. South Gippsland Secondary College is located on the corner of Hoddle and Pioneer Streets. The student population includes 1 percent indigenous students and no students with a language other than English.

<sup>54</sup> Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, My School website [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) accessed 12 May 2016

<sup>55</sup> Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, My School website [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) accessed 12 May 2016

TABLE 28 FOSTER SCHOOLS AND STUDENT NUMBERS

| SCHOOL NAME                       | SCHOOL TYPE        | SECTOR     | NUMBER OF STUDENTS |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Foster Primary School             | Primary (P- 6)     | government | 205                |
| South Gippsland Secondary College | Secondary (7 – 12) | government | 293                |

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Foster residents seeking Catholic and independent day education need to travel to Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College or Cairo Christian School in Leongatha. South Gippsland Specialist School located in Leongatha provides education for people with mild to severe learning disabilities.

### Library

The Foster library was developed in response to lobbying and fundraising by the Friends of Corner Inlet Libraries in 2003. The 'Friends' purchased the original book stock and continue to fundraise to support the library. The library is well supported by the Foster community and continues to be well attended.

The library service in South Gippsland is provided through a Service Agreement between the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation (WGRLC) and South Gippsland, Baw Baw and Bass Coast Shire Councils. Libraries offer the space, resources and programs to support learning opportunities for all. In addition to providing free internet connection and loans, the Foster Library offers eReader and tablet classes and Story Time.

TABLE 29 FOSTER LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

| DAY      | OPENING HOURS |
|----------|---------------|
| Tuesday  | 10 – 1 2 - 5  |
| Thursday | 2 – 6         |
| Friday   | 10 – 5        |
| Saturday | 10 - 1        |

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The Foster library is co-located with the Visitor Information Centre, Stockyard Gallery and Parks Victoria in a Council owned building also called the Stockyard Gallery. The current library floor area is 137m<sup>2</sup> and the public access area is 120m<sup>2</sup>. Over the whole of its catchment the West Gippsland Library currently has 38% of the population as members and aims to reach 40% of the population as members by 2015.<sup>58</sup>

The report Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries; A study of socio economic value of libraries (2011) indicates current spending in Victoria on library services is \$36 per person per year.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, My School website [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au) accessed 12 May 2016

<sup>57</sup> West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation [www.wgrlc.vic.gov.au](http://www.wgrlc.vic.gov.au) accessed 26 November 2015

<sup>58</sup> West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation, *Library Plan 2014 – 2018* Accessed 10 September 2015

<sup>59</sup> SGS Economics & Planning, 2011, *Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries*, State Library of Victoria, p.3



This report highlights Victorian public libraries return \$3.56 to the community for every \$1 spent.

### *Adult and community education*

Prom Coast University of the Third Age (U3A) is a self-funding, not-for-profit incorporated association gaining income from membership fees, grants and fundraising. Courses are offered in Foster, Welshpool, Toora and Leongatha. The Prom Coast U3A has the highest membership in the region with more than 250 members. Courses are free to members and are delivered in Foster at the Showgrounds, Foster War Memorial Arts Centre, Foster Hotel, RSL clubrooms and the Anglican Church Hall.

Manna Gum Community House is located on the corner of Station Road and Court Street in a Council owned building on Crown Land. The centre is open Monday to Friday 8am – 3pm during school terms and Tuesdays and Thursdays during school holidays. The Community House incorporates the Manna Community Garden, Corner Inlet Woodworkers and Corner Inlet Men's Shed Group. The Manna Community Garden is adjacent to the Community House and the Woodworkers are located within the Men's Shed at Foster Station Park. The Community House is also the venue for a Centrelink Agency, Salvation Army food and fuel vouchers, computer access, photocopying and room hire. The Community House is a Learn Local (ACFE) organisation funded by the Department of Education and Training.

**TABLE 30 EDUCATION & LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE                         | MAIN PROVIDER  | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Foster Primary School</b>                          | DET land and building maintenance  | State Government funded, local school Council  |
| <b>South Gippsland Secondary College</b>              | DET – land and building maintenance  | State Government funded, local school Council  |
| <b>Foster Library</b><br>(Stockyard Gallery building) | West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation  | Located at Stockyard Gallery<br>Current<br>Floor area 137 m <sup>2</sup><br>Public access 120 m <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Adult Education</b><br>(Variety of buildings)      | Corner Inlet U3A, Manna Gum Community House, Men's Shed  | Separate education areas for U3A<br>Broad range of training and short courses<br>Hands on practical advice   |
| <b>Technology</b>                                     | Computers - Library, Corner Inlet U3A, Schools, Community House<br>Public WiFi – Library, Visitor Information Centre | Access to members<br>Free public access during opening hours   |

## Consultation

Consultation took place with the Principal Librarian, South Gippsland and Foster Librarian to discuss current and future provision of library services to the Foster community. Discussion included the current location of the library, possible alternative locations, space available in the current site and future possible needs of the Foster Library.

Schools were consulted regarding use of their buildings by outside user groups. The University of the Third Age have representatives on Council advisory groups that were able to advise current and future needs of the group.

## Future Demand

### *Schools*

Any increase in the number of school aged children in the next 20 years is not expected to impact on schools in Foster. There has been recent increase in neighbouring towns of young families whose children currently attending primary school that may seek secondary school education in Foster. The greatest increase in the Foster population is forecast in the older population of semi-retired or retired age groups rather than primary or secondary school aged people.

### *Library*

The current library space is inadequate for current use. The Foster Library will continue as a place of learning for many residents. The library will continue to be a meeting place for people and an area where research, study and relaxation can take place.

Whilst it is difficult to track, there is increased use of library services by the large influx of visitors in the area on seasonal holidays. Retirees are key client for the library and tend to be high users putting greater pressure on stock.<sup>60</sup> The Friends of Corner Inlet Libraries continue to have a large, dedicated membership able to provide funding towards the needs of the Foster library on a regular basis.

The West Gippsland Library Corporation recommends 392m<sup>2</sup> combined public space and book collection space is required to adequately meet requirements for an Eastern District population of 6,922 permanent residents. Estimation of service need has not included a significant increased seasonal population between November and April each year. Many summer visitors and holiday home owners make use of library services during their stay in South Gippsland.

### *Adult and community education*

The greater population growth in Foster is expected to be in the older age groups and people seeking early or semi-retirement. Adult and community education providers can be expected to continue to attract increased participation in courses over the 20 years and more.

Community based training is delivered in a range of facilities in different areas of the town. Supply is currently adequate for small courses but further planning is required to accommodate future training needs for the Foster community comprising early retirees that typically enjoy further education opportunities. The Corner Inlet University of the Third Age

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<sup>60</sup> West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation, *Library Plan 2014 – 2018* Accessed 10 September 2015

(U3A) has a large number of members and is very active. The Manna Gum Community House provides many diverse courses that are well attended.

In the future, greater flexibility in course delivery may be gained by adult education providers investing in a bank of loan laptops that may be shared by the community. Desk computers restrict computer based training to single venues. Portable computers would allow a greater range of buildings to be used. With increasing ownership of personal computing devices such as laptops and tablets, suitable locations with free Wi-Fi and table space may meet the needs of the community in the future.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

### *Best Practice*

International, Commonwealth and State policy direction encourages the development of integrated hubs which support the co-location and/or integration of services. These can include education hubs, sporting hubs or community hubs.

Multi-use facilities allow different people to meet and interact and create a focal point for activity. They bring people together and build a sense of place. They increase efficiencies in the built form and provide better return on infrastructure costs by enabling multiple service providers to share facilities over and increase range of hours.

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Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only and have been developed for high growth areas of Victoria. Table 31 is included as a general guide; growth in Foster will not require increased provision of purpose built facilities for education.

### *Schools and Adult Education*

TABLE 31 SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY HOUSE GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Primary Schools</b>                     | 1 school to 8,000 – 10,000 people = 1 primary school / 3,000 households    |
| <b>Catholic Primary School</b>             | 1 school to 18,000 people  |
| <b>Secondary Schools</b>                   | 1 school to 25,000 – 30,000 people = 1 secondary school / 9,000 households |
| <b>Catholic Secondary School</b>           | 1 school to 58,000 people  |
| <b>Independent non-government school -</b> | 1 school to 40,000 people  |
| <b>Government Specialist School</b>        | 1 school to 55,000+ people   |

<sup>61</sup> S Rossiter, 2007, Feasibility Study of Community Hubs for the Parramatta Local Government Area- Briefing Paper, Elton Consulting, Bondi Junction

**Library**

Provide library services from facilities that are centrally located, highly visible, close to activity centres and compliant with National standards as a minimum. Include the provision of community meeting spaces and incorporate the recommendations of the Statewide Library Building Audit.

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*Library*

The current library is situated in Council owned building which is easily seen, has some parking and is within 150 metres of the town centre. The library floor area and public access area is inadequate for its current use patterns. There is particular congestion during children's story time. Up to 30 children with their parents and prams can disrupt library amenity for other users.

The West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation - Foster library requests more space for the broader range of users and activities now provided by modern libraries. In the short term, funding for additional opening hours would allow greater use of the service, however funding for library services in West Gippsland is already significant and an increase in service provision in Foster should be only be considered within existing long term budget projections.

Under the current tenancy arrangements, extension of the library area is restricted and would rely on one of the other tenants in the building finding an alternative site. Appendix 1 Table 1 provides a detailed analysis of the tenancy of the Stockyard Gallery building in order to seek additional space.

An option of increased service delivery is restricted by the significant investment already provided to library services in the West Gippsland area.



<sup>62</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority

## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE   | WHO  |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Library</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increase space in Stockyard Gallery building preferred for library by investigating alternative sites for other tenants.</li> <li>▶ Investigate possible sites for a future new learning hub to be constructed in 20 years</li> </ul>   | <p>WGRLC<sup>63</sup> &amp; Council</p>                          |
| <p><i>Adult and Community Education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Consider shared advertising of all adult and community education together.</li> <li>▶ Investigate colocation of adult and community education.</li> <li>▶ Investigate community learning hub for university students where lectures could be made via electronic links with small local groups</li> </ul> | <p>U3A<br/>Community House<br/>Library<br/>Council</p>           |
| <p><i>Schools</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ See video conferencing below</li> <li>▶ Continue to work with the community to make school facilities available.</li> </ul>   | <p>Schools</p>   |
| <p><i>Technology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Consider developing a bank of public equipment available for loan – laptops, public presentation equipment and WiFi access in major facilities.</li> <li>▶ Allow use of school video conference facilities for community education use</li> </ul>  | <p>Foster community</p> <p>South Gippsland Secondary College</p> |

<sup>63</sup> West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation

# HEALTH SERVICES

## Introduction

Strong partnerships link health services in Foster and support integrated service delivery to the community. Foster's small rural health service, medical centre, aged care facility and supportive services such as pathology, physiotherapy and dentists located in close proximity in Station Road.

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Health services in Foster are provided by public and private health providers. The Victorian Government is responsible for funding the delivery of a wide range of health services to the community. This is achieved through planning, policy development, funding and regulation of health service providers and activities which promote and protect Victorians' health, including:

- ▶ Health care services through public hospitals, community health services, ambulance services, dental services and public mental health, drug and alcohol services
- ▶ Residential and community care for older people, support and provide assistance to enable people to function independently in their own homes, positive ageing programs, healthy and active living programs and seniors cards
- ▶ Health promotion and protection through emergency management, public health and related preventative services, education and public health regulation

### *The Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012 – 2022 Rural and Regional Plan*

The plan provides the blueprint for the planning and development priorities for the Victorian healthcare system. The plan addresses the health system; workforce recruitment, development and training; service integration and governance.

### *The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015 – 2019*

The Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2015-2019 outlines the government's key priorities over the next four years to improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians, particularly the most disadvantaged. This is the second State plan and provides a framework and priorities for preventative health. The overarching aim of the plan is to '*reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing.*'<sup>64</sup> The plan has six priority areas including healthier eating and active living; tobacco free living; reducing harmful alcohol and drug use; improving mental health; preventing violence and injury; and improving sexual and reproductive health.

### *South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017*

This plan has been developed as a requirement for Councils under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The plan outlines strategic directions intended to inform operational plans for the Council, communities and organisations of South Gippsland to help plan for improved health and wellbeing for the South Gippsland community.

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<sup>64</sup> Department of Health, 2015, *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019*, Prevention and Population Health Branch, Melbourne,

## *South Gippsland Hospital Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018*

This plan supports the delivery of health services to the Foster community in order to improve the community's health status.

### **Current Provision**

Council services funded by the Department of Health include Home and Community Care (HACC), Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and immunisation to Foster. Council HACC services are described in the Older People and Ageing section of this report.

#### *Immunisation*

Immunisation services are provided by Council and medical centres in Foster. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines are followed for delivery of services to the whole community. Council provides immunisation services at the War Memorial Arts Centre from 10am – 10.30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. In addition to monthly sessions the Council immunisation service provides both high school and workplace immunisations and also provides education to the community. Medical centres provide immunisations by appointment.

#### *Maternal and Child Health*

Maternal and Child Health Services are provided at the Prom Coast Centre for Children on Wednesdays 8.30 - 4.30 and alternate Fridays 8.30 – 4.30. An Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program is available via referral from the Maternal and Child Health nurse. Families most likely to benefit from this program are mothers with post-natal depression, significant parent/infant bonding issues, teenage parents, mothers with physical or intellectual disabilities, families with multiple births or other special needs.

#### *Foster Medical Centre*

The Foster Medical Centre operates Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm from a clinic adjacent to South Gippsland Hospital and Community Health Centre. There is also a clinic in Welshpool Road Toora. All general practitioners have visiting rights to the hospital.

Visiting specialists to the Medical Centre include:

- ▶ Physician/ cardiologist
- ▶ Gastroenterologist
- ▶ General surgeon
- ▶ Psychologists and
- ▶ Urologist

#### *South Gippsland Hospital*

South Gippsland Hospital is a small rural health service comprising an integrated hospital and community health service. It is closely associated with the Foster and Toora Medical Centres which provide the medical practitioner services.

The hospital has:

- ▶ 16 inpatient beds
- ▶ A three bed Urgent Care Department
- ▶ low risk birthing services
- ▶ an operating theatre where 600 procedures per year



- ▶ same day procedures
- ▶ contracted radiology service.

The hospital has capacity to provide urgent or emergency care out of hours with assistance of nursing staff on duty and doctors on call from Foster Medical Centre. There are no publically funded after-hours medical services available in South Gippsland.

Visiting and local surgeons and anaesthetists provide services including general surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, urology and gastroenterology. Radiology services for inpatient and outpatient services are provided by a private imaging service Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.30pm.

### *Community Health Service*

As part of the South Gippsland Hospital, the Community Health Centre has a broad range of allied health services and health promotion activities to help local residents develop healthy lifestyles and prevent and manage illness. Services are delivered via clinics in the centre in Station Street, in Banksia Lodge in Jones Street, surrounding towns, or home visits.

The Community Health Service provides a range of clinics and services, programs and support groups.

The Community Health Service also hosts visiting services including a drug and alcohol counsellor, infant hearing tests, psychology/ counselling, massage therapy and the regional continence nurse.

Most services are provided from meeting rooms and consultant's rooms in the main Community Health Centre in Station Street. Recently the planned activity group has been held in Banksia Lodge allowing the main meeting room with kitchen to become available for booking by outside organisations and the community for events and activities.

### *District Nursing Service*

District nursing services are provided by the Community Health Service. Qualified nursing care is provided to the home 8.00am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am - 12noon Saturday and Sunday. Patients are referred by nursing or medical staff or self-referred. The District Nursing Service also provide a weekly clinic at the Community Health Centre for patients who require general nursing care such as wound care, vital signs, foot care, catheter changes and other health care requirements.

### *Foster Youth Assist Clinic*

The Youth Access Clinic operates from the Foster War Memorial Hall /Arts Centre. It is a drop in service, Mondays 1.30pm – 3.30pm for 10 – 25 year olds. Most patients are aged between 15 – 19 years. The clinic is a partnership between South Gippsland Hospital, Foster Medical Centre and South Gippsland Secondary College. The hospital provides two nurses and the medical centre provides a General Practitioner. The Secondary College allows students to walk to the clinic during school hours. Details regarding funding and use of the space is included in the facility analysis section of this plan.

### *Dentist*

Southern Smiles Dentist and Gill Dentistry have clinics in Foster. Gill Dentistry is located with Gippsland Pathology adjacent to the Medical Centre in Station Road. Southern Smiles is located in Main Road Foster and has a second clinic in Leongatha.

### *Pathology*

Gippsland Pathology is located opposite Foster Medical Centre and the hospital in Station Road. Collection times are Monday to Friday: 8.30am - 10.00am, 11.00am - 12.30pm, 1.00pm - 2.30pm, 3.00pm - 4.30pm and Saturday: 9.00am - 11.30am.

This service assists people in maintaining or improving their health status while at home and provides encouragement, support and advice for carers and family. Home nursing is provided for patients needing follow-up care after discharge from hospital, chronic health problems, palliative care and education.

### *Pharmacy*

Foster Pharmacy, located in Station Road is open Monday to Friday 9am – 5.30pm and Saturdays 9am – 12.30pm. Pharmacists provide a range of services that can relieve pressure on other health services in the town and support other health service providers.

### *Family and Human Services*

A broad range of human and family services are provided to residents of Foster including but not limited to Anglicare, Salvocare, Uniting Care Gippsland and private counselling services and programs for individuals and groups of all ages. There are no social work services currently available in Foster.

### *Health Transport*

Council and South Gippsland Hospital provide transport to eligible community members to attend appointments and activities in the local area. A Red Cross patient transport car originally based in Foster was discontinued at the end of 2015. This service is provided from Yarram and will include services to eligible clients from South Gippsland.

### *Consultation*

A focus group meeting was held for health providers in Foster at the Community Health Centre in September 2014. Representatives from the South Gippsland Hospital board, hospital staff, Community Health Service, Prom Coast Aged Care, Foster Medical Centre, Maternal and Child Health, Linton Court Elderly Homes, the Hard Work Café Gymnasium and Foster Showgrounds Committee of Management attended the meeting.

TABLE 33 HEALTH SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE  | MAIN PROVIDER                                      | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Community health</b><br><b>Allied health</b><br><b>Counselling</b><br><b>Visiting specialist services</b> | South Gippsland Hospital                           | Hospital with consulting rooms for visiting specialists, radiology and allied and community health                       |
| <b>District nursing service</b>  | South Gippsland Hospital                           | Home visit and weekly clinic   |
| <b>Private General Practice</b>  | Foster Medical Clinic                              | GPs linked to service provision at hospital and aged care facility   |
| <b>Immunisation</b>  | South Gippsland Shire Council and private practice | Prom Coast Centre for Children (public session for all ages), Secondary College<br>GPs mostly deliver to older community |
| <b>Maternal and child health</b>   | Council  | Prom Coast Centre for Children   |
| <b>Private allied health and complementary health</b>  | Range of private providers                         | Private consulting in home / office  |

## Future Demand

The east of the Shire has considerably more people aged over 65 years. As they age, their demand for acute health, allied health and preventative health services will increase.

Foster is the service centre for the eastern catchment where the greatest increase in the population in the next 20 years will be people aged over 65. Of these, the greatest increase will be in people aged between 70 – 84 years. It is expected the proportion of the population over 65 years living alone will remain higher in this area than larger towns in South Gippsland.

Health services to the home provide the older community with the opportunity to stay in the home and local communities for as long as possible. Anticipating the need for home services is difficult in an area where the majority of older people live in more remote towns such as Port Welshpool.

The location of Prom Country House in Foster allows for ready, combined services from the adjacent health services to the facility. With an increase in bed capacity expected in the aged care facility there will be an increased demand for doctors and allied health professionals. The current business model for Foster Medical Centre where GPs readily access residents in Prom Country House will be responsive to any future expansion of the centre.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

All mainstream health services are required to monitor, evaluate and report on quality of care and program delivery to funding providers, boards of management and the community. Services are accredited according to international standards, Australian standards and standards developed by the professions within which they work. Maternal and Child Health staff and immunisation staff are guided by a range of professional standards, codes of ethics and Council's customer service standards.

### *Best Practice*

A systems approach should be adopted and is important for achieving responsive, person centred care over time through the different stages of disease progression. The Wagner Model for improving chronic illness care was developed by the MacCall Institute for Healthcare Innovation (USA) and has been endorsed by the Victorian Department of Health as the model for guiding Integrated Chronic Disease Management initiative in Victoria. It aims to provide a framework that helps to identify the systems changes necessary to improve the coordination of care for people with chronic disease. Evidence indicates that people who participate in chronic disease management programs have a better quality of life experience, fewer complications, are more likely to remain in their own home, and reduce their overall use of health care resources.

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<sup>65</sup> Aged, Community and Mental Health, 2000, Literature Review of Effective Models and Interventions for Chronic Disease Management in the Primary Care Sector, Department of Human Services

## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE   | WHO  |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Self-help groups</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Link health focused self-help groups to range of services available</li> </ul>   | <p>Council<br/>SGHS<br/>Private<br/>Practice</p> |
| <p><i>Environments for health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Provide connected footpaths and open space to encourage active transport and walking in Foster</li> <li>▶ Conduct access audit on all Council community facilities to allow ease of access to social and group health activities</li> </ul> | <p>Council<br/><br/>Council</p>                  |





# EMERGENCY SERVICES

## Introduction

Councils are required under Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 to undertake municipal emergency management, response, recovery and relief activities that include:

Establishing a municipal emergency management planning committee (MEMPC)

Facilitate the development and maintenance of an emergency management plan by this committee and to allow its audit

Appoint a Municipal Emergency Resource Officer and a Municipal Recovery Manager to coordinate the use of council resources for emergency response and coordinate relief and recovery.

All emergency services are provided by the public sector with support from community organizations and individuals. The fire services property levy funds the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and Country Fire Authority (CFA) and is collected with Council rates under the Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012.



This section describes emergency services in Foster including:

- ▶ Ambulance
- ▶ Fire
- ▶ Police
- ▶ State Emergency Service
- ▶ Council responsibilities

## Policy and Relevant Council Documents and Plans

*South Gippsland Emergency Management Plan Version 3.0 April 2015 - 2018*

This plan is developed by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee in accordance with the requirements of Section 20(1) of the Emergency Management Act 1986. The aim of this Plan is to detail the agreed arrangements for the prevention of, the response to, and the recovery from, emergencies that could occur in the South Gippsland Shire as identified in Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act, 1986.

There are sub plans to this plan in South Gippsland including:

- ▶ Municipal Fire Management Plan 2013 - 2016
- ▶ Heatwave Plan
- ▶ Pandemic Plan
- ▶ Animal Emergency Welfare Plan and
- ▶ Flood Emergency Plan version 1.4 Feb 2012 – 2015

### *Ambulance Victoria Draft Strategic Plan 2013-2016*

The strategic plan sets the direction for the organisation and is designed to address both current and future service challenges for patients, paramedics and the Victorian Community.

### *Victoria Police Corporate Plan 2015 – 2018*

This plan describes planned police service delivery through the 5 key areas of effective service delivery, improved community safety, working with stakeholders, achieving through our people and developing our business.

### *Victorian State Emergency Service Strategic and Corporate Plan 2015 – 2018*

The plan identifies the strategies and activities that will be implemented over the next three years to assist us in achieving the goals and objectives set by the Victoria State Emergency Services Authority Board.

## Current Provision

All emergency services are provided by the public sector with support from community organizations and individuals. The fire services property levy funds the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and Country Fire Authority (CFA) and is collected with Council rates under the Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012. Councils are required under Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 to undertake municipal emergency management, response, recovery and relief activities that include:

- ▶ Establishing a municipal emergency management planning committee (MEMPC)
- ▶ Facilitate the development and maintenance of an emergency management plan by this committee and to allow its audit
- ▶ Appoint a Municipal Emergency Resource Officer and Municipal Recovery Manager to coordinate the use of Council resources for emergency response and relief and recovery activities.

The fire services property levy funds the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and Country Fire Authority (CFA) and is collected with Council rates under the Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012.

### *Ambulance - Ambulance Victoria*

State Government funded service. The current ambulance branch located in Station Road operates has one ambulance with two paramedics rostered each shift.

### *Fire - Foster Country Fire Brigade (CFA)*

This is a voluntary on-call service to town and district. The fire station is located at 75 Main Street Foster.

### *Police - Foster Police*

Foster police station is located 69 – 71 Main Street. The Foster police station is staffed by one sergeant and five members of lower rank. There is also a single member at Toora. The station is open 16 hours per day with members available on call after hours. The region's 24 hour police station is located at Wonthaggi. A system of allocating an additional night



shift that is shared between the police stations in the Wonthaggi region will be introduced and is likely to require Foster to provide a night shift 11pm – 7am approximately 3 times a year. Holiday police are no longer allocated at Foster due to budget restrictions.

### *State Emergency Service*

There are two State Emergency Service (SES) locations in South Gippsland. There is a service located in Foster at 14 Pioneer Street within the Council depot and behind South Gippsland Water. The other location is in Leongatha. The SES provides support to Police, Ambulance and the CFA. During major events such as flooding or severe storms, the SES works closely with both South Gippsland Shire Council and Bass Coast Shire Council and other emergency services. The SES is an accredited road rescue unit and is part of the Victorian SES Road Rescue Network.

**TABLE 34 EMERGENCY SERVICE AND LAW INFRASTRUCTURE, SERVICES**

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE        | MAIN PROVIDER      | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>Ambulance</b>                     | Ambulance Victoria | Ambulance Branch – 24 hour roster<br>2 paramedics x one ambulance                |
| <b>Police</b>                        | Victoria Police    | 16 hour station<br>1 sergeant<br>5 constables                                    |
| <b>Foster Country Fire Authority</b> | CFA                | Volunteer service to urban and rural fires and support to road traffic accidents |
| <b>State Emergency Service</b>       | SES                | Volunteer Service  |

### Future Demand

Demand on emergency services will occur with the increase in the population of 574 people by 2031. People aged over 50 years are expected to continue to comprise the majority of the population in Foster as the population increases. It would be expected that a greater pressure will be placed on ambulance services as a result of this older population group.

With rapid increase in the population in the eastern growth corridor of Melbourne, there is expected to be increasing visitors to South Gippsland for tourism. Emergency services are likely to experience greater pressure with more vehicles present on the roads resulting in increased demand to attend road traffic incidences.

### Industry benchmarks and trends

The key criteria for determining the need for facilities are population size and the capacity of nearby stations or units to satisfy area demands and meet response times. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed population pockets and towns with much of the population requiring services located out on rural properties. As such, general

standards developed for more densely populated areas are not applicable for our smaller more dispersed towns.

*Best Practice*

Precincts with co-located emergency services are preferred in greenfield development sites. This model allows for shared facilities between the services and incidental information exchange.

TABLE 35 GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Emergency Services Precinct<br/>Police, Fire, Ambulance, SES</b> | 1 per 40,000 people   |
| <b>Police Station</b>   | 1 station per 37, 037 (metropolitan Melbourne)                |
| <b>CFA</b>  | 1 station per 14, 739 (growth area average)                   |
| <b>Ambulance Victoria</b>   | 1 per 56,583 residents (growth area average)                  |
| <b>SES</b>  | 1 per 108,866 (metropolitan Melbourne) 45 volunteers per unit |

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## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE  | WHO   |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Co-location of services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Emergency services to consider combined funding by State Government for shared facilities for ambulance, CFA and SES</li> <li>▶ Consider allowing space for State Emergency Service in relocation of Council depot if above recommendation is not adopted</li> </ul> | <p>Ambulance Victoria, CFA and SES</p> <p>Council</p> |

<sup>66</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority

# PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

## Introduction

This chapter describes:

- ▶ Public Transport
- ▶ Community Transport
- ▶ Health Transport
- ▶ Active Transport

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

*Australian Government Active Urban Design Protocols 2011*

*South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012 – 2016*

This plan aims to ensure that the older residents of our community participate in community life and are valued for their knowledge, wisdom and life experiences

*South Gippsland Shire Council Paths and Trails Strategy 2010*

The aim of the 2010 Strategy was to review the status of the bicycle and walking facilities in the South Gippsland Shire and to identify the work required to provide an improved network of bicycle, walking and horse riding facilities within the municipality.

*Victorian Government Urban Design Charter*

This charter promotes the 12 key aspects of good urban design: structure, accessibility, legibility, animation, fit and function, complementary mixed uses, sense of place, consistency and variety, continuity and change, safety, sensory pleasure and inclusiveness. The expectation is that when these principles are collectively present, the certainty of creating well used, valued, memorable places is assured.

*South Gippsland Shire Council Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017*

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan provides a strategic direction for a range of organisations and communities of South Gippsland for the implementation of priorities and strategies toward creating an environment which supports the health and wellbeing of the community. It includes objectives to support active communities through provision of environments which encourage walking and cycling.

## Current Provision

### *Transport*

#### *Public Transport*

Foster is on the Melbourne to Yarram VLine bus route. There are three services to Melbourne and four services to Yarram weekdays and three services each way on weekends. The bus stop is at the historical society in Main Street opposite Pearl Park. All coaches are wheelchair accessible, however bookings must be made.

TABLE 36 VLINE TIMETABLE FOSTER

|                             | FOSTER Mon - Fri |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Yarram - Foster - Melbourne | 7.04             | 11.44 | 15.44 |       |
| Melbourne – Foster - Yarram | 12.10            | 16.10 | 20.15 | 21.50 |
|                             | FOSTER Sat – Sun |       |       |       |
| Yarram - Foster - Melbourne | 7.14             | 11.03 | 17.24 |       |
| Melbourne – Foster - Yarram | 11.33            | 17.43 | 20.43 |       |

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Taxi services in South Gippsland are scarce. A taxi company operating in the Corner Inlet area ceased operation in August 2012 resulting in an increased reliance on community transport and family and friends to enable people to shop and attend appointments and social activities.

#### *Travel Squad Program*

The Travel Squad Program assists older people to become familiarised and confident with using public transport by matching them with volunteers. The older person must be eligible for Home and Community Care. There are currently two volunteers registered with the program available in Foster. Volunteers for this program are often recruited from the pool of community transport volunteers but need not be involved in community transport.

#### *Community Transport*

Much of the community transport available in Foster is used to assist eligible clients to access medical appointments. Council's community car and a community bus can also be used for shopping for essential needs. People wishing to use community transport must be eligible for home and community care.

A Council owned community car driven by volunteers is available to eligible Home and Community Care clients in Foster who have no other form of transport available for activities including medical appointments or shopping for essential needs. Clients can self-refer to the service but need to be eligible for home and community care services. There is a subsidised fee per kilometre for the service. A Council community car is based in Foster at Prom Country House.

A Council community bus travels from Hedley and Port Welshpool through Foster to Leongatha on the third Thursday of each month to enable residents to go shopping or attend medical appointments. One bus is wheelchair accessible. Buses are available for hire by not for profit community groups when they are not in use.

#### *South Gippsland Hospital Community Transport*

South Gippsland Hospital fleet cars and volunteer drivers are available to drive clients to and from specific appointments in the local area. This is restricted to specific appointments in

<sup>67</sup> Public Transport Victoria Timetables effective date 21/06/15 [www.vline.co.au](http://www.vline.co.au) accessed 23 September 2015

the local area including local medical appointments, community health centre clinic appointments or exercise classes. Clients must be able to walk and move independently.

### *The Red Cross Patient Transport Service*

The Red Cross Patient Transport Service based in Foster concluded its service from the town at the end of 2015. The Yarram Patient Transport Service has been expanded and renamed the South Gippsland Patient Transport Service. This free service picks up clients from home and takes them to and from medical appointments in Red Cross fleet vehicles.

### *The Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme*

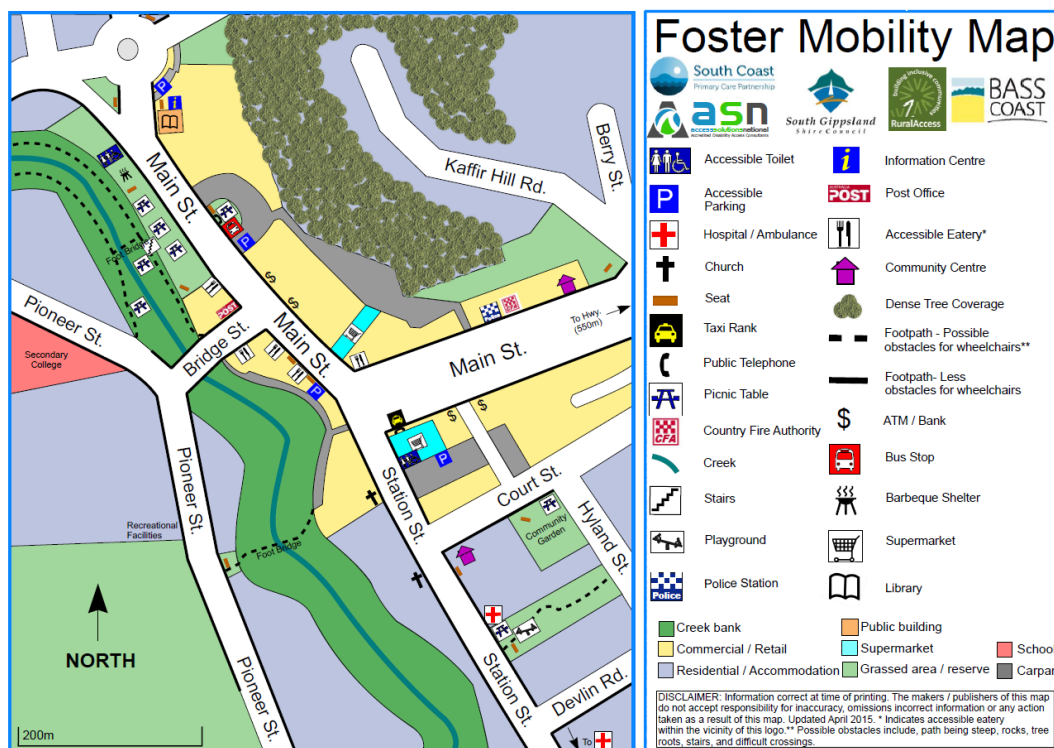
The Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme provides financial subsidies to eligible patients living in rural and regional Victoria who need to travel over 100km from their home to access medical specialist services.

### *Active transport*

Active travel is a critical component of the transport system.<sup>68</sup> Active transport refers to travel between destinations by walking, cycling or other non-motorised methods.<sup>69</sup> Design of streets, paths and trails can assist people to move around a town via walking, bicycle, skateboard or scooter. Good street design also assists access by people using wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Works planned for 2016 – 2017 on the Foster streetscape will improve the town centre for active transport and for people with mobility disabilities.

An Easy Access Mobility Map is available for Foster and outlines accessible footpaths, toilets, eateries, seats and services within the town. Maps are available on Council’s website and at the Visitor Information Centre in Foster.

### MAP 6 EASY ACCESS MOBILITY MAP



<sup>68</sup> Litman, T. 2015 Evaluation Active Transport Benefits and Costs, Victorian Transport Policy Institute

<sup>69</sup> National Public Health Partnership, 2001

## Consultation

The Foster Streetscape Plan to be completed in 2016 / 2017 has involved extensive consultation from community members, organisations and key stakeholders to develop the design and elements of the plan.

The Easy Access Mobility Map was developed with assistance from people with a variety of disabilities and parents with prams.

A State Government funded Community Connections program in South Gippsland investigated connecting bus services from smaller settlements and towns to main bus services. Many services were trialled with none implemented permanently around Foster.

Community members and service providers have lobbied for reinstatement of a taxi service to Foster, however the viability of a taxi service in an area is unlikely.

A review into VLine bus services across Victoria has highlighted need for increased services on the Yarram route which services Foster.

## Future Demand

The Great Southern Rail Trail is likely to bring more cyclists to Foster as it is opened as a continuous trail from Foster to Port Welshpool. Cycle lanes connecting the Rail Trail to the town will assist in bringing visitors to the town whilst also supporting active transport by school students.

Support for older adults to develop confidence in using public transport will be required as people accustomed to having private cars age or become disabled and are unable to drive.

As a larger proportion of the aged population cease driving, the provision of suitable paths from residential areas to the town centre and community facilities becomes increasingly important.

An increase in students accessing the Secondary College from nearby towns may increase the number of students walking to community facilities in the town from the Secondary College.

### *Best Practice*

#### Healthy by Design Key design principles

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Connectivity                | ✓ Social Inclusion          |
| ✓ Environments for All People | ✓ Supporting Infrastructure |
| ✓ Mixed Density               | ✓ Active Transport          |
| ✓ Mixed Land Use              | ✓ Aesthetics                |
| ✓ Parks and Open Space        | ✓ Safety and Surveillance   |

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

A planning scheme amendment – Safe Healthy Active Communities (SHAC) to include a range of reference documents into the local planning scheme was passed by Council and the Minister for Planning in 2014. These reference documents support active travel and include

the Infrastructure Design Manual, Healthy by Design, Open Space Strategy, Paths and Trails Strategy, Public Open Space Contribution and Subdivision.<sup>70</sup>

## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE  | WHO                                 |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Public Transport</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Encourage use of Travel Squad program via ‘come and try’ for more able bodied clients to events within South Gippsland such as Seniors Concert in Korumburra or age appropriate events in Leongatha.</li> </ul>   | Council                             |
| <p><i>Medical Transport</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Develop information brochure for community and medical transport provided by all service providers to Foster with eligibility criteria.</li> <li>▶ Include transport information brochure in annual mail to existing eligible clients and all new clients</li> </ul>                 | South Gippsland Hospital<br>Council |
| <p><i>Red Cross Car</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promote availability of Red Cross Car to Foster community to counter opinion that this service is no longer available in the town</li> </ul>   | Australian Red Cross                |
| <p><i>Active Transport</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Foster Streetscape Development</li> <li>▶ Consider placement of bicycle lanes on Pioneer Street linking Great Southern Rail Trail, schools and town</li> <li>▶ Investigate need and cost of mobility scooter and bike parking options for public transport users in Foster</li> </ul> | Council<br>Council<br>Council       |

<sup>70</sup> Sutherland, E and Carlisle R (2004) Healthy by Design: an innovative planning tool for the development of safe, accessible and attractive environments. Vol. 18(11–12) NSW Public Health Bulletin



# OPEN SPACE, STREETS, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

## Introduction

There are opportunities to enhance quality and refine the form and function of open space to better reflect population changes and community needs. Council acknowledges that the design of quality open space within residential and commercial areas provides health, lifestyle, social, economic and environmental benefits. Active by Design principles are incorporated in the Infrastructure Design Manual and South Gippsland Planning Scheme and guide the allocation of infrastructure benefitting public health and wellbeing.

This chapter describes:

- ▶ Open space
- ▶ Playgrounds
- ▶ Paths and Trails
- ▶ Public realm

Outdoor sports and recreation facilities including ovals, playing fields and courts, indoor sports and recreation and aquatic facilities are described in the Recreation and Leisure chapter of this report.

## Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

*Australian Government Active Urban Design Protocols 2011*

*Heart Foundation of Australia (2009) Blueprint for an Active Australia*

*South Gippsland Shire Council Asset Management Strategy 2013*

This strategy assesses adequacy of the current status of asset management practices and establishes a long term framework that is necessary to address the gap between current status and the desired status in asset management.

*South Gippsland Shire Council Active Ageing Plan 2012 – 2016*

This plan aims to ensure that the older residents of our community participate in community life and are valued for their knowledge, wisdom and life experiences.

*Victorian Government Urban Design Charter*

This charter promotes the 12 key aspects of good urban design: structure, accessibility, legibility, animation, fit and function, complementary mixed uses, sense of place, consistency and variety, continuity and change, safety, sensory pleasure and inclusiveness. The expectation is that when these principles are collectively present, the certainty of creating well used, valued, memorable places is assured.

*South Gippsland Shire Council Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017*

This plan has been developed as a requirement for Councils under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The plan outlines strategic directions intended to inform operational plans for the Council, communities and organisations of South Gippsland to help plan for improved health and wellbeing for the South Gippsland community.

### *South Gippsland Open Space Strategy 2007*

This strategy provides an analysis of open space including recreation facilities, content for policy provision, development levy contributions and local areas planning and remains a relevant document for current community infrastructure planning in Foster.

### *South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008*

The Recreation Plan established a profile of programs and services, and recreation facilities, analyses recreation demand to 2028, and determines priorities for recreation services and facilities to increase participation in leisure and sport.

- ▶ Proposes an off-road trail route linking new subdivision north of the bowling green to the schools and town centre.
- ▶ Preservation of trees including those along rail trail

### *South Gippsland Shire Council Paths and Trails Strategy 2010*

This strategy reviews the status of the bicycle and walking facilities in the shire and identifies the work required to provide an improved network of bicycle, walking and horse riding facilities within the shire. This strategy will be reviewed in 2016.

This plan identifies a range of recommendations for Foster including:

- ▶ Signage and line marking including on-road cycle lanes
- ▶ Link from Pearl Park to Rail Trail via Stockyard Creek
- ▶ Extension of footpaths.

### *Foster Structure Plan 2008*

The local structure plan identifies issues and opportunities relating to open space

- ▶ The need to enhance the environment of Stockyard Creek and strengthen its role as a major attribute and access / environmental / habitat corridor through town.
- ▶ The need to ensure that all residential development is appropriately linked to the town centre and other community focal points, facilitating pedestrian and bicycle access.
- ▶ The opportunity to extend the town centre across the creek integrating it with schools, recreation areas and the Council Depot.

The recommendations of the Recreation Plan, Open Space Strategy and Foster Structure Plan are still relevant for Foster today and in the next 20 years and should be used in reference for future planning for open space, streets, parks and playgrounds.

## Current Provision

### *Open space*

Foster town centre is surrounded by open space managed by a range of organisations that include Council, Parks Victoria, Department of Education, Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Great South Rail Trail Committee and the Golf Club.

Stockyard Creek and associated Pearl Park provides passive recreational space and a central feature of the town. Paths through the park surrounding Stockyard Creek allow access from the Secondary College to the library and town centre.

Crown Reserves to the North and East of the town include Foster Flora Reserves managed by Parks Victoria. Several tracks provide a gentle walk, mountain bike riding or horse riding. The walks may be taken individually or linked together.

The South Gippsland Secondary College and adjacent Golf Club combine to provide a large area of open space to the west of the town centre. These areas are not available for general use by the broader public.

Manna Garden is a community garden located behind Manna Gum Community House. It provides developed gardens and seating areas for the public.

Foster Station Park is 26 acres of Crown Land owned by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and managed by the Great Southern Rail Trail Committee of Management. The park includes the Corner Inlet Men’s Shed and a rotunda. A Management Plan has been developed for the park by the Foster Station Park Committee; however management of the land remains with the Great Southern Rail Trail Committee of Management. Any improvements by licensees or other interested persons are required to be approved by both the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Great Southern Rail Trail Committee of Management.

The Men’s Shed is located on 5.5 acres within Foster Station Park and is currently being transferred from the Manna Gum Community House to the Men’s Shed as an incorporated body.

The Foster Structure Plan 2008 provides guidance regarding zoning regulation and seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment areas in and around Foster especially the Crown land reserves including Foster Station Park, the Great Southern Rail Trail and Stockyard Creek. Foster Station Park will remain a key point for visitors on the Great Southern Rail Trail to stop and rest or to access the centre of Foster.

#### MAP 7 FOSTER OPEN SPACE



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<sup>71</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council (2007) Recreation Plan

### *Paths and trails*

Footpaths are being constructed in Foster through a regular asset development plan to ensure continuous connection between areas of Foster.

The Great Southern Rail Trail runs from Leongatha to Port Welshpool and passes approximately 1.2km to the south of the Foster town centre. This 70km trail is a popular for walkers, bicycle riders, horse and harness riders.

A number of bush walks in Foster Flora Reserve leave from within Foster and are managed by Parks Victoria. Hayes Walk leaves from the rear carpark of the Foster Hotel – 900 metres, 15 minutes return. The Brataualung Walk includes the Cody Gully Walk (1km, 20 min return) and Ophir Hill Walk (0.9km, 20 min return). New Zealand Hill Conservation Reserve includes a range of walking tracks. Many of these self-guided walks pass historic gold mining features.

A mountain bike trail runs through Cement Creek Natural Features Reserve linking to the Great Southern Rail Trail at Foster Station Park. The circuit of 5km was used for a mountain bike championship held in February 2015.

Within the town centre a pedestrian / cyclist bridge and off road path runs adjacent to Foster primary school linking the school to the recreation reserve and footpaths to the town centre. A shared footpath runs adjacent to Pearl Park in Main Street linking paths that transect Pearl Park. A gravel path runs from Pioneer Street to the skate bowl.

### *Playgrounds and parks*

Council manages a number of parks and playgrounds in Foster. The Great Southern Rail Trail Committee of Management manages Foster Station Park where there is a barbeque, rotunda and the Corner Inlet Men's Shed.

There is a children's playground in the Showgrounds. A playground is also located next to the Ambulance station in Station Road. This playground has a number of names including Thylacine Park, Dinosaur Park or Emergency Services Park. Tables and seats are also available in this park. A skate bowl in Pioneer Street has a drinking fountain and seat. At a recent visit the seat was located in the bottom of the skate bowl.

### *Public Realm*

This report defines the public realm as the connections and spaces between destinations. The public realm includes the natural and built environment used by the general public on a day-to-day basis such as streets, shopping centres, parks and public infrastructure. Some aspects of privately owned space such as the bulk and scale of buildings, or gardens that are visible from the public realm, can also contribute to the overall result.

Works on the Foster streetscape to be completed in the 2016 /17 financial year improves the public realm of Foster by increasing pedestrian safety through road narrowing and town entry treatments, planting and street furniture to increase the aesthetics and tourism potential of the town. An economic analysis is currently being prepared for funding.

A funded laneways project is proposed to be completed at the same time. The laneways project aims to improve public amenity and connection within the town centre providing attractive spaces where art and seating will improve key pedestrian areas of the town.

Pearl Park provides an attractive natural centre to the town but also splits key features of the town. Adequate paths, lighting and safety are important to maintain Pearl Park as a pedestrian route linking areas of Foster together, specifically from the Secondary College and recreation areas to the north west of the shopping strips.

A walkway passes through Manna Community Garden on the corner of Court Street and Hyland Street. It provides an outdoor area where community gardening provides recreation, food production and an environment behind the community centre where community members may also rest and relax. Seating and a gravel path allows residents to pass through the garden from residential areas to the community centre and Station Street.

The Foster Structure Plan emphasises the importance of establishing the town as a walkable community. Key activities in the town are recommended to be accessible from all residential areas by foot or non-motorised transport on safe, secure and attractive walking and cycling paths.

## Consultation

Most recent consultation regarding open space, streets, parks and playgrounds has been for the Foster Streetscape Plan. Community members, organisations and key stakeholders have provided input into the design and elements of the Plan.

## Future Demand

With an increase in older adults, more accessible parks, paths and open space will be required. The older age group will be more likely to be more unstable on their feet, experience increasing vision impairment and use mobility aids such as walkers, sticks, mobility scooters and wheelchairs. Improvements to access will also benefit people of all ages with physical disability.

New developments usually attract families with children. The provision of adequate open space for play and to kick a ball that is within 400m of houses should be provided with footpaths connecting houses to the parks or play areas.

Paths provided should be wide and flat where walkers, cyclist and mobility scooters can pass safely. As a larger proportion of the aged population cease driving, the provision of suitable paths from residential areas to the town centre and community facilities becomes increasingly important.

An increase in students accessing the Secondary College and walking to community facilities in Foster is likely as populations in nearby towns grow.

Council's role is to work closely with the land development industry and other providers to deliver a diverse range of open space functions and opportunities conveniently located to serve each residential community.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Applying simplified open space planning standards such as an "area to population" ratio (i.e. 4ha per 1000 people), or a percentage of land area, or allowing developers to determine what open space shall be provided have been shown as ineffective in delivering a diversity of high quality open space opportunities which serve the majority of residents. A range of different open space types suitable for a variety of uses and benefits should be provided. The allocation of open space should not count encumbered land or waterways but consider

their use to extend and connect public open space to make the best use of local natural features.

The Open Space Planning and Design Guide (June 2013) and the Open Space Strategies Practice Note 70 (July 2013) provide a hierarchy of open space requirements to be considered in assessment of open space. Consideration of the type of open space required for the size and purpose of a town should be considered as well as location of open space types within a town.

A planning scheme amendment – Safe Healthy Active Communities (SHAC) was passed by Council and the Minister for Planning to include a range of reference documents in the local planning scheme. Reference documents supporting the provision of open space in South Gippsland include the Infrastructure Design Manual, Healthy by Design, Open Space Strategy, Paths and Trails Strategy, Public Open Space Contribution and Subdivision.

**TABLE 37 OPEN SPACE GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Neighbourhood level passive open space reserves</b>        | Small parks are required within 150 – 300m. Open space is required to be allocated for every subdivision.<br><br>A 1ha park should be allocated within 400 – 500m of all dwellings.<br><br>Additional land is required to compensate for barriers that form barriers to pedestrian movement. <sup>72</sup> |
| <b>Neighbourhood level passive open space reserve Level 1</b> | 1ha within 400 – 500 metres of residential dwellings<br><br>Larger more functional reserves may amalgamate 1ha parcels on a case by case basis   |
| <b>Level 2</b>  | 3ha to 4ha within 2 kilometres of all residents. Regional public open space where available along streams and permanent water bodies.  |
| <b>Higher order passive open space reserves</b>               | Linking People and Spaces: A strategy for Melbourne’s open space network   |

**TABLE 38 PARK HIERARCHY WITHIN SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

| CATEGORY                  | FUNCTIONS   | FORM-LANDSCAPE SETTINGS   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Regional Park</b>      | Social, family recreation, play, visual amenity, sports | Managed lawns, specialized sporting surface. Open parkland. Hard and soft landscaping. Tree plantation. |
| <b>District Park</b>      | Social, family recreation, play. Visual amenity.        | Managed lawns. Open parkland. Tree plantation. Hard and soft landscaping                                |
| <b>Neighbourhood Park</b> | Family recreation, play. Visual amenity.                | Managed lawns. Open parkland. Tree plantation. Hard and soft landscaping.                               |
| <b>Local Parks</b>        | Family recreation, play.                                | Managed lawns. Managed turf. Open parkland. Tree plantation. Hard and soft                              |

<sup>72</sup> Department of Planning and Community Development, *Victorian Planning Provisions* (clause 56.04) on 24 October 2012, <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/vpps/>



|                    |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
|                    |  | landscaping  |
| <b>Other parks</b> | Drainage, floodway, lookout, wayside stops, visual amenity | Open parkland. Waterway corridor. Bushland/forest. Tree plantation. Fire slashing. |

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TABLE 39 OPEN SPACE, PARKS, PLAYGROUND, PATHS AND TRAILS

| SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE | CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Parks</b>                  | Pearl Park 1 Pioneer Street<br>Town Entrance Reservoir Road<br>Adjacent to War Memorial Arts Centre Main Street<br>Opposite War Memorial Arts Centre Kaffir Hill Road / Berry Street<br>Foster Showgrounds<br>Access to Stockyard Creek 22 Station Road<br>Foster Station Park |
| <b>Paths and Trails</b>       | Great Southern Rail Trail<br>Stockyard Creek<br>56 Station St to Primary School<br>27 Pioneer St to 22 Station Road<br>Pearl Park Pioneer Street to Main Street  |
| <b>Playgrounds</b>            | Neighbourhood Park (adjacent to Ambulance building) 39 Station Road<br>Showgrounds Station Road<br>Skate Park Pioneer Street   |
| <b>Public Realm</b>           | Manna Garden<br>Stockyard Creek  |

<sup>73</sup> South Gippsland Shire Council Park hierarchy and open space analysis



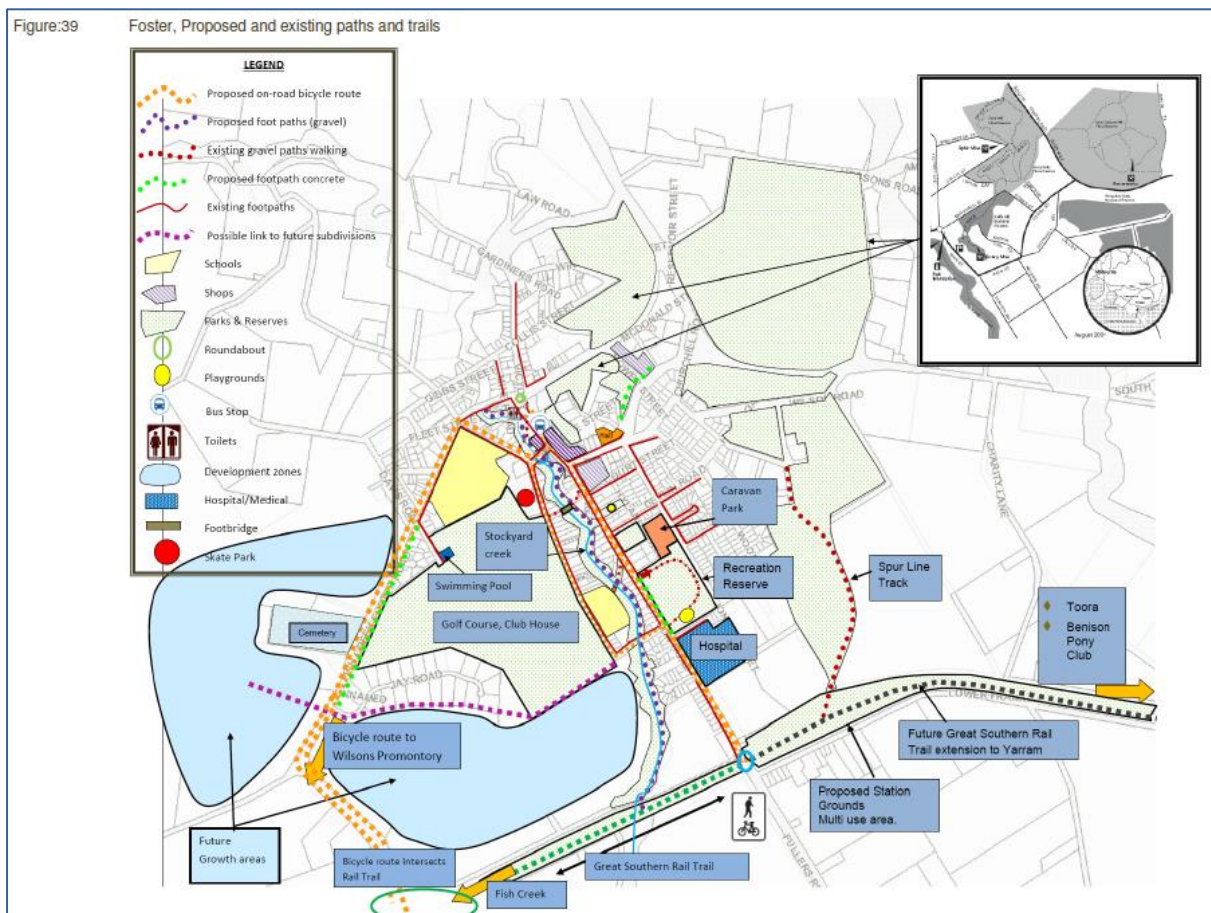
## Best Practice

### Healthy by Design Key design principles

- ✓ Connectivity
- ✓ Environments for All People
- ✓ Mixed Density
- ✓ Mixed Land Use
- ✓ Parks and Open Space
- ✓ Social Inclusion
- ✓ Supporting Infrastructure
- ✓ Active Transport
- ✓ Aesthetics
- ✓ Safety and Surveillance

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### MAP 8 FOSTER PROPOSED AND EXISTING TRAILS AND PATHS



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<sup>74</sup> Sutherland, E and Carlisle R (2004) Healthy by Design: an innovative planning tool for the development of safe, accessible and attractive environments. Vol. 18(11–12) NSW Public Health Bulletin

<sup>75</sup> Andrew Nixon Land Use Management, 2010 Paths and Trails Strategy, South Gippsland Shire Council

## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE   | WHO  |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Connecting parks for pedestrians and cyclists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Maintain Pearl Park and Stockyard Creek as an accessible open space</li> <li>▶ Investigate link between Pearl Park and Great Southern Rail Trail via Stockyard Creek Reserve</li> <li>▶ Develop connection between parks, footpaths and trails. Link Great Southern Rail Trail, Foster Station Park, Foster Showgrounds, Playgrounds, Primary School, Pearl Park, Secondary College, Golf Club.</li> <li>▶ Connect existing open space and reserves with new residential developments with footpaths or shared trails.</li> </ul> | <p>Council</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Council Developer</p>      |
| <p><i>Paths and Trails</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Mark on-road bike lane from the corner of Main and McDonald Streets at the Visitor Information Centre along Main Street and Pioneer Street to Great Southern Rail Trail with appropriate signage.</li> <li>▶ Maintain walking paths in flora and fauna parks to allow year round use.</li> <li>▶ Install permanent bicycle pump in Foster to encourage link to Rail Trail and cycling in town.</li> </ul>  | <p>Council</p> <p>Community Association</p> <p>Park Vic</p> <p>Council</p> |
| <p><i>Public Realm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Implement laneways project at first opportunity to enhance laneways connections to improve the amenity of the public realm.</li> <li>▶ Retain land surrounding Foster War Memorial Arts Centre and opposite side of Kaffir Hill Road for outdoor festivals, markets and parking for public events.</li> </ul>  | <p>Community Council</p>   |
| <p><i>Playgrounds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Review position of skate bowl within the town in consultation with community and users. Identify a range of potential sites that are convenient, safe and accessible. Provide litter bin</li> </ul>   | <p>Council</p>   |

# SPORT AND RECREATION

## Introduction

Foster has a range of recreation facilities. The Foster Showgrounds is a central hub for sport and community activity. The Showgrounds are home to the local football and netball club, basketball association, a gymnasium, boxing club, and the Foster Show Society.

An 18 hole golf course is surrounded by an outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, a cricket oval, skate bowl and the South Gippsland Secondary College playing fields. This provides in large open recreation space to the south of the town.

The following infrastructure types assessed in this section are

- ▶ Indoor sports and recreation
- ▶ Outdoor sports and recreation including sports fields and ovals and hard surface courts
- ▶ Swimming pools.

Open space, streets, parks and playgrounds for non-structured active and passive outdoor activity are described in a separate chapter.

## Council Plans and Strategies / Government Policy

### *South Gippsland Shire Council Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017*

This plan has been developed as a requirement for Councils under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. The plan outlines strategic directions intended to inform operational plans for the Council, communities and organisations of South Gippsland to help plan for improved health and wellbeing for the South Gippsland community.

### *South Gippsland Shire Council Aquatic Strategy 2015 – 2020*

This document outlines a strategic direction for the provision of aquatic facilities in South Gippsland based on Council's Asset Management principles.

### *Vision for Foster Pool 2015*

A document developed by the Foster Pool Working Group that outlines a view for the future of the pool. The document describes key issues for the future, management and governance, pool development, funding, communications and publicity and community engagement.

### *South Gippsland Shire Council Paths and Trails Strategy 2010*

This strategy reviewed the status of the bicycle and walking facilities in South Gippsland and identified work required to provide an improved network of bicycle, walking and horse riding facilities within the municipality. This strategy is to be reviewed in 2016.

### *South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008*

The Recreation Plan established a profile of programs and services, and recreation facilities, analyses recreation demand to 2028, and determines priorities for recreation services and facilities to increase participation in leisure and sport. This plan recommends that

residential development to the north of Foster necessitates additional social space or a linear corridor and connections to the Rail Trail and Sporting Facilities.

#### *South Gippsland Shire Council Foster Showgrounds Management Plan 2005 -2010*

This plan was commissioned to identify and prioritise proposed development initiatives that will optimise the use of existing infrastructure, enhance the Showgrounds' amenities for the various user groups and deliver economic benefit to the community as a whole.

#### *South Gippsland Open Space Strategy 2007*

This strategy provides an analysis of open space including recreation facilities, content for policy provision, development levy contributions and local areas planning and remains a relevant document for current community infrastructure planning in Foster.

#### *Foster Structure Plan 2008*

This strategy refers to the recommendations of the Recreation and Open Space Strategy and 'Planning for Real' initiatives that accord with the strategic directions of the plan.

#### *Foster Showgrounds Master Plan 2013*

This is the second master plan for the Showgrounds. Many of the projects of the first plan have been implemented. This plan identifies a range of issues and has been formulated based on a priority ranking scale from very high to low in recognition that it is not practical to complete all of the projects identified.

#### *Foster Showgrounds Access Appraisal Report 2014*

This appraisal is designed to identify the key issues that impact on access to the buildings and facilities for people with disabilities, identifies a range of other access challenges and actions to improve access. It is not a complete Access Audit.

#### *South Gippsland Shire Council Asset Management Strategy 2013*

This strategy assesses adequacy of the current status of asset management practices and establishes a long term framework that is necessary to address the gap between current status and the desired status in asset management.

#### *South Gippsland Shire Council Strategy and Audit for Social Community Infrastructure 2014 – 2029*

This strategy and audit includes a review of community facilities across South Gippsland owned by Council and other community sectors. The purpose of this strategy is to inform, manage and plan for sustainable population and infrastructure growth in the future.

## Current Provision

Please refer to Table 40 which describes the indoor and outdoor sports and recreation clubs in Foster.

### *Indoor sports and recreation*

Indoor sports take place in the basketball stadium and Robbie Allen Pavillion at the Foster Showgrounds. The Hard Work Café gymnasium is located in the Young Farmers room at the rear of the Basketball Stadium on the Showgrounds. Indoor bowls can be played at the Bowling Club. The Suzie Green Dance School operates from the Masonic Hall which it now owns.

Basketball membership is high in Foster resulting in games played most nights of the week during the season. Badminton is played in the basketball stadium during the off season.

### *Outdoor sports and recreation*

The Foster Showgrounds are the site for outdoor sports including football and netball. An 18 hole golf course runs adjacent to Pioneer Street and has the cricket ground, tennis courts and clubrooms and outdoor swimming pool on its boundaries. Corner Inlet Pony Club events are held at club grounds in Bennison and the Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club events occur in Yanakie.

### *Aquatic facilities*

A solar and gas heated outdoor pool is open December to March each year and is operated by the YMCA. Council funds the operations and maintenance of the centre and will continue to do so in line with the Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland 2015.

### *Sporting Clubs*

There is a broad range of sporting clubs in Foster using a variety of venues and facilities in Foster and nearby towns see Table 40.

**TABLE 40 FOSTER SPORTING CLUBS**

| CLUB NAME                     | VENUE  | DESCRIPTION  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Corner Inlet Boxing Club      | Robbie Allen Pavillion at the Foster Showgrounds                 | An amateur club affiliated with the Victorian Amateur Boxing Association. 2 x level 1 boxing coaches.                      |
| Corner Inlet Little Athletics | South Gippsland Secondary College                                | Little athletics 5 – 15 years and inter aths 15 – 18 years   |
| Corner Inlet Motorcycle Club  | Yanakie Motocross Track, meetings at SES Foster                  |  |
| Corner Inlet Pony Club        | Bennison Pony Club grounds                                       | Rallies are run 16 times per year beginning at 9.30am and finishing 3.30pm.  |
| Foster Badminton Association  | Basketball Stadium, Showgrounds                                  | Play outside basketball season   |
| Foster Basketball Association | Basketball Stadium   | Games played most nights of the week.  |
| Foster Bowls Club             | Station Road   | 2 synthetic greens and clubhouse with liquor licence   |
| Foster Cricket Club           | At Foster Recreation Reserve within the Golf course. Showgrounds | Relocated to recreation reserve due to safety concerns at Showgrounds. Synthetic pitch maintained at Showgrounds from 2013 |
| Foster Football Club          | Showgrounds and Football Clubrooms                               | Four grades of football: Seniors, reserves, U18 and U15. Junior stingrays U13s and   |

|                                  |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
|                                  |  | U11s. Auskick,  |
| Foster Golf Club                 | Reserve Street   | 18 hole Par 72 course measuring 5711 metres.            |
| Foster Indoor Bowls Club         | Station Road   | At bowling clubrooms                                    |
| Foster Netball Club              | Courts located at Showgrounds  | Winter season and mixed netball competition over summer |
| Foster Walking for Leisure Group | Manna Gum Community House Court Street                                     | Fridays x 2 hours                                       |
| Prom Coast Soccer Club           | South Gippsland Secondary College.<br>Arthur Sutherland Reserve Welshpool. | Training at Secondary College<br>Home matches Welshpool |
| Suzie Green Dance School         | Masonic Hall Nelson Street   |   |
| Tennis Club                      | Pioneer Road   | Spring Comps October – December<br>Wednesday nights     |

## Consultation

Information regarding the use of the Foster Showgrounds was gained via interview and a health focus group meeting. Community infrastructure surveys were completed via interview and in writing from some clubs. Information gathered includes use of facilities, capacity of volunteers and priority for needs of the club or facilities. Other information was gained through a literature review of strategic plans which used community consultation in their development.

## Future Demand

Foster has more people aged over the age of 50 (56%) than other larger towns in South Gippsland. The proportion of people aged between 50 – 64 years (26%) suggests a large proportion of people who may be relatively active but who may prefer lower impact sports and recreation choices.

A smaller proportion of the population is aged under 14 in Foster (13.4%) in comparison with South Gippsland and Victoria (20%). This smaller proportion tends to result in fewer sports available to younger age groups and raises concerns in mainstream sports for membership in future teams.

## Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used as a guide only. Rural municipalities are characterised by dispersed populations and small towns. The role of Foster as a sub-regional centre for the Eastern Districts of South Gippsland needs to be considered when planning for provision of sport and recreation facilities and future growth.



Recommendations for growth areas are to provide a minimum of 2ha of active open space per 1,000 people (excluding golf courses). This is to be distributed between active open space reserves, tennis facilities, lawn bowls with more detail provided below.

**TABLE 41 RECREATION GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Indoor aquatic /fitness centre</b>               | 1 centre for every 40,000 to 50,000 people  |
| <b>Double court indoor recreation centre/stadia</b> | 1 centre for every 20,000 – 30,000 people   |
| <b>Neighbourhood active open space</b>              | 1 area of 8ha in size to provide for two sports ovals per 6,000 people  |
| <b>Neighbourhood reserve pavilion</b>               | 1 per 6,000 people or per designated active recreation reserve  |
| <b>Tennis</b>                                       | 1 x court per 2,500 people<br>1 x 2 court free to the public tennis court no pavilion per 25,000 to 35,000 people<br>1 x 6 – 10 court complex per municipality                        |
| <b>Netball</b>                                      | 1 outdoor netball court per 3,500 people;<br>1 x double court netball court per 16,000 people<br>1 x 8 court complex per 50,000 people<br>Maximise use of school sites where possible |
| <b>Lawn Bowls</b>                                   | 1 x 4 green facility for 40,000 people  |
| <b>Passive open space</b>                           | 0.7 to 1ha of passive open space per 1,000 people or 300 – 400 households<br>205 to 4ha passive open space per 2km radius   |
| <b>Bicycle / Pedestrian Trails</b>                  | As per Active by Design guidelines  |

<sup>76</sup>



<sup>76</sup> Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority



## Recommendations

Responsibility for implementing recommendations lies with a range of organisations, the community or Council independently or in partnership. **Appendix 1** summarises key recommendations and identifies responsibility and priority for action.

| RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE   | WHO  |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Indoor sports and recreation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Priorities as outlined in the Foster Showgrounds Master Plan (2013)</li> <li>▶ Golf Club indicated refurbishment of clubrooms may increase opportunities to increase community use.</li> </ul>   | <p>Showgrounds Committee of Management (COM)<br/>Council<br/>Foster Golf Club</p>                                |
| <p><i>Outdoor sports and recreation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The Foster Showgrounds Master Plan (2013) identifies a range of priorities for outdoor facilities.</li> <li>▶ Assess need to maintain two sites for cricket in Foster</li> <li>▶ Investigate opportunities for new or existing clubs to utilise playing surfaces at Secondary College</li> <li>▶ Review position of skate bowl within the town in consultation with community and users. Identify range of potential sites that are convenient, safe and accessible.</li> </ul> | <p>Showgrounds COM<br/>Council<br/>Foster Cricket Club<br/>Showgrounds COM<br/>Secondary College<br/>Council</p> |
| <p><i>Aquatic facilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Refine the Vision for Foster Pool to develop a master plan for the site.</li> <li>▶ Continue to operate the pool in line with the recommendations of the Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland 2015.</li> </ul>  | <p>Foster Pool Association<br/>Council and YMCA</p>  |

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## Appendix 1

### FOSTER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE MATRIX AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APPENDIX 1 TABLE 1 – STOCKYARD GALLERY BUILDING – TENANT ANALYSIS / RECOMMENDATIONS

*\*The draft Foster Community Infrastructure Plan consultation and assessment has identified the Stockyard Gallery Building as not meeting the need of tenants due to lack of space. As such Table 1 provides a greater level of analysis for this building to support decision making in the next 12 months – 3 years.*

|     | TENANT                           | MANAGEMENT | COUNCIL SERVICE | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | NEED TO EXPAND  | SITE REQUIREMENTS / OPTIONS  | RISKS   |
|-----|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|---|---|--|---|
| 1.0 | Foster Library                   | WGRLC      | ✓               | Library, loans, children’s story time, student study area                     | <p>Yes – current gross floor area (collection area + public area) = 257m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>During story time 30 parents with children and prams restrict access for remaining members</p> <p>Recommended gross floor area 392m<sup>2</sup></p> | <p><b>Current site:</b> inadequate for current service delivery and expected population growth</p> <p><b>Alternative site requirements</b></p> <p>At least 392m2</p> <p>Highly visible location</p> <p>Potentially vacant supermarket, large shop.</p> <p>In 20 years part of new learning hub with U3A, community house as co-tenants</p> | Service delivery restricted in current space available. Option for increased service delivery is restricted by the current significant investment in library services in the West Gippsland area. |
|     | Visitor Information Centre (VIC) | Council    | ✓               | Visitor Information/ customer service<br>Hold keys for art gallery and museum | <p>Foyer of building is current consultation area and adequate for most requirements</p> <p>Yes – space to spread maps required, floor at entry slipping hazard in winter</p>   | <p><b>Current site</b> is adequate but cold in winter, floor is slippery when wet</p>  | VIC is a Council service being delivered in a Council building by a staff member and volunteers. Alternative venues = increased operational costs   |

|  | TENANT            | MANAGEMENT                         | COUNCIL SERVICE | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | NEED TO EXPAND  | SITE REQUIREMENTS / OPTIONS  | RISKS   |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|--|---|
|  | Stockyard Gallery | Section 86 Committee of Management | x               | Art gallery, exhibitions, displays and sales. The Not for profit gallery is open 10am – 4pm, 361 days per year. | Need for increased storage space, shelving, better lighting and wet and dry area.<br><br>*Currently using public toilet space for storage | <b>Current site:</b> Detailed site requirements to be identified in a prioritised needs analysis or strategic plan for the gallery. A number of needs have been identified by the committee of management for the current site or any future site or gallery. Some of these include:<br>Increased storage capacity<br>Improved sales environment<br>Increased shelving in the office.<br>Options for shared use of space with other tenants is possible. | Section 86 Committee of Council<br><br>Art gallery staff support VIC staff on breaks out of the building if necessary – not essential |



| TENANT         | MANAGEMENT | COUNCIL SERVICE | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | NEED TO EXPAND  | SITE REQUIREMENTS / OPTIONS   | RISKS  |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|---|---|---|--|
| Parks Victoria | State Govt | X               | <p>Office space, depot seasonal firefighting staff x 18 – 34 weeks</p> <p>Office space for Parks Vic District Staff, DELWP District staff and two other State Government staff.</p> <p>Includes meeting / incident control room, kitchen on Council site. Depot is located on separate land and includes shedding for storage, fire and field staff amenities and maintenance</p> | <p>Yes – office space adequate and convenient to town</p> <p>No – depot and equipment space.</p> <p>Over capacity during summer fire season (Nov – April) too small, Winchester Street site used for summer crew and vehicles</p> <p>Current Parks Victoria information could be provided via VIC</p> | <p><b>Current site:</b><br/>(at rear of Stockyard Gallery)<br/>Inadequate for summer fire crew staff vehicles and equipment.</p> <p>Further shedding for storage of equipment is required at Winchester Street</p> <p><b>Alternative site requirements:</b><br/>Office space, meeting room, lunchroom. Depot for vehicles, vehicle workshop, equipment storage. Needs to be flexible to accommodate increased staff during fire season.</p> | <p>Parks Victoria is one of the larger employers in Foster bringing economic advantage to the town, particularly during fire season.</p> <p>Parks provide commercial income to Council for lease of office space</p> <p>Parks Victoria has access to land outside of South Gippsland but their location in Foster is preferred by Council and the community.</p> |

TABLE 1 STOCKYARD GALLERY

| RECOMMENDATIONS |  | WHO   | TIMELINE         |
|-----------------|--|---|------------------|
| 1.1             | <p>Stockyard Art Gallery Committee of Management to develop a strategic plan or prioritised needs assessment considering space requirements including workshop and education areas, storage and increased display spaces on the current or any future gallery sites.</p> <p>Council to support the Stockyard Gallery Committee of Management to complete a prioritised needs assessment or strategic plan. Support may include identification of suitable funding available to the committee; the recommendation of a consultant to help plan; or assistance to the committee to coordinate a combined meeting for artists in the Corner Inlet area.</p> | <p>Stockyard Gallery</p> <p>Council</p>     | NEXT 2 YEARS     |
| 1.2             | Prioritise options for Foster Library on current site considering space requirements, impacts on library members and service delivery from the site. Consider range of alternatives on current site.   | West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation | COMMENCED        |
| 1.3             | Investigate service delivery from current and alternative sites in Foster. Consider sites that allow accommodation of all staff and vehicles during summer peak periods.   | Council / Parks Victoria                    | NEXT 2 - 3 YEARS |
| 1.4             | An accredited Visitor Information Centre based in Foster is recommended  | Council                                     | ONGOING          |
| 1.5             | Consider co-location of library, visitor information centre, community house and U3A in community education and learning hub in Station Road adjacent to community house   | Council and relevant stakeholders           | X 20 YEARS       |

APPENDIX 1 TABLE 2 REMAINING COUNCIL BUILDINGS AND OPEN SPACE

| COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESS |   | MANAGEMENT       | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |  |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------|---|---|--|
| 2.0                              | <b>Manna Gum Community House (old courthouse)</b><br>33 Station St cnr Court St   | CM <sup>77</sup> | Community / neighbourhood house. Learn Local (ACFE) organisation funded by Department of Education and Training | Yes capacity to increase use<br>limitations include<br>Funding<br>Volunteer capacity  |  |
|                                  |   |                  | Hall with stage, community meetings, youth theatre, films, training course                                      | Access to hall for people with mobility aids from front entrance and kitchen.<br>Access to stage for people with disabilities |  |
|                                  |   |                  | Kitchen   | Access to main hall for trolleys, mobility aides or wheelchairs   |  |
|                                  |   |                  | Lounge / café   | Limitation volunteer capacity   |  |
|                                  |   |                  | Office/ consultation room/ food bank/   | Privacy for government client meetings/ food bank   |  |
|                                  |   |                  | Opportunity shop  | Space for second hand goods   |  |
| RECOMMENDATIONS                  |   |                  | WHO   | PRIORITY  |  |
| 2.1                              | Improve access between rooms to allow simultaneous use of shared facilities such as kitchens, toilets and office.                                     |                  | Council / Committee of Management   | Medium  |  |
| 2.2                              | Increase storage for users  |                  | Council   | High  |  |
| 2.3                              | Complete access audit   |                  | Council   | High  |  |
| 2.4                              | Support training for volunteers   |                  | Committee of Management   | ongoing   |  |
| 2.5                              | Work with FAMDA and Foster War Memorial Arts Centre Committee to scope location and need for permanent film screen in Foster. If viable, seek funding |                  | Committee of Management   | Low   |  |

<sup>77</sup> Committee of Management

| COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESS |   | MANAGEMENT | CURRENT FUNCTIONS  | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |  |
|----------------------------------|---|------------|--|---|--|
| 3.0                              | <b>Foster Showgrounds</b><br>61 – 79 Station Rd   | CM         | Main stadium, basketball, badminton, boot camp, Prom Coast U3A   | Yes - as outlined in Showgrounds Masterplan<br>Need to comply with regulations for food handling, basketball run-off                      |  |
|                                  |   |            | Exhibition Shed, Agricultural Society  | Planning restrictions are in place to protect the appearance of the building.   |  |
|                                  |   |            | Football clubrooms – on a separate title to Showgrounds  | Yes - as outlined in Showgrounds Masterplan   |  |
|                                  |   |            | Netball courts   | Yes - as outlined in Masterplan   |  |
|                                  |   |            | Robbie Allen Pavillion, boxing club, Rotary train  | Yes - as outlined in Masterplan   |  |
|                                  |   |            | Public area – playgrounds, toilets, picnic areas, oval<br>Used for Foster Show, Markets, visiting circus | A second entrance, location of car parking close to stadium and playground risk to pedestrian and children movement, improve traffic flow |  |
| RECOMMENDATIONS                  |   |            | WHO  | PRIORITY  |  |
| 3.1                              | As outlined in Foster Showgrounds Master Plan 2013  |            | Committee of Management Council  | As outlined in the masterplan   |  |
| 3.2                              | Develop estimate of cost of water and refurbishment of grassed surfaces following outside uses including circus, markets, and concerts.<br>Incorporate costs of water and refurbishment into hire fees for outside user groups. |            | Committee of Management  | 5 – 10 YEARS  |  |
| 3.3                              | Assess need to maintain two sites for cricket in Foster   |            | Committee of Management<br>Foster Cricket Club   | 5 – 10 YEARS  |  |
| 3.4                              | Review position of skate bowl within the town in consultation with community users.<br>Identify range of potential sites that are convenient, safe and accessible   |            | Council  | X 20 YEARS  |  |

|                 | COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESS  | MANAGEMENT | CURRENT FUNCTIONS  | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |              |
|-----------------|---|------------|--|---|--------------|
| 4.0             | <b>Foster War Memorial Arts Centre</b><br>79 Main Street  | CM         | Public auditorium, FAMDA, funerals, dance concerts   | Yes – can increase use by broader community and outside groups  |              |
|                 |   |            | Foster Senior Citizens Club room   | Yes – can increase use by other groups  |              |
|                 |   |            | General meeting rooms (supper room, 2 x meeting rooms) – Foster Probus Club, South Gippsland Shire Immunisation, Youth Access Clinic | Yes – can increase use by other groups. Youth Access Clinic requires additional private consultation space<br>Limitations – noise from main auditorium                                  |              |
|                 |   |            | Storage, kitchen – Prom Country Farmers Market, FAMDA, Probus  | Yes – further storage space may provide opportunity for increased use of venue by more groups.<br>Limitation – access from one end of building to other and shelter at back of building |              |
| RECOMMENDATIONS |   |            |  | WHO   | PRIORITY     |
| 4.1             | Improve access between meeting rooms to allow simultaneous use of shared facilities such as kitchens and toilets  |            |  | Committee of Management   | 5 – 10 YEARS |
| 4.2             | Improve sound proofing between rooms  |            |  | Committee of Management   | NEXT 5 YEARS |
| 4.3             | Increase storage for user groups  |            |  | Committee of Management   | 5 – 10 YEARS |
| 4.4             | Complete access audit   |            |  | Council   | NEXT 5 YEARS |
| 4.5             | Work with FAMDA and Foster War Memorial Arts Centre Committee to scope location and need for permanent film screen in Foster. If viable and affordable seek funding |            |  | Committee of Management   | 5 – 10 YEARS |

|                 | COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESS   | MANAGEMENT | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |           |
|-----------------|--|------------|---|---|-----------|
| 5.0             | <b>Prom Coast Centres for Children</b><br>Pioneer St   | CM         | Maternal and Child Health consultation rooms, visiting specialists children services<br>Toy Library | Yes – increase visiting children services requiring office consultation space |           |
| RECOMMENDATIONS |  |            |   | WHO   | PRIORITY  |
| 5.1             | Promote availability of Maternal and Child Health consultation room for visiting early years and family services |            |   | Council<br>Prom Coast Centres for Children                                    | NEXT YEAR |
| 5.2             | Continue school holiday program - to allow the community to become familiar with using the service               |            |   | Prom Coast Centres for Children   | ONGOING   |

|                | COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESS                         | MANAGEMENT | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |            |
|----------------|--|------------|---|---|------------|
| 6.0            | <b>Historical Society and Museum</b><br>9 Main St        | CM         | Historic buildings Miners cottage, Agnus School, Yanakie School, Storage Shed, Boat Shed, Main building, Historical Hut, Jail House | Yes - Capacity to open building for external community meeting room use |            |
| RECOMMENDATION |  |            |   | WHO   | PRIORITY   |
| 6.1            | Investigate allocation of meeting room for community use |            |   | Committee of Management   | X 20 YEARS |

|                 | COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESS  | MANAGEMENT | CURRENT FUNCTIONS             | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE                          |           |
|-----------------|---|------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 7.0             | <b>Foster Swimming Pool</b><br>Reserve Street                           | YMCA       | Outdoor recreation – swimming | Broaden use of area for community activities      |           |
| RECOMMENDATIONS |   |            |                               | WHO   | PRIORITY  |
| 7.1             | Develop master plan for site through refining of Vision for Foster Pool |            |                               | Foster Pool Association with funding from Council | NEXT YEAR |

|     |   |                 |         |
|-----|---|-----------------|---------|
| 7.2 | Continue operation of pool in line with recommendations of Strategic Direction for Aquatic Facilities in South Gippsland 2015 | Council<br>YMCA | ONGOING |
|-----|---|-----------------|---------|

|                 | COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESS  | MANAGEMENT | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |              |
|-----------------|---|------------|---|---|--------------|
| 8.0             | Pearl Park and Stockyard Creek  | Council    | Public Open Space   | Yes – could extend public access along Stockyard Creek  |              |
| 9.0             | Foster War Memorial Arts Centre grounds 79 Main Street and land opposite at 2 Berry Street  | Council    | Public Open Space   | Yes – increase outdoor events   |              |
| 10.0            | Public Realm – Main Street and Station Road   | Council    | Public open space<br>Town centre – retail and tourism     | Yes – improve access for all  |              |
| 11.0            | Pedestrian and cycle connectivity   | Council    | Paths and trails  | Yes – improve access between parks and recreation reserves<br>Yes - Improve access between Great Southern Rail Trail and town centre<br>Yes - Improve opportunity for active transport (walking, cycling, scooting , skating) |              |
| 12.0            | <b>Skate bowl</b><br>Pioneer Street   | Council    | Outdoor recreation<br>Playground, seat, drinking fountain | Yes – space available. Alternative site possible if needed  |              |
| RECOMMENDATIONS |   |            |   | WHO   | PRIORITY     |
| 8.1             | Maintain Pearl Park pathways and lighting to continue safe access for pedestrians   |            |   | Council   | ONGOING      |
| 8.2             | Investigate path between Pearl Park and the Great Southern Rail Trail via Stockyard Creek reserve for pedestrians.                                    |            |   | Council   | X 20 YEARS   |
| 9.1             | Retain land surrounding Arts centre and land opposite 2 Berry Street to increase capacity to host outdoor events.                                     |            |   | Council   | NEXT 5 YEARS |
| 10.1            | Complete streetscape development and laneways projects to provide appropriate footpaths and crossing for shared use by pedestrians and mobility aids. |            |   | Council   | NEXT 5 YEARS |



|      |   |  |              |
|------|---|--|--------------|
| 10.2 | Mark mobility scooter parking bays in 3 central town sites<br>Provide education for mobility scooter owners annually  | Council<br>Council   | NEXT 5 YEARS |
| 10.3 | Ensure that any proposed use and development of land in Foster is generally in accordance with the Foster Framework Plan and the South Gippsland Planning Scheme  | Council  | ONGOING      |
| 11.1 | Construct footpaths and trails to link parks and recreation reserves as circuit for pedestrians.<br>Develop brochure and promote to visitors at the Visitor Information Centre, Great Southern Rail Trail exit at Station Road Foster | Council<br>Council and Great Southern Rail Trail Committee | 5 – 10 YEARS |
| 11.2 | Mark on road bike lane from the corner of Main Street and McDonald Street along Main Street, Pioneer Street to the Great South Rail Trail with appropriate signage  | Council  | 5 – 10 YEARS |
| 11.3 | Install permanent bicycle pump and water fountain in Foster township to encourage link to Rail Trail and cycling in town  | Council  | NEXT 5 YEARS |
| 12.1 | Provide litter bin and litter service to skate bowl<br>Review position of skate bowl in Council works depot review in consultation with the community and users.  | Council<br>Council   | NEXT 5 YEARS |

|                | COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ADDRESS  | MANAGEMENT | CURRENT FUNCTIONS  | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |              |
|----------------|---|------------|--|---|--------------|
| 13.0           | Industrial land supply  | Private    | To support regional developments                                   | Yes – monitor need  |              |
| 14.0           | Works depots  | Council    | Council, South Gippsland Water, Parks Victoria, Emergency Services | Yes – capacity to move large vehicles from town centre and increase space for some uses |              |
| RECOMMENDATION |   |            |  | WHO   | PRIORITY     |
| 13.1           | Monitor current supply of industrial land in relation to Barry Beach developments                                     |            |  | Council   | ONGOING      |
| 14.1           | Investigate current location of works depots in relation to town centre, public access and movement of heavy vehicles |            |  | Council<br>South Gippsland Water<br>Parks Victoria<br>Emergency Services                | NEXT 5 YEARS |
| 14.2           | Consider shared facilities for emergency services on site at future Council depot                                     |            |  | As Above  | NEXT 5 YEARS |

## APPENDIX 1 TABLE 3 NON COUNCIL BUILDINGS

*\*\*The recommendations included in this section are for consideration by the relevant organisations as suggestions that may benefit the Foster community. Recommendations below were identified in interviews with representatives of organisations responsible or users of a facility.*

| NON-COUNCIL FACILITY |                | MANAGEMENT   | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |
|----------------------|----------------|--|---|---|
| 15                   | Banksia Lodge  | PCAC <sup>78</sup><br>SGHS <sup>79</sup><br>land   | South Gippsland Hospital<br>Community Health Centre - Planned Activity Group<br>Accommodation – students and registrars<br>Foster Medical Centre<br>Accommodation – students and registrars | Yes – space to increase use, consultation rooms for visiting specialists, SGHS, or emergency accommodation                            |
| 15                   | RECOMMENDATION | If financially viable this facility provides a valuable asset for all current users and potential for large scale accommodation in case of emergency or natural disaster |   |   |
| CFA <sup>80</sup>    |                | CFA  | Housing fire vehicles and equipment<br>CFA meetings   | No – emergency services buildings may be used without notice  |
| Anglican Church      |                | Church   | Worship,<br>Foster CWA, Prom Coast Singers  | Limited – must be available in case of funerals<br>volunteer capacity   |
| Uniting Church       |                | Church   | Worship, bible study, Men’s breakfast, Conservation Society, Cancer Support Group, photography club, stamp collectors, Prom Coast Quilters,   | Limited - must be available in case of funerals<br>Parishioners concerned about noise disturbance to people wishing to use the church |
| Catholic Church      |                | Church   | Worship   |   |
| 16                   | Golf Club      | Private  | Golf club,<br>meals, community events,  | Yes   |
| 16                   | RECOMMENDATION | The Golf Club indicated refurbishment of clubrooms may increase opportunities to increase community use. No time or priority was specified.                              |   |   |

<sup>78</sup> Prom Country Aged Care

<sup>79</sup> South Gippsland Hospital

<sup>80</sup> County Fire Authority

| NON-COUNCIL FACILITY           |  | MANAGEMENT   | CURRENT FUNCTIONS   | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Exchange Hotel                 |  | Private  | Meals, community meetings Foster Chamber of Commerce, card nights   | Yes   |
| Masonic Hall                   |  | Private  | Suzie Greens Dance School   | No at capacity  |
| 17                             | Men's Shed                                 | Men's Shed   | Corner Inlet Men's Shed, community meetings with kitchen x 20 people<br>Classes in woodworking  | Yes, recent change of management from Manna Gum Community House to Men's Shed Committee<br>Yes – kitchen/meeting room                         |
| 17                             | RECOMMENDATION                             | Combine promotion of meeting spaces and education courses with other community meeting spaces on Foster website  |   |   |
| Wilson's Promontory Motel      |  | Private  | Accommodation, Rotary Club  | Yes   |
| Returned Services League       |  | RSL  | RSL monthly meetings, Anzac Day Club, bar and bistro, U3A, netball, community events  | Yes – Needs to extend to increase capacity  |
| School – Foster Primary School |  | DET  | School, music room used for private music lessons, drama group 'Tribes'   | Yes – have hiring policy for outside user groups<br>limitations – building is alarmed, staff member must be present unlock and lock buildings |
| 18                             | School – South Gippsland Secondary College | DET  | School, Gymnasium – Tai Chi, Gymnastics, Basketball, Netball, casual bookings<br>Flexible learning centre – casual bookings<br>Outdoor undercover – fitness classes<br>Ovals – Little Athletics, Primary Schools sports days, Soccer Club | Yes<br>Limitations – security access to buildings   |
| 18                             | RECOMMENDATION                             | Investigate opportunities for new or existing clubs to utilise outdoor playing surfaces at the Secondary College sharing costs of maintenance or in kind services to maintenance |   |   |

| NON-COUNCIL FACILITY       |                         | MANAGEMENT  | CURRENT FUNCTIONS  | CAPACITY TO INCREASE USE   |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| 19                         | Scout Hall              | Scouts  | Cub Scouts<br>Foster Playgroup   | Yes – this is underutilised  |
| 19                         | RECOMMENDATION          | Extend use of this building for the younger community. Consider increased uses for the Scout Hall including a youth meeting space and the youth access clinic.                                  |  |  |
| South Gippsland Hospital   |                         | SGHS  | Boardroom – meetings,<br>PCAC board meetings   | Yes  |
| 20                         | Community Health Centre | SGHS  | Consultation rooms   | Yes – reaching capacity but offer rent free rooms to attract services to Foster                        |
|                            |                         |   | Main meeting room with kitchen<br>yoga, Pilates, health support groups,<br>community group meetings – FAMDA, Foster<br>Community Association, Hospital Auxiliary | Yes – with move of Planned Activity Group to<br>Banksia Lodge  |
| 20                         | RECOMMENDATION          | Promote large meeting room in community health centre for community or external organisation use. Suggest combined promotion of all meeting rooms available to the community on Foster website. |  |  |
| Manna Gum Community Garden |                         | DELWP   | Community Garden, open space and<br>agriculture  | Limited capacity to expand use.<br>Ownership and management of the site is<br>required to be confirmed |

APPENDIX 1 TABLE 3 PROPOSED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE NEEDS

|    | SERVICE                                     | WHERE   | DETAILS  | WHO  | PRIORITY     |
|----|---|---|--|--|--------------|
| 21 | Integrated community services and education | Community Hub   | Investigate Community Hub located in centre of town to house library, U3A, community house and Visitor Information Centre    | Council  | X 20 YEARS   |
| 22 | Adult education                             | Community house<br>U3A sites<br>Library<br>Men's Shed | Investigate shared promotion of all adult education courses available on the Foster community website and shared newsletters | Adult education providers  | 5 – 10 YEARS |
| 23 | Adult education                             | To be used in community meeting rooms                 | Consider community bank of laptop computers, public presentation equipment for loan.   | Adult education providers<br>Foster community association                                      | X 10 YEARS   |
| 24 | Adult education                             | To be identified                                      | Investigate community learning hub for use by university students to study extended courses by distance                      | Adult education providers<br>Foster community association<br>South Gippsland Secondary College | X 5 YEARS    |



## Appendix 2

# FOSTER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT TOOL

## APPENDIX 2 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT TOOL

| COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE |  | NON-COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE       |               |   | FOSTER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE HIERARCHY / CONDITION   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|--------------------------|---|
|                        |  |                                  |               |   | 5 = 5 days / week or 260 days / year<br>4 = 4 days / week<br>3 = 3 days / week<br>2 = 2 days / week<br>1 = 1 day or less / week | Typical visit duration<br>1 = Full Day<br>.6 = 1/2 Day<br>.3 = Short Visit | Usage = Days of use x typical visit duration | Average full day or 1/2 day occupancy on days of use/year<br>5 = > 50 days of use<br>4 = 35 - 49 days of use<br>3 = 20 - 34 days of use<br>> 50 short visits<br>1 = < 5 days of use | Impact on the community if the facility was non-functional<br>5 = Catastrophic (Shire wide)<br>4 = Major (Town and surrounding district)<br>3 = Moderate (Town only)<br>2 = Minor (Facility User Group Only)<br>1 = Insignificant (No Impact) | 0 - 5                    | Volunteer Support Depth<br>0 = poor<br>5 = adequate<br>10 = excellent |
| N <sup>o</sup>         | INFRASTRUCTURE NAME                                    | INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE              | OWNER/MANAGER | USER GROUPS   | DAYS / YEAR RATING  | VISIT DURATION   | USAGE  | OCCUPANCY   | COMMUNITY IMPACT  | OVERALL CONDITION RATING | VOLUNTEER CAPACITY  |
| <b>1.0</b>             | <b>Foster Community House</b>                          | Neighbourhood House              | SGSC / CM     | Foster and District Community House and Learning Centre<br>broad range of users                     | 5   | 0.6  | 3.0  | 3   | 4   | 2                        | 7   |
|                        | Manna Gum Lounge and Shop                              | Community Centre                 | SGSC / CM     | Opportunity shop <sup>1</sup>   | 4   | 0.3  | 0.6  | 2   | 4   | 2                        | 8   |
|                        | Foster Community Centre Horse Stable                   | Community Centre                 | SGSC / CM     |   | 1   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 1   | 1   | 3                        | N/A   |
| <b>2.0</b>             | <b>Foster Showgrounds</b>                              |                                  | SGSC / CM     | Foster Showgrounds Section 86 committee.  |   |  |  |   |   |                          | 7   |
|                        |  | District Park Recreation reserve |               | Foster Market<br>Foster Football Club<br>Alberton Football Netball League<br>Bootcamp in summer     | 4   | 0.3  | 1.2  | 3   | 4   |                          | 5   |
|                        | Foster Showgrounds Exhibit Shed                        | Buildings of Various Use         |               | Foster and District Agricultural Society  | 1   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 5   | 3   | 3                        | 4   |
|                        | Foster Showgrounds Clubroom                            | Buildings of Various Use         |               | Prom Coast U3A also at Foster Hall  | 1   | 1.0  | 3.0  | 5   | 4   | 4                        | 6   |
|                        | Foster Showgrounds Basketball Stadium                  | Indoor Leisure Centre            |               | Basketball, Badminton Basketball, Gym, Football training, Netball training<br>Hard Work Café<br>U3A | 5   | 0.6  | 3.0  | 4   | 4   | 6                        | 8   |
|                        | Foster Showgrounds Old Rotunda                         | Rotunda                          |               |   | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5  | 1   | 2   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Foster Showgrounds Shelter 1                           | Rotunda                          |               |   | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5  | 1   | 2   | 1                        |   |
|                        | Foster Showgrounds Shelter 2                           | Rotunda                          |               |   | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5  | 1   | 2   | 2                        |   |
|                        | Foster Showgrounds Timekeeper's Box                    | Buildings of Various Use         |               |   | 1   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 1   | 2   | 4                        |   |
|                        | Foster Showgrounds Shed 2009 Robbie Allen Pavillion    | Meeting room                     |               | Boxing club, Rotary train   | 3   | 0.3  | 0.9  | 1   | 2   | 1                        |   |
|                        | Foster Showgrounds Amenities Block/Umpires change room | Public Toilet                    |               | Public, stadium users, football and netball   | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5  | 2   | 2   | 1                        |   |
|                        | Play equipment   | Playground                       |               |   |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
| <b>3.0</b>             | <b>Stockyard Gallery Complex</b>                       | Cultural facility                | SGSC/COM      | Stockyard Gallery (Section 86 Committee)  | 5   | 1.0  | 5.0  | 5   | 5   | 2                        | 5   |
|                        | Library  | Library                          |               | West Gippsland Regional Library   |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|                        | Parks Victoria   | Office/Depots                    |               | Parks Victoria  |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|                        | Visitor Information Centre                             | Tourism Centre                   | CM            | Visitor Information Centre  |   |  |  |   |   |                          | 8   |



| COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE |  | NON-COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE |                |  | FOSTER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE HIERARCHY / CONDITION   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------|--|---|--|--|---|---|--------------------------|---|
|                        |  |                            |                |  | 5 = 5 days / week or 260 days / year<br>4 = 4 days / week<br>3 = 3 days / week<br>2 = 2 days / week<br>1 = 1 day or less / week | Typical visit duration<br>1 = Full Day<br>.6 = ½ Day<br>.3 = Short Visit | Usage = Days of use x typical visit duration | Average full day or ½ day occupancy on days of use/year<br>5 = > 50 days of use<br>4 = 35 - 49 days of use<br>3 = 20 - 34 days of use<br>> 50 short visits<br>1 = < 5 days of use | Impact on the community if the facility was non-functional<br>5 = Catastrophic (Shire wide)<br>4 = Major (Town and surrounding district)<br>3 = Moderate (Town only)<br>2 = Minor (Facility User Group Only)<br>1 = Insignificant (No Impact) | 0 - 5                    | Volunteer Support Depth<br>0 = poor<br>5 = adequate<br>10 = excellent |
| N <sup>o</sup>         | INFRASTRUCTURE NAME                              | INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE        | OWNER/ MANAGER | USER GROUPS  | DAYS / YEAR RATING  | VISIT DURATION   | USAGE  | OCCUPANCY   | COMMUNITY IMPACT  | OVERALL CONDITION RATING | VOLUNTEER CAPACITY  |
| 4.0                    | Foster War Memorial Arts Centre                  | Hall                       | SGSC/COM       | War Memorial Association (Section 86)<br>FAMDA<br>Foster Senior Citizens Club<br>Prom Country Farmers Market<br>Foster Probus Club<br>South Gippsland Shire Immunisation<br>Youth Clinic | 5   | 0.6  | 3.0  | 5   | 4   | 2                        | 7   |
|                        | Foster War Memorial Arts Centre Shed             | Hall                       | SGSC           |  | 1   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 1   | 2   | 2                        |   |
| 5.0                    | Prom Coast Centres for Children                  | Pre School                 | CM             | Prom Coast Centre for Children<br>Kindergarten<br>Childcare<br>Maternal and Child Health Centre<br>Bushlink<br>Noah's Ark<br>Uniting Care Gippsland                                      | 5   | 1.0  | 5.0  | 4   | 4   | 0                        | 3   |
|                        | Prom Coast Centres for Children Shed             |                            |                |  | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5  | 1   | 2   | 0                        |   |
|                        | Prom Coast Centres for Children Toy Library Shed |                            |                | Toy Library  | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5  | 1   | 2   | 0                        | 5   |
| 6.0                    | Historical Society and Museum                    |                            | CM             | Foster and District Historical Society   |   |  |  |   |   |                          | 6   |
|                        | Historical Society and Museum Miners House       | Cultural facility          | CM             | Museum visitors  | 3   | 0.3  | 0.9  | 2   | 4   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Historical Society and Museum Agnus School       | Cultural facility          | CM             |  | 3   | 0.3  | 0.9  | 2   | 4   | 2                        |   |
|                        | Historical Society and Museum Yanakie School     | Cultural facility          | CM             |  | 3   | 0.3  | 0.9  | 2   | 4   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Historical Society and Museum Storage shed       | Cultural facility          | CM             |  | 1   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 1   | 2   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Historical Society and Museum Boat shed          | Cultural facility          | CM             |  | 1   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 1   | 2   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Historical Society and Museum Main Building      | Cultural facility          | CM             |  | 3   | 0.6  | 1.8  | 3   | 4   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Historical Society and Museum Historical Hut     | Cultural facility          | CM             |  | 1   | 0.6  | 0.6  | 1   | 2   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Historical Society and Museum Jail House         | Cultural facility          | CM             |  | 1   | 0.6  | 0.6  | 1   | 3   | 2                        |   |
| 7.0                    | Foster Pool Main                                 | Swimming Pool              | CM             |  | 2   | 0.6  | 1.2  | 5   | 4   | 3                        | 8   |
|                        | Foster Pool Learners                             | Swimming Pool              | CM             |  | 2   | 0.6  | 1.2  | 5   | 4   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Foster Pool Toddler                              | Swimming Pool              | CM             |  | 2   | 0.6  | 1.2  | 1   | 1   | 4                        |   |
|                        | Foster Pool Entrance Buildings/Kiosk             | Swimming Pool              | CM             |  | 2   | 0.3  | 0.6  | 5   | 4   | 2                        |   |

| COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE |  | NON-COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE |                |  | FOSTER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE HIERARCHY / CONDITION   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------|--|---|--|--|---|---|--------------------------|---|
|                        |  |                            |                |  | 5 = 5 days / week or 260 days / year<br>4 = 4 days / week<br>3 = 3 days / week<br>2 = 2 days / week<br>1 = 1 day or less / week | Typical visit duration<br>1 = Full Day<br>.6 = 1/2 Day<br>.3 = Short Visit | Usage = Days of use x typical visit duration | Average full day or 1/2 day occupancy on days of use/year<br>5 = > 50 days of use<br>4 = 35 - 49 days of use<br>3 = 20 - 34 days of use<br>> 50 short visits<br>1 = < 5 days of use | Impact on the community if the facility was non-functional<br>5 = Catastrophic (Shire wide)<br>4 = Major (Town and surrounding district)<br>3 = Moderate (Town only)<br>2 = Minor (Facility User Group Only)<br>1 = Insignificant (No Impact) | 0 - 5                    | Volunteer Support Depth<br>0 = poor<br>5 = adequate<br>10 = excellent |
| N°                     | INFRASTRUCTURE NAME                                | INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE        | OWNER/MANAGER  | USER GROUPS  | DAYS / YEAR RATING  | VISIT DURATION   | USAGE  | OCCUPANCY   | COMMUNITY IMPACT  | OVERALL CONDITION RATING | VOLUNTEER CAPACITY  |
| 8.0                    | Pearl Park   | District Park              | SGSC           |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          | N/A   |
| 9.0                    | Park adjacent to War Memorial Arts Centre          | Local Park                 | SGSC           |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
| 10.0 - 11.0            | Main Street, connecting paths and walk / cycleways | Open space / public realm  | SGSC           | General public   |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
| 12.0                   | Skatebowl  | Recreation                 | SGSC           | seat, drinking fountain  |   |  |  |   |   |                          | N/A   |
|                        | <b>Commercial buildings</b>                        |                            |                |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|                        | Foster Old Shire Offices & Opp Shop                | Office                     | CO             | Oppportunity Shop 10am - 4pm Thur/Fri  | 2   | 0.3  | 0.6  | 5   | 4   | 4                        | 5   |
|                        | Foster Old Shire Offices Car Garage                | Office/Depots              | CO             |  | 1   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 1   | 2   | 2                        |   |
|                        | Foster Old Shire Offices Toilet                    | Office/Depots              | CO             | SGSC   | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5  | 2   | 2   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Foster Depot                                       | Office/Depots              | CO             | SGSC   | NA  |  |  |   |   |                          | N/A   |
|                        | South Gippsland Water                              | Office/Depots              | SGW            | South Gippsland Water  |   |  |  |   |   |                          | N/A   |
|                        | Foster Maternal & Child Health Centre and Flat     | Buildings of Various Use   |                |  |   |  |  |   |   | 3                        |   |
|                        | Foster Pre School                                  | Pre School                 |                | South Gippsland Water  |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|                        | <b>NON - COUNCIL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE</b>      |                            |                |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|                        | Prom Country Aged Care                             | Aged Care Facility         | Private        | Resident clients<br>Banksia Lodge Auxilliary   | 5   | 1.0  | 5.0  | 5   | 4   | 0                        | 10  |
|                        | Banksia Lodge                                      | Aged Care Facility         | Private        | Community Health Service<br>Student/Registrars<br>Planned Activity Group   | 3   | 0.6  | 1.8  | 5   | 4   |                          | 7   |
|                        | South Gippsland Hospital Community Health Centre   | Health                     | SGH            | South Gippsland Hospital<br>Foster Community Association<br>Foster Conservation Society, Diabetes,<br>podiatrist, massage, womens health<br>clinic, breastcare, yoga |   |  |  |   |   |                          | 10  |
|                        | Foster Medical Centre                              | Health                     | Private        |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|                        | Southern Smiles Dental                             | Health                     | Private        |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|                        | Gill Dentistry                                     | Health                     | Private        |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|                        | Prom Coast Physiotherapy                           | Health                     | Private        |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          |   |
|                        | Foster Scout Hall                                  |                            | Scouts / DELWP | Foster Scouts<br>Foster Playgroup  |   |  |  |   |   |                          | 6   |
|                        | Foster Primary School                              | Education                  | DET            |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          | 7   |
|                        | Returned Service Men's League                      | Function Centre            | RSL            |  |   |  |  |   |   |                          | 9   |

| COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE |  | NON-COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE            |                       |  | FOSTER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE HIERARCHY / CONDITION   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
| N <sup>o</sup>         | INFRASTRUCTURE NAME                              | INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE                   | OWNER/<br>MANAGER     | USER GROUPS                            | DAYS / YEAR<br>RATING   | VISIT<br>DURATION  | USAGE   | OCCUPANCY   | COMMUNITY IMPACT   | OVERALL<br>CONDITION<br>RATING | VOLUNTEER<br>CAPACITY  |
|                        |  |                                       |                       |  | 5 = 5 days / week or<br>260 days / year<br>4 = 4 days / week<br>3 = 3 days / week<br>2 = 2 days / week<br>1 = 1 day or less /<br>week | Typical visit<br>duration<br>1 = Full Day<br>.6 = 1/2 Day<br>.3 = Short<br>Visit | Usage =<br>Days of<br>use x<br>typical<br>visit<br>duration | Average full day or 1/2<br>day occupancy on<br>days of use/year<br>5 = > 50 days of use<br>4 = 35 - 49 days of use<br>3 = 20 - 34 days of use<br>> 50 short visits<br>1 = < 5 days of use | Impact on the community if<br>the facility was non-functional<br>5 = Catastrophic (Shire wide)<br>4 = Major (Town and<br>surrounding district)<br>3 = Moderate (Town only)<br>2 = Minor (Facility User Group<br>Only)<br>1 = Insignificant (No Impact) | 0 - 5                          | Volunteer<br>Support Depth<br>0 = poor<br>5 = adequate<br>10 = excellent |
|                        | Masonic Lodge Hall                               | Recreation                            | Private               | Susie Green Dance School               |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | Foster Station Park                              | Men's Shed / Local Park               | DELW/P<br>GSRT        | Corner Inlet Mens Shed, industrial use |   |  |   |   |  |                                | 8  |
|                        | Great Southern Rail Trail                        | Shared Paths                          | DELW/P/ICM            |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | Stockyard Creek                                  | Local Park                            | DELW/P                |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | Hayes Walk (Foster Flora Reserve)                | Walking path                          | DELW/P                |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | Bratuaualung Nature Trail (Foster Flora Reserve) | walking path                          | DELW/P                |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | Cody-Gully & Ophire Mine (Foster Flora Reserve)  | walking path                          | DELW/P                |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | New Zealand Hill (Foster Flora Reserve)          | walking path                          | DELW/P                |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | CFA  | Emergency Service                     | CFA                   | CFA                                    | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5   | 3   | 4  | 3                              | 5  |
|                        | Police   | Emergency Service                     | VicPol                | VicPol                                 | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5   | 3   | 4  | 0                              | N/A  |
|                        | Ambulance  | Emergency Service                     | Ambulance<br>Victoria | Ambulance Service                      | 5   | 0.3  | 1.5   | 1   | 4  | 2                              | N/A  |
|                        | State Emergency Service                          | Emergency Service at<br>Council Depot | SGSC/SES              | SES                                    |   |  |   |   |  |                                | 5  |
|                        | Christ Church Anglican Church Hall               | Church                                | Anglican<br>Church    | Foster CWA<br>Prom Coast Singers       |   |  |   |   |  |                                | 6  |
|                        | Uniting Church Hall                              | Church                                | Uniting<br>Church     | Conservation Society in Foster         |   |  |   |   |  |                                | 3  |
|                        | St Joseph's Catholic Church                      | Church                                | Catholic<br>Church    |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                | N/A  |
|                        | Foster Bowls Club                                | Recreation                            | Club                  |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | Tennis Club                                      | Recreation                            | DELW/P/ICM            |  |   |  |   |   |  | see tennis<br>court<br>review  |  |
|                        | Golf Club  | Recreation/Function<br>Centre         | DELW/P/ICM            |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | Cricket Ground                                   | Recreation                            | DELW/P/ICM            |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |
|                        | Caravan Park                                     | Accommodation                         | Private               |  |   |  |   |   |  |                                |  |

For further information



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