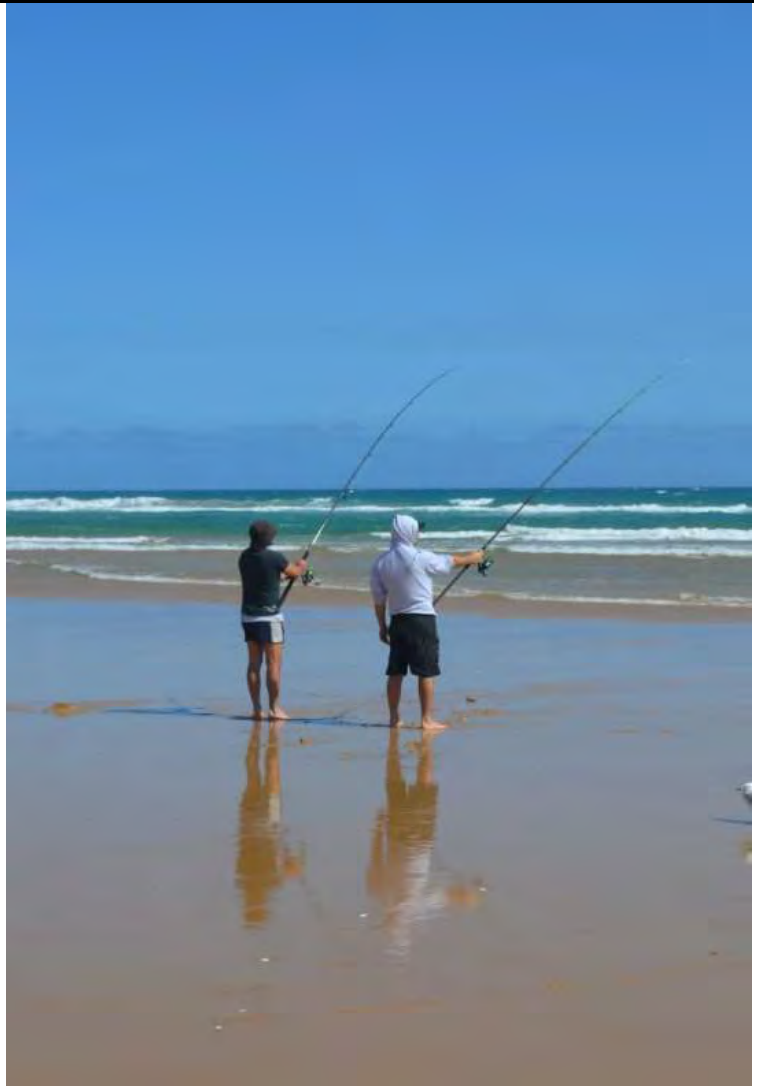


COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

June 2014



**Tarwin Lower
Venus Bay
2014**



**Vicki Bradley
Social Planning Officer**



Vicki Bradley
Social Planning Officer
South Gippsland Shire Council

June 2014
South Gippsland Shire Council

Photos: Vicki Bradley

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower is a rural and holiday area in the South West Coastal District of South Gippsland Shire. Settlement of the area dates from the 1840s. The population in summer increases by over 83%.

Background and Context

This is one of a series of community infrastructure plans to guide the development, timing and possible location of community facilities and services for the short, medium and long term to meet the needs of a growing population. Community infrastructure plans have been developed for Korumburra, Leongatha, Nyora, Mirboo North and Tarwin Lower / Venus Bay.

The Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Community Infrastructure Plan includes a detailed audit of current infrastructure; current demographic information and guides prioritisation for infrastructure over the next 25 years. It is unlikely that the permanent population of Venus Bay or Tarwin Lower will grow as quickly as other areas of South Gippsland with an increase of around 200 people expected in 25 years and the proportion of permanent and holiday homes to remain at the current ratio of 20: 80 percent. There is a strong tendency for non-resident owners to move to their holiday homes permanently. It is difficult to estimate the rate that this will occur in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay over forthcoming years and how this will impact on the growth of the permanent population.

Identified Community Infrastructure Priorities

Connecting existing infrastructure and access to facilities is a high priority.

- Tarwin Lower: A shared path linking the recreation reserve to the shopping strip
- Venus Bay: Addressing visitor impact on parking and toilets particularly in beach areas
- Clear signs:
 - linking existing shared path to on road pedestrian/cycle lanes at Venus Bay shops
 - at Venus Bay shops directing to community centre
- Further investigation of Venus Bay street scaping at shops
- Venus Bay parks and open space: balance of development, consolidation, enhancement and preservation of natural flora and fauna.

Areas not prioritised in the first phase of development remain important considerations for future planning and are discussed in full in the main document.

Summary

There is variation in community infrastructure in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay and meets the needs of the permanent populations of these towns and will continue to meet the needs of a slowly growing permanent population. The increase in the population over the summer period of over 83% places considerable pressure on Venus Bay services with particular impact on infrastructure in beach areas within the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. For the majority of the year community facilities and services meet the needs of the permanent population.

Residents of the area value the natural flora and fauna afforded by the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, Andersons Inlet and the Tarwin River and the selection of natural bushland and open space in the residential areas of Venus Bay. Planning for future development should consider current neighbourhood character of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay in order to preserve natural landscapes.

In the short term, the management of beach visitors in summer is a current issue requiring further investigation of parking and toilet provision and frequency of rubbish collection and emergency services access to beach areas in peak periods. In the towns there is currently increased rubbish collection over the summer period, however there remains a concern over private owner's collection of garbage on house blocks. An investigation of a combination of initiatives will be required prior to the 2014 /2015 summer season. On the longer term, the impact of climate change on the Venus Bay community may include increased bushfire risk and possible increased incidences of flood inundation.

Conclusion

The permanent Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay communities are demographically different. They effectively share the range of community infrastructure available in both towns. Community facilities and services are a vital component for creating healthy communities that support social inclusion and enhance the wellbeing of residents. Connections between community facilities and the town centres encourage the community members to get out and mix with others and are essential to maintain a vibrant community. Community infrastructure is essential to provide spaces and places for participation in community life and provides opportunities to build the community.

1 INTRODUCTION

Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay are located 5 kilometres apart in a rural and holiday area in the South West Coast District of the South Gippsland Shire. Tarwin Lower is a farming hamlet with a population of 363 people on the banks of the Tarwin River serving as an entry point for tourists accessing Anderson Inlet and Venus Bay. Venus Bay is a coastal community with the highest percentage of unoccupied dwellings (82%) in South Gippsland and has a permanent population of 589 people.

The impact of a significantly larger summer population in Venus Bay requires the development of a community infrastructure plan to ensure the needs of the permanent populations of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower are met as well as those present during summer and weekends. With many houses in Venus Bay unoccupied there is a possibility that population increases could occur with little forewarning as non-resident owners move to their holiday home permanently. It is difficult to estimate the rate that this will occur and how this will impact on the growth of the permanent population.

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.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Guide the development, timing, design and location of community infrastructure over the next 20 years
- Identify and prioritise services and facilities required for an emerging population
- Present key recommendations for community infrastructure that will address needs over the short, medium and long term,
- Develop a plan of possible locations and facilities for identified priorities
- Support funding submissions and timing.

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

- Negotiate developer contributions
- Inform community planning discussions
- Provide usage needs for detailed plans for new facilities or refurbishment of existing facilities



- Identify current best practice
- Inform strategic planning of the town centre including provision of commercial, community spaces and services that are easily accessible
- Inform service level planning by Council and other service providers
- Advocate for greater provision of services in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

Council is seeking to work in partnership with the community, other agencies 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.

1.2 Integrated Planning

Community Infrastructure Plans support integrated planning. They draw on key policies and strategies of State and Federal government and Council. They bring together recommendations and actions from existing Council plans and apply them specifically to the needs of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

1.3 Background and Context

Tarwin Lower is a small hamlet serving as an entry point for tourists accessing Anderson Inlet and Venus Bay. It includes a primary school, community health centre, recreation reserve and small retail area serving a broader farming area and Venus Bay.

Venus Bay is a sparsely populated residential area spread across three distinct estates. Housing demand is mainly driven by the holiday home market demonstrated by the very high proportion of dwellings that were unoccupied at the last Census (82%). This demand is different from the migration pressures described in other South Gippsland community infrastructure plans. Due to the smaller permanent population and different housing demands, data relating to demands and forecasts sourced from the Housing and Settlement Strategy will also be applied in this plan.

This document describes current and forecast demographics for Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. Current and future needs for services and facilities are discussed referencing existing strategic plans and guides and current best practice examples to make recommendations and priorities for the future.

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, 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 Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower a great place to live, work, play and visit.

Community infrastructure is essential to provide spaces and places for participation in community life and provides opportunities for community building. The Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Community Infrastructure Plan includes a detailed audit of current infrastructure; current and projected demographic information and guides prioritisation for infrastructure over the next 20 years. Its broad use by Council, outside organisations and the community will assist in supporting a coordinated approach to the needs of the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay community.



2 CURRENT AND FORECAST DEMOGRAPHICS

The following provides a general description of the demographic profile for Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower in 2011. It relies heavily on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census either directly or through pre-analysed and graphed data prepared by .id Consulting for South Gippsland Shire Council.

Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay are located 5 kilometres apart in a rural and holiday area in the South West Coast District of the South Gippsland Shire.

Settlement of the area dates from the 1840s. Population remained small until the late 1800s and early 1900s with significant development occurring during the post second world war years. Between the 1960s and 1990s the area became popular as a holiday destination.

While the towns are only 5 km apart their demographic profile and projected forecasts are quite different. It is recognised that there is considerable interaction between the towns for community activities and events and the use of community infrastructure, services and natural attractions such as the beach, river and natural bush land.

Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay are in easy travel distance from Melbourne and readily accessible to day visitors, weekend visitors and those coming for a longer holiday in summer.

MAP 1: TRAVEL TIME FROM CBD



Demographic data provided below will describe the population of each town separately. Chapters discussing specific community infrastructure needs will address the facilities and services shared over both towns and those specific to each.

TARWIN LOWER CURRENT AND FORECAST DEMOGRAPHICS

2.1 CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS

2.1.1 Summary

The following provides a general description of the demographic profile for Tarwin Lower. It relies heavily on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census either directly or through pre-analysed and graphed data prepared by .id Consulting for South Gippsland Shire Council.

With a current population of 363 Tarwin Lower is a small rural village situated in the south west of South Gippsland Shire Council. It is located 160km, a two hour drive south east of Melbourne, 32km from Leongatha and 5km from Venus Bay.

Tarwin Lower is located on the south bank of the Tarwin River. The commercial area of Tarwin Lower is positioned along River Drive where a main shopping strip includes a broad and diverse range of shops and community facilities. Tarwin Lower is an entry point for tourists accessing Anderson Inlet and Venus Bay.

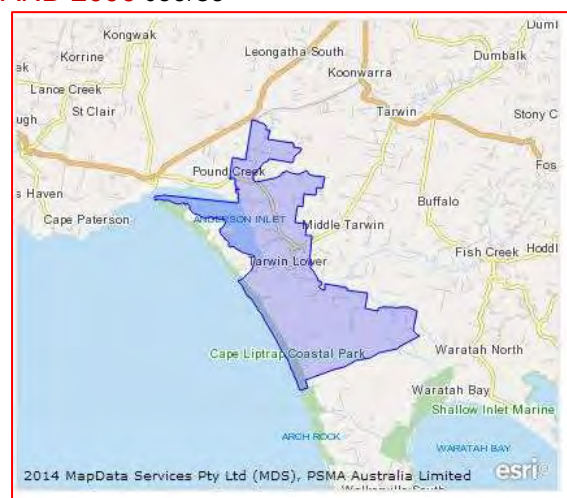
The South Gippsland Housing and Settlement Strategy (HSS) defines Tarwin Lower as a Coastal Village and recommends growth be contained to the settlement boundary due to no reticulated water, sewer or gas and environmental factors including bushfire, flood and acid sulphate soils. Planning overlays and restrictions reflect these environmental factors apply to some areas of the settlement.

Comparative data between Census 2006 and 2011 cannot be supplied for Tarwin Lower due to change in the census geography for the area. The 'urban centre' census data is not available for 2011. Data provided describes data for the state suburb area of Tarwin Lower 2011.

MAP 2: TARWIN LOWER CENSUS AREA 2011 AND 2006 Source¹



2006 State Suburb



2011 State Suburb

¹ ABS, Tarwin Lower Community Profile, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/SSC21393 (accessed February, 2014)

TABLE 1: TARWIN LOWER DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

	2011
People	363
Males	181
Females	182
Median Age	50
Aged 0 – 14 years	19%
Aged 65 years plus	22%
All private dwellings	210
Average people per household	2.5
Unoccupied dwellings	63 (31%)

Source ²

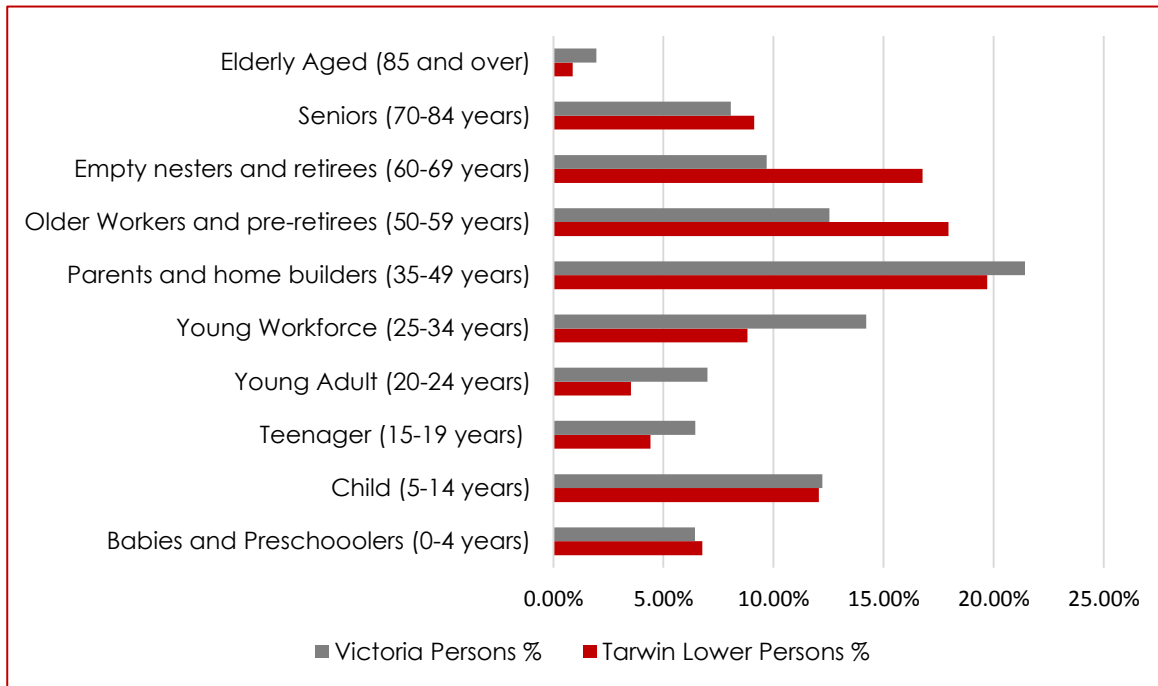
2.1.2 *Tarwin Lower and District Population*

Currently there are 363 people living in 210 private dwellings in Tarwin Lower and district with an average household size of 2.5. The median age of people in Tarwin Lower (State Suburbs) was 50 years. Children aged 0 - 14 years made up 18.8% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 21.6% of the population.

There are no people living in non-private dwellings indicating the lack of nursing homes and hostels in Tarwin Lower. There were 63 unoccupied dwellings on census night.

² ABS, Tarwin Lower Community Profile, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/SSC21393 (accessed February, 2014)

FIGURE 1: TARWIN LOWER AGE STRUCTURE 2011



Source³

In comparison with Victoria there are a higher proportion of older people living in Tarwin Lower. The graph above indicates a higher proportion of the service age groups: 'Older Workers and Pre Retirees' and 'Empty Nesters and Retiree's' than Victoria. The Tarwin Lower population comprised 35% of people aged between 50 and 69.

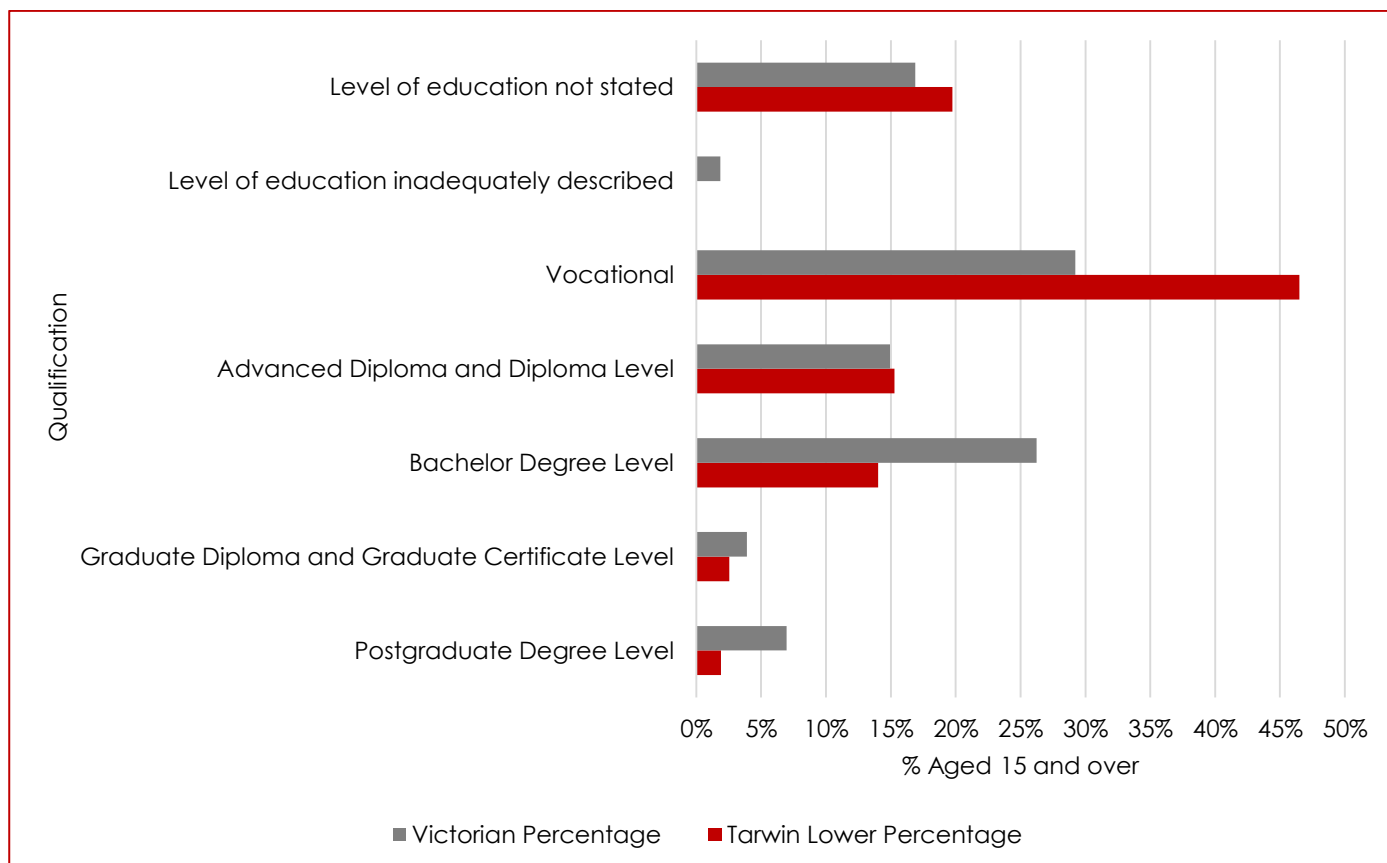
In Tarwin Lower 3.6% of people speak a language other than English at home however this accounts for only 6 people. The dominant languages spoken at home, other than English were Italian. There were no people who reported difficulty understanding English.

³ ABS, Tarwin Lower Community Profile, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/SSC21393 (accessed February, 2014)

2.1.3 Education

In Tarwin Lower there were a higher proportion of people aged 15 and over with vocational training (46.5%) compared to Victoria (29.23%). The proportion of people with 'no education stated' in Tarwin Lower was slightly higher than that of Victoria (16%). The older population and high proportion of farms included in this area accounts for this data with many older people leaving school at an earlier age or not requiring higher level formal education.

FIGURE 2 HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS ACHIEVED TARWIN LOWER 2011



Source⁴

Overall 36% of the Tarwin Lower population left school at year 10 or below. This is the same as South Gippsland and higher than Victoria (29%). Of people completing Year 12, there were 34% in Tarwin Lower, 33% in South Gippsland and 50% in Victoria. These data reflect the older population in the area who generally did not gain the levels of education as younger generations.

⁴ ABS, Tarwin Lower Community Profile, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/SSC21393 (accessed February, 2014)

2.1.4 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.¹

There was no one registered as unemployed in Tarwin Lower in 2011. There were 172 people age 15 and over in the workforce in Tarwin Lower. This represents 59% of the total population over 15. There were 93 people employed part time, 57 employed full time and 22 were away from work on leave.

TABLE 2: HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment - (hours worked per week)	Tarwin Lower		Victoria %
	Number	%	
1-15	21	12.5	11.4
16-24	12	7.1	9.7
25-34	20	11.9	10.1
35-39	13	7.7	17.6
40	77	45.8	44.9

Source ⁵

The voluntary work sector is an important part of Australia'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 Shire has a higher percentage of volunteers in comparison to Victoria and Australia. In Tarwin Lower this is even higher with 37% of the population or 107 people reported doing some volunteer work in the previous 12 months in comparison to 17.7% for Victoria and 29.3% for South Gippsland.

2.1.5 Industry of employment

Industries of employment statistics identify the business of the resident's employer which may be within the town or elsewhere. In many cases this information better informs the type of employment than the type of occupation.

Of those people employed in Tarwin Lower, 17.4% worked in Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming. Other major industries of employment included Dairy Cattle Farming

⁵ Census 2011 ABS Housing and Population Data (Accessed March 2014)

17.4%, Real Estate Services 4.2%, Pubs, Taverns and Bars 3.6% and School Education 3.6%.

TABLE 3: INCOME, MORTGAGE REPAYMENTS AND RENT

	\$/weekly
Median total personal income	\$410
Median total family income	\$1,012
Median total household income	\$971
Median mortgage repayment	\$1,083
Median rent	\$180

Source ⁶

2.1.6 **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 and 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.

Tarwin Lower is ranked 1028 on the SEIFA index of disadvantage for the population of 363. This indicates the Tarwin Lower area has relative advantage in comparison with South Gippsland Shire and Victoria.

TABLE 4: COMPARISON OF DISADVANTAGE TARWIN LOWER

Area	2011 index
Tarwin Lower	1028
Regional VIC	978
South Gippsland Shire	1000
Australia	1002
Victoria	1010

Source ⁷

⁶ Census 2011 ABS Housing and Population (accessed March 2014)

2.1.7 Internet Connection

Of 140 occupied dwellings in the Tarwin Lower area, 30 did not have internet connections. There were 99 with broadband connections, 3 with dial up and 8 with other (possibly satellite or Wi-Fi). A fast internet connection is increasingly required for accessing essential information and undertaking domestic and no-domestic business. Households with dial-up or no internet service can be left behind as business is increasingly being conducted on-line.

2.1.8 Household and family structure

In 2011 there were 140 households in Tarwin Lower. There are a lower proportion of lone person households (17%) compared with Victoria (25%). Family households comprise 79% of the population. There is a larger percentage of households with 2 people usually resident, 38% compared to 33% and a smaller percentage of households with 1 person usually resident, 23% compared with 25% in Victoria and 26% for South Gippsland.

2.1.9 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 Tarwin Lower 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.

Every household in Tarwin Lower had a motor vehicle at the household in 2011. Of those that owned at least one vehicle, there was a smaller proportion who owned just one car. In Victoria the number of households with no car is 8.3% and South Gippsland 3.8%.

2.2 Dwellings

In 2011, there were 210 dwellings in Tarwin Lower, of these 141 (69%) were occupied and 63 (17%) unoccupied. In contrast the Shire average for occupied dwellings is 71.9% and Victoria 89.0%.

There are a number of possible reasons for vacant dwellings, for example, residents temporarily away (e.g. on holiday), dwelling is vacant and for sale, 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 Census is held). Large percentages of unoccupied dwellings may indicate a holiday area, an area with a high population turnover, or a declining area with abandoned dwellings.

Data collected during the census in August is a good measure of holiday home ownership in Victoria. Equally the number of non-resident rate payers can support this information but does not account for permanent rental properties.

⁷ Census 2011 ABS Housing and Population (accessed March 2014)

2.3 **Future population projections**

2.3.1 **Forecast population summary**

The South Gippsland Housing and Settlement Strategy (HSS) recommends that development in Tarwin Lower occur within the town boundary. Within this area land supply is limited to 68 lots. There are 21 existing vacant lots in the township zone, 18 low density residential vacant lots and 29 low density potential lots. The nearest forecast development areas are in Foster. Population growth in Tarwin Lower is expected to be slow with minimal increase over the next 20 years.

2.3.2 **Drivers of population change**

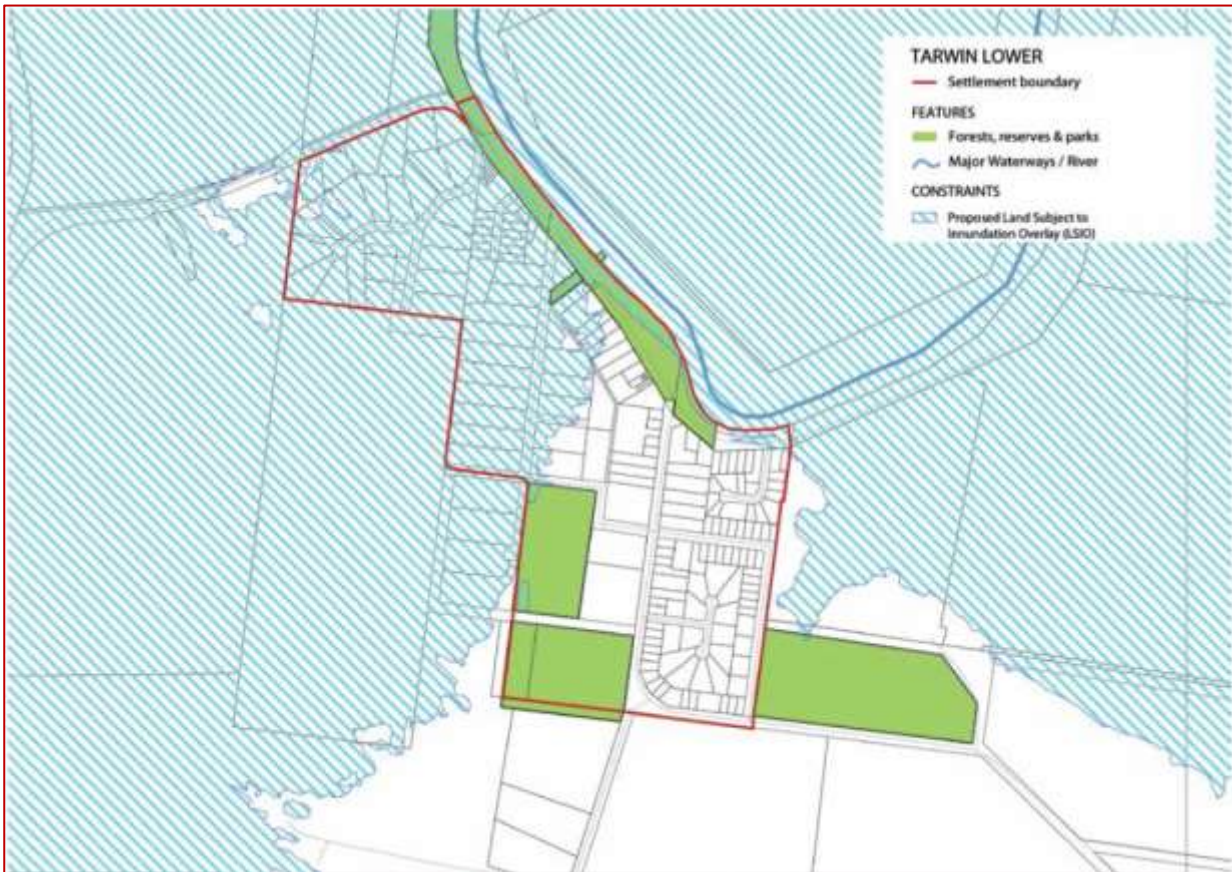
At the township level, the primary drivers of population change are:

- the age structure of the existing population,
- the housing markets attracted to and away from an area and
- migration of people into the area
- associated demographic characteristics (fertility patterns, household types etc.)
- the supply of dwellings and mix of housing stock in the area.

Real Estate Agents report an average of 3 vacant blocks sold annually over the last 2 years in Tarwin Lower. These sales do not necessarily result in construction of new houses or result in new people moving to the area. The Tarwin Lower Palms Estate continues to have lots available for sale.

It is expected that whilst the Tarwin Lower population will not necessarily grow significantly, it will age resulting in a change of needs for community infrastructure.

MAP 3: TARWIN LOWER DEVELOPMENT AREA



Source⁸

2.3.3 Summary

Whilst the population of Tarwin Lower is not expected to grow at the same rate as other towns in South Gippsland (Leongatha, Korumburra, Nyora) the demographic profile of the population is expected to change in the next 20 years. Rural living will continue to be popular with existing rural residential developments.

⁸ South Gippsland Housing and Settlement Strategy 2013

VENUS BAY CURRENT AND FORECAST DEMOGRAPHICS

2.4 CURRENT DEMOGRAPHICS

2.4.1 Summary

Venus Bay has highest percentage of unoccupied dwellings (82%) in South Gippsland and has a permanent population of 589 people.

Venus Bay is defined as a Coastal Village by the HSS which also notes the high number of holiday homes. Recognised constraints for Venus Bay are similar to those for Tarwin Lower and include no reticulated water, sewer or gas. In addition the fragmented development into three estates and the Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity of the area is also noted. Environmental factors considerably impact Venus Bay and include coastal processes, high bushfire risk, flood risk and acid sulphate soils. Residential areas are surrounded by Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and Anderson's Inlet. Planning restrictions applying to the whole settlement reflect these environmental factors. There are significant limitations with the current septic system.

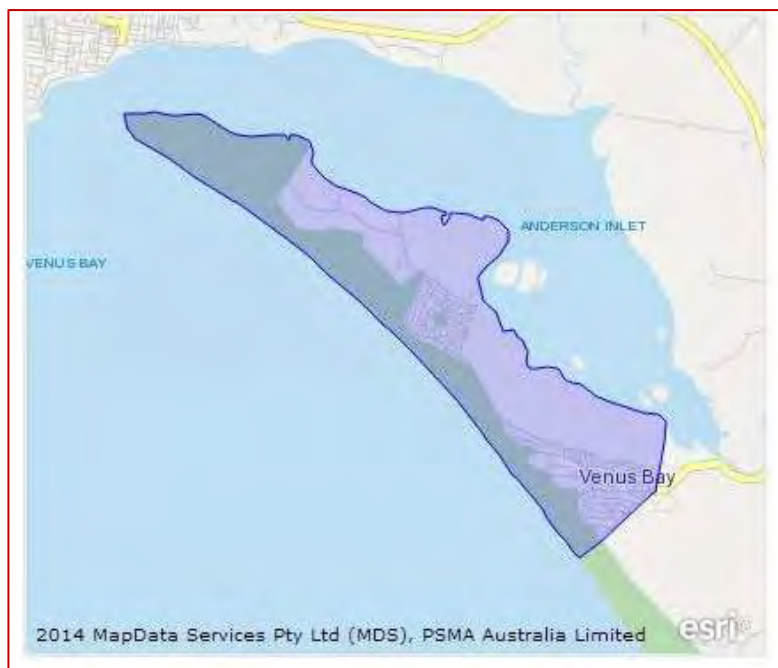
TABLE 5: VENUS BAY DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

	2011	2006	Change 2006 - 2011
People	589	509	+80
Males	296	262	+34
Females	293	247	+46
Median age	54	53	
Aged 0 – 14 years	68	66	+2
Aged 65 years plus	169	143	+26
All private dwellings	1586	1434	+152
Unoccupied dwellings	274	206	+68
Average people per household	1.8	1.8	0

Source ⁹

⁹ Census 2011 ABS Housing and Population Data (Accessed March 2014)

MAP 4: VENUS BAY 2011



Source¹⁰

2.4.2 Population

The permanent non-peak population of Venus Bay is 589 people with an average of 1.8 people per household. There are 1586 private dwellings in Venus Bay and no permanent residents living in non-private dwellings such as nursing homes or hostels.

There were 1,281 unoccupied dwellings on census night 2011. There are a number of possible reasons for vacant dwellings, for example, residents temporarily away (e.g. on holiday), dwelling is vacant and for sale, 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 Census is held). Unoccupied dwellings data are derived from an assessment by the Census Collector who observes and records the occupancy of the dwelling on Census night'.

TABLE 6: DWELLING TYPES

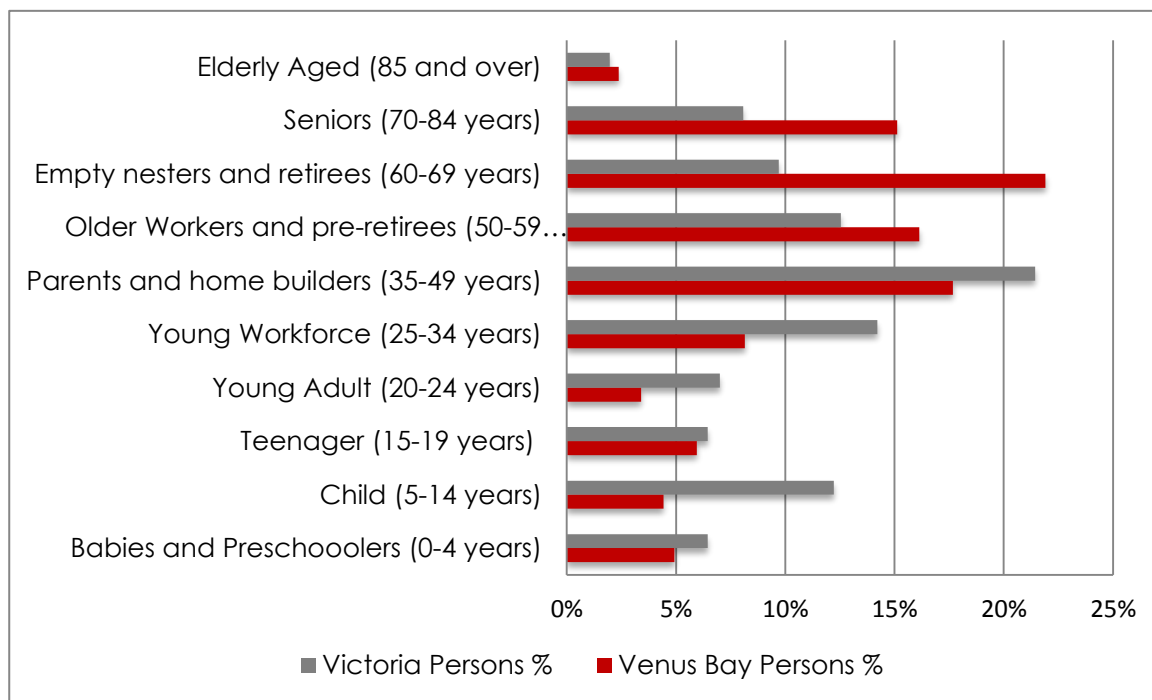
Dwelling type (private)	Venus Bay		Victoria	
	Number	%	Number	%
Occupied dwellings	274	17.6	1,944,690	88.7
Unoccupied	1281	82.4	246,742	11.3

Source ¹¹

¹⁰ ABS, Venus Bay Community Profile, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/SSC21393 (accessed February, 2014)

Overall there was an increase of 34 males and an increase of 46 females from 2006 to 2011. The number of people who identified themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander increased to four in 2011 there were no people identifying themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in 2006 in Venus Bay. There was also a decrease of 4 people speaking a language other than English of which 20 people in Venus Bay speak a language other than English and 40% of the people who speak a language other than English speak Greek in Venus Bay.

FIGURE 3: VENUS BAY AGE STRUCTURE 2011



Source¹²

The graph above shows comparison in the age structure in Venus Bay in 2011 to that of Victoria. Analysis of the age groups of Venus Bay in 2011 compared to Victoria shows that there is a higher proportion of 'Empty Nesters and Retirees' to people in the same age grouping as Victoria and the Shire. For Venus Bay 21% of the population were aged between 60 and 69. In comparison with South Gippsland and Victoria there are more people aged between 35 and 49 years 'Parents and Home Builders' compared to Venus Bay.

In Venus Bay 7.3% of people speak a language other than English at home. The dominant language spoken at home, other than English was Greek, with 1.4% (8 people). Other languages spoken are German, Dutch, Danish and French which

¹¹ ABS, Venus Bay Community Profile, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC21393 (accessed February 2014)

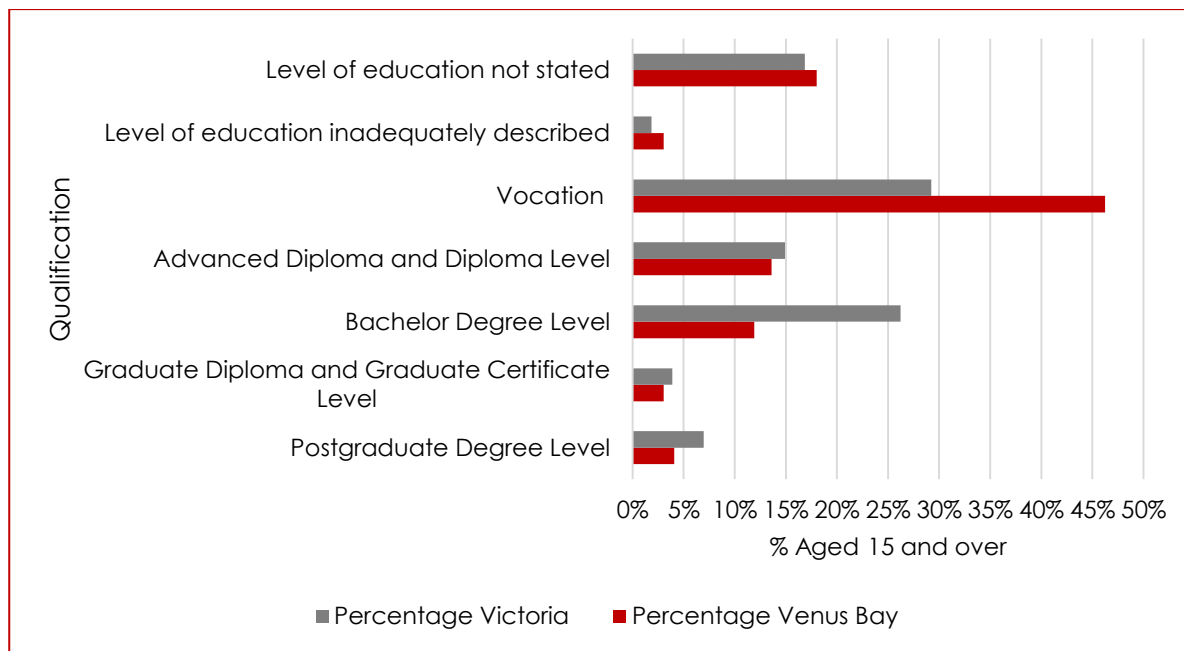
¹² ABS, Venus Bay Community Profile, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/SSC21393 (accessed February, 2014)

shared the same percentage of 0.5% (3 people each). There were no people reporting difficulty understanding English in Venus Bay.

2.4.3 Venus Bay Education

In Venus Bay there were a higher proportion of people aged 15 and over with vocation training (46%) compared to Victorian average (29%). The proportion of people with 'no qualifications stated' in Venus Bay was slightly higher than that in Victoria (18%)

FIGURE 4 HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS ACHIEVED VENUS BAY 2011



Source¹³

The level of schooling completed by the population of Venus Bay reflects the proportion of older people in the community rather than the level of schooling of the younger population. The proportion of people with vocational qualifications is also reflective of this. Overall 35% of the Venus Bay population left school at year 10 or below. This is equivalent to the South Gippsland population and higher than Victoria (26%). There were 37% of the population who completed Year 12 in Venus Bay compared to 33% in South Gippsland and 50% for Victoria. There was an increase of 50 people with Year 12 or equivalent from 2006 to 2011.

¹³ ABS, Venus Bay Community Profile, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC21393 (access February 2014)

2.4.4 Employment

There were 193 people aged 15 and over in the workforce in Venus Bay in 2011 of which 91 were employed full time, 72 employed part time and 15 people away from work. Unemployment in Venus Bay was 7.8%, higher than Victoria (5.4%) and South Gippsland as a whole (3.7%). In 2006 there were 21 people unemployed compared to 15 people in 2011.

TABLE 7: HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT

Employment - (hours worked per week)	Venus Bay		Victoria %
	Number	%	
1-15	25	14.1	11.4
16-24	20	9.7	9.7
25-34	28	15.8	10.1
35-39	13	7.3	17.6
40	78	44.1	44.9

Labour force, people aged 15 years and over

The voluntary work sector is an important part of Australia'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 Shire has a higher percentage of volunteers in comparison to Victoria and Australia. In Venus Bay this is even higher with 26% of the population or 132 people reported doing some volunteer work in the previous 12 months in comparison to 17.7% for Victoria and 29.3% for South Gippsland.

2.4.5 Industries of Employment

Industries of employment statistics identify the business of the resident's employer which may be within the town or elsewhere. This reflects both the employment available in the town and district and also the ready access residents of Venus Bay have to places of employment outside the town. In many cases this information better informs the type of employment than the type of occupation.

Of the employed people in Venus Bay, 7.9% worked in Cafes, Restaurants and Takeaway Food Services. Other major industries of employment included Residential Building Construction 5.1%, Architectural, Engineering and Technical Services 5.1%, Supermarket and Grocery Stores 4.5% and Pharmaceutical and Other Store-Based Retailing 3.4%.

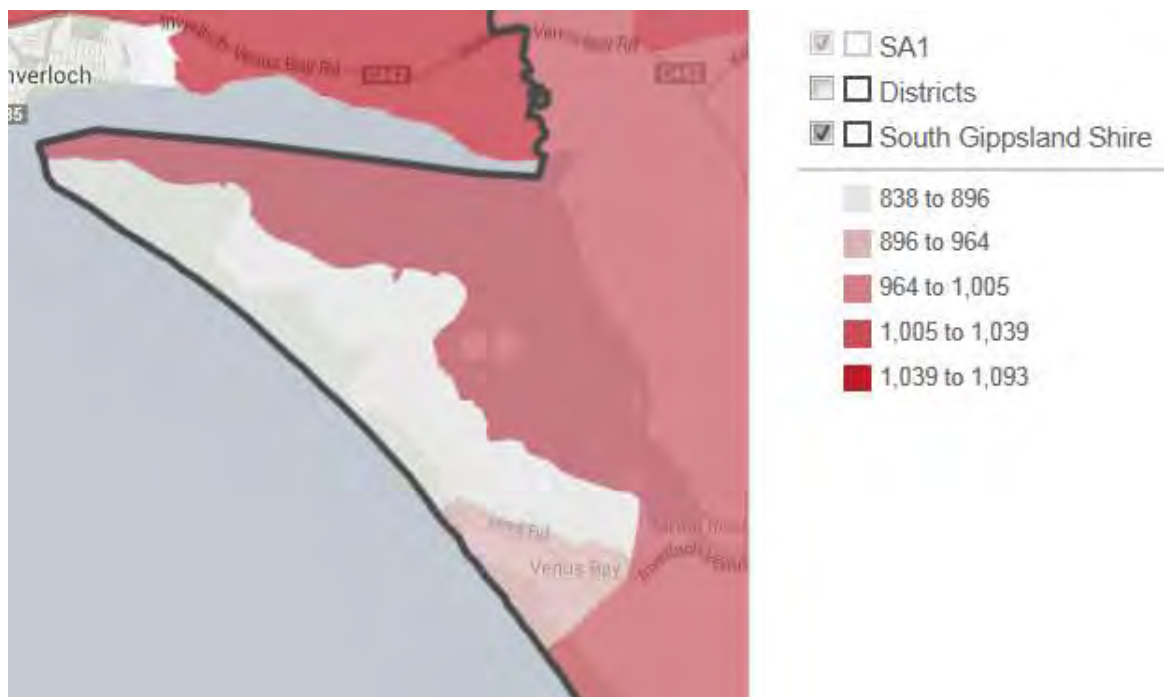
2.4.6 Venus Bay Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (SEIFA)

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 and Separated/Divorced). The average for Victoria and for South Gippsland is 1000. Scores above 1000 are considered relatively advantaged and those below relatively disadvantaged.

Venus Bay scores and average 921 on the SEIFA index of relative disadvantage indicating it is the most disadvantaged area in South Gippsland. Of the population of 589, 65% live in an area ranking 954 on the SEIFA index of relative disadvantage and 35% live in an area ranked 862, greater disadvantage.

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. This data can be used to lobby for additional services and is important when considering the ability for community members to afford private car transport in a climate of limited public transport.

MAP 5: VENUS BAY



Source ¹⁴

¹⁴ id Consulting Social Atlas <http://atlas.id.com.au/south-gippsland> (accessed March 2014)

The table below represents relative SEIFA scores of Venus Bay with other areas. Map 2 shows the relative SEIFA scores within Venus Bay.

TABLE 8: COMPARISON OF DISADVANTAGE VENUS BAY

Area	2011 index
Venus Bay	921
Regional VIC	978
South Gippsland Shire	1000
Australia	1002
Victoria	1010

Source¹⁵

2.4.7 Venus Bay Internet Connection

Of 274 houses occupied on census night in 2011 there were 83 with no internet connection, a decrease from 110 in 2006.

TABLE 9: INTERNET CONNECTION VENUS BAY

Internet connection type	2006	2011	Change
No internet connection	113	83	+27
Broadband	44	158	+114
Dial up	60	18	-42
Other	0	8	+8
Total	104	184	+80

Source¹⁶

A fast internet connection is increasingly required for accessing essential information and undertaking domestic and no-domestic business. Households with dial-up or no internet service can be left behind as business is increasingly being conducted on-line.

2.4.8 Household and family structure

In 2011 there were 274 households in Venus Bay, up from 230 households in 2006. There is a higher proportion lone person households (31%) compared with Victoria (25%). Almost half of all households in Venus Bay have 2 people usually resident.

¹⁵ ABS, Housing and Population Data Census 2011

¹⁶ ABS, Housing and Population Data Census 2011

2.4.9 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 Venus Bay 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.

There are 15 households in Venus Bay Lower with had no motor vehicles in 2011 and 16 in 2006. In Victoria the number of households with no car is 8.3% and South Gippsland 3.8%.

2.5 Venus Bay Dwellings

In 2011, there were 1555 separate dwellings in Venus Bay. Of these, 1,281 (82.4%) were unoccupied and 274 (17.6%) occupied. This reflects the high proportion of holiday homes in Venus Bay, the highest proportion in South Gippsland where total holiday homes comprise 24% of dwellings.

There will also be a number of dwellings vacant and for sale, newly built and not yet occupied or the residents may be temporarily away on holiday or in hospital.

The data collected during the Census is a good measure of holiday homes as it is taken on a week night in August which is not a popular holiday time in Victoria. The number of non-resident rate payers can also provide a good indication but does not account permanent rental properties, or vacant properties.

A considerable percentage of dwellings in the coastal areas of South Gippsland are owned by non-resident rate payers as can be seen by the table below. Note the percentage difference between the percentage of non-resident rate payers (71%) percentage and the percentage of unoccupied dwellings (82.4%).

TABLE 10: NON RESIDENT RATE PAYERS AND PROPERTIES SOUTH GIPPSLAND COASTAL TOWNS

	Sandy Point	Venus Bay	Walkerville	Walkerville North	Walkerville South	Waratah Bay	Yanakie
Non-resident Ratepayers	667	1626	173	43	21	106	109
Properties	756	2290	351	49	25	123	567*
Percentage Non-resident	88.2%	71.0%	49.2%	87.7%	84.0%	86.1%	19.2%

* Includes Yanakie rural, Tarwin South and Waratah North ** Includes vacant lots Source South Gippsland Shire Rates Dept

2.6 Venus Bay Future population projections

2.6.1 Forecast population summary

The South Gippsland Housing and Settlement Strategy (HSS) has provided forecasts for future growth in Venus Bay and assume the current proportion of unoccupied dwellings will continue to 2031. The requirement for new dwellings (mostly holiday homes) is based on the average number of dwelling approvals between 2007 and 2011. There are 692 existing vacant lots in the Venus Bay township zones.

TABLE 11: FORECAST POPULATION GROWTH VENUS BAY 2011 - 2031

	2011	2031	change
Population	589	791	202
Occupied dwellings	274	398	124
Unoccupied dwellings	1,281	83%	
Average household size (persons)	1.8	1.8	
Total dwellings	1,555		

Source ¹⁷

The HSS recommends exploring opportunities to optimise use of existing facilities. Take advantage of the community infrastructure in Tarwin Lower. Improve connections to larger centres for higher level services and monitor sea level rise in relation to the settlements.

2.6.2 Venus Bay Drivers of population change

At the township level, the primary drivers of population change are:

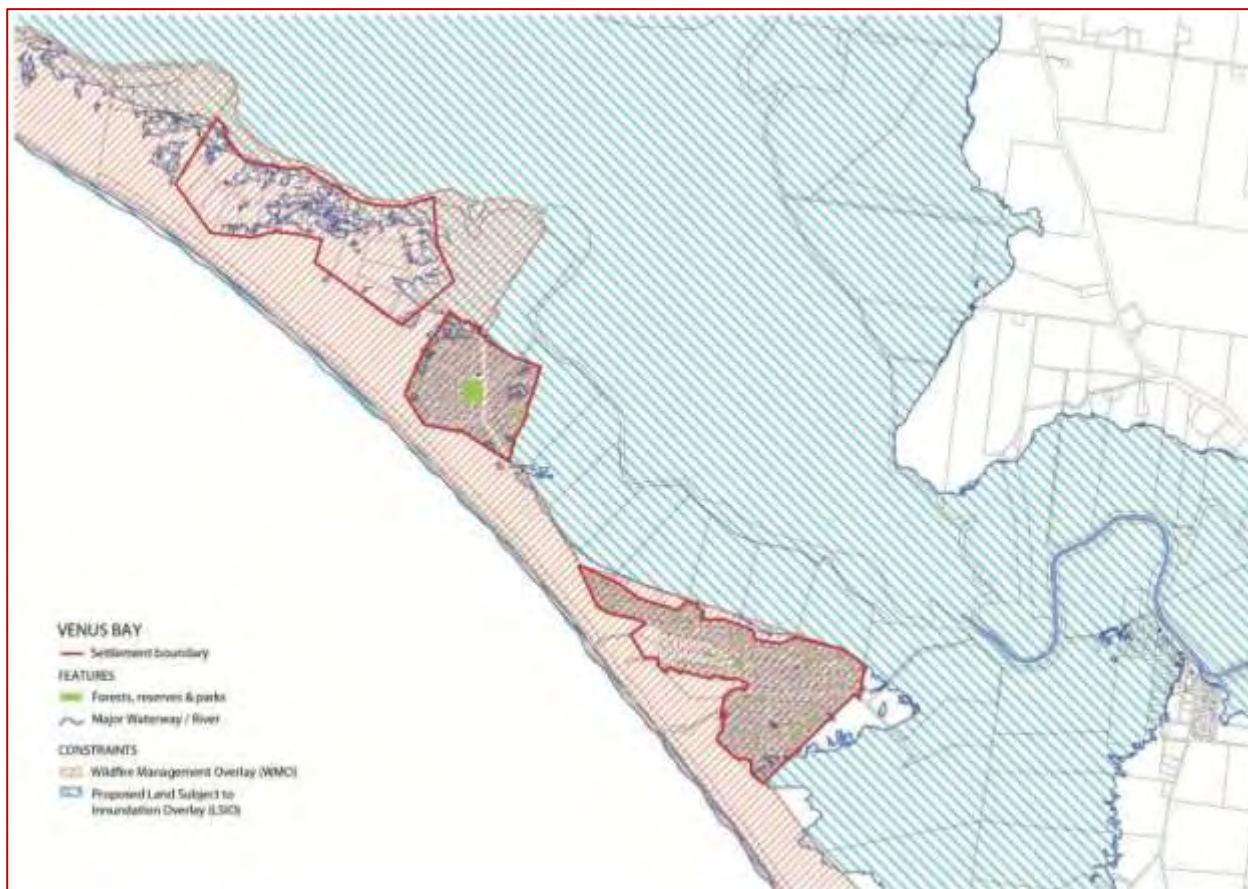
- the age structure of the existing population,
- the housing markets attracted to and away from an area and
- migration of people into the area
- associated demographic characteristics (fertility patterns, household types etc.)
- the supply of dwellings and mix of housing stock in the area.

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. The supply of housing in Venus

¹⁷ Planisphere, 2013, South Gippsland Housing and Settlement Strategy

Bay could accommodate people seeking affordable housing; however the lack of public transport and services may not provide an overall advantage.

MAP 6: VENUS BAY DEVELOPMENT AREA



Source¹⁸

2.6.3 Venus Bay Summary

The population of Venus Bay is expected to grow by 200 people in the next 20 years and the proportion of people over 60 years increase considerably. With many unoccupied dwellings and a population which fluctuates during summer, this increase will have minimal impact on existing facilities. There is expected to be an increased demand for services provided to the area from the increased and ageing population. Services such as the community bus may become increasingly viable with the increase of people unable to drive to large service centres.

There is a strong tendency for non-resident home owners to move to their holiday homes permanently. It is difficult to estimate the rate at which with this will occur over forthcoming years and how this will impact the growth of the permanent population.

¹⁸ Planisphere, 2013, South Gippsland Housing and Settlement Strategy

3 EARLY YEARS AND PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

3.1 Introduction

Venus Bay has a lower proportion of children under 4 years than other areas of South Gippsland (4.9%) while Tarwin Lower has the same proportion as South Gippsland (6.8%). In total there are 52 children aged under 4 years and 116 aged 11 years and under in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

In recent years there have been between 7 - 10 births registered to the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay postcode with an average 8.5 births per year between 2007 and 2013. There are 47 students enrolled at the Tarwin Lower Primary School and an estimated 65 primary school aged children living in the Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower. This indicates there are at least 18 children aged under 12 attending early years services and primary school outside Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower.

3.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

South Gippsland Municipal Early Years Plan 2011 – 2016. The Victorian Government recognises that quality kindergarten services, through engagement of children in high quality learning experiences benefit all children and their families.

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



3.3 Current Provision

Kindergarten

There are no kindergarten services in Venus Bay or Tarwin Lower. Children from Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower attend kindergarten at Inverloch, 20km (Bass Coast), Tarwin Valley Kindergarten, 22km (Meeniyah) or Leongatha 33km where there is a range of kindergarten or childcare choices. Many children in South Gippsland do not attend kindergarten in the town where they live.

Long Day Care

There is no long day care, family day care or out of school hours care in Venus Bay or Tarwin Lower. The nearest childcare centre is in Foster, Leongatha or Wonthaggi.

Playgroups

The Cook and Book program is an award winning program for preschool children conducted at the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre in partnership between the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation and South Gippsland Shire Council. A Carers and Kids Fun Morning Playgroup is conducted at the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre on a Tuesday morning 9.30am – 11.30am. Preschool aged children and parents are also welcomed.



Primary School

Tarwin Lower and District Primary School has an enrolment of 47 children, five teaching staff and 3 non-teaching staff. A number of primary school aged students travel to larger schools in Leongatha, Fish Creek and Foster.

Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon Active After School Program (AASC) operates at the school with a free afternoon tea and activities available to enrolled students of the school. Activities change each term with two sports running each term from 3:45-4:45pm.

3.4 Consultation

The Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Community Plan in 2012 identified a kindergarten service as a high priority for the area.

4.5 Future Demand

Due to the number of holiday homes in Venus Bay leaving many dwellings vacant for the majority of the year there is the possibility of unforeseen inward migration of people to the area with little notice due to factors such as affordable housing supply. This

cannot be predicted and in the current environment is unlikely. On this basis the population of young children and families is expected to remain stable over the next 5 – 10 years.

Birth rates in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower have risen slightly from seven per year in 2007 – 2008 to around 10 per year from 2011 – 2014. Children aged 0 – 4 years is expected to remain lower in Venus Bay than in Tarwin Lower. If migration to the area remains at current levels, the current 10 births per year are expected to continue for the next 5 - 10 years.

TABLE 1 ANNUAL BIRTH RATES VENUS BAY AND TARWIN LOWER 2007 - 2014

Year	Number of births
2013-14 (Projected)	10
2012-2013	10
2011-2012	10
2010-2011	5
2009-2010	8
2008- 2009	11
2007- 2008	7

Source¹⁹

Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Industry benchmarks for towns as small as Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower are not relevant. The investigation of the viability of an early years' service should rely on birth figures and local knowledge (maternal and child health nurse, postal service) of families moving into the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The South Gippsland Early Childhood Services Building Assets Policy Framework recommends the investigation into the demand for and viability of a kindergarten service up to 2018. If the population increases sufficiently to make a kindergarten service viable, its location at the school would be the ideal model. This would allow smooth transition to school and provide greater convenience for parents.

If a kindergarten is viable and supported by the community, then it should be built as an integrated children's service. For Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower this would include kindergarten and before and after school care, rooms for maternal and child health services and playgroup.

¹⁹ South Gippsland Shire Council Maternal and Child Health (accessed February 2014)

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 parents about where to seek help providing 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.

The integration of early years services can be within one building or a cluster of buildings within close proximity to each other.

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TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EARLY YEARS SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Education: 4 year old kindergarten	No service currently available	Services outside the towns are accessed	Gauge viability of service in 10 years. If viable a shared facility in the school grounds
Childcare	No service currently available	Neighbouring towns	Family day care educator for local childcare requires no infrastructure requirements
Playgroups	Community health centre	Tuesday	Coordination with maternal and child health service maintained

²⁰ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 'Research and Evidence', in *Integrated Children's services*, last updated 9 March 2011, viewed on 17 October 2012, <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement/integratedservices/research.htm>.

4 YOUTH

4.1 Introduction

In the 2011 Census there were 24 people aged 12 – 18 years in Venus Bay and 18 in Tarwin Lower and district. Population data suggests that most young adults move away from the area after they turn 18. At the 2011 census there were no people aged between 19 and 22 years living in Tarwin and district and six people aged between 19 and 21 in Venus Bay. The lack of local job opportunities, services and infrastructure do not tend to retain young adults in remote rural areas.

School buses are available for secondary school students travelling to South Gippsland Secondary College, Foster, Leongatha Secondary College and Newhaven College. The pony club meets behind the primary school in the recreation reserve and is the only youth specific club in the area with approximately 6 members. Formal sport including football, netball, cricket and tennis are played in Tarwin Lower. There is a skate park near the community centre in Venus Bay. The Fish Creek Scout Troup includes young people from Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.



4.2 Council Plans and Strategies / Government Policy

South Gippsland Shire Council Youth Policy South Gippsland Shire Council aims to increase opportunities for young people to have input into local government planning, strategy, policy and program decisions via their facilitation of the Youth council.

Engage, Involve, Create: Victorian Government Youth Statement 2012 Describes the ways in which the Office for Youth supports youth through government programs and funding

Office for Youth The Office for Youth runs a range of programs that youth can become actively involved in. The programs and services are designed to encourage young people to be aware of and get involved in their community.

Office of Youth Affairs Provides funding to locally delivered services for youth including, but not restricted to Anglicare

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.

Youth Affairs Council of Victoria The peak body and leading policy advocate on young people's issues in Victoria

Victoria Police Child and Youth Strategy 2009 – 2013 This investigates the methods to reduce: crime, road trauma and violence and antisocial behaviour. It also investigates methods to improve youth engagement and effective diversion processes.

4.3 Current Provision

There are very few young people living in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower and district. The provision of a recreation reserve and pony club in Tarwin Lower caters for the rural populations of the broader district. The location of the skate bowl near the community centre provides a central focus in Venus Bay.

The L2P Driver Education Program has participants from Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower. The L2P Driver Education Program is an initiative facilitated by Council to help drivers to achieve the skills and experience required to gain their probationary licence. The program targets young people who experience difficulty in finding a supervisor to help them achieve the required 120 hours of driving experience.

The Surf Lifesaving Club is often a place for young people interested in community participation. The Surf Lifesaving Club is located in Venus Bay with a clubhouse. Volunteer patrols operate weekends from last weekend in November to Easter and paid lifeguards operate weekdays from Boxing Day to Australia Day. The Surf Lifesaving Club building has been reported as requiring renovation as a result of environmental impacts of its coastal location.

4.4 Consultation

A survey conducted with young people aged 12 to 18 years in the development of the Tarwin Lower / Venus Bay Community Plan²¹ identified ideas and suggestions for project development in the community. Results from 40 returned surveys included:

- frequent bus to Wonthaggi / Leongatha and Inverloch
- footpaths, parks and a playground
- heated pool, gym for sporting events
- live music and an outdoor cinema.

The respondents requested improvements to the recreation facilities including the skate bowl, tennis courts, parks and playgrounds. Improvements to the car parks at the beach and shops and the number of shops available were also identified.

The activities young people would like were a carnival, live music, surfing lessons, a fun run/ treasure hunt and specialised classes and activities.



²¹ Community Directions Tarwin Lower & Venus Bay Community Plan 2010

4.5 Future Demand

The provision of specific infrastructure to allow young people to socialise, engage and recreate in accord with the broader community is important for the overall health and wellbeing of the community¹.

It is difficult to meet the needs of youth in small communities like Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower where there are few people in this age group. This increases the need to open community facilities to all users. The number of young people aged between 12 and 18 will remain small with the number of people in their early 20s also likely to remain low. The need for purpose built youth facilities is unlikely. Areas such as the Venus Bay Community Centre and Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve are natural meeting places for young people for recreation. Extending their use by providing indoor youth spaces after school or on weekends may provide a place for young people to meet.

Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Best Practice

The best approach to youth-related issues is one which is holistic, community-based and involves young people in the process¹. 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.

Some states have developed urban design guidelines for children and youth as part of broader youth policies²², as crime prevention strategic planning²³, and to improve safety and inclusion of children and youth in the local community²⁴. Neighbouring Councils with such as Casey Shire Council have developed extensive youth strategies to address needs of their large youth population.

While it is not proposed that specific youth areas be established in Venus Bay or Tarwin Lower the concepts described remain relevant to all community facilities and areas. 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.

²² Department Urban Affairs and Planning, 1999, *Urban Design Guidelines With Young People In Mind*, Planning NSW.

²³ R. White, 1998, *Public Spaces for Young People*, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

²⁴ NSW Commission for Children and Young People, 2009.

TABLE 1 YOUTH DESIGN GUIDELINES – FOR YOUTH FRIENDLY PUBLIC AREAS

<p>Access and Circulation</p> <p>Allow for access and circulation on foot, bikes, skateboards or scooters.</p>	<p>Maximise access to public transport.</p> <p>Locate pick up and drop off points as close as possible to public spaces and young people's activities.</p> <p>Bus pick up and drop off points should be well-lit, seating, 10 minute parking, increased public space for school bags, secure bike storage facilities, positioned in active locations with casual surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Walking and cycling paths which should be well-lit and provide surveillance opportunities.</p> <p>Safe, easy to use, connecting routes to youth facilities such as skateboard ramps, 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>Range of users</p> <p>Integrate rather than segregate young people from the wider community.</p>	<p>Public spaces which 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, seats can be easily observed. This provides opportunities for watching passersby and hanging out as an activity rather than an obstruction.</p> <p>Youth specific facilities integrated into town centre and positioned where there is passing life and activity at street level possibly in shop fronts.</p>
<p>Mix of Uses</p> <p>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>Encourage residential uses above shop fronts in town centre to facilitate activity, providing youth services and facilities at street level.</p>
<p>Making safer places</p> <p>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>The public stage</p> <p>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>Keep public space public</p> <p>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>
<p>Separate but visible</p>	<p>Provide skate parks in public areas in locations that are visible to other public spaces users but separate from main paths of movement.</p>
<p>Basic services</p> <p>Public services that are discreet but accessible</p>	<p>Co-locate public toilets, sanitary facilities, phones in public areas where they are easy to find, discreet and where surveillance opportunities exist</p>

Source ²⁵

RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth spaces within existing community centres: Existing indoor and outdoor local meeting areas would benefit secondary school students who attend a range of secondary schools. Opportunities for them to meet outside of school are currently limited.

Event participation: The opportunity to organise a carnival or local event is an opportunity to invite young people to work together and with the broader community to help organise an event. The provision of space in the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve or Venus Bay Community Centre for youth to come together to plan for activities or events makes good use of existing, familiar facilities and brings the community together.

Expansion of skate bowl: The skate bowl has limited space to expand or for spectators to stand with a steep bank on one side and



²⁵ R. White, 1998 *Public Spaces for Young People*, Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, Canberra

driveway on the other. An investigation of possible expansion of the skate bowl may make it more inviting to use.

Paths and trails: Paths connecting residential areas to recreation points, schools and shops foster independence in young people who use walking, horse riding and cycling for transport. The shared river path between Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay provides access between the facilities in the two towns. Signage indicating the links with this path to other on-road bike lane is important for continuity particularly for visitors to the area who may be unaware of the on road cycle paths within Venus Bay. Connections for cyclists provide safe access to young people with no alternative transport especially during the busy summer period.

TABLE 2: YOUTH SPECIFIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES – CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Youth specific outdoor recreation	Skate bowl Pony club Fish Creek Cub and Scout Troup	Consider extended sheltered seating area at skate bowl Access to shared pathways to and from Pony Club to ensure independent access on horseback. Maintain access to pony club grounds close to the town centre Continue current delivery
Youth specific indoor meeting spaces	Community Centre Sporting clubrooms	Trial youth drop in space after school for socializing and study group
Paths and Trails	Shared path on river side and on-road bike lane	Signpost links between shared path, on road pedestrian bike ways to ensure safe access

5 RETAIL AND TOURISM

5.1 Introduction and Definition

There is a broad range of retail business in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay not seen in similar sized small towns in other areas of South Gippsland. This reflects the influence a large influx of summer visitors can have on the viability of a business and the needs of more remote communities for local retail. There are no designated industrial areas in Venus Bay or Tarwin Lower.

5.2 Policy and Council Plans and Strategies

South Gippsland Council Plan 2013 – 2017

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 Draft Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2014 – 2019 Aims to build on South Gippsland's economic strength to enhance the economic wellbeing and quality of life of its residents.

Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Structure Plan June 2013

Recommends rezoning of land, development of Development Contributions Plan Overlay (DCPO), preparation of residential development design guidelines and completion of a community infrastructure assessment.

Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Urban Design Framework July 2005

This recommends initiatives on urban design and strategic planning to support the future growth of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

5.3 Current Provision

5.3.1 Retail

Tarwin Lower has a diversity of businesses including an IGA supermarket, Bendigo Bank, pharmacy, butcher, fuels supplies, craft, hair and beauty, hardware, real estate agent, post office and hotel. The supermarket and fuel supplies include take away food and café. The Bendigo Bank is an annex of the Inverloch Bendigo Bank and is located within the



pharmacy. There is a Bendigo Bank ATM at the supermarket.

In Venus Bay the range of retail reflects the visitor market with four cafes, two clothing and gift shops, hair and beauty, two real estate agents and a general store. In the general store there is a café and take away.

5.3.2 Industry

There are no designated industrial areas in Tarwin Lower or Venus Bay; however there are small scale construction businesses.

5.3.3 Tourism

The high proportion of holiday homes in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower reflect the attraction of the areas for tourism. The majority of visitors to South Gippsland and owners of holiday homes come in summer and stay for around 28 days per year. While staying in the area the majority of holiday home owners like to go to the beach (83%) followed by general sightseeing (59%), eating out in restaurants (51%), fishing (50%) and visiting local produce, food and wine (49%).²⁶

Venus Bay is located between the ocean beach and Andersons Inlet. Venus Bay has five beaches access points along its 24 km length. The Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club is located at Beach No.1 and provides patrols during the summer months. The Tarwin River has river boardwalks and fishing platforms used by both day visitors, locals and the summer holiday population. A shared path along the Tarwin River between Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay provides walking and cycling access over 4km. Point Smythe is located beyond the residential area of Venus Bay and is managed by Parks Victoria. A 6km walking track allows access through tea tree to the confluence of Andersons Inlet and the ocean beach.

Beyond local attractions, other natural attractions are visited by people staying in Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower and district on holiday. Popular places include Bald Hills Wetland Reserve, Cape Liptrap lighthouse, Bear Gully and Walkerville South, Waratah Bay and Wilson's Promontory.

The Venus Bay Caravan Park has power and water to all sites. Ensuite sites are available and group bookings can be accommodated. There is a heated recreation room open for meetings and social events. There are many other types of holiday accommodation including bed and breakfast, health spa, unit accommodation and a motel at Tarwin Lower.



²⁶ Urban Enterprise, 2012, Gippsland Regional Tourism Research Study, Holiday Home Research - South Gippsland Destination Gippsland

As well as the substantial increase in the population over the summer months there are increasing numbers of holiday home owners, weekend visitors and day visitors who access the area.

5.4 Future Demand

5.4.1 Retail

The influx of visitors to Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower will continue to support the viability of local retail businesses over quieter periods. In Venus Bay cafés and places to eat may find it more difficult to remain open throughout the year. If site rentals remain low the option to open on weekends only throughout the quieter periods may be viable if summer profits are adequate.

Tarwin Lower will continue to be the retail centre of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower and the broader farming and tourism businesses in the area. Holiday home owners are increasingly spending more weekends out of the summer period in their holiday homes. Home maintenance and repairs is the largest item of household expenditure by holiday home owners of total household expenditure in the area supporting the local Tarwin Valley hardware store.²⁷



While most residents will continue to undertake larger grocery shopping in Leongatha or Wonthaggi the Tarwin Lower supermarket supplies a broad range of groceries at an affordable price. Plans to redevelop the Tarwin Lower supermarket reflects the success of this business and response to future local, holiday home and visitor's needs.

5.4.2 Industry

It is unlikely there will be any future demand for dedicated industrial zoning in the area.

5.4.3 Tourism

Tourism is a significant contributor to the local economy of South Gippsland Shire visitation and tourism expenditure in Australia are forecast to grow. While peak visitation occurs in the summer months, holiday home owners are spending more weekends across the year at their holiday homes.²⁸

²⁷ Urban Enterprise, 2012, Gippsland Regional Tourism Research Study, Holiday Home Research - South Gippsland Destination Gippsland

Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay have a broad range accommodation types available including bed and breakfasts, motel, hotel, caravan park and relaxation 'spa' accommodation. Bed and breakfast and unit accommodation may expand in response to an increase in weekend visitors wishing to stay in the area rather than return to Melbourne in the day.

Weekend and day visitors are increasingly using the fishing platforms on the Tarwin River, the shared walking trail, beaches and Point Smythe walking trail. Holiday home owners in South Gippsland are more likely to visit local markets and produce supplies, engage in surfing and go cycling than visitors to other areas of Gippsland indicating that maintenance and promotion of local natural attractions and markets will attract a large proportion of holiday home owners, weekend and day visitors throughout the year.

Weekend getaways within easy driving distance from Melbourne suburbs are affordable and popular. Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower are within 2 hours of Melbourne, have ample accommodation and activities and will see increased interest for increased weekend tourism throughout the year.



²⁸ Urban Enterprise, 2012, Gippsland Regional Tourism Research Study, Holiday Home Research, - South Gippsland, Destination Gippsland

RECOMMENDATIONS

Retail support:

Continue support to local business to work together to promote retail in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay and highlight the diversity of shops and food outlets in the area. By working together the local traders are able to support each other to ensure the relatively high provision of retail variety is maintained to allow provision throughout the year. This will increase the likelihood of customers coming to Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay to visit the cafés, restaurants and activities offered and enjoy the atmosphere and natural attractions provided in this area.

Proposed street scape Venus Bay:

A proposal by representatives of The Beach and River Business Association of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower (BARBA) for an improved street scape was received by Council in August 2013. Suggestions in the proposal aimed to provide a village feel to the shopping area of Venus Bay through the provision of planter boxes, crossing points and increased seating. Whilst the initial proposal implied these changes to be the full responsibility of Council, with professionally prepared plans and in kind support from community groups such as BARBA and the men's shed, a partnership between Council and the community could result in aspects of the proposal being implemented. Increased emphasis on the Venus Bay retail area as a village with the provision of additional seats, plantings and a possible colour theme could improve the amenity of the area for pedestrians.



Tourism:

Tourism and a higher proportion of holiday homes in the area will continue to bring economic advantage to Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. Tourism will increase to the area as weekend and day destinations closer to Melbourne become busier and visitors seek places that are less congested or that provide closer contact with natural attractions.



Promoting native flora and fauna:

Promotion of the area for its natural attractions, accommodation supply and retail diversity will benefit the area. Continued promotion of the area through a broad range of media should be maintained. Any new opportunities for promotion of the area should be considered. Current tourism providers will need to be responsive to an increasing demand for people wishing to stay for weekends throughout the year.

Tourist Impact on Venus Bay:

- Management of beach parking has been introduced in an attempt to keep beach roads clear of parked cars during busy summer periods. This is a high risk bush fire area and safe transit of all vehicles in case of emergency is necessary.
- A comprehensive education program of the summer population and day visitors to Venus Bay of the need to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles and safe evacuation in case of emergency is required along with monitoring of parking where no standing signs are erected.
- Investigation of a broad range of methods to communicate rules and the need for safety is required to reach visitors to the area as well as the permanent population and holiday home owners.
- Increased service provision in summer months to ensure rubbish collection and toilet cleaning match the needs of their increased use by the influx of visitors.



TABLE 1: CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED RETAIL AND TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Retail	A diverse range of retail stores include supermarkets, butcher, pharmacy, community bank, hardware, produce supplies, fuel, hairdressers, takeaway stores and cafés	Private retailers	Encourage shop local by providing welcoming street scaping and shared promotion of local retail. Investigate provision of local produce to attract people to shop in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay
Tourism	Natural attractions include beach, walking, and fishing. Accommodation is broad and varied including caravan park, bed and breakfast, cabin and holiday home accommodation and spa retreat style accommodation	Some key businesses expanding	Support to existing businesses to encourage expansion and employment



6 COMMUNITY GROUPS, COMMUNITY PLAN AND MEETING PLACES

6.1 Introduction

The Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Community Plan 2010¹ identified 19 community groups and 17 recreation groups serving Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. Many are shared between both towns, or are based in the neighbouring towns of Walkerville, Fish Creek or Middle Tarwin.

The community groups meet at a variety of venues. In Tarwin Lower these include the Community Health Centre, Hall, Primary School, Recreation Reserve, Pony Club, Hotel, craft shop and Men's Shed. In Venus Bay, the Community Centre, Surf Lifesaving Club, and local cafés are venues for meetings.

6.2 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

6.3 Current Provision

6.3.1 Community Plan

'To be a resilient, environmentally conscious community, meeting intergenerational aspirations and infrastructure needs'

Source²⁹

The Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Community Plan was developed to provide the opportunity for the communities to discuss and decide the future they see for themselves. Following extensive consultation, the five year plan was prepared in 2010 and contains a vision and the aspirations of the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay communities for a period of 5 years. The vision will be fulfilled through a list of priority areas.

²⁹ Tarwin Lower Venus Bay Community Plan 2010

Input was gathered from primary school students, youth aged 12 – 18 and the broader community.

An extensive 'bank of ideas' was voted on and reduced to 36 ideas for action. Of these, the projects with the most votes were identified with Tarwin Lifestyle Villas (Riverside Retirement Villas), paths and trails, kindergarten, dog off-lead section of the beach, disability facilities and rubbish being allocated to first and second priority project groups. The Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay Community Plan Working Group works with support of the South Gippsland Shire Council to annually evaluate and review priority projects, upgrade existing projects as new priorities and keep the broader community informed of progress.

6.3.2 **Community groups**

Community groups in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay often have members from both towns. Some community groups are based in the neighbouring towns of Walkerville, Fish Creek or Middle Tarwin.

The community groups meet at a variety of venues. In Tarwin Lower these include the Community Health Centre, Hall, Primary School, Recreation Reserve, Pony Club, Hotel, Riverside Crafts shop and Men's Shed. In Venus Bay, the Community Centre, Surf Lifesaving Club, and local cafés are venues for meetings.

Community groups in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower not identified in the original community plan are now evident and active. Recreation groups, environmental groups, business associations and social groups meet for their various interests in facilities which are mostly multipurpose. New community action groups establish to address emerging issues and continue for as long as the issues require response. Many community members belong to many different community groups.



6.3.3 Meeting spaces

Venus Bay

The Venus Bay Community Centre is an active centre offering a range of activities and meeting areas. Activities include Cook N Book

playgroup in partnership with the

library service; a community food project; computer, photography and multimedia classes; and a community op shop. The community centre is used by a broad range of community groups and produces a detailed monthly newsletter. There are meeting rooms, orchard and skate bowl and an opportunity shop. The op shop has reduced meeting space in the Community Centre.

The Surf Lifesaving Club has a meeting room used mainly by club members. The caravan park promotes a heated recreation room available for meetings and social events. Local cafés also host community meetings by arrangement.

The Venus Bay, Tarwin Lower and District Men's Shed is located in Lees Road Venus Bay with opening hours Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am – 1pm. It has been established for 4 years and has 20 members. They have a variety of tools for use by all member including woodwork and metal work facilities, social areas including a kitchen, pool table and lounge space.

The Venus Bay Caravan Park has a recreation room available for community meetings.

Tarwin Lower

The Community Health Centre is used regularly for health, non-health service delivery and community activities. Further description of the centre's health services is included in the services chapter of this document. The Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Hall has capacity to house most community meetings and events and has seating available. The Primary School has recently constructed an additional building available for use by small community groups. The Riverside Hotel is available for community use and can provide meals for meetings. The recreation reserve clubrooms provide meeting space for the range of sporting clubs using that reserve for sport. The craft group meets in the craft shop.

Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute hall seats 140 or 200 standing. The kitchen has recently been upgraded. The committee of management provides catering. The land



adjacent to the hall is used for the community market. The hall is used for art and craft courses, electoral voting, community meetings and private functions.

Tarwin Lower Church is a combined Anglican and Uniting Church services alternate on Sundays and Catholic mass on Saturdays.

Riverview Hotel open 7 days per week. Hosts social nights and other events and has a bus for patrons.

Recreation reserve club rooms host meals each Thursday and other events and meetings for club members and the broader community. The bowling club and pony club are also users of the recreation reserve and have their own club rooms.

There is a mix of community managed, Council managed and privately managed facilities used for meetings in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

6.4 Future Demand

The Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay communities will continue to rely on local venues to meet for community activities and community group meetings. The current facilities will cater for the needs of the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay communities for the next 10 years with careful management of multi-use facilities to maximise their use.

There are opportunities to extend the use of some facilities to increase their availability of use by the community. As the permanent population grows planning for increased use of under-utilised facilities can take place.

The construction of Riverside Retirement Villas in Tarwin Lower is still being pursued however there are issues relating to waste management from this high density housing development in this flood prone area.

Industry Benchmarks and Trends

It is common that each small town in South Gippsland has access to a hall or large meeting space however the benchmarks listed below indicate the space allocated in growth areas rely on much larger populations before meeting rooms the size of our halls are built. The following should be considered as a guide only.

TABLE 1: GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS FOR MEETING ROOMS

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

Source³⁰

³⁰ Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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 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.

Source³¹

The provision of facilities for single group use is inefficient and costly for maintenance. The Venus Bay Community Centre is currently used by a broad range of groups for a wide variety of activities making it an ideal multi-purpose community hub. The Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre also provides a range of services and a community meeting space providing another, health focused multi-purpose facility for both towns.

The Mechanics Institute Hall in Tarwin Lower has capacity for larger events and meetings as well as a variety of recreational uses. There is potential to extend its use for local dances, markets and events with interest from the community. Indoor recreation activities such as badminton or table tennis or indoor soccer could consider using this facility.

There is potential for some venues to increase their use as the changing community demands additional meeting spaces. The Men's Shed has opportunity to meet more often or for their shed to be used by a broader range of community members. The Surf Lifesaving Club is an additional community asset for broader use external to club members. Its club rooms have been reported as needing refurbishment as a result of environmental deterioration. Implementing a shared register of community facility use may assist in managing community use of existing facilities in Tarwin Lower and Venus

³¹ Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008

Bay the next 15 years; however this can restrict autonomy of individual facility managers. The current high level of maintenance by voluntary community groups has ensured the provision of high quality of facilities for the community.

The use of recreation reserve facilities is described in the Sport and Recreation chapter of this report and the health services provided at Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre is described in the health chapter where some Venus Bay Community Centre and Men's Shed activities will also be described.

TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF CURRENT MEETING ROOMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre	Community managed facility supported by Gippsland Southern Health Service	Continued use for health and community activities
Venus Bay Community Centre	Community House with education and social activities offered	Continued varied use with opportunity for youth meeting and planning time. Increase youth outdoor activities described in youth chapter.
Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve pavilion	Used by recreation reserve clubs with 100 meals served Thursday nights	Details in Sport and Recreation chapter
Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Men's Shed	Men's Shed members two days per week	Current facility capable of current capacity with increase in days it is used.
Tarwin Lower Primary School	School use only	Potential for kindergarten if it becomes viable in the future
Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Hall	Community Hall	Maintain for larger community meetings and dances
Tarwin Lower Church	Catholic and Uniting Church	Continued
Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club	Club members	Extend availability for broader community use
Venus Bay Caravan Park	Recreation Hall	Increase promotion for community use
Riverside Hotel	Hotel	Meeting space for community particularly in non-holiday peak

7 SERVICES

7.1 Introduction

The infrastructure types described in this section are:

- Health
- Home and Community Care
- Maternal and Child Health
- Immunisation
- District Nursing
- Libraries
- Public Transport
- Emergency Services



Health - The Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre provides a broad range of health services to the Tarwin Lower and district and Venus Bay communities. Other health services are provided to residents in the home.

Visiting services - Visiting services use current community buildings and are mainly accessed by the permanent population rather than holiday visitors to the area.

Public Transport - There is no public transport to Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower necessitating community bus, private bus and school bus provision.

Emergency Services - Venus Bay is a fire risk area relying on a volunteer service provided by the Country Fire Authority. There is a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trained in first response while ambulance is dispatched from Foster or Leongatha.

Library - The mobile library visits Tarwin Lower fortnightly.

7.2 Policy and Council Plans / Strategies

Home and Community Care and Health

South Gippsland Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017

Health promotion and prevention actions for Council and health services funded by the Victorian Department of Health are guided by this document.

State Health Frameworks

[Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012 – 2022 Rural and Regional Plan](#)

[Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011 – 2015](#)

[Gippsland Regional Plan 2013](#)

Libraries

[People Places – A guide to public library buildings in New South Wales 2000 \(3rd edition\)](#)

The West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation has adopted a service model based on the NSW benchmarks.

Emergency Services

[South Gippsland Municipal Emergency Management Plan version 1.6 April 2013](#)

This plan is a joint plan developed by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee. 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.

Sub plans of the South Gippsland Municipal Emergency Management Plan are

- Municipal Fire Management Plan 2013/2016
- Heatwave Plan
- Pandemic Plan
- South Gippsland Flood Emergency Plan Version 1.4 February 2013

[Ambulance Victoria Draft Strategic Plan 2013-2016](#)

[Victoria Police Blue Print 2012 – 2015](#)

[Victorian State Emergency Service Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015](#)



7.3 Current Provision

Services in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay are provided in the home or in current community facilities. During summer when increased visitors and fire risk is high there is increased need for the fire and community emergency response teams (CERT) to be on standby.

Health

Health Services in the Community Setting

7.3.1 Tarwin Lower Community Health Service

Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre is a community managed facility supported by Gippsland Southern Health Service. A district nurse is available 2 hours each morning providing a range of services including pathology.

Dr Fran Grimes consults at the Community Health Service weekly in a private capacity. Gippsland Southern Health Service provide an allied health assistant to support the doctor on her consultation days through the follow up of calls, making arrangements with districting nursing staff and supporting volunteers.

The Community Health Centre Committee of Management has prepared a proposal to invite the services of a nurse practitioner to work from the centre. A nurse practitioner is licenced to prescribe, undertake radiology and is funded from a combination of State and Commonwealth funding. The committee of management have extended an invitation to a nurse practitioner currently working in another area to provide services privately in Tarwin Lower. This is yet to be confirmed.



7.3.2 *Rehabilitation, Planned Activity Groups and Health Promotion*

Rehabilitation and Planned Activity Groups are delivered at the Tarwin Lower Community Health Service. The Healthy Ageing Prevention of Injury HAPI program is a chair based and/or weight bearing, low impact aerobic exercise program which aims to improve strength, flexibility and balance in participants. As a general guide, activities can include use of hand weights, balance discs, small/medium sized balls and resistance bands.



People are eligible to participate if they are living independently in their home and are:

- Frail and/or able bodied older people
- People with intellectual and/or physical disability
- People with an acquired brain injury (ABI) and
- Carers of these people

HAPI is delivered 2 hours each week with time allocated for client reviews prior the session start. A trial of an additional walking group as part of the HAPI received varied support.

GSHS facilitates a Planned Activity Group (PAG) in the Tarwin Lower Community Health Service catering for clients from Tarwin Lower and district and Venus Bay.



7.3.3 **Pharmacy**

The availability of a pharmacy in Tarwin Lower allows access to medications and informal 'over the counter' advice from the pharmacist. An older population able to see the GP on her weekly visits to the community health centre are able to have prescriptions filled while in Tarwin Lower.

7.3.4 **Maternal and Child Health Service**

Maternal and Child Health Services are provided at the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre the second Tuesday each month. 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.

The playgroup also meets at the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre on a Tuesday morning a convenient combination of early years' services in one venue for parents of young children.



Health Services to the home

7.3.5 **Home and Community Care**

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 their needs and goals.

Council provides HACC Services to eligible community members in all areas of South Gippsland including Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay

TABLE 1: HACC SERVICES

Home Care	Home care assists clients to maintain a safe, healthy and hygienic home environment. 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.
Personal Care	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.
Respite Care	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.
Meals on Wheels	Provides nutritious and diet specific meals 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. Meals are delivered to people living in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay, Korumburra, Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay and Foster townships. Clients living outside these townships can arrange collection of frozen meals.
Community Transport	Assistance with transport aims to support individuals where no other form of transport is available. This transport is for activities such as medical appointments or shopping. The program is supported by Council, with the provision of Council owned cars and buses, and volunteers who complete the driving.
Home Maintenance	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, rails and gutter cleaning.

7.3.6 **Community Aged 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 to people with ongoing care needs by: Baptcare, Benetas, Calvary Silver Circle and Villa Maria. 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.

7.3.7 *Carer Support and Respite Services*

Council provides carer support via their HACC services. Baptcare, Benetas, Calvary Silver Circle, 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.

7.3.8 *District Nursing, Community and Allied Health*

GSHS provides district nursing, palliative care and specialist community nursing to residents in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. Specialist community nursing includes stomal, continence care, wound care, pathology and diabetes education. Where transport is not available to the resident, allied health services including social work, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietetics and speech are also provided to the home.

General services to the community

7.3.9 *Library Services*

West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation (WGRLC) provides a mobile library service outside the Mechanics Institute Hall in Tarwin Lower on Mondays from 3pm – 4.30pm. There are not casual seating areas in the Southern Mobile Library which visits Tarwin Lower as is available in the Northern mobile library used by WGRLC.

The WGRLC has also been involved in the Cook N Book project delivered at Venus Bay Community Centre Thursday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00. Parents, carers and children do cooking, participate in library story time and borrow books/dvds and magazines.

The Cook N Book program is an award winning program for preschool children conducted in partnership with the Venus Bay Community Centre, Uniting Care Gippsland and South Gippsland Shire Council.

The library service is provided through a Service Agreement between the West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation (WGRLC) and South Gippsland, Baw Baw and Bass Coast Shire Councils. People Places 2000 provides for a hierarchy of facilities adopted by WGRLC. Currently the West Gippsland Library has 38% of the population as



members and aims to reach 40% of the population as members by 2015.³² Connectivity for the library occurs via connection with a bollard fitted by Council.

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.³³ This report highlights Victorian public libraries return \$3.56 for every \$1 spent.

7.3.10 **Emergency Services**

Ambulance - Venus Bay and District Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) consist of ambulance volunteers who function as 'first responders' within communities where the nearest ambulance branch is at a distance. Whenever they are dispatched to a job, an ambulance is also dispatched but the CERTs provide basic emergency care until the ambulance arrives. They are trained in basic life support and undertake regular training and maintenance. This is coordinated and delivered by an Ambulance Victoria paramedic manager.

Fire - CFA

The Tarwin Lower and District CFA has two vehicles housed in the CFA sheds in River Drive Tarwin Lower and Lees Road Venus Bay adjacent to the Venus Bay Men's Shed. The community information guide for bushfire in Venus Bay describes Venus Bay as having a Very High bushfire risk. The guide includes a map containing key elements of Venus Bay's bushfire risk.

Venus Bay/Tarwin Lower was one of 18 communities across Victoria selected by the CFA to test the value of community led planning for the advent of flood, fire or other threats, the committee focused their attention on the fire risks inherent to the area. The result of this community resilience project is the 'Making Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower Safer' Action Plan for 2013 – 2014.

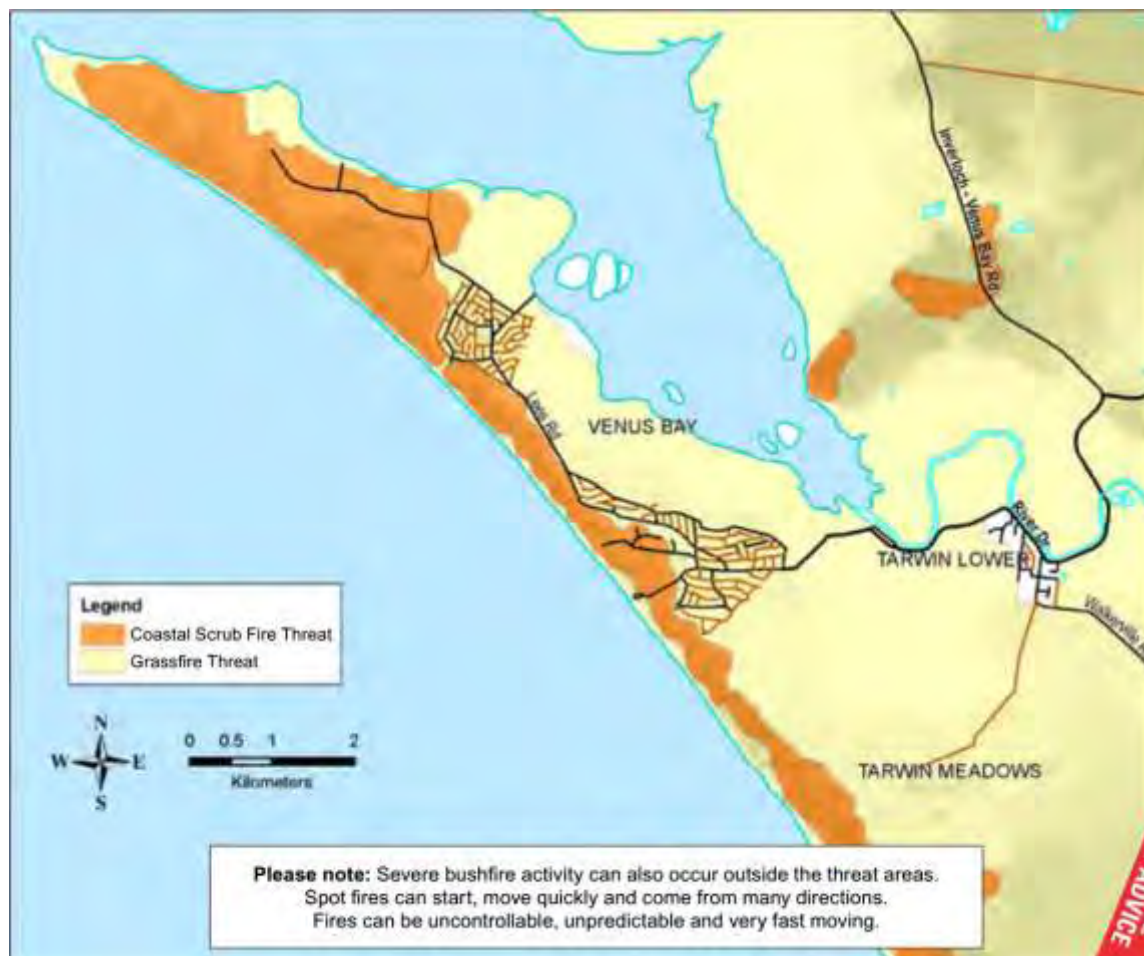
Community representatives of the CFA are concerned with the provision of suitable fire trucks for the sandy area where access with the current vehicle is difficult. Further investigation of fire provision equipment would be undertaken between the local brigade and the CFA.



³² West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation, *Library Plan 2013 - 2017*

³³ SGS Economics & Planning, 2011, *Dollars, Sense and Public Libraries*, State Library of Victoria, p.3.

MAP 1: VENUS BAY BUSHFIRE THREAT MAP



Source ³⁴

In partnership with emergency services, South Gippsland Shire Council has emergency management responsibilities. Part 4 of the Emergency Management Act 1986 describes Councils' emergency management responsibilities. These include

- the establishment of a municipal emergency management planning committee (MEMPC),
- facilitate the development and maintenance of an emergency management plan developed by this committee and allow its audit
- appoint a municipal emergency resource officer to coordinate the use of council resources for emergency response 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 Brigade (MFB), Emergency Services Board and Country Fire Authority (CFA) and is collected with Council rates under the Fire Services Property Levy Act 2012.

³⁴ CFA Nov 2011 Venus Bay Community Information Guide - Bushfire

The nearest part time police station is at Inverloch. The nearest 24 hour police station is at Wonthaggi. Ambulances are dispatched to Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower from the nearest fully manned branch in Leongatha.

7.3.11 Public Transport

There is no public transport in Tarwin Lower or Venus Bay. The nearest public bus is available at Inverloch running between Wonthaggi and Inverloch. School buses operate to schools in Fish Creek, Meeniyan, Leongatha and Newhaven College from the area.

The South Gippsland Shire Council is conducting a community bus trial between December 2013 and June 2014. The community bus owned by Council is used as part of the Home and Community Care (HACC) program and is driven by a volunteer driver. During the trial period the bus will pick up from Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower and travel to Wonthaggi every second Wednesday. The bus is available to residents who do not have a care or cannot drive either temporarily or permanently and are isolated. Passengers must be completely independent. The cost is \$10 return with HACC clients eligible for a subsidised rate of \$5 return

Gippsland Southern Health Service mini bus is used for the Planned Activity Group outings from Tarwin Lower Community Health Service.

A community bus provided regular beach transport within Venus Bay during the summer peak in an attempt to reduce car parking issues in the town.³⁵



³⁵ Matter of Fact Community Newsletter, Venus Bay Community Centre Jan 2014

7.4 Future Demand

7.4.1 Health

With 39% of the Venus Bay population and 30% of the Tarwin Lower population over the age of 60 in the 2011 census, these people will continue to age placing increasing demands on the health system both in the home and the health centre. There is a strong tendency for non-resident home owners to move to their holiday home permanently. This is more likely to occur with people aged over 50 – 60 years of age.

The services currently provided in the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre and those in the home will be expected to experience increased demand as the population ages.

Demand for services provided in the home will increase as the population of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay live longer, manage chronic diseases effectively and choose to retire to the area. Rehabilitation activities such as the Healthy Ageing Prevention of Injury (HAPI) program will experience increased participation with the possibility of additional sessions offered. Community based exercise programs meeting the needs of older retirees could consider using the natural attractions and walking trails in the area. Indoor activities for all abilities which combine physical activity with social opportunities are also ideal for the older community.

The pharmacy provides a valuable resource to the local community for whom travel to larger towns might be difficult without public transport.

7.4.2 Library

Access to the mobile library on Monday afternoons provides opportunity for parents and students after school to access the service. Working families would have difficulty accessing the service in town but may be able to access library services in neighbouring towns including Inverloch, Foster or Leongatha. A trial mobile library service in Venus Bay for 8 weeks over summer was not well attended and did not prove viable.

7.4.3 Emergency Services

Emergency access to beaches remains a high priority in Venus Bay for all emergency services. Dangerous beach conditions, large numbers of summer visitors and high bushfire danger presents a need to emergency vehicle access at short notice. In the event of a bushfire, clear road access is required for moving people out of the area and access for emergency vehicles in. Previously, beach access during the peak summer period has been restricted as a result of cars parked on both sides of the beach access roads. Newly erected signs restricting parking to one side of the road at most beaches should alleviate some congestion, however monitoring parking compliance will be labour intensive but essential to maintain safe, clear roads. Provision of the community beach bus helps provide alternative transport to people in Venus Bay accessing the beaches over summer.

High bushfire danger in the area will continue to place local CFA services on high alert during hot summer periods when the local population multiplies.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) provides first aid to patients while waiting for ambulance attendance so the service provided by this team is reliant on adequate provision of ambulance services in Foster and Leongatha. The proposal to increase ambulance services in Foster is necessary to ensure adequate coverage of the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay area, particularly in summer when the population increases significantly. The service provided by the CERT is reliant on adequate provision of ambulance services in Foster and Leongatha.

7.4.4 *Public Transport*

While there are some households in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower without cars, the majority of households have at least one car available. The provision of the community bus to Leongatha or Wonthaggi each Wednesday allows access to larger towns for shopping. The provision of a public transport service to Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower was trialled via the Transport Connections Project but was not well used. Unless there was unforeseen growth in the area, it is unlikely that a public bus service would be required in the next 20 years.



A community bus provides regular beach transport within Venus Bay during the summer peak. This service is in response to the summer holiday population for whom the beach is their main interest and as an attempt to reduce traffic in beach car parks. The Tarwin River Hotel has a courtesy bus for patrons.



7.5 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

The following benchmarks indicate the high populations required in growth areas to trigger the provision of health services in new communities. Historically the smaller towns within South Gippsland have had community support to attract and retain services at levels above those listed below. Retaining these services locally rely on volunteer participation in the local community that is considerably higher than volunteer participation in other areas of Victoria.

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

TABLE 2: GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

Community Based Health Precinct	1 to 50,000 people.
Level 3 Health Centre	1 to 50,000 people – 100,000 people (includes GP care, nursing, some specialist care, access to diagnostic, procedural and observation facilities).
Level 2 Health Centre	1 to 10,000 – 50,000 people (includes services such as drug and alcohol services, counselling services, community nursing, allied health services and integrated health promotion and primary prevention).
Emergency Services Precinct Police, Fire, Ambulance, SES	1 per 40,000 people.
Police Station	1 station per 37,037 (metropolitan Melbourne).
CFA	1 station per 14,739 (growth area average).
Ambulance Victoria	1 per 56,583 residents (growth area average).

Source³⁶

³⁶ Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7.5.1 Health

Continuation of services for an ageing population

Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay residents are well served by health services provided through the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre, the pharmacy and services to the home. The continuation of all these services will support an ageing population to remain in their homes in their local community.

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. Hubs provide multiple spaces clustered together on one site servicing: the neighbourhood, district, sub-region and region.

Source³⁷

GP and nurse practitioner

The Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre provides the ideal health service hub for both Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay populations reflecting best practice in the provision of community infrastructure. The ageing population and influx in the population in summer requires the continued services of a GP. Alternatively attracting the services of a practice nurse as proposed would be a suitable alternative. During the summer period the needs of visitors and holiday home residents rely more on emergency health needs rather than the regular services provided for an older community and consideration of different services provided in peak and non-peak holiday periods could be considered.

Dental services when viable

Investigation of visiting dental services to the permanent population may reveal a local demand as the population ages and is less inclined to wish to travel to larger centres for these services. These services would be provided at the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre.

Home based services

Home and Community Care (HACC) and district nursing in the home will continue assist people to remain in their homes, however the remote nature of most housing in Venus Bay with few pedestrian links between the sparse estates makes it difficult for an older

³⁷ S Rossiter, 2007, *Feasibility Study of Community Hubs for the Parramatta Local Government Area- Briefing Paper*, Elton Consulting, Bondi Junction.

population to remain independent if they do not have cars or someone to transport them around the town. Home based services may further diversify with people living longer and self-management of chronic diseases at home.

7.5.2 *Libraries*

Reliable fast internet for mobile library

Reliable fast internet (currently 3G) provision is essential for current and future services provision. A mobile library service can meet the needs of the community up to 2,500 people. A library service will be serving the permanent population rather than visitors to the area so the current provision is likely to meet the community's needs on for a considerable time. The provision of an area within the mobile library for casual seating would support further social interaction and relaxation within the library setting. This would also provide a space for young children to participate in a story time with the librarian.



Maintaining a flat, hard surface for the mobile service with lighting and toilets is important to provide a welcoming and comfortable is important.

7.5.3 *Emergency services*

The CFA is an essential service in this area of high fire danger and active recruitment of volunteers will be needed as the population ages and are less able to participate in the service. Discussions regarding the suitability of current fire vehicles for the local terrain could be investigated by combined local brigade members and the CFA.

It is unlikely that an ambulance or police station will be located in the town. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will continue to be first responders while waiting for ambulance attendance.

7.5.4 *Emerging issues – rubbish collection and toilet cleaning*

Community consultations identified community concerns regarding rubbish collection and toilet provision and cleaning during peak summer periods. Residential rubbish collection is optional for rate payers. During summer public bins are emptied daily in the shopping areas and beaches. Issues relate to dumping of domestic rubbish in public bins. Potential solutions may be making residential rubbish collection compulsory, therefore limiting illegal dumping of rubbish in the public bins.

The Venus Bay Community Reference Group are currently meeting with key stakeholders including Council to begin planning for solutions to address summer visitor management issues and to investigate community grants.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED SERVICES FOR TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Home and community care	South Gippsland Shire Council	Home visit	Continued service on current model
Maternal and child health	South Gippsland Shire Council	Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre	Continued service on current model
District nursing service	Gippsland Southern Health Service	In Community Health Centre daily and Home visit	Current service model expanded to meet population need limited by funding allocation
Private General Practice	Dr Fran Grimes	Community Health Centre	Continued service Invite services of nurse practitioner
Rehabilitation, planned activity group, health promotion	Gippsland Southern Health Service	Community Health Centre	Continued service with increased provision in the town.
Library	West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation	Mobile library weekly	Casual seating area within mobile library van
Ambulance	Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)	First responders	Ensure nearest ambulance branches are serviced sufficiently for both local community and more remote towns
Police	Victoria Police	Wonthaggi	Continued provision
Tarwin Lower and District Country Fire Authority	CFA	Volunteer service to urban and rural fires and road traffic accidents	Continued service provision with increased recruitment needed as population ages
Transport	No public transport Community bus trial Summer beach bus	Community bus trail to Wonthaggi	Weekly community bus

8 OPEN SPACE, STREETS, PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

8.1 Introduction

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
- Community gardens
- Public realm

Outdoor sports and recreation facilities including ovals, playing fields and courts, indoor sports and recreation and aquatic facilities are described in a separate chapter entitled Sport and Recreation



8.2 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 Open Space Strategy 2007 analyses the open public space available in South Gippsland, for the purpose of long term strategic planning acquisition and development of future reserves and facilities, and in order to provide a basis for Council policy and decision making.

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.

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008(SGSC Recreation Plan): Volume 4 Implementation Plan provides the strategic directions for future planning of recreation facilities in South Gippsland Shire. 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.

Victorian Government Urban Design 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.

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 Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

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 plan identifies a range of recommendations for Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay including:

- Shared paths and footpaths linking new subdivisions to the town centre
- Upgrading of existing paths in Baths Road Reserve
- Crossings, line marking and signage.

Tarwin Lower Urban Design Framework 2006 Identifies current community precincts including open space, recreation areas and walking/picnic areas and provides recommendations for future open space.

Venus Bay Urban Design Framework 2006 Discusses the impact of tourism, the interface between public and private land and climate change. Recommendations on zoning of development areas are provided.



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

8.3 Current Provision

8.3.1 Open space and Parks

The South Gippsland Recreation Plan 2007 identifies open space in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay in the categories of open parkland, bush land forest or paved piazza/courtyard. Areas classified as highway reserve, drainage and floodway or water reserve so should not be counted in calculation of open space for passive recreation.

Both Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay have 81% of dwellings within 400 metres of a park. Natural attractions including the beach, river and bush reserves are not included in this calculation.

TABLE 1: DISTANCE TO OPEN SPACE FROM DWELLINGS

Locality	Minimum walking distance to a park from a dwelling(m)	Average walking Distance to a park from a dwelling (m)	Maximum walking distance to a park from a dwelling (m)	Percentage of dwellings within 400m
Tarwin Lower	0.01	249	609	81%
Venus Bay	0.00	268	850	81%

Source³⁸

³⁸ South Gippsland Shire Council Park hierarchy and open space analysis

Tarwin Lower

Tarwin Lower has extensive river front open spaces enhanced by developed parks including, picnic tables, BBQs, walking paths and fishing platforms. The Bald Hills Fauna Park Reserve and the Tarwin Recreation Reserve provide large areas of open space close to town. The park and primary school provide open space links central to the residential area but are not linked via paths to the main shopping area and river. Large indigenous trees and bush land contribute to the natural character of the town centre.

The RV Fisher Reserve is a district park on the corner of School and Walkerville Roads in Tarwin Lower providing the only all day park area with a playground and space for informal recreation. A district park includes a playground, toilets, rotunda, barbeque, seating and gardens. During the week the recreation reserve is mainly unused during the day and the primary school ovals and basketball court available on weekends and after school. There is a bush land fauna park reserve located on the corner of Walkerville Roads and Fauna Park Road.

The Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve provides open space close to the centre of town that contributes to passive recreation opportunities as well as formal sports as described in the Sport and Recreation chapter.



Venus Bay

Venus Bay lies between the natural foreshore reserves (Cape Liptrap Coastal Park), Andersons Inlet and Point Smythe and includes pockets of open space bush land within residential areas. Access to the Tarwin River and jetty is from number 2 estate is via Fisherman's Road. Jupiter Park and Fishermen's Jetty Park are district parks with a playground, toilets, rotunda, barbeque, seating and gardens.



There are a many small, unnamed lots of vacant land in Venus Bay created as part of a 50 year old open space plan. Some of these lots include elements of local flora and are reported to provide wildlife corridors through residential areas. Many developed residential lots in Venus Bay also contain substantial vegetation allowing access for birds across residential areas. Many current residents enjoy the less developed, natural aspects of Venus Bay rather than areas that are more manicured with paving and commercial play equipment. The pocket parks created in Venus Bay present an example of an historical approach to parks. There are two regional parks in Venus Bay providing high level facilities such as play equipment, toilets, barbeques and picnic tables. Other parks provide open space and links through courts to the community centre or preserve indigenous plants.

The second estate surrounds Van Cleef Reserve, a large area of land with a playground and walking trails. In turn this estate is bounded on the south and western side by the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. Smaller parks dotted through the estate range in size and development. Larger blocks in the third estate are completely bounded by the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and Anderson Inlet.

Currently in Venus Bay the local community living near each of Venus Bay's public open spaces are encouraged to care for each of the spaces. Some properties currently allocated as open space are vacant land with few natural or man-made features.

Access to the beach via current access paths is limited with soft sand making access points difficult for people with mobility limitations.

8.3.2 Paths and trails

Tarwin Lower

The Paths and Trails Strategy 2010 describes the gravel path and boardwalk along the Tarwin River which connects the fishing platforms to the north east of the commercial area of Tarwin Lower. This track continues on the foreshore opposite the shops to the longest table and boat ramp to the west of town. There is also a concrete footpath on the opposite side of the road running from the petrol station to the hotel providing access to the commercial and community facilities.

A proposed link from the recreation reserve via the community health centre, primary school, park and with River Drive and the commercial area has been recommended in Paths and Trails strategy and Recreation Reserve Master Plan.



FIGURE 1: TARWIN LOWER PROPOSED AND EXISTING TRAILS AND PATHS



Source³⁹

³⁹ Nixon, A 2010 Paths and Trails Strategy, South Gippsland Shire Council

Venus Bay

A shared path between Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay links to a path to the shops in Jupiter Boulevard Venus Bay. There is a shared path from Jupiter Boulevard to No. 1 Beach. Currently there are no clear links with the on-road cycle lanes in Venus Bay and existing shared paths.

Venus Bay roads are marked as shared cycle, pedestrian and vehicle, however the road shoulders are narrow and vegetation encroaches over the road restricting separation between users and vehicles. Cycle lanes in some areas on Canterbury Road provide defined space but are not clearly signposted or clearly linked between estates.



FIGURE 2: VENUS BAY PROPOSED AND EXISTING TRAILS AND PATHS



Source⁴⁰ **the hail and ride bus service no longer operates, a summer community beach bus operated in 2013/2014

⁴⁰ Nixon, A 2010 Paths and Trails Strategy, South Gippsland Shire Council

8.3.3 **Playgrounds and parks**

There are 6 parks with playgrounds in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. In Tarwin Lower a playground is located in RV Fisher Park along with seating, toilets, a rotunda and barbeque. Venus Bay has two district parks with playgrounds. In addition playgrounds are also available in local parks. Local parks do not have the same additional facilities as a district park but provide managed lawns and open park land. There is a skate bowl behind the Venus Bay Community Health Centre adjacent to a park with a playground.



8.3.4 **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.



The Tarwin River provides areas of public realm opposite the commercial area of Tarwin Lower. The linear park, walking paths and picnic tables provide a gathering space for the local community and visitors in the vicinity of the river. The long picnic table and boat ramp in Tarwin Lower also provide a focal meeting point.

The positioning of shops on either side the Jupiter Road commercial area in Venus Bay along with ample space at the front for displays and seating contributes to the village feel of the area. The close proximity of Jupiter Park and the footpath to this area also enhances the atmosphere.

8.4 **Consultation**

The community planning process in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay identified the paths and trails as a high priority for the area. The first priority projects group propose more bike paths and walking trails and improvements to bike track surfaces. Nature trails and environmental awareness were also prioritised highly.

The development of the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve Master Plan (2013) involved consultation and identifies a formal walking link into town from the recreation reserve as a 'very high' priority.

Further consultation undertaken in the development of this plan resulted in a number of submissions regarding open space, the level of development of parks and the sale of land in Venus Bay. Support for on road car, pedestrian, cycle, horse trails was provided as opposed to footpaths. This supports the current case in Venus Bay where all residential roads have a shared lane for all use.

Submissions highlighted support from permanent residents for preservation of the natural flora and fauna and retention of biodiversity through preservation of open space and indigenous native trees. The community land stewardship proposal for Venus Bay describes the involvement of community members in the maintenance and management of open space reserves.

8.5 Future Demand

With an increase in people over the age of 60, parks, paths and open space will be in demand close to activity areas in each town. 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 to community and commercial buildings will also benefit people of all ages with physical disability.

Tourism to the area is likely to extend to more of the year with increased weekend and day visitors over the non-peak periods. During summer the increase of the Venus Bay population by thousands is expected to continue. The most popular activity for summer visitors is going to the beach followed by enjoying local sightseeing and the natural environment. Aside from using a regional park for a picnic or barbeque they are not regular users of local parks.



8.6 Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Best Practice

Healthy by Design

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

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

Applying simplified open space planning standards such as an “area to population” ratio (i.e. 4 ha 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 spaces 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.

Open space can be categorised into sports spaces, recreational spaces and nature spaces.⁴¹ The sports spaces are described in the sport and recreation chapter of this document, more informal settings for social activities through relaxation, amusement to enhance physical and mental health are included in this chapter.



⁴¹Parks and Leisure 2012 Benchmarks for Community Infrastructure
A PLA WA working document Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation

TABLE 1 OPEN SPACE GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

Neighbourhood level passive open space reserves	<p>Small parks are required within 150 – 300m. Requirement of the subdivision act where 5% of a developable subdivision as an open space contribution or via the local planning authority stipulating open space contribution between 5% and 10%</p> <p>Approximately 2% of all land is required just to provide a park of 1ha within 400 – 500m of all dwellings.</p> <p>Additional land is required to compensate for barriers such as rail, creek and industrial land plus arterial roadways that form barriers to pedestrian movement.⁴²</p>
Neighbourhood level passive open space reserve Level 1	<p>1ha within 400 – 500 metres of residential dwellings</p> <p>Amalgamate 1ha parcels to form larger more functional reserves on a case by case basis</p>
Level 2	<p>3ha to 4ha within 2 kilometres of all residents. Equivalent to 5.43% of residential land area.</p> <p>Regional public open space where available along streams and permanent water bodies.</p>
Higher order passive open space reserves	<p>Linking People and Spaces: A strategy for Melbourne's open space network</p>

TABLE 2 PARK HIERARCHY WITHIN SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Category	Functions	Form - Landscape settings
Regional Parks	Social, Family recreation Play, Visual amenity, Sports	Managed lawns, Specialised sporting surface, Open park land, Hard and soft landscaping Tree plantation
District Parks	Social, Family recreation, Play, Visual amenity	Managed lawns, Open park land, Tree plantation Hard and soft landscaping
Neighbourhood Parks	Family recreation, Play Visual amenity	Managed lawns, Open park land, Tree plantation Hard and soft landscaping
Local Parks	Family recreation, Play Visual amenity	Managed lawns, Managed Turf Open park land, Tree plantation Hard and soft landscaping
Other Parks	Drainage, Floodway, Lookout, Wayside stops Visual amenity	Open park land, Waterway corridor, Bushland/forest Tree plantation, Fire slashing

Source⁴³

⁴² Department of Planning and Community Development, *Victorian Planning Provisions* (clause 56.04) on 24 October 2012, <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/vpps/>

⁴³ South Gippsland Shire Council Park hierarchy and open space analysis

RECOMMENDATIONS

Tarwin Lower

Path from recreation reserve to shops

Tarwin Lower benefits from the river side parks and recreation reserve area. A path connecting the recreation reserve to the River Drive commercial area in Tarwin Lower remains a high priority to ensure pedestrian access and movement around the town. Where previous plans have proposed this path is constructed along Walkerville Road, there is also an option to plan for a path which meanders past the Community Health Centre, behind RV Fisher Park, through the side of the Primary School to enter the shopping strip. Costings of both options in consultation with the potential users of the path will provide an affordable option suiting the community.



Venus Bay

Parks

Continued focus on the higher level parks with play equipment and barbeques should consider the potential to expand to neighbouring blocks as they become available for sale.

Encourage ongoing community maintenance for unstructured parks via the community stewardship initiative. Ensure an ongoing education program to accompany this initiative to make sure community members can effectively monitor the encouragement of native plants and the removal of weeds. There may be an opportunity for a partnership between the Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula, Landcare and the community to schedule regular education sessions.



Signs

Directional signs are required to link the existing shared path at the Jupiter Boulevard shops to the on-road shared bike /pedestrian lanes to the north. These on-road shared lanes provide extensive access to all road users and are well sign posted where they are present alerting motorists to the likelihood of pedestrians, mobility scooters and cyclists on the road.

Further maintenance of the bike lanes including weed management will assist in their clear definition. Coupled with clear directional signs at main entry points the maintenance of bike lanes will improve access for both young and old residents in Venus Bay.

Signs from the Venus Bay shops to the community centre would improve access by visitors to the extensive services provided at the community centre.

Lights and seating

Seating in more areas of Venus Bay will encourage increased pedestrian movement. Walking for an ageing community will be more likely with the provision of regular seating. Lighting around the shops in Jupiter Boulevard will assist ready and safe movement of pedestrians in this area at night.

TABLE 8: OPEN SPACE, PARKS, PLAYGROUND, PATHS AND TRAILS TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Parks and Playgrounds	3 regional parks with playgrounds, bbq, rotunda, toilets - RV Fisher Park Tarwin Lower - Jupiter Park Venus Bay includes basketball area - Fishermans Road Venus Bay - 3 additional local parks with playgrounds	Enhance parks to suit older population and children with the provision of plenty of seating.
Paths and Trails	Tarwin Lower river trail connecting fishing platforms Shared trail to Venus Bay On-road bike lanes Footpaths linking shared paths and commercial areas.	Path from Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve to town via community health and primary school. Clear signs showing links between existing paths and on-road cycle lanes. Maintain on-road shared pedestrian/cycle lane in Venus Bay residential areas.
Open Space	Broad range of vacant land and parks within developments in Venus Bay Cape Liptrap Coastal Park Tarwin River bank areas Fauna Reserve Tarwin Lower	Continue priority maintenance of parks with infrastructure investigating expansion of Jupiter Park if possible Support community stewardship of natural park areas and education program to ensure existing open space is kept free of weeds. Increased seating along existing paths



9 SPORT AND RECREATION

9.1 Introduction

Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve hosts a broad range of sports. The beach and river in the area provide settings for recreation with the Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving club providing an important service to the larger summer population and the Tarwin River and Anderson Inlet providing fishing and boating opportunities.

The following infrastructure types assessed in this section are

- Sports fields and ovals and hard surface courts
- Sporting clubrooms and indoor facilities
- Natural aquatic sports

Open space, streets, parks and playgrounds are described in a separate chapter but provide opportunities for informal recreation and activity.



9.2 Council Plans and Strategies / Government Policy

Community Directions Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Community Plan 2010 Reflects the view of a wide cross-section of the community. It contains a vision for Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay for 5 years and includes a list of projects and priorities which the community believes should be focussed on to fulfil the vision.

Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve Master Plan 2013 Identifies the key priorities for the development of the reserve and sets out proposed site and infrastructure related improvement for implementation in the short to medium term.

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

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008: Volume 1 Strategy & Actions

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008: Volume 2 Locality Analysis

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008: Volume 3 Consultation Findings

South Gippsland Shire Council Recreation Plan 2008:
Volume 4 Implementation Plan

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.

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 Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay.

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.



9.3 Current Provision

The Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve Master Plan was completed in December 2013 and provides a detailed audit of current recreation opportunities, a literature review of relevant strategies and planning documents and results of extensive consultation. Master Plan recommendations focus on the recreation reserve and links to it

The private, public and community sectors all have a role in providing for sport and recreation. Some sport and recreation opportunities can be operated at a profit and may be provided by the private sector. The community is the major provider of sport and recreation in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay and it relies on the contribution of volunteers on committees of management and community clubs. These clubs and section 86 committees play an important role in assisting Council with asset management and maintenance responsibilities.

9.3.1 Indoor sports and recreation

There are no purpose-built indoor recreation facilities in Tarwin Lower or Venus Bay, existing multipurpose community facilities are used for exercise classes and dancing.

The Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre is the site for some indoor activity. This includes the



HAPI program is a chair based and/or weight bearing, low impact aerobic exercise program which aims to improve strength, flexibility and balance in participants.

The Venus Bay Community Centre provides exercise programs, school holiday activities and a community orchard. There is an indoor bowling group.

Dances take place in the Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Hall. The Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club provides indoor training sessions in the clubrooms during the surf lifesaving season.

9.3.2 **Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve**

The Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve serves the needs of the Tarwin Lower and district and Venus Bay communities. Key activities at the reserve include football, netball, bowls, cricket and pony club. Participation at the reserve has increased since the sporting bodies have been brought together.

On average, five outside football clubs use the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve for pre-season training. The reserve is used for walking, dog off leash walking and casual use by equestrian riders from outside the area.

Club rooms area used for several football / netball functions each year and the club rooms are hire out for special occasions, community functions, school concerts and presentation nights. The change rooms at the Recreation Reserve do not comply with guidelines for 'local facilities' as defined by the State Government.

There is a clubhouse for the Tarwin Lower Pony Club and another one associated with the bowling club.

The Fish Creek Tarwin Lower Cricket Club play at both Tarwin Lower and at Fish Creek. Juniors play the whole season at Tarwin Lower and Seniors play at Fish Creek after Christmas.

The bowling club greens are used for ladies and men's pennant, barefoot bowls and club competitions.

9.3.3 **Tennis**

Tennis courts are located adjacent to the CFA shed beside the river opposite the commercial area. Consultation undertaken for the Recreation Reserve Master Plan has identified that the CFA shed, tennis courts and toilets in this area may need to be relocated in the future. In the event this should be required, the location of the courts within the recreation reserve would be expected.



9.3.4 **Tarwin Lower and District Primary School**



The Primary School has a small outdoor oval. Each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon Active After School Program (AASC) operates at the school with a free afternoon tea and activities available to enrolled students of the school. Activities change each term with two sports running each term from 3:45-4:45pm.

9.3.5 **Aquatic Sports**

The Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay area supports a broad range of aquatic sports. The Tarwin River Boat ramp is a site for the Tarwin River Canoe Club. The club does not have club rooms but does have club boats available for all abilities.

The Venus Bay Angling Club has club rooms located next to the Venus Bay boat ramp.

The Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club is a small family orientated club with a club house at Beach No. 1 The club provides volunteer lifesaving services on weekends and public holidays from December until Easter Monday. Paid lifeguards operate weekdays from Boxing Day to Australia Day.

9.3.6 **Events**

The Tour de Tarwin is a family event held each Easter Saturday since 2007. It is a walk and ride activity over 6km and 9km. Participant numbers have grown from 270 in 2007 to over 1300 in 2013 and now include associated family fun and healthy activities.



9.4 **Consultation**

The Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Community Plan involved a broad range of community members in its development including sporting clubs. The Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve Master Plan consulted with sporting clubs within the reserve and those outside the reserve.

Projects identified as having a very high priority for the Recreation Reserve users include:

- On-road signage and entrance improvements

- Concrete path from the recreation reserve to the town
- Replace roof on change room building
- Complete maintenance of dam enclosure and pump shed
- Replacement of maintenance equipment
- Emergency access gates on Tarwin Meadows Road
- Additional lighting
- Pony Club shed improvements
- Bowls club replacement of synthetic green
- Bowls club windproof fence with seating sun shelter

9.5 Future Demand

The high population growth of other Victorian coastal areas such as those in Bass Coast and the West Coast is not expected in Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower in the next 20 years. Growth in the Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay area will be gradual with Tarwin Lower development restricted to the town boundary. The biggest impact for sport and recreation will be catering for an ageing population.

Increasingly, older people are remaining active for longer but tend to choose lower impact activities. The football and netball clubs are likely to experience the greatest impact when attempting to recruit members and remain viable.

Industry Benchmarks and Trends

Growth area planning criteria apply to densely populated areas and are to be used here 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.

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

The benchmarks below will not be used for sport and recreation allocation in South Gippsland, however they do indicate that the provision of sport and recreation facilities in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay should meet the needs of the local community for some years.

TABLE 1 RECREATION GROWTH AREA BENCHMARKS

Indoor aquatic /fitness centre	1 centre for every 40,000 to 50,000 people
Double court indoor recreation centre/stadia	1 centre for every 20,000 – 30,000 people
Neighbourhood active open space	1 area of 8ha in size to provide for two sports ovals per 6,000 people
Neighbourhood reserve	1 per 6,000 people or per designated active recreation

pavilion	reserve
Tennis	<p>1 x court per 2,500 people</p> <p>1 x 2 court free to the public tennis court no pavilion per 25,000 to 35,000 people</p> <p>1 x 6 – 10 court complex per municipality</p>
Netball	<p>1 outdoor netball court per 3,500 people;</p> <p>1 x double court netball court per 16,000 people</p> <p>1 x 8 court complex per 50,000 people</p> <p>Maximise use of school sites where possible</p>
Lawn Bowls	1 x 4 green facility for 40,000 people
Passive open space	<p>0.7 to 1ha of passive open space per 1,000 people or 300 – 400 households</p> <p>205 to 4ha passive open space per 2km radius</p> <p>Open space within 400m of households</p>
Neighbourhood level passive open space reserves	<p>Small parks are required within 150 – 300m. Requirement of the subdivision act where 5% of a developable subdivision as an open space contribution or via the local planning authority stipulating open space contribution between 5% and 10%</p> <p>Approximately 2% of all land is required just to provide a park of 1ha within 400 – 500m of all dwellings.</p> <p>Additional land is required to compensate for barriers such as rail, creek and industrial land plus arterial roadways that form barriers to pedestrian movement.⁴⁴</p>
Neighbourhood level passive open space reserve Level 1	<p>1ha within 400 – 500 metres of residential dwellings</p> <p>Amalgamate 1ha parcels to form larger more functional reserves on a case by case basis</p>
Level 2	<p>3ha to 4ha within 2 kilometres of all residents. Equivalent to 5.43% of residential land area.</p> <p>Regional public open space where available along streams and permanent water bodies.</p>
Higher order passive open space reserves	Linking People and Spaces: A strategy for Melbourne's open space network

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⁴⁴ Department of Planning and Community Development, *Victorian Planning Provisions* (clause 56.04) on 24 October 2012, <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/vpps/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Indoor sports and recreation

Continued use of the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre and Venus Bay Community Centre provides opportunities for a range of exercise programs.

Increased use of Mechanics Institute Hall in Tarwin Lower for recreation requiring a larger indoor space such as badminton or table tennis is possible.

Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve

Footpath linking the recreation reserve to the shops via the community health centre, park and school is required in a town without paths in this area.

Reservation of adequate land to include tennis courts at the recreation reserve in the event they are required to relocate from their current position.

Aquatic Sports

Following repairs to deterioration of the Lifesaving Club building, this facility would make an ideal additional meeting space for the community outside of summer months. Youth may find this space attractive for their activities as an alternative to the Community Centre.

The community has indicated an interest in an additional canoe ramp between the jetty and bird hide. Investigation including cost, usage and construction would need to take place in consultation with the Tarwin River Canoe Club.

Venus Bay Recreation

Recreation in Venus Bay is less structured using the natural local area, walking paths and parks. Links between residential areas in Venus Bay via natural corridors could be developed in an informal manner by local residents. The addition of seating along shared walkways will support the ageing population.



⁴⁵ Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd, 2008, *Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas*, Growth Areas Authority.

TABLE 2: OUTDOOR SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Playing fields – Football, Cricket,	Football and cricket School oval	Refer to Rec Reserve Master Plan 2013 for priorities within the reserve
Outdoor courts – Netball, Tennis	Fenced hard court at primary school Netball courts Tennis courts	Allow space for tennis courts at recreation reserve
Pavilion and club rooms	At recreation reserve	Refer to Rec Reserve Master Plan
Pony Club	Land adjacent to recreation reserve and cross country course	Continue on current site
Aquatic	Boat ramps in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Fishing platforms on Tarwin River Canoe Club Fishing club Water skiing Surf Lifesaving Club, Venus Bay	Support community to investigate canoe ramp Provide further links to river from Venus Bay
Indoor recreation	Exercise classes in community facilities	Continued use of local community facilities including increased use of mechanics institute hall Tarwin Lower



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APPENDIX A RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

Early Years and Primary School Education

- A kindergarten service in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay is unlikely to be viable in the near future before 2018. If the population increases sufficiently to make a kindergarten service viable, its location at the school would be the ideal model. This would allow smooth transition to school and provide greater convenience for parents.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF CURRENT EARLY YEARS SERVICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Education: 4 year old kindergarten	No service currently available	Services outside the towns are accessed	Gauge viability of service in 10 years. If viable a shared facility in the school grounds
Childcare	No service currently available	Neighbouring towns	Family day care educator for local childcare requires no infrastructure requirements
Playgroups	Community health centre	Tuesday	Coordination with maternal and child health service maintained

Youth

Youth spaces within existing community centres: Existing indoor and outdoor local meeting areas would benefit secondary school students who attend a range of secondary schools. Opportunities for them to meet outside of school are currently limited.

Event participation: The opportunity to organise a carnival or local event is an opportunity to invite young people to work together and with the broader community to help organise an event. The provision of space in the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve or Venus Bay Community Centre for youth to come together to plan for activities or events makes good use of existing, familiar facilities and brings the community together.

Expansion of skate bowl: The skate bowl has limited space to expand or for spectators to stand with a steep bank on one side and driveway on the other. An investigation of possible expansion of the skate bowl may make it more inviting to use.

Paths and trails: Paths connecting residential areas to recreation points, schools and shops foster independence in young people who use walking, horse riding and cycling for transport. The shared river path between Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay provides access between the facilities in the two towns. Signage indicating the links with this

path to other on-road bike lane is important for continuity particularly for visitors to the area who may be unaware of the on road cycle paths within Venus Bay. Connections for cyclists provide safe access to young people with no alternative transport especially during the busy summer period.

TABLE 2: YOUTH SPECIFIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES – CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Youth specific outdoor recreation	Skate bowl Pony club Fish Creek Cub and Scout Troup	Consider extended sheltered seating area at skate bowl Access to shared pathways to and from Pony Club to ensure independent access on horseback. Maintain access to pony club grounds close to the town centre Continue current delivery
Youth specific indoor meeting spaces	Community Centre Sporting clubrooms	Trial youth drop in space after school for socializing and study group
Paths and Trails	Shared path on river side and on-road bike lane	Signpost links between shared path, on road pedestrian bike ways to ensure safe access

Retail and Tourism

Retail support:

Continue support to local business to work together to promote retail in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay and highlight the diversity of shops and food outlets in the area. By working together the local traders are able to support each other to ensure the relatively high provision of retail variety is maintained to allow provision throughout the year. This will increase the likelihood of customers coming to Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay to visit the cafés, restaurants and activities offered and enjoy the atmosphere and natural attractions provided in this area.

Proposed street scape Venus Bay:

A proposal by representatives of The Beach and River Business Association of Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower (BARBA) for an improved street scape was received by Council in August 2013. Suggestions in the proposal aimed to provide a village feel to the

shopping area of Venus Bay through the provision of planter boxes, crossing points and increased seating. Whilst the initial proposal implied these changes to be the full responsibility of Council, with professionally prepared plans and in kind support from community groups such as BARBA and the men's shed, a partnership between Council and the community could result in aspects of the proposal being implemented. Increased emphasis on the Venus Bay retail area as a village with the provision of additional seats, plantings and a possible colour theme could improve the amenity of the area for pedestrians.

Tourism

Tourism and a higher proportion of holiday homes in the area will continue to bring economic advantage to Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay. Tourism will increase to the area as weekend and day destinations closer to Melbourne become busier and visitors seek places that are less congested or that provide closer contact with natural attractions.

Promoting native flora and fauna:

Promotion of the area for its natural attractions, accommodation supply and retail diversity will benefit the area. Continued promotion of the area through a broad range of media should be maintained. Any new opportunities for promotion of the area should be considered. Current tourism providers will need to be responsive to an increasing demand for people wishing to stay for weekends throughout the year.

Tourist Impact on Venus Bay:

- Management of beach parking has been introduced in an attempt to keep beach roads clear of parked cars during busy summer periods. This is a high risk bush fire area and safe transit of all vehicles in case of emergency is necessary.
- A comprehensive education program of the summer population and day visitors to Venus Bay of the need to keep roads clear for emergency vehicles and safe evacuation in case of emergency is required along with monitoring of parking where no standing signs are erected.
- Investigation of a broad range of methods to communicate rules and the need for safety is required to reach visitors to the area as well as the permanent population and holiday home owners.
- Increased service provision in summer months to ensure rubbish collection and toilet cleaning match the needs of their increased use by the influx of visitors.

TABLE 3: CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED RETAIL AND TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Retail	A diverse range of retail stores include supermarkets, butcher, pharmacy, community bank, hardware, produce	Private retailers	Encourage shop local by providing welcoming street scaping and shared promotion of local retail. Investigate provision of

	supplies, fuel, hairdressers, takeaway stores and cafés		local produce to attract people to shop in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay
Tourism	Natural attractions include beach, walking, and fishing. Accommodation is broad and varied including caravan park, bed and breakfast, cabin and holiday home accommodation and spa retreat style accommodation	Some key businesses expanding	Support to existing businesses to encourage expansion and employment

Community Groups, Community Plan and Meeting Places

Multipurpose community buildings

Continued use of the Venus Bay Community Centre and Tarwin Lower Community Health Centres for a range of activities is ideal. Investigation of increasing use of Men's Shed, Surf Lifesavings Club, Recreation Club Rooms and Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute as multipurpose facilities could increase the range of community activities offered.

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF CURRENT MEETING ROOMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre	Community managed facility supported by Gippsland Southern Health Service	Continued use for health and community activities
Venus Bay Community Centre	Community House with education and social activities offered	Continued varied use with opportunity for youth meeting and planning time. Increase youth outdoor activities described in youth chapter.
Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve pavilion	Used by recreation reserve clubs with 100 meals served Thursday nights	Details in Sport and Recreation chapter
Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Men's Shed	Men's Shed members two days per week	Current facility capable of current capacity with increase in days it is used.

Tarwin Lower Primary School	School use only	Potential for kindergarten if it becomes viable in the future
Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Hall	Community Hall	Maintain for larger community meetings and dances
Tarwin Lower Church	Catholic and Uniting Church	Continued
Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club	Club members	Extend availability for broader community use
Venus Bay Caravan Park	Recreation Hall	Increase promotion for community use
Riverside Hotel	Hotel	Meeting space for community particularly in non-holiday peak

Services

Health

Continuation of services for an ageing population

Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay residents are well served by health services provided through the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre, the pharmacy and services to the home. The continuation of all these services will support an ageing population to remain in their homes in their local community.

GP and nurse practitioner

The Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre provides the ideal health service hub for both Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay populations reflecting best practice in the provision of community infrastructure. The ageing population and influx in the population in summer requires the continued services of a GP. Alternatively attracting the services of a practice nurse as proposed would be a suitable alternative. During the summer period the needs of visitors and holiday home residents rely more on emergency health needs rather than the regular services provided for an older community and consideration of different services provided in peak and non-peak holiday periods could be considered.

Dental services when viable

Investigation of visiting dental services to the permanent population may reveal a local demand as the population ages and is less inclined to wish to travel to larger centres for these services. These services would be provided at the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre.

Home based services

Home and Community Care (HACC) and district nursing in the home will continue assist people to remain in their homes, however the remote nature of most housing in Venus Bay with few pedestrian links between the sparse estates makes it difficult for an older

population to remain independent if they do not have cars or someone to transport them around the town. Home based services may further diversify with people living longer and self-management of chronic diseases at home.

Libraries

Reliable fast internet for mobile library

Reliable fast internet (currently 3G) provision is essential for current and future services provision. A mobile library service can meet the needs of the community up to 2,500 people. A library service will be serving the permanent population rather than visitors to the area so the current provision is likely to meet the community's needs on for a considerable time. The provision of an area within the mobile library for casual seating would support further social interaction and relaxation within the library setting. This would also provide a space for young children to participate in a story time with the librarian.

Maintaining a flat, hard surface for the mobile service with lighting and toilets is important to provide a welcoming and comfortable is important.

Emergency services

The CFA is an essential service in this area of high fire danger and active recruitment of volunteers will be needed as the population ages and are less able to participate in the service. Discussions regarding the suitability of current fire vehicles for the local terrain could be investigated by combined local brigade members and the CFA.

It is unlikely that an ambulance or police station will be located in the town. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will continue to be first responders while waiting for ambulance attendance.

Emerging issues – rubbish collection and toilet cleaning

Community consultations identified community concerns regarding rubbish collection and toilet provision and cleaning during peak summer periods. The Venus Bay Community Reference Group are currently meeting with key stakeholders including Council to begin planning for solutions to address summer visitor management issues and to investigate community grants.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED SERVICES FOR TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	MAIN PROVIDER	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Home and community care	South Gippsland Shire Council	Home visit	Continued service on current model

Maternal and child health	South Gippsland Shire Council	Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre	Continued service on current model
District nursing service	Gippsland Southern Health Service	In Community Health Centre daily and Home visit	Current service model expanded to meet population need limited by funding allocation
Private General Practice	Dr Fran Grimes	Community Health Centre	Continued service Invite services of nurse practitioner
Rehabilitation, planned activity group, health promotion	Gippsland Southern Health Service	Community Health Centre	Continued service with increased provision in the town.
Library	West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation	Mobile library weekly	Casual seating area within mobile library van
Ambulance	Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)	First responders	Ensure nearest ambulance branches are serviced sufficiently for both local community and more remote towns
Police	Victoria Police	Wonthaggi	Continued provision
Tarwin Lower and District Country Fire Authority	CFA	Volunteer service to urban and rural fires and road traffic accidents	Continued service provision with increased recruitment needed as population ages
Transport	No public transport Community bus trial Summer beach bus	Community bus trail to Wonthaggi	Weekly community bus

Open Space, Streets, Parks and Playgrounds

Tarwin Lower

Path from recreation reserve to shops

Tarwin Lower benefits from the river side parks and recreation reserve area. A path connecting the recreation reserve to the River Drive commercial area in Tarwin Lower remains a high priority to ensure pedestrian access and movement around the town. Where previous plans have proposed this path is constructed along Walkerville Road,

there is also an option to plan for a path which meanders past the Community Health Centre, behind RV Fisher Park, through the side of the Primary School to enter the shopping strip. Costings of both options in consultation with the potential users of the path will provide an affordable option suiting the community.



Venus Bay

Parks

Continued focus on the higher level parks with play equipment and barbeques should consider the potential to expand to neighbouring blocks as they become available for sale.

Encourage ongoing community maintenance for unstructured parks via the community stewardship initiative. Ensure an ongoing education program to accompany this initiative to make sure community members can effectively monitor the encouragement of native plants and the removal of weeds. There may be an opportunity for a partnership between the Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula, Landcare and the community to schedule regular education sessions.

Signs

Directional signs are required to link the existing shared path at the Jupiter Boulevard shops to the on-road shared bike /pedestrian lanes to the north. These on-road shared lanes provide extensive access to all road users and are well sign posted where they are present alerting motorists to the likelihood of pedestrians, mobility scooters and cyclists on the road.

Further maintenance of the bike lanes including weed management will assist in their clear definition. Coupled with clear directional signs at main entry points the maintenance of bike lanes will improve access for both young and old residents in Venus Bay.

Signs from the Venus Bay shops to the community centre would improve access by visitors to the extensive services provided at the community centre.

Lights and seating

Seating in more areas of Venus Bay will encourage increased pedestrian movement. Walking for an ageing community will be more likely with the provision of regular seating. Lighting around the shops in Jupiter Boulevard will assist ready and safe movement of pedestrians in this area at night.

TABLE 6: OPEN SPACE, PARKS, PLAYGROUND, PATHS AND TRAILS TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY CURRENT AND RECOMMENDED

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Parks and Playgrounds	3 regional parks with playgrounds, bbq, rotunda, toilets - RV Fisher Park Tarwin Lower - Jupiter Park Venus Bay includes basketball area - Fishermans Road Venus Bay - 3 additional local parks with playgrounds	Enhance parks to suit older population and children with the provision of plenty of seating.
Paths and Trails	Tarwin Lower river trail connecting	Path from Tarwin Lower Recreation

	fishing platforms Shared trail to Venus Bay On-road bike lanes Footpaths linking shared paths and commercial areas.	Reserve to town via community health and primary school. Clear signs showing links between existing paths and on-road cycle lanes. Maintain on-road shared pedestrian/cycle lane in Venus Bay residential areas.
Open Space	Broad range of vacant land and parks within developments in Venus Bay Cape Liptrap Coastal Park Tarwin River bank areas Fauna Reserve Tarwin Lower	Continue priority maintenance of parks with infrastructure investigating expansion of Jupiter Park if possible Support community stewardship of natural park areas and education program to ensure existing open space is kept free of weeds. Increased seating along existing paths

Sport and Recreation

Indoor sports and recreation

Continued use of the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre and Venus Bay Community Centre provides opportunities for a range of exercise programs.

Increased use of Mechanics Institute Hall in Tarwin Lower for recreation requiring a larger indoor space such as badminton or table tennis is possible.

Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve

Footpath linking the recreation reserve to the shops via the community health centre, park and school is required in a town without paths in this area.

Reservation of adequate land to include tennis courts at the recreation reserve in the event they are required to relocate from their current position.

Aquatic Sports

Following repairs to deterioration of the Lifesaving Club building, this facility would make an ideal additional meeting space for the community outside of summer months. Youth may find this space attractive for their activities as an alternative to the Community Centre.



The community has indicated an interest in an additional canoe ramp between the

jetty and bird hide. Investigation including cost, useage and construction would need to take place in consultation with the Tarwin River Canoe Club.

Venus Bay Recreation

Recreation in Venus Bay is less structured using the natural local area, walking paths and parks. Links between residential areas in Venus Bay via natural corridors could be developed in an informal manner by local residents. The addition of seating along shared walkways will support the ageing population.

TABLE 7: OUTDOOR SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN TARWIN LOWER AND VENUS BAY

SERVICE / INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL	RECOMMENDED SERVICE AND FACILITY MODEL TO MEET FUTURE NEED
Playing fields – Football, Cricket,	Football and cricket School oval	Refer to Rec Reserve Master Plan 2013 for priorities within the reserve
Outdoor courts – Netball, Tennis	Fenced hard court at primary school Netball courts Tennis courts	Allow space for tennis courts at recreation reserve
Pavilion and club rooms	At recreation reserve	Refer to Rec Reserve Master Plan
Pony Club	Land adjacent to recreation reserve and cross country course	Continue on current site
Aquatic	Boat ramps in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay Fishing platforms on Tarwin River Canoe Club Fishing club Water skiing Surf Lifesaving Club, Venus Bay	Support community to investigate canoe ramp Provide further links to river from Venus Bay
Indoor recreation	Exercise classes in community facilities	Continued use of local community facilities including increased use of mechanics institute hall Tarwin Lower