



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Shaping The Pyrenees

What is your vision for Pyrenees Shire for 2031 and how can we support the different needs of our communities?



**Pyrenees Shire Community Vision
Deliberative Engagement Information Pack**

**Deliberative Engagement Panel to establish a
community vision for the Pyrenees Shire, 2021**

**Meeting at Lexton Hall, 19 Lexton-Ararat Rd,
Lexton Vic 3352**

10am–3pm Sunday 16th May

10am–3pm Sunday 30th May

10am–3pm Sunday 6th June

Refreshments provided:

Coffee, tea and water throughout the day

Morning tea – 11:30am

Lunch – 1:20pm

Contact us:

Ember Parkin, Community Engagement Officer

E Ember.parkin@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

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Acknowledgement of Country

Pyrenees Shire is situated on the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk tribes. We pay our respects to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the Elders and people of these tribes.

About this document and further resources

This document provides a snapshot of Pyrenees Shire area. It examines who we are, how we live and work, and contains information on some of the social, demographic, environmental and economic features of our Shire.

The information contained within draws on a range of sources, listed below:

- **2016 Census data, Australian Bureau of Statistics**
[Census | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)
- **2016 ABS Socio-economic Index for Areas (SEIFA)**
[SEIFA \(abs.gov.au\)](#)
- **Pyrenees Community Profile & Economic Profile, REMPLAN**
[Region Explorer | REMPLAN \(app.remplan.com.au\)](#)
- **Vic Health Indicators – LGA Profiles**
[Pyrenees Vic Health Indicators \(vichealth.vic.gov.au\)](#)
- **Pyrenees Shire Council documents, including:**
 - Economic Development Strategy
 - Municipal Emergency Management Plan
 - Council Budget[Council Policies and Publications \(pyrenees.vic.gov.au\)](#)
- **Know your Council**
[Pyrenees Shire \(knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au\)](#)
- **Local Government Act 2020**
[Local Gov Act 2020 \(localgovernment.vic.gov.au\)](#)



Welcome & Message from the CEO

This deliberative process is an important way for Council to adopt a community vision that has been worked on by a collective that represents the members of our community. As a member of this group you be able to listen to other people's ideas and share your own ideas and will work together to help us to shape our important long-term and medium-term strategic plans.

Commitment to the process: Council at its February meeting formally resolved to support this process through making four public promises provided in full below. While Council often engages with and responds to the wishes of the community, a promise like this is rare and an extra step to demonstrate Council's commitment to this process. This promise highlights the importance of the work of this group.

Recruitment occurred through a two-stage process. First Council called for expressions of interest to participate and sent letters to randomly selected households inviting people to participate. Second, a random stratified process, which aims to obtain a group of people that best represents the population of Pyrenees Shire was conducted. This process produced a group of Pyrenees residents who matched the gender profile, came from all reaches of the Shire, are aged from their 20's to their 80's. Additional demographic criteria were also used to ensure a vibrant diversity among participants.

On behalf of the Pyrenees Shire Council and our community, I would like to express my thanks to each member who is participating in the deliberative panel to develop a new Community Vision for the Shire. We wish you all the best for this process.

Promise from Council

A community panel will be empowered and supported to develop a report with recommendations for the Community Vision, priorities and objectives in the Council Plan and key priorities for input into the Asset Plan and Financial Plan. The report will be presented to Council.

Pyrenees Shire Council promises to:

- Publish the unedited recommendations of the deliberative process.
- Undertake a rigorous decision-making process to adopt the recommended community vision to the fullest extent possible.
- Ensure that the priorities identified by the Community are incorporated into the Council Plan and Financial Plan to the fullest extent possible.
- Where recommendations are not implemented in full, Council will report back to the community and explain the reasoning for decisions made.

The task of the Community Panel

The outcomes of this community engagement will directly affect Pyrenees Shire's Community Vision and the Council Plan and will have input into Council's long-term plans including the Financial Plan and Asset Plan.

The Community Vision will describe the aspirations for the Pyrenees Shire Community for 2031. It will describe what the Pyrenees region will be like as a place to live, play, work and visit in the future. The vision will identify the priorities for how to achieve these aspirations. The community panel will work together to answer:

What is your vision for Pyrenees Shire for 2031 and how can we support the different needs of our communities?

A vision is a 'direction/compass point'. This will help Council and Council Officers to get a clear sense of the "direction" that the community wants to head in.

Your vision will act as a guide for decisions and / or actions by people (Council, community, business, other agencies) in the present.

The Community Panel's task is to set up the direction. It will be Council's role to use this direction to figure out how things to get done to work toward meeting the vision.



The Role of Local Government in Victoria

Local Governments throughout Victoria are governed by the State's Local Government Act 2020. Within the Act, the role of a council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community. The Act contains Overarching Governance Principles that must drive how Councils operate, which are set out below.

- a) *Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;*
- b) *priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;*
- c) *the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;*
- d) *the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;*
- e) *innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;*
- f) *collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;*
- g) *the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;*
- h) *regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;*
- i) *the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.*

For further information, see: [Local Government Act, 2020](#); [Local Government Act 2020 \(legislation.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Local government delivers a range of services to meet the needs and wants of the community, this service delivery covers:

- Internal services such as finance, human resources, information technology, governance and many others;
- External services such as waste collection, parks maintenance, home support services, parks maintenance and many more.

Council is accountable for the effective and efficient use of more than 90% of its income to ratepayers, citizens, and other levels of government.

Pyrenees Shire Council is responsible for many services, assets, and facilities. Libraries, building maintenance, road management, maternal & child health, waste, aged and disability care services, pools, parks and playgrounds, the provisioning of planning services, environmental health, tourism, food safety and local amenity are just a few.

For further information, see:

[Pyrenees Shire - Know Your Council](#)

<https://www.viccouncils.asn.au/what-councils-do/council-services>

About Pyrenees Shire Council

The Council

The Council was elected to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community. In October 2020 the Pyrenees Shire community elected this Council for a four-year term. The municipality is divided into five wards, represented by one Councillor in each ward. The five Councillors are the elected representatives of all residents and ratepayers across the Shire. They have responsibility for setting the strategic direction for the municipality, policy development, identifying service standards and monitoring performance across the organisation.

The five Councillors at Pyrenees Shire Council are:

- Cr Damian Ferrari (Mayor), Beaufort Ward
- Cr Tanya Kehoe, Mount Emu Ward
- Cr Robert Vance, De Cameron Ward
- Cr David Clark, Ercildoune Ward
- Cr Ron Eason, Avoca Ward



The Organisation

Pyrenees Shire Council consists of 121 full time and part time employees who work an equivalent of 83.6 full time roles.

Council officers work from and maintain offices on Lawrence St in Beaufort, and Resource Centres in Beaufort and Avoca.

For further information, see:

[Annual Reports \(pyrenees.vic.gov.au\)](https://pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

Capital Grants	\$7,720,000
Rates & Charges	\$12,170,000
Other	\$150,000
Operating Grants	\$7,090,000
Fees, Fines & charges	\$1,050,000
Total Revenue	\$28,190,000

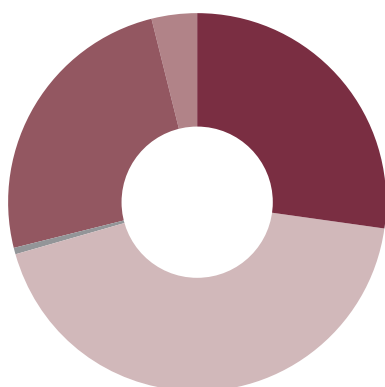
About Council revenue and expenses

How Council brings in money

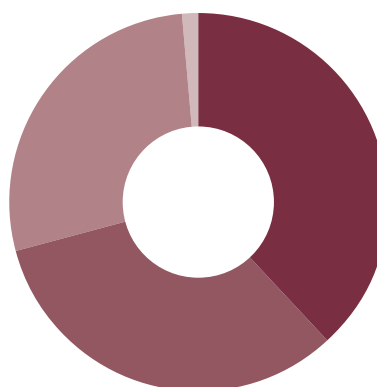
Council activities are funded through a limited number of sources:

- Rates – there is an expectation that rates income collected from property owners is spent fairly and efficiently (for Pyrenees Shire rates represent around 35% of total income)
- Operating and Capital Grants – funding from other levels of government have requirements for acquittal and delivery of required outcomes or service outputs (Operating grants 42% and Capital grants 17%)
- User Charges – Council operates a range of services that charge user fees (less than 3%)
- Statutory fees and fines – are fees for applications and permits (less than 1%)

Pyrenees Shire Council revenue



How Pyrenees Shire Council spends money (2021-2022 draft budget)



Expenses

Employee costs	\$8,930,000
Materials and services	\$7,595,000
Depreciation	\$6,471,000
Other	\$314,000
Total	\$23,310,000

Source: 2021-2022 Draft budget

For more information, see: 2021-2022 Draft Budget (pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

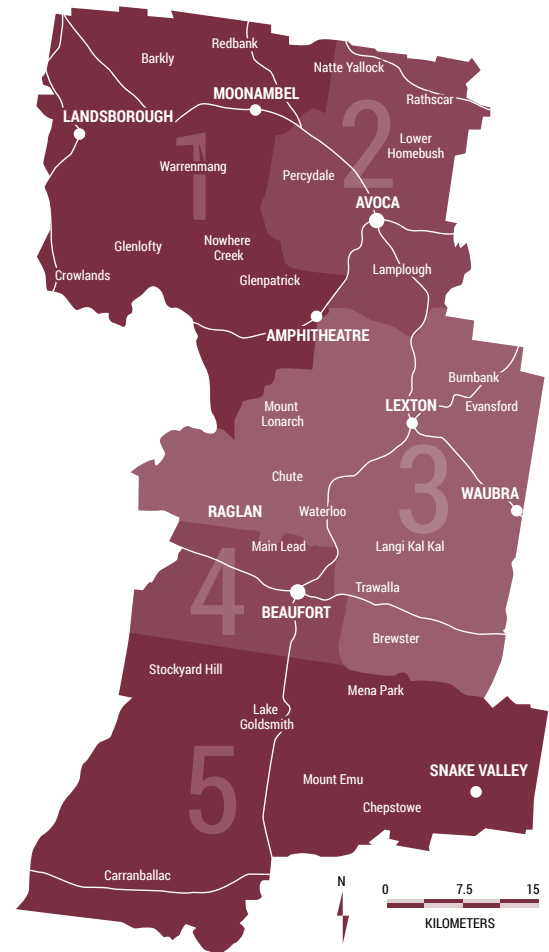


About our Shire

Pyrenees Shire is located in the Central West of Victoria, about 130 kilometres north west of Melbourne.

The Shire covers an area of approximately 3,457 square kilometres, extending 90 kilometres in a north-south direction and 40 kilometres in an east-west direction.

Pyrenees Shire includes the townships of Beaufort, Avoca and Landsborough and the communities of Amphitheatre, Barkly, Bo Peep, Brewster, Bung Bong, Burnbank, Carngham, Carranballac, Chepstowe, Chute, Cross Roads, Crowlands, Ercildoune, Eurambeen, Evansford, Eversley, Frenchmans, Glenbrae, Glenlofty, Glenpatrick, Glenshee, Hillcrest, Lake Goldsmith, Lamplough, Langi Kal Kal, Lexton, Lillicur, Lower Homebush, Main Lead, Mena Park, Middle Creek, Moonambel, Mortchup, Mount Emu, Mount Lonarch, Natte Yallock, Nerring, Nowhere Creek, Percydale, Raglan, Rathscar, Redbank, Shays Flat, Shirley, Snake Valley, Stockyard Hill, Stoneleigh, Tanwood, Trawalla, Warrenmang, Waterloo, Wattle Creek and Waubra.



- 1 DE CAMERON WARD
- 2 AVOCA WARD
- 3 ERCILDOUNE WARD

- 4 BEAUFORT WARD
- 5 MOUNT EMU WARD



Geographic and environmental context

The Shire region has an abundance of natural resources including two national parks and 77 other protected areas.

Pyrenees Shire contains significant areas of public land being the Pyrenees Range and Mt Cole State Forest, which form part of the Great Dividing Range. Other forested areas exist in the southern and northern parts of the Shire between Moonambel and Redbank/Barkly areas, along with the Beaufort and Snake Valley districts.

Pyrenees Shire Council is custodian of an extensive range of community assets that it provides to facilitate delivery of services to the community. For road assets, it has responsibility for 2,048.9km of roads varying from sealed roads to access tracks and fire-tracks, 291 bridges and major culverts; 45.39km of kerb and channel and 18.66km of footpaths.

The landscape of the Pyrenees Shire varies from the very steep hill areas of the Mt. Cole, Mt. Buangor, and Pyrenees Ranges to the undulating flat open terrain around the Natte Yallock, Stoneleigh and Streatham areas.

Sections of the Shire which have been cleared have generally been improved for pasture with soil types varying from light gravel/clay soils in the north to very rich volcanic soils in the east and south. Major water courses still contain and promote stands of native trees.

The climate varies between the north and the south of the region. North of the Pyrenees Ranges there is a warmer, drier climate, with rainfall of about 650mm a year. South of the Pyrenees Ranges is a cooler, wetter climate with rainfall in excess of 750mm per year.

Climate and bushfire season

The climate in the Pyrenees Shire area is dominated by warm dry summers and cool wet winters. In recent years there has been a significant decrease in average spring and autumn

rainfalls. The bushfire season generally runs from December to April.

Prevailing weather conditions associated with the bushfire season in the Pyrenees Shire area are warm to hot north westerly winds accompanied by high temperatures and low relative humidity followed by a cool south westerly change.

Under the State Government climate change projections, Pyrenees Shire can expect:

- To be hotter with the greatest increases in temperature expected in summer;
- To be drier with greatest decreases in rainfall expected in spring; and
- To have fewer rainy days but increasing rainfall intensity.

Emergency management

Councils have a variety of emergency management responsibilities, from prevention through to emergency response and recovery, as well as building the resilience of communities to respond to emergencies. Emergencies experienced in Pyrenees Shire vary from flood, bushfires, storms, and the pandemics. Roles are broad and varied and include developing and implementing emergency management plans for the municipality, preparing overlay controls, and hosting emergency response centres.



Lexton-Ben Major fire, 2019

First Peoples

The Pyrenees Shire area sits across traditional ownership areas of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk Aboriginal peoples.

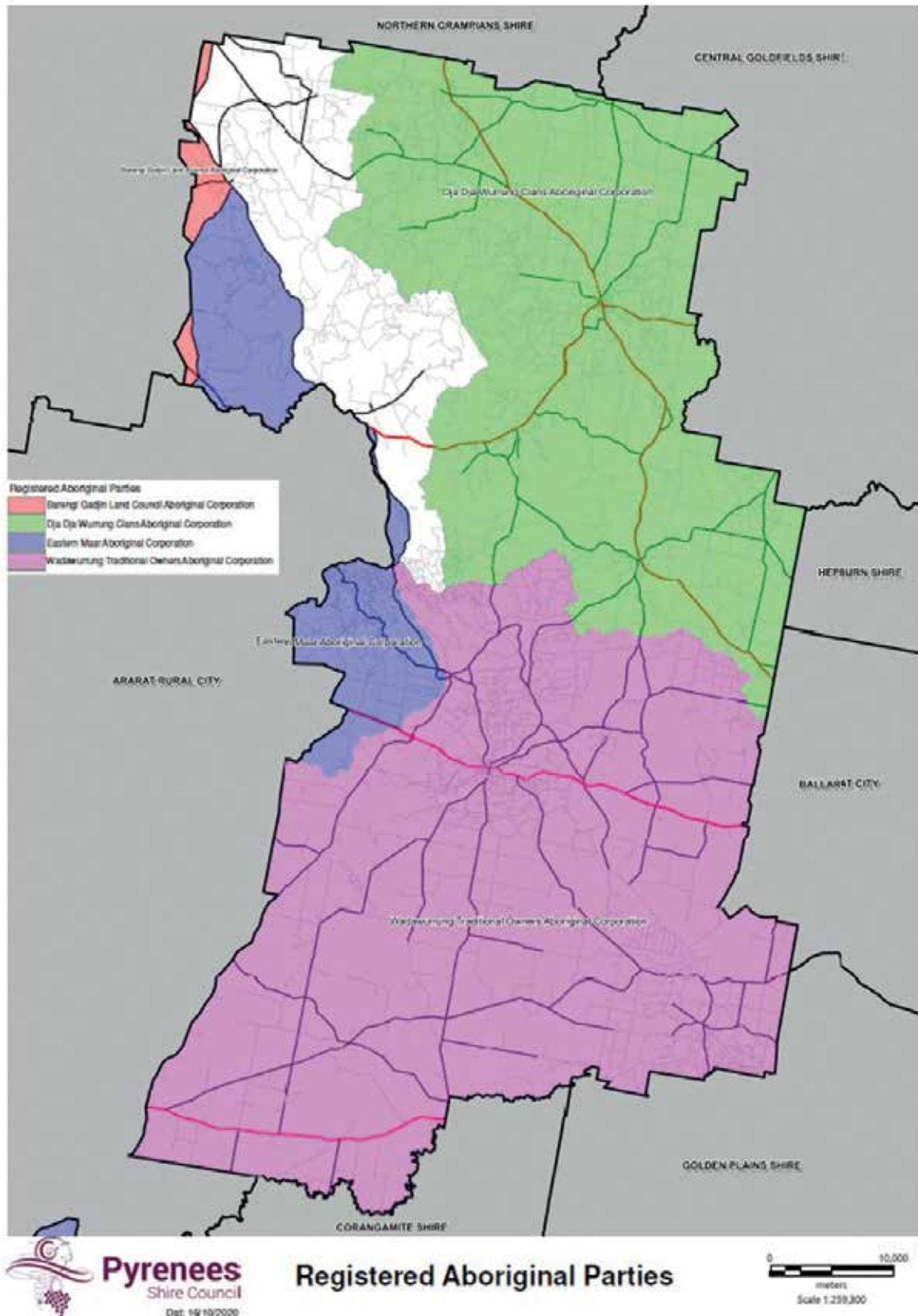
For further information, see:

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation

Barengi Gadjin Land Council





Demographics, culture & community



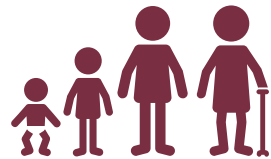
Population

Pyrenees
7,472



Households with no internet access at home

Pyrenees	Victoria
24.5%	13.6%



Median age

Pyrenees	Victoria
51	42



Level of highest educational attainment

Pyrenees	Victoria
Bachelor degree or above 9.5%	Bachelor degree or above 24.3%
Year 9 or below 12.9%	Year 9 or below 8.9%

Percent of population over 60 years

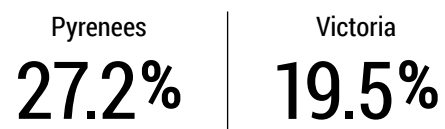
Pyrenees	Victoria
35.9%	21%



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people's
Percent of total population



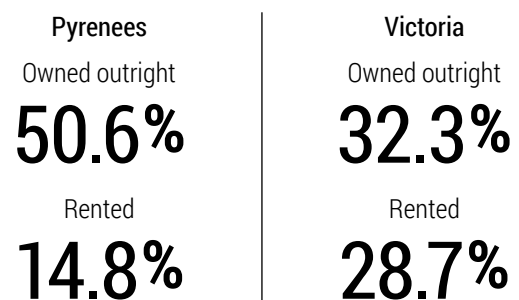
Couple families with both parents not working



Percent of households where a
non-English language is spoken at home



Housing tenure



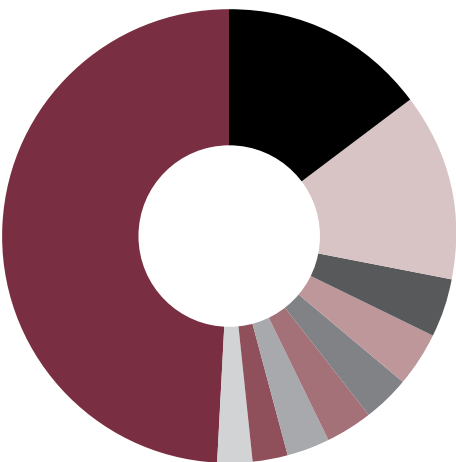
Median weekly household income





Where we live

2016 population



Location	2016 population	2016 population %	Accumulated %
<i>Principal townships ¹</i>			
Beaufort	1,072	14.81%	28.24%
Avoca	972	13.43%	
Snake Valley	308	4.26%	71.76%
Waubra	275	3.80%	
Amphitheatre	248	3.43%	
Raglan	231	3.19%	
Lexton	231	3.19%	
Landsborough	180	2.49%	
Moonambel	167	2.31%	
Remainder of Shire	3,554	49.10%	
Total	7,238	100%	100%

Source: census data 2016

¹ In this case, 'principal' is defined as having 150 or more residents as of the 2016 Census.



Schools

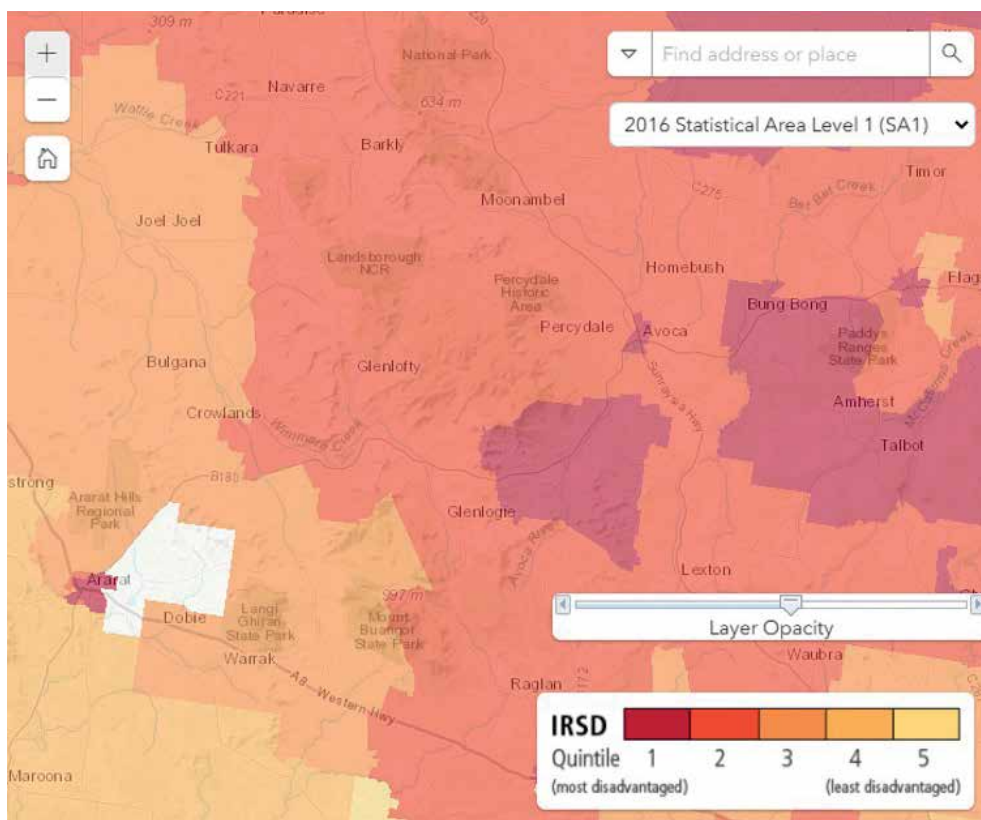
There are ten government schools throughout the Shire, some are growing and some are decreasing in numbers.

Location	Primary/Secondary	No. Students 2015	No. Students 2020
Beaufort	Primary	146	167
Beaufort	Secondary	182	201
Landsborough	Primary	15	6
Waubra	Primary	55	55
Moonambel	Primary	14	16
Avoca	Primary	94	118
Trawalla	Primary	18	9
Amphitheatre	Primary	10	2
Natte Yallock	Primary	5	5
Woody Yallock (Snake Valley Campus)	Primary	No data	58 (2019)

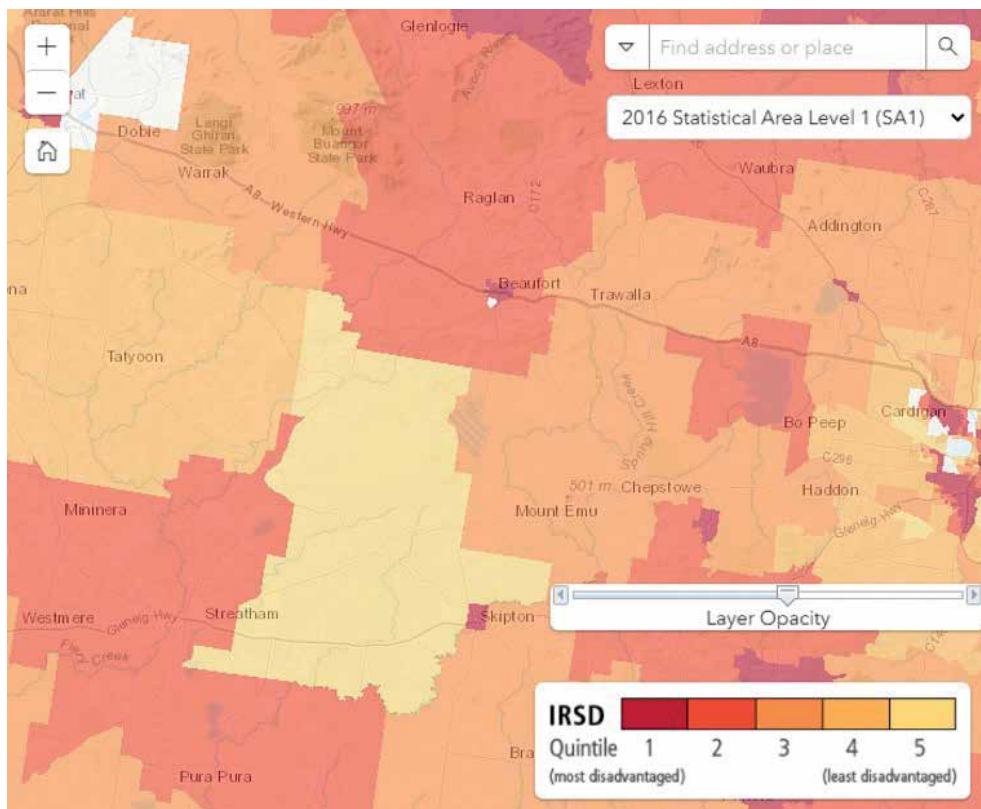


Social and economic disadvantage

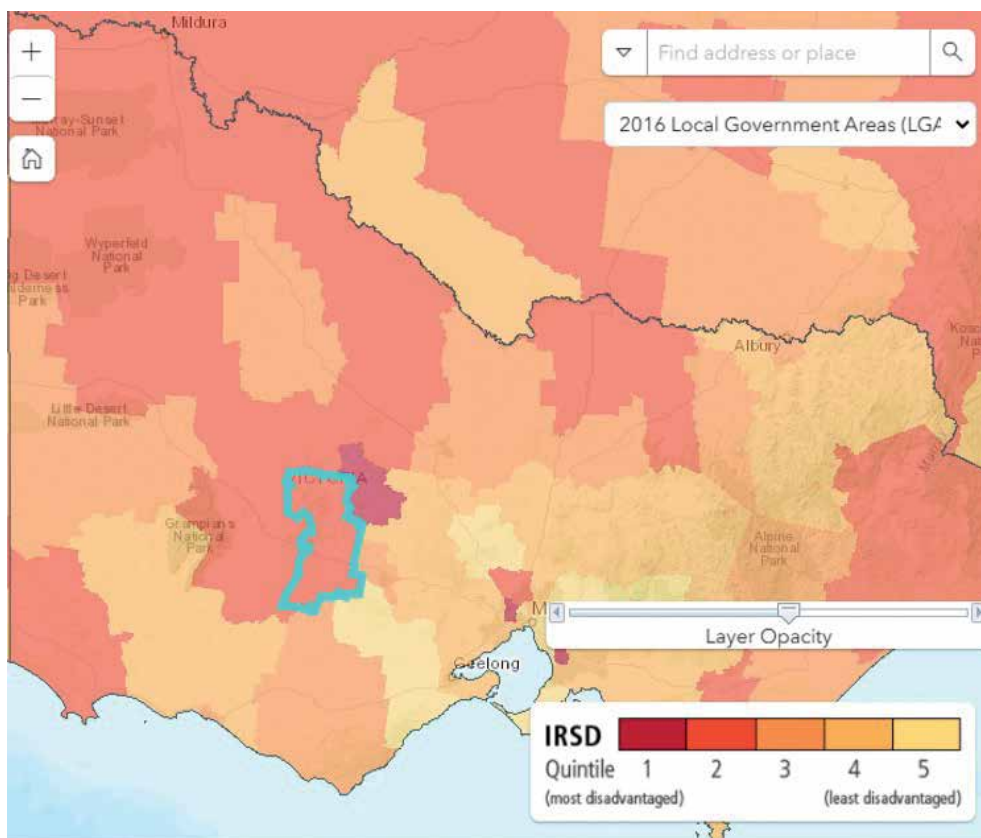
Pockets of the Shire are home to significant levels of socioeconomic disadvantage. The following maps show the Social Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



SEIFA – North of the Shire



SEIFA – South of the Shire



SEIFA – whole Shire in context of the State

For more information, see: SEIFA (abs.gov.au)



Culture and community

The Shire hosts a range of food and wine events feature the annual calendar of events with the region's wineries hosting several events throughout the year including "Pyrenees Unearthed Wine + Food festival" in April or cellar door events such as "Paella in the Pyrenees". Many wineries also host more informal music and arts events.

The Avoca Shire Turf Club hosts country race meets twice per year. Moonambel events specialise in mid-Winter bonfires or spectacular fireworks displays. Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally is held twice per year. Other events throughout the year include equestrian endurance rides and races, car rallies, cycling and walking events that take advantage of the state forests or country roads of the Pyrenees. Many smaller towns showcase their area with events such as markets, vintage car rallies, petanque tournaments, art exhibitions and other seasonal celebrations.

Markets held across the Shire attract a range of visitors and locals alike, and support a growing group of local artisans, food producers and makers.

Economy

The Shire is dependent on primary industry and is renowned for wool, viticulture, and forestry activity.

Businesses in the industry area 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' make up nearly half (421 out of 854) of the total number of businesses in the Shire, and 20% of the workforce is employed in the industry.

Key areas of agricultural production are wool, cereal, hay crops and meat. Other important industries of employment are healthcare and social assistance (12% of the workforce); electricity, gas, water & waste-water services (9%); and retail trade (8%).

While the total population of the Shire has increased by 425 people from 2014 to 2019, the working age population has decreased by 10 people over this time.

Tourism is an important industry to the Shire. The Shire has a range of natural attributes which lend themselves to outdoor activity such as bushwalking, cycling, and sightseeing with around 20 cellar doors operating, and a variety of wine-related and other events described above.

Recent expansion to the corrections facility at Langi Kal Kal has resulted in employment numbers increasing in the Public, Administration and Safety sector from 150 in 2013 to 293 in 2017.

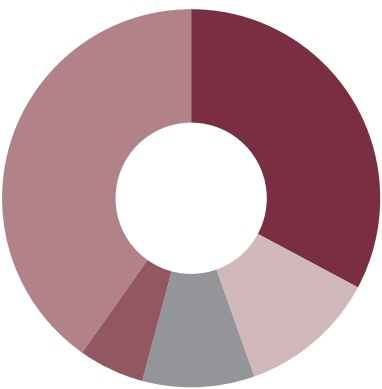
The key sectors are currently making the following contributions to the local economy:

1. The sheep, grains and cattle sector produces \$168M in output, employs 508 staff and creates a value add of \$66M (39% of output)
2. Wine manufacturing produces \$56M in output, employs 131 staff and creates a value add of \$11.5M (20% of output)
3. The construction industry produces \$67M in output, employs 134 staff and creates a value add of \$22M (33% of output)
4. Tourism contributes \$32M in output, employs 141 staff and creates a value add of \$11M (34% of output).

According to the ABS there are 816 businesses registered in the Pyrenees Shire (as at June 2018) of which 478 are a sole operator, 328 with fewer than 20 staff, and 10 with between 20 and 199 staff.

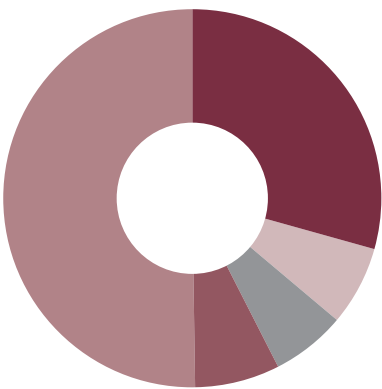


**Output (with separate Tourism Sector)
Pyrenees (S) (2018 Release 2)**



\$M		
■	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$184.967
■	Construction	\$66.967
■	Manufacturing	\$52.958
■	Tourism	\$31.609
■	Balance	\$227.006

**Employment (with separate Tourism Sector)
Pyrenees (S) (2018 Release 2)**



Jobs		
■	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	588
■	Construction	134
■	Manufacturing	130
■	Tourism	141
■	Balance	1,008

Outside of Beaufort and Avoca, the annual tourism output is estimated to be \$21.021m, or almost two thirds of all tourism output of the Shire, and most of that arising in the North of the Shire.

For further information, see:

Pyrenees Shire Economic Development Strategy:
[Strategic Plans - Pyrenees Shire Council](#)

[Pyrenees Shire Council Economy Profile | Summary | REMPLAN](#)



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Shire Council

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