

02.01Historic
10/02/2022
C45lodd**Context**

Loddon Shire is located in north central Victoria, commencing approximately 180 kilometres north-west of Melbourne and immediately north-west of Bendigo. It has an area of approximately 6,700 square kilometres and extends over 100 kilometres from north to south and over 80 kilometres from east to west.

The Shire is a rural municipality. It contains farmland, forest, native grasslands, lakes, rivers and wetlands interspersed with small townships and hamlets. These include Boort, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn, Bridgewater, Dingee, Eddington, Korong Vale, Laanecoorie, Mitiamo, Newbridge, Serpentine, Tarnagulla and Calivil.

Agriculture is the economic foundation of the Shire. It is the main employer and main income generator. The Shire has significant areas of high quality agriculture land, quality affordable water supplies and a climate that is conducive to high agricultural productivity.

The Shire is located within the Loddon and Avoca River catchments, which are part of the Murray-Darling Basin and cover four bioregions – Victorian Riverina, Murray Mallee, Northern Inland Slopes and Goldfields.

The Shire is serviced by a significant network of highways and roads which present locational opportunities in terms of access to and from the Shire. The Loddon Valley Highway and the Calder Highway move people and goods to, from and through the Shire and provide links to Bendigo, Melbourne and northern Victoria. Rail links are provided from a number of key towns to other centres and are most significant for their role in grain transportation to Melbourne ports.

The air strip at Boort provides opportunities for the sale and transportation of produce from this part of the Shire. It is an important asset for local business and tourism in the region.

Consistent with being a rural municipality, more than 50 per cent of the Shire's community resides in the rural areas of the Shire, with the balance living in the townships.

The Shire, like many other rural areas in Australia, is faced with the challenge of a declining population base.

The proportion of the population aged over 60 years is predicted to increase.