

Local transport approaches

Local transport needs

Communities living in regions of population decline and service rationalisation face travelling longer distances to access services. Co-ordination of transport services is important in such regions. A survey undertaken through the Southern Mallee Transport Connections project* found that transport was used by locals for shopping, health appointments, social visits and attending events. This highlights the importance of transport in sustaining community networks, social cohesion and community wellbeing.

The Southern Mallee survey found a lack of flexible transport options for local residents. Existing transport routes did not always match with the desired destinations of locals nor the desired time of travel. In addition, residents highlighted difficulties in finding out about existing services. Addressing issues of transport disadvantage in the region therefore involves information initiatives as well as infrastructure and service provision.¹

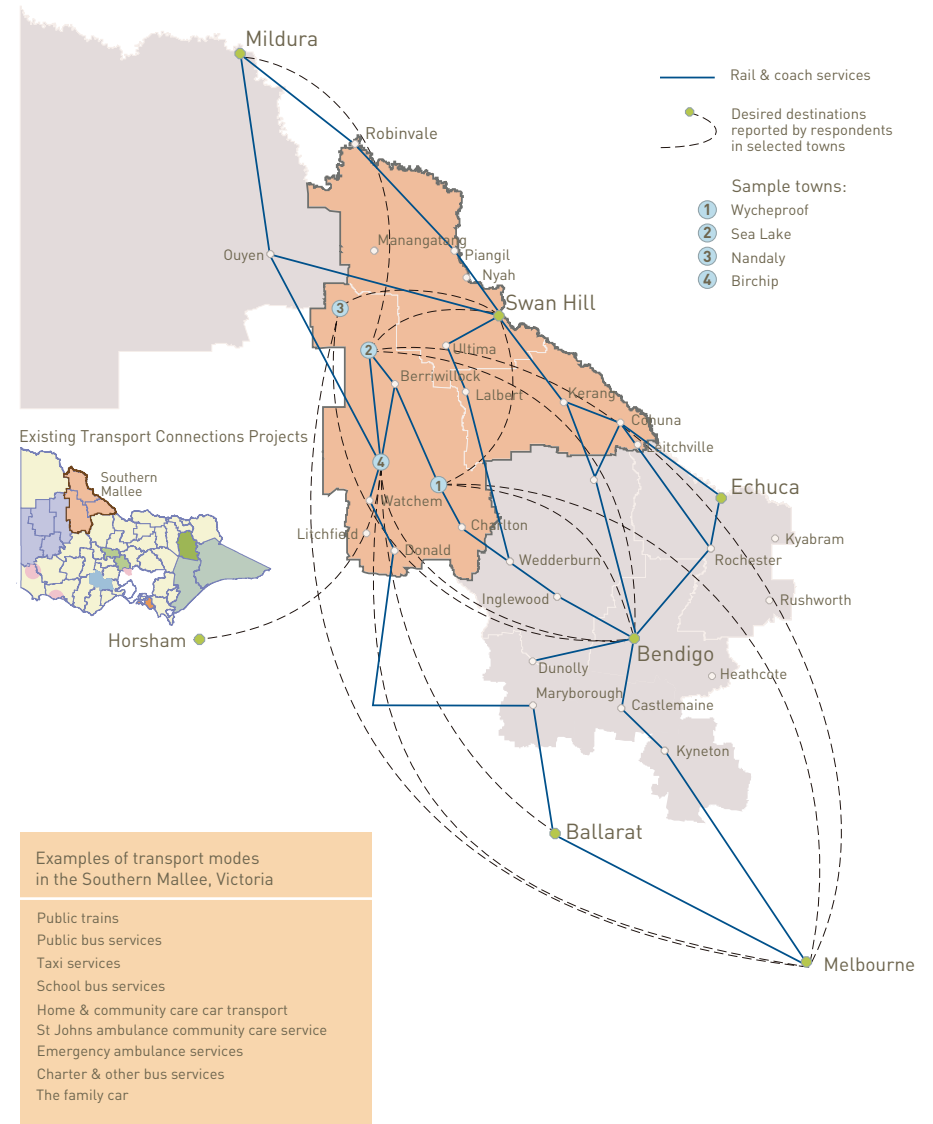
* The survey comprised 1,648 respondents across 31 small towns

Proposed pilot projects as a result of SMTCP

- | Birchip: A pilot flexible hire car proposal for people living in the area.
- | Cohuna: A pilot non-emergency transport vehicle proposal for the Gannawarra Shire and beyond
- | Donald: A pilot bus route service which could provide regular transport between Donald and Horsham.
- | Sea Lake: A pilot bus route service which could provide regular transport between Sea Lake and Swan Hill including links to and from other isolated communities.

Public transport services and desired destinations¹

Southern Mallee Transport Connections Project (SMTCP)



Source ¹Victorian Government 2004 *Transport Connections Progress Report*