

Servicing Communities

Health services

While health services are provided across the state, there are greater access issues for residents in areas of low population density or located a long way from a regional centre. Specialist services require higher population catchments to be viable. Hence they are mostly located in regional cities than in rural areas. Because of this, transport is a critical factor affecting access to health services.

Tele-services

Difficulties of service delivery in areas distant from regional cities has led to various applications of telecommunications to support service delivery. Tele-services can include information and data services, training and diagnostic services. Infrastructure upgrades in regional Victoria are enabling greater access to such services.

Transport

Transport is a critical component of both social and economic wellbeing as it enables access to social networks, goods and services..

Ecosystem services

Communities benefit from services which are provided by the environment. These may include water filtration and pollination services provided by forests. Because such services are difficult to value, they have tended to be overlooked when considering economic and social wellbeing.

An integrated picture of Servicing Communities

Public housing

While the majority of housing is privately owned, public housing provision and housing assistance initiatives remain an important infrastructure service in regional communities.

Education

While some locations have experienced a decline in demand for education services due to population decline, others continue to have increasing enrolments. These are usually near or in the larger regional centres, and in areas close to Melbourne which have had ongoing population growth. Retention rates at secondary school level have shown a consistent rise across all of Victoria.