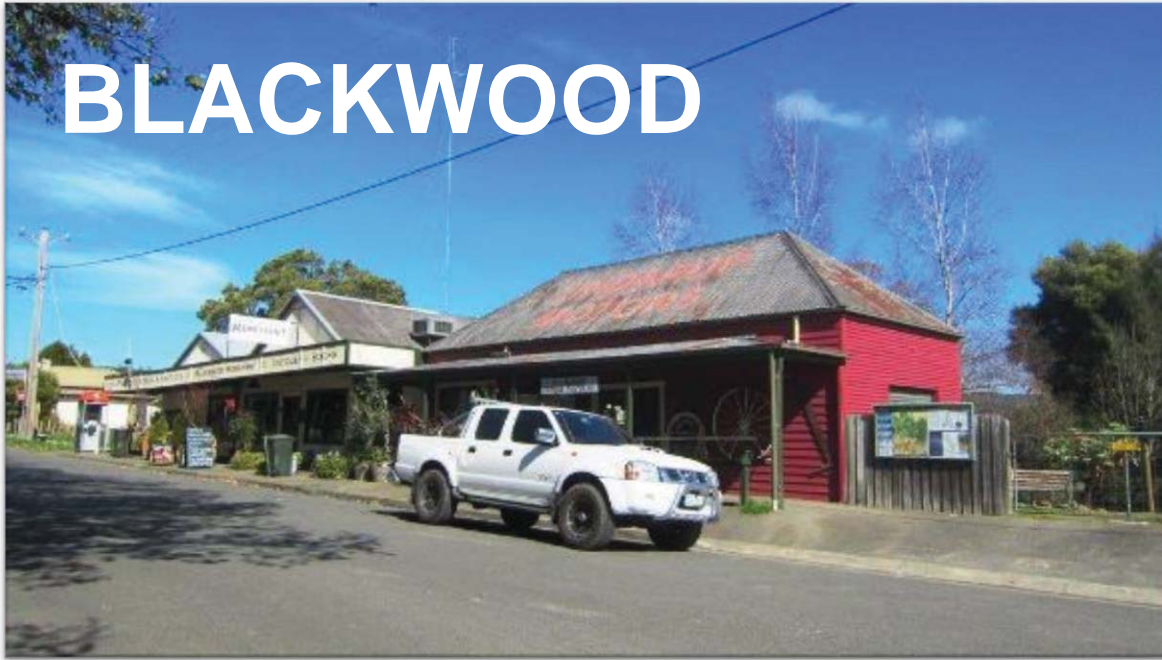


# BLACKWOOD



## VISION STATEMENT FOR BLACKWOOD

Set amongst the tall timbers and lush greenery of the Wombat State Forest, Blackwood is a haven for recreational activities and tourism. Its local economy is bolstered by its commercial nurseries and gardens and access to a range of natural experiences. Blackwood's significant gold mining heritage has shaped the town and efforts to retain this point of difference and character are critical to Blackwood's future.

# BLACKWOOD

## INTRODUCTION

Blackwood is a small village located approximately 15 kilometres to the north-east of Ballan within the elevated woodlands of Wombat State Forest and Lerderderg State Park. It is situated on the Lerderderg River, upon steeply incised ridgelines divided by various rivers and streams with commanding views of the district.

The settlement was originally a thriving township due to its rich gold seams and associated mining in the 1850's. Many traces remain in the settlement of Blackwood's gold mining heritage. Blackwood includes the former gold mining prospecting camps of Golden Point and Simmons Reef and Barrys Reef.

It is estimated that the total population of the Blackwood area, including Barrys Reef, is 342 residents within 311 dwellings (many are vacant). Young families make up about a third of the population and retirees about a quarter.

The settlement is served by only one connecting road, the Greendale – Trentham Road, which provides access to Ballan and the Western Freeway via Greendale to the south, and Trentham approximately 13 kilometres to the north. It contains a number of historic buildings, and has an open treed aspect in part influenced by the need for onsite disposal of wastewater.

Blackwood is one of the most scenic localities within Moorabool Shire and is a significant tourist and weekend retreat market for Melbourne, the Moorabool Shire, and surrounding areas. There is a village centre along Martin Street, just east of the Greendale – Trentham Road, which contains commercial premises, such as, the Blackwood

## ROLE: VILLAGE



BLACKWOOD  
MAP 7-13 Blackwood

Hotel and the Blackwood Merchant Café. The main tourist enterprises and attractions include the Garden of St Erth, Caravan Park, and Mineral Springs Reserve, local galleries, bushwalking, nature conservation, and heritage buildings. A new CFA Station and co-located Community Fire Refuge have been opened in Blackwood, which is the first of its kind in Australia and incorporates the latest designs and safety specifications. The refuge is only available for use as a last resort when fire is threatening the local community.

The settlement pattern has been influenced by its historical development as a goldmining area, and its steep undulating terrain. Buildings are scattered across the settlement.

Blackwood is within the Lake Merrimu (Lerderderg River) Special Water Supply Catchment. It was announced in 2006 that Blackwood was to be sewered to address public health and environmental risks with an on-site septic systems in the settlement. However, Central Highlands Water were unable to determine an appropriate sewerage solution for the settlement. The Blackwood Localised Septic Program has since been established, which will address wastewater management issues in Blackwood. This program may provide potential for infill development in Blackwood which should be managed to limit its effect on the character of the township.

Blackwood functions as a village where day-to-day services are met, supported by tourism, commuting, and the town's popularity as a weekend retreat.

Blackwood is recognised as a town within the Moorabool Planning Scheme.

## TOWNSHIP CHARACTER

Blackwood is located in heavily forested and undulating to steep land in high country on the edge of the extensive Lerderderg State Park. It is picturesque and has strong views across, over, and into the surrounding forest from the town and its approaches.

When approaching from the North or South, the town emerges out of the surrounding dense forest, and because of this, it is difficult to sense the true footprint of the settlement. The village's main street,

Martin Street, is difficult to identify from the main access route, the Greendale – Trentham Road.

Much of the settlement's character is that of dense forest and steep landforms with a scattering of historic and more modern post 1970's buildings set on large blocks, with large front and side setbacks. Street tree planting and/or landscaping is discontinuous and non-uniform, and much of the landscape amenity is borrowed from the surrounding bush.

Large tracts of remnant vegetation exists in and around the settlement (Dry Forest) and the Lerderderg River corridor is located within the settlement. The Lerderderg River is significant and is a heritage-listed river. Unfortunately, the town is oriented away from the River.

The town has many informal access points, walking tracks and a road network, which would be suitable as shared pedestrian/ vehicle routes.

Blackwood and Barrys Reef's character is defined by the following elements:

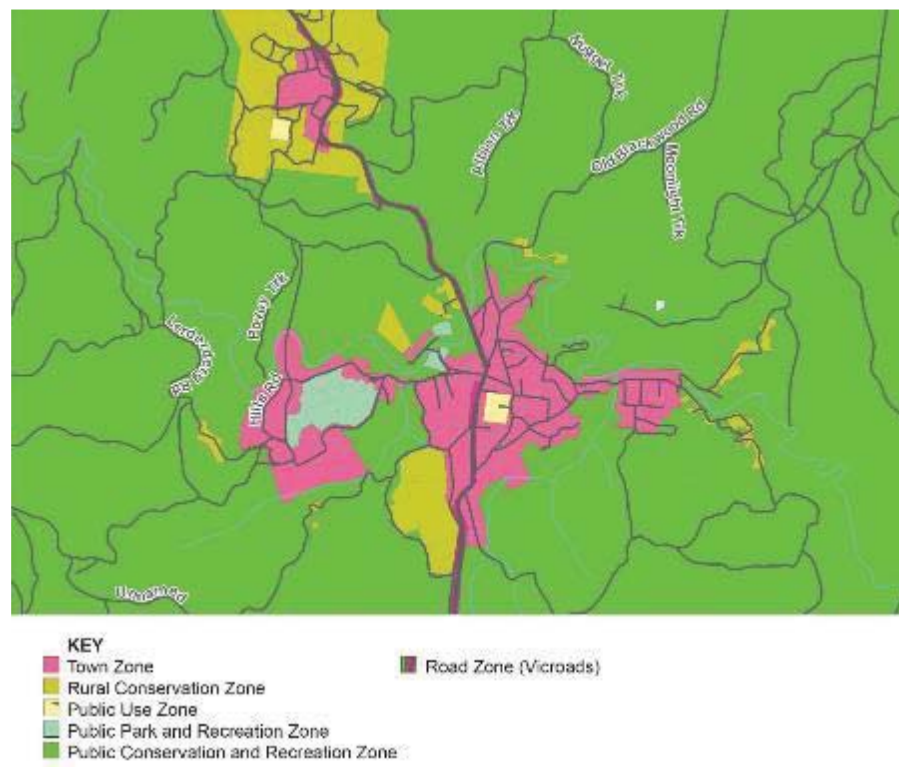
- Residents enjoy a 'rural retreat lifestyle'.
- Significant State Forest and undulating landscape setting.
- Heritage buildings and culturally significant landscapes.
- Dispersed population base.
- Significant scenic backdrops and views.
- Significant tourism and weekend-retreat market from metropolitan Melbourne and surrounding areas.
- Lack of reticulated sewerage and small lots, which could threaten environmental and catchment qualities.
- Subject to threats from bushfire from surrounding forest areas.

Most public facilities fall within a 10-minute walk-able catchment, although Barrys Reef is more disconnected.

## HISTORY

Blackwood has its origins in the mid-1850s during the Victorian gold rush. Gold had been first discovered in the Lerderderg River as early 1851, however, nothing came of this early discovery because it was made in area of difficult mountainous terrain.

A discovery at Golden Point in early 1855, led to a large gold rush along the course of the Lerderderg River and its tributaries, and the establishment of the Blackwood gold fields. Blackwood quickly



MAP 7-14 Land Use Zones for Blackwood

became a thriving gold town and by September 1855 had a population of around 13,000 prospectors.

The Blackwood goldfields originally comprised four separate townships. Golden Point was the earliest, being closest to the original discovery and rush in early 1855. Red Hill (now the central township of Blackwood), Simmons Reef, and Barrys Reef were the other nearby settlements.

During the mid-1850s, Golden Point was officially surveyed and the township laid out following a grid pattern. This township was officially known as Blackwood.



Red Hill was the second main village established at the height of the rush in 1855. In contrast to Golden Point, the roads and lots comprising the Red Hill settlement were irregular, following the topography of the land and the haphazardly positioned mine sites.

The rapid pace of town development continued, and by October 1855 there were more than 12 hotels 'capable of affording every possible convenience', and a post office. However, by the end of 1856, the majority of the goldminers had left the Blackwood district due to the depletion of the alluvial gold deposits. By 1858, the population had fallen further to 950, however, it did not prevent the further development of infrastructure, including businesses, churches, and schools in the town.

After the alluvial gold dwindled, miners turned their attention to digging tunnels and shafts where gold was discovered in rich quartz-reefs. These reefs included Simmons Reef initially discovered by James Simmons to the west of the town, where a smaller settlement was established.

Simmons Reef was established in 1855, and the stonemason Matthew Rogers built his stone dwelling, which became the 'Garden of St. Erth' a gardens and café that is now a local visitor attraction. The Blackwood Hotel was built in 1858 and operates to this day.

Then in 1869, the Sultan Company's deep lead operations at Barrys Reef commenced, which led to the formation of a thriving mining township. In 1874, Barrys Reef had a population of over 4,000 and various supporting businesses, shops, and facilities. However, Barrys Reef went into rapid decline after the closure of the Sultan Company Mine in 1880 and by 1901, the population totalled only 268 people.

Blackwood retains many relics and buildings, which are of interest to visitors along with the picturesque recreation reserve, beautiful private gardens that open to the public, the mineral springs and surrounding walking trails, state park and forests, and the café's and hotel. The remnants of Wheeler's Tramway, a former Blackwood sawmill tramway in the Wombat State Forest, are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register for their archaeological significance.

## EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

### UTILITIES

- Blackwood has reticulated water supply, electricity and telecommunications, however, it is not serviced with reticulated natural gas, or sewerage. National Broadband Network satellite is available in the settlement. It receives a fortnightly garbage and recycling collection service.
- Local sewer solutions for failing systems will be likely installed by CHW in the short term but a reticulated sewer scheme for the town is not envisaged.

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

### OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

- Blackwood Recreation Reserve, which contains an oval, cricket nets, tennis courts, pavilion and public toilets.
- Martin Street picnic area.
- Blackwood Public Toilets.

- Blackwood Mineral Springs - picnic facilities.
- Blackwood Mineral Springs - public toilets.

## COMMUNITY

- St Malachy's Catholic Church
- All Saints Anglican Church
- Blackwood Uniting Church - hall
- Blackwood Hall (Mechanics Institute)
- Blackwood Cemetery
- Blackwood & District Historical Society and Police Stables Museum
- Mobile Library service operates from the Hall.
- Community Fire Refuge.

## EDUCATION

- Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. (not a local facility).

## HEALTH

- No services.

## TRANSPORT

- No services.

## COMMERCIAL

- Blackwood Hotel (incl. post office)
- Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park
- Blackwood General Store
- Blackwood Merchant Café

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

- CFA station.
- Community Emergency Response Team.

## SETTLEMENT ROLE

Blackwood is identified as a **Village**.

Villages support small populations and provide a focal point for the surrounding rural community. Access to a key service, such as, a small primary school and/or a general store with postal facilities, may

be available.



IMAGE 7-4 Tennis Courts at Blackwood

Reticulated water supply may be available.

## CURRENT STRATEGIC DIRECTION

At present, the Moorabool Planning Scheme Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) seeks to provide for orderly and controlled development in Blackwood, and to preserve the heritage and treed character of the town.

Specific strategies include:

- Develop a structure plan that controls the scope and type of development in Blackwood.
- Protect significant built heritage and streetscape assets.
- Protect remnant native vegetation and encourage planting of additional indigenous vegetation.
- Retain the visual dominance of the bush landscape, and ensure development responds to the scenic qualities and vegetated landscape character of the townships.
- Protect significant built heritage assets and streetscapes especially in Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, Blackwood, Gordon, and Mount Egerton.

### CENTRAL HIGHLANDS REGIONAL GROWTH PLAN

Moorabool is one of six municipalities included in the Central Highlands Regional Growth Plan, which provides a regional framework to accommodate growth and manage change in the region over the next 30 years. The Growth Plan does not provide any specific directions for development or growth in Blackwood. However, it seeks to focus growth in existing settlements, which have a sound infrastructure base, and direct settlement growth away from areas subject to natural hazards, such as, bushfire and flooding.

### REGIONAL BUSHFIRE PLANNING ASSESSMENT GRAMPIANS REGION

The Regional Bushfire Planning Assessment for the Grampians Region identifies particular issues regarding the settlement of Blackwood.

These issues are:

- Residential lots in the township of Blackwood are surrounded by Wombat State Forest and Lerderderg State

*Park (south-east) and are in the associated bushfire hazard area.*

- Existing vegetation includes areas of high and very high conservation significance.

### WEST MOORABOOL HERITAGE STUDY STAGE 2A (2016)

The West Moorabool Heritage Study Stage 2A (2016) details the establishment and history of Blackwood and nominates significant heritage places and precincts. It has recommended that five areas in Blackwood should be included as heritage precincts in the Moorabool Planning Scheme.

The proposed heritage precincts are as follows:

- 13-25 Golden Point Road Heritage Precinct

*“This small precinct comprises three places (two being representative examples of residential development in the late 1860s) and remnants of a water race.”*

- Martin Street Heritage Precinct

*“This precinct is the 19th and early 20th century commercial hub of Red Hill, a goldfields settlement at Blackwood. It includes a small number of commercial and public infrastructure buildings and dwellings, a landmark Oak tree and garden settings.”*

- Prayer Hill Heritage Precinct

*“This is a unique precinct on the crown of the hill in the former Red Hill settlement, Blackwood that includes three churches, Blackwood Mechanics’ institute and a number of dwellings within a picturesque bushland setting.”*

- Simmons Reef Road Heritage Precinct

*“This precinct is an intact residential area comprising a small number of Victorian dwellings and two former stores.”*

- Whalebone Road Heritage Precinct

*“A small precinct, it is especially identified by modestly-scaled log huts constructed in the early 20th century.”*

In addition, the Study has recommended that nine (9) individual places of potential local significance and one (1) place of potential state significance should be considered for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay in the Moorabool Planning Scheme and/or on the Victorian Heritage Register.

## ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

The following issues, opportunities and constraints have been identified through consultation with the community and key stakeholders, and supplemented by additional research, analysis and site visits.

### ISSUES

- The surrounding State Forest constricts the settlement within its current boundaries.
- There is an extreme bushfire risk in the area and any proposed development must be assessed against this known risk to life and property.
- Blackwood is located within a Special Water Supply Catchment.
- Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1) limits the installation of wastewater treatment systems within 100

metres of a waterway or wetland, and discharge of storm water within 100 metres of a waterway.

- Land use practices and development, including residential subdivision and development, domestic effluent disposal, and vegetation clearance, need to be carefully managed to ensure protection of water quality and natural environment.
- Lot sizes range throughout the area, with some properties observed to be extremely small, indicating that on-site containment of wastewater may be difficult.
- Retail offer is limited in the settlement due to its small population catchment. There is insufficient demand for additional retail development, without support from increased tourism.
- Only a limited range of accommodation is available within Blackwood.
- Distant from major transport routes, such as the Western Freeway. Not a large volume of passing trade.
- Public transport services are not available and residents rely almost entirely on private transport.
- Lack of existing commercial buildings to accommodate new businesses.
- Emergency Services have to access Blackwood via the Greendale – Trentham Road through a forest environment: - south to Ballan, Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, and Melbourne, via Greendale; and north to Daylesford, Woodend, Sunbury, and Melbourne, via Trentham.
- Emergency Services – ambulance and police – travel from either Ballan or Trentham – both approximately 20 minutes away.
- Activities in the settlement may have to be curtailed on days of severe or greater fire danger.



- There are limited recreation facilities other than the Reserve. However the Reserve provides diversity of choice for both active and passive recreation enthusiasts.
- The Reserve's oval is undersized and suitable only for informal sporting events. It accommodates low level cricket competition and can accommodate junior matches. Due to the surrounding landscape, river and cliff faces, it cannot be enlarged.
- Potential loss of small town/village amenity and character if unsympathetic development occurs.
- There is a lack of footpaths, walking tracks, and other pedestrian infrastructure.
- An urban design framework has not been prepared to guide future improvements in the settlement.
- Increased fire risk resulting from re-vegetation works.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Blackwood offers unique appeal being located close to the Lerderderg State Park and Wombat State Forest and being surrounded by forest vegetation and adjacent to the Lerderderg River. It provides an attractive location for tourism and lifestyle living, including weekend/holiday houses.
- Blackwood is less than 70 minutes' drive to metropolitan Melbourne.
- Blackwood provides an inviting 'village' atmosphere and with considerate planning guidelines, the village can provide unique Victorian era experiences including, gold mining and forestry heritage, the Lerderderg River, and natural surrounds.
- There is potential to develop the overnight and extended-stay tourism markets, subject to consideration of bushfire risk issues. Accommodation is available at the Blackwood

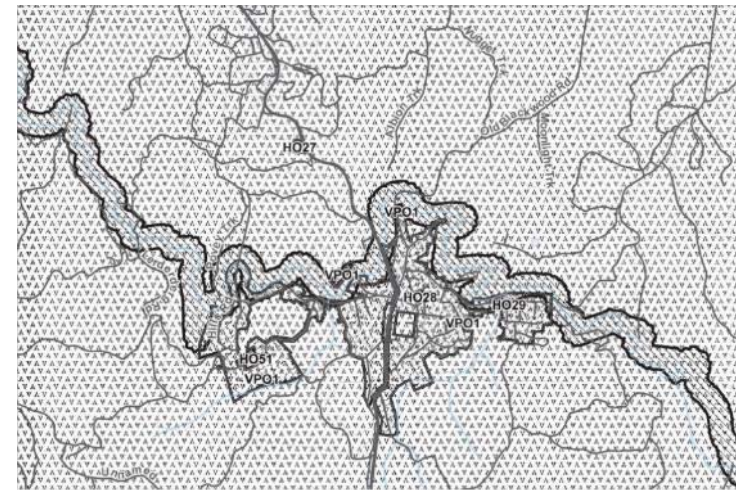
Hotel and a caravan park located in the Mineral Springs Reserve.

- Potential for further tourism retailing, which could support local shopping needs.
- Fine food fare is available at a number of locations, including the Blackwood Hotel, cafés and the picturesque Garden of St Erth. There are several café type food providers in the town.
- Strong links to the surrounding State Forest, which is used for nature and adventure based activities (walking, mountain biking, and 4x4 driving).
- Potential for additional regular themed events, using the Recreation Reserve and other locations, to attract visitors and promote the village. The Easter Festival, annual woodchop, gold panning event occur in Blackwood and the Garden of St Erth holds events during the year.
- There is an active community creating vibrancy in the town.
- A strong link to retail and wholesale nursery trade.
- The creation of home based and creative industries employment may be made possible by high-speed internet (NBN fixed wireless or satellite).

## VALUES & CONSTRAINTS

There are a number of environmental and heritage values and constraints which need to be considered when planning for the future of Blackwood. These are illustrated on the maps on the following pages and include:

- The Environmental Significance Overlay (Schedule 1) affects all of the land in the Township Zone in Blackwood, and the Design and Development Overlay (Schedule 2) applies to all freehold land within Blackwood. The purpose of ESO1 is to protect the quality and quantity of water produced within catchments, and to provide for appropriate development of land, and it includes restrictions on vegetation removal. DDO2 seeks to ensure that the visual amenity of rural areas and townships is maintained by the use of appropriate building materials.
- Environmental Significance Overlay (Schedule 2) - Waterway Protection affects land along waterways in Blackwood. It seeks to protect the habitat significance of vegetation, provide for appropriate development of land within 100 metres of either side of a waterway, maintain water quality in natural waterways, prevent increased surface runoff or concentration of surface water runoff, conserve existing flora and fauna habitats close to waterways, and to encourage generation and regeneration of habitats.
- The Vegetation Protection Overlay (Schedule 1) - Blackwood Township Environs applies to all of the land in the Township Zone in Blackwood. It seeks to retain native vegetation present in the township, to maintain the townscape ambience and scenic attributes for which Blackwood is renowned.
- The Heritage Overlay currently applies to four places of heritage significance with the settlement.
- The Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) – affects the entire settlement. This overlay is applied to areas identified as having high bushfire hazard. Together with the planning requirements for bushfire protection in Clause 52.47, this



KEY  
 [Grid] Wildfire Management Overlay (WMO)  
 [Diagonal Lines] Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO1)  
 [Dotted] Heritage Overlay (HO)

MAP 7-15 Overlays for Blackwood



KEY  
 [Orange/Brown] Ecological Vegetation Class - Depleted  
 [Green] Ecological Vegetation Class - Least Concern  
 [Grey] Area of cultural sensitivity

MAP 7-16 Constraints for Blackwood

overlay controls development in order to mitigate risk to life, property and community infrastructure. The suitability of new development in these areas must be fully considered before it proceeds, and appropriate bushfire protection measures will be required.

- Large contiguous areas of native vegetation are recorded within Blackwood, and surrounding the settlement.
- Habitat for several nationally significant flora species is present within the settlement and/or surrounds. There is a low likelihood that nationally significant fauna species occur within the settlement and surrounds on a frequent or permanent basis. There is habitat within the settlement and/or surrounds for several state significant flora and fauna species.
- No national or state significant ecological communities are considered likely to occur within the settlement and surrounds.
- Ten areas of known Cultural Heritage Sensitivity occur within the settlement and surrounds (several creeks, rivers and gullies and the Lerderderg State Park).

- Several listed historical heritage sites are located within the settlement and surrounds, including archaeological sites (graves and mines) and community, commercial and residential buildings and gardens.
- The Blackwood area has been assessed as having an EXTREME bushfire risk in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register.
- Blackwood is located within a Special Water Supply Catchment.
- Creeks, Rivers and water bodies may be subject to localised flooding, and low lying land or roads may be subject to water-logging (subject to further investigation).

## COMMUNITY EXPECTATION

### PRINCIPLES

#### Social and Settlement

#### Economic

### COMMUNITY EXPECTATION - BLACKWOOD

- Sewerage improvements for town to enable some development (commercial and residential) and improved water quality.
- Clarity on planning requirements for town.
- Very limited growth. – remain as it is.
- Improve public transport – connect to Ballan Station, develop community transport.
- Travel for access to facilities
- Mobile coverage

## Environment and Landscape Sustainability

- Stronger tourism offering – improved town and interpretive signage, visitor information, cycle and walking track information, gold panning and events.
- Retention of natural landscape
- Self-sustaining town

## RECOMMENDATIONS

This section provides recommendations for how to manage, support, and encourage sustainable development in Blackwood. Some of these recommendations may be strategic, for example, the need for future investigations, others concern advocacy e.g., lobbying for altered speed limits on State Roads, and others concern local actions (landscape, signage, tourism interpretation), which may be common themes across many or most settlements.

### VISION STATEMENT FOR BLACKWOOD

*Set amongst the tall timbers and lush greenery of the Wombat State Forest, Blackwood is a haven for recreational activities and tourism. Its local economy is bolstered by its commercial nurseries and gardens and access to a range of natural experiences. Blackwood's significant gold mining heritage has shaped the town and efforts to retain this point of difference and character are critical to Blackwood's future.*

### SETTLEMENT CENTRE

- Encourage any future commercial/retail development to establish in the existing central area, especially those uses which draw people in from out of area.
- Encourage a wider range of businesses, services, and activities to locate within Blackwood to widen the service offer as a weekend destination.
- The town centre is to retain its heritage character, when considering future development.

### SETTLEMENT GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Expansion of the settlement is to be discouraged due to its location within a water supply catchment, the environmental value of surrounding land, and the area's extreme bushfire risk.
- A settlement boundary is not required as it defined by the extent of the Township Zone and the surrounding Public Conservation and Resource Zone.
- Development focus should be on improving services for visitors and residents in a manner that is in keeping with the historical and landscape character of the settlement.



## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

- Continue to support and enhance existing community facilities and various community groups, clubs and associations, as key assets of community life.
- Advocate for improved frequency of accessible transport services to Ballan and Melbourne, particularly for the elderly and youth of the community.
- Advocate to PTV for the establishment of a wider network of VLine coach routes, which could service Blackwood, e.g., a Kyneton or Woodend to Geelong route, via Trentham, Blackwood, Greendale and Ballan.
- Work closely with Government and other service providers to promote and develop opportunities for improvement, e.g., provision of a community transport service, shared partnership development around home and community care (HACC) services, and nursing infrastructure.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Reinforce the village character of the town centre when designing and developing new infrastructure (e.g., no kerb and channel).
- Provide for the progressive development of a designated pedestrian and cycle pathway system to link key destinations, in accordance with the Hike and Bike Strategy.
- Advocate for improved access to broadband and mobile phone services in Blackwood.
- Design access roads and driveways to follow contours and minimise cut and fill in order to avoid potential for soil erosion, sedimentation, and runoff into streams.
- Minimise the location of access roads close streams and stream crossings.

- Investigate reducing speed limits to improve pedestrian safety.

## RECREATION & LEISURE

- Continue to recognise the Recreation Reserve as the key recreational asset in Blackwood.
- Encourage bushwalking, cycling, and four wheel driving (4WD) in the Lerderderg State Park and Wombat State Forest. Support the provision of better signage, maps, tracks, designated parking, and integrated promotion of experiences.
- Provide better links between the Recreation Reserve and the settlement.
- In partnership with the community develop a Reserve Master Plan for the future passive and active recreation and leisure provision for the township in the future. This may include re-surfacing of the tennis courts and improving or formalising parking on or near the Recreation Reserve.

## STREETSCAPE & ENVIRONMENT

- Protect and maintain the landscape, vistas, environment, habitat, natural heritage, features of the settlement, remnant native vegetation and encourage planting of additional indigenous vegetation.
- Retain the visual dominance of the bush landscape, and ensure development responds to the scenic qualities and vegetated landscape character of the settlements.
- Support environmental programs to undertake localised weed removal and re-vegetation of waterway corridors.
- Strengthen street tree plantings to form a consistent exotic treed boulevard along the main street and provide a formalised entry into the main street from the Greendale - Trentham Forest Road.

- Utilise plantings to frame key views and screen those less desirable.

## BUILT FORM / URBAN DESIGN

- Retain older buildings, which contribute to the local character and heritage of the settlement.
- Ensure that new buildings and structures respond positively to the existing character of the town. Avoid the development of visually dominant buildings and use materials and colours that blend with the natural bush setting of the area.
- Ensure that development is located and designed to complement the scenic qualities and vegetated landscape character of the village.
- Ensure that development within Blackwood responds to, and mitigates any identified bushfire risks.

## TOURISM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Encourage the development of the local tourism sector, promoting Blackwood's position as a weekend holiday destination/stopover in the Wombat State Forest.
- Develop a tourism network in the area.
- Explore the potential to develop the overnight and extended-stay tourism markets, subject to consideration of bushfire risk issues.
- Provide more information to inform visitors of local attractions, e.g., directional signage /maps/brochures for ease of navigation around the area.
- Improve promotion and signposting of key heritage features and personalities, local attractions, scenic routes, such as, the Greendale –Trentham Road and local walking and cycling trails.

- Explore soft adventure activities in forested areas, such as, the development of quality mountain biking trails, in partnership with Parks Victoria.
- Future employment opportunities should be encouraged in the retail, adventure, recreational and nature-based tourism industries, to strengthen the town's ability to service itself.
- Further promote the Blackwood festivals: Music and culture festival, Gold panning championships, Easter Wood Chop, etc.
- Further promote local and regional produce in the cafés and local venues, and the relationship with gardens and nurseries in the area.
- Develop and adopt a village theme, which attracts visitors and can be utilised in promotion.
- Foster community participation and 'ownership' in enhancing the social, environmental, and economic opportunities in the settlement.

## HERITAGE

- Encourage the ongoing protection, and refurbishment of heritage buildings (especially via adaptive re-use), sites and streetscapes as a key asset of Blackwood.
- Continue to protect sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.
- Support the establishment of a heritage walk within Blackwood to identify, interpret, and link locations of historical interest throughout the village.

## FURTHER INVESTIGATION / ACTION

Consider the following further investigations or actions for Blackwood:

- Preparation of a Structure Plan to further develop a vision for the settlement, enhance its sense of place and community, and establish design guidelines for new development identifying key actions and priorities for capital works, and implementation of any changes to the Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Planning Policies of the Moorabool Planning Scheme.

- Mapping flood risk as appropriate, as part of the preparation of a Structure Plan.
- Reviewing existing heritage and marketing of Blackwood and consumer needs in terms of signage, trails networks, heritage interpretation and promoting the experience of Blackwood to potential visitors.

## SUMMARY

The expansion of the settlement is discouraged due to the areas extreme fire risk. Blackwood will be supported to grow its retail and tourism offering.