For the purpose of this Clause, the ‘Gippsland region’ comprises the municipal areas of Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Wellington, covered in the *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).

**Policy guidelines**

In considering the policy objectives and strategies for the Gippsland region, planning must consider as relevant, the *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).

**A diversified economy**

**Objective**

To strengthen economic resilience by growing a more diverse economy and building on the region’s traditional strengths through new investment, innovation and value-adding.

**Strategies**

Create vibrant and prosperous town centres that are clearly defined and provide commercial and service activities that respond to changing population and market conditions.

Support diverse employment opportunities, including growth in healthcare, retail and professional and technical services.

Support the development of industry sectors with strong prospects for increased employment, particularly knowledge industries, tourism, professional services and industries focussed on growing Asian and other international markets.

Avoid loss of areas of strategic significance (agriculture and forestry).

Support production and processing facilities that add value to local agricultural, forestry and fisheries products.

Protect productive land and irrigation assets, including the Macalister Irrigation District, that help grow the state as an important food bowl for Australia and Asia.

Support transition to a low-carbon economy with renewable energy and greenhouse emission reductions including geothermal, clean coal processing, and carbon capture and storage.

Support development of coal-to-products industries such as diesel, fertiliser and gas, for both domestic and export markets.

Facilitate and manage access to earth resources where appropriate, including sand and stone, minerals and renewable energy potential.

Support continuing production from the region’s oil and gas fields.

Support development of the region’s research and development capacity in places with an established presence including Churchill and Ellinbank.

Facilitate tourism in strategic tourism investment areas.

Facilitate tourism development in existing urban settlements to maximise access to infrastructure, services and labour and to minimise impacts on the environment and exposure to natural hazards.
Support nature-based tourism proposals that complement and are compatible with the region’s environment and landscape attractions or are close to identified strategic tourism investment areas.

Facilitate opportunities within aviation-related industries.

Improve Gippsland’s capacity in advanced manufacturing and engineering with particular reference to Latrobe Valley industries.

Support Gippsland’s fishing industry by maintaining ports and enabling development of fishing operations at Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Port Welshpool, San Remo, Port Franklin and Port Albert.

### Planning for growth

**Objective**

To promote a healthy environment by valuing Gippsland’s environmental and heritage assets, and by minimising the region’s exposure to natural hazards and risks.

**Strategies**

Limit the impact of urban growth on the use and security of water resources and minimise risks to the environment.

Support the establishment, protection and reconnection of ecosystems through large-scale native vegetation corridor projects.

Protect significant inland and coastal landscapes, and cultural heritage assets, and reduce the impact of urban growth on high value coastal and waterway assets such as the Gippsland Lakes, Corner Inlet, Anderson Inlet, Mallacoota Inlet and their source rivers.

Facilitate opportunities for innovation and industry development arising from climate change and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Support climate change mitigation approaches that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### Sustainable communities

**Objective**

To develop sustainable communities through a settlement framework comprising major urban centres offering residents convenient access to jobs, services, infrastructure, and community facilities.

**Strategies**

Support urban growth in Latrobe City as Gippsland’s regional city, at Bairnsdale, Leongatha, Sale, Warragul/Drouin and Wonthaggi as regional centres, and sub-region networks of towns.

Support new urban growth fronts in regional centres where natural risks can be avoided or managed.

Support the continuing role of towns and small settlements in providing services to their districts, recognising their relationships and dependencies with larger towns.

Plan for settlement growth to limit impact on agricultural productivity, natural and earth resources and ecological values.
Plan for increased demand on services and infrastructure in towns with high holiday home ownership.

Support streetscape and redevelopment initiatives in commercial centres that will be subject to significant growth (Traralgon, Morwell Mid Valley, Warragul, Wonthaggi, Leongatha, Sale and Bairnsdale) to improve their attractiveness and usability.

Facilitate the release of additional industrial zoned land in towns including Warragul, Leongatha, Sale, Lakes Entrance, Paynesville and Mallacoota.

**Infrastructure**

**Objective**

To deliver timely and accessible infrastructure that meets regional needs for transport, utilities and community facilities.

**Strategies**

Support improvements to the road, rail and public transport networks within and beyond Gippsland as population and economic growth increases to improve access to services and employment.

Plan for improved rail and road connections to the Port of Hastings and other freight and logistic precincts.

Support development of freight and logistics precincts at Morwell and Bairnsdale and improve key transport links.

Provide regional social infrastructure in the regional city and regional centres.

Facilitate efficient and reliable access to markets, including to ports, airports and interstate road networks, to support future agricultural, industrial and natural resource-based export opportunities.

Improve access to key freight routes so that regional businesses can enhance their supply chain efficiency.

Support ongoing investment in water infrastructure and management of water resources to enhance security and efficiency of water supply to industry and urban areas.

Support the provision of adequate facilities to manage the region’s solid waste.