21.02 CONTEXT FOR THE MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC STATEMENT

21.02-1 National

Albury Wodonga provides a vital link within the eastern seaboard connecting Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Geelong and Adelaide and their ports by road and rail.

Albury Wodonga provides a strategic stopover for passengers and a significant freight destination, being located on the Hume corridor, which is the most important rail and road link in Australia.

Figure 2 - Strategic Location of Albury Wodonga

Albury Wodonga is the main gateway between Victoria and New South Wales and is significant to both economies.

Albury Wodonga is the largest regional provincial centre on the national transport corridor and will continue to realise opportunities and a ready access to Australia’s two largest markets.

Approximately 10% of the nations’ Army personnel are located in Albury Wodonga.

Albury Wodonga is located at the headwaters of the Murray River, being the principal urban area within the Murray Darling Basin.

Lake Hume provides a vital water storage resource for domestic users and rural irrigators, ensuring a continuous water resource is available to downstream users.
The National significance and strategic location of Albury Wodonga was highlighted in 1973 under Joint Commonwealth, New South Wales and Victorian Government Growth Centres Project.

21.02-2 State

Wodonga is the fastest growing centre in regional Victoria.

State population forecasts indicate regional Victoria will grow in:

- Major towns
- Hume corridor
- Coastal areas

Supporting the view that the population of Wodonga will continue to grow.

Significant advantages within Wodonga, act as an attractor for those seeking an improved lifestyle option, including employment opportunities, recreational facilities, housing choice, retail and community infrastructure.

Past Federal and State Government policies have increased the residential, commercial and industrial base of Albury Wodonga. This has occurred through incentives offered for investment in new industries which has fostered new enterprises including abattoirs, pet food processing, newsprint, textiles, heavy engineering and general manufacturing.

Albury Wodonga has achieved an economy of scale providing a strong base, which will serve to absorb further structural economic change, providing a significant advantage in attracting further private and public investment.

21.02-3 Regional

Wodonga is strategically placed in the context of North East Victoria and Southern New South Wales. Its central location is a significant economic advantage, in terms of private investment, but has been a disadvantage in terms of State Government Administration, with many jobs being centralised to Wagga, Benalla and Wangaratta.

Wodonga provides a sub-regional role for retailing and services.

Wodonga contains a major presence of Army personnel and facilities which provide a significant economic and community service role.

Lake Hume, which adjoins the municipalities of Albury, Hume, Indigo and Towong, will continue to be an important regional, recreational and environmental resource, and will require a careful and coordinated approach from the multitude of authorities which manage land use and development activities on the lake and it foreshore.

Traditionally the region surrounding Albury Wodonga has an economy based on beef cattle production and dairying.

Alternative farming activities are flourishing in the region with Rutherglen continuing to add to its wine production and the nearby Alpine Valley and Kiewa Valley diversifying agricultural production.

Tourism is growing into a major industry and employer within the region.

Tourism is based on Albury-Wodonga’s location on the Hume corridor, and on the built cultural heritage of the region in centres such as Beechworth, Chiltern and Yackandandah.

Sports tourism and the wineries of Rutherglen also continue to bring people to the region.

Albury Wodonga is also accessible to the Victorian ski fields being 90 minutes drive from Falls Creek.

Tourist visitations to the region exceed 100,000 and 2.3 million visitor nights each year.
Albury Wodonga fulfils an important regional education role having 12 secondary colleges, 3 universities and 2 Institutes of TAFE, and a major adult education centre.

The location of a major regional airport at Albury, and the progressive development of air transport, are important elements in the expansion of the regional economy and will continue to add to the significant road and rail transport infrastructure of Albury Wodonga.