21.03-1 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, being located on the Hume corridor, provides a strategic stopover for passengers and a significant freight destination and distribution point 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 state 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 nation’s army personnel are located in Albury Wodonga.
- Albury Wodonga has achieved a critical mass that will sustain further growth in the labour market, continued population growth and economic prosperity.
Albury Wodonga is located at the upper catchment of the Murray River.

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 the joint Commonwealth, New South Wales and Victorian Government Growth Centres’ Project.

21.03-2  
**State**

Wodonga is one of the fastest growing centres in regional Victoria.

State population forecasts indicate regional Victoria will grow in:
- Major towns;
- Hume corridor; and,
- Coastal areas.

This supports the view that the population of Wodonga will continue to grow.

Wodonga acts as an attractor for those seeking an improved lifestyle option, including employment opportunities, recreational facilities, proximity to major natural and built tourism assets, housing choice, and retail and community infrastructure.

Past federal and state government policies have increased the residential, commercial and industrial base of Wodonga. This has occurred in more recent times through a proactive local government supporting new enterprises including the establishment of Logic as a major national transport hub and major warehousing and transport operation. In addition, there exists the manufacturing ventures at Wodonga West and the expansion of established major industries involved in pet food processing, newsprint, packaging and general manufacturing.

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

21.03-3  
**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 it has been a disadvantage in terms of state government administration, with many jobs being centralised to Wagga 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, Wodonga, Greater Hume, Indigo and Towong, will continue to be an important regional, recreational and economic 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 its foreshore.

The Murray River and its floodplain provide a strong landscape element and sense of identity for the City of Wodonga.

Traditionally, the region surrounding Wodonga has an economy based on beef cattle production, dairying and viticulture.
Alternative farming activities are flourishing in the region with continued structural economic reform in the rural sector. Areas such as Rutherglen continue to add to its wine production and the nearby Alpine and Kiewa Valleys are diversifying their agricultural production base.

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.

Sport’s tourism and the wineries of Rutherglen also continue to bring people to the region.

Wodonga is accessible to the Victorian ski fields including Falls Creek, Mount Hotham and Mount Buffalo.

Tourist visitations to the region exceed 100,000 with 2.3 million visitor nights each year.

Wodonga fulfils an important regional education role having eight secondary colleges, La Trobe University, Wodonga TAFE, a major adult education centre and a special development school.

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.