



REGIONAL CONTEXT

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The Horsham Rural City Council is located in the Wimmera region of Victoria, just under four-hours drive from Melbourne. The council is bordered by Yarriambiack, Northern Grampians, Southern Grampians, West Wimmera and Hindmarsh Shires.

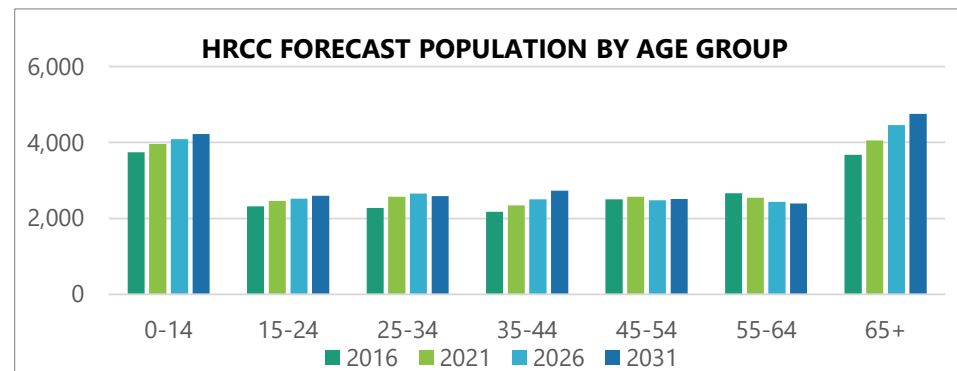
Horsham is the main population centre for the Wimmera and Southern Mallee region. At the time of the 2016 Census, the Shire's population was approximately 19,627. Of the 2016 population:

- 49% are male and 51% female.
- 19% of the population are aged 14 years or younger and 62% between 15 and 64 years.
- 82% of the population live within the Horsham Township.
- 298 people (1.5% of the local population) identified themselves as being of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Results from the 2016 Census, and future population projections reveal that Horsham will experience population growth over the next 15 years. **Between 2016 and 2031, the population is expected to grow by approximately 2,167 people**, with an additional 600 people added to the population every five years. In 2031, the estimated population is projected to reach 21,794.

While Horsham's population is projected to grow, it is important to recognise that the broader Wimmera region is experiencing population decline. Although Horsham will experience overall population growth over the next 15-years (11%), the extent of this growth is below the average for both Regional Victoria (18%) and Victoria (28%).

Source: ABS Census, 2016



HRCC 2016 POPULATION BY AGE									
Locality Name	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Brimpaen	55	22	15	35	26	26	27	7	4
Central Horsham	82	64	67	64	64	99	104	92	46
Drung	47	31	20	20	44	45	31	6	3
Haven	298	153	98	186	237	186	104	32	9
Horsham East	454	307	332	256	318	375	287	240	197
Horsham Inner North	191	175	179	142	130	164	143	86	50
Horsham North	692	445	465	321	353	463	302	204	64
Horsham South	362	214	229	227	213	180	153	108	28
Horsham South West	534	295	347	291	342	363	333	256	86
Horsham West	379	246	261	230	237	210	193	123	53
Jung	56	53	20	18	27	34	26	6	0
Laharum	28	27	15	19	36	47	26	11	5
McKenzie Creek	80	35	35	44	68	56	33	17	3
Natimuk	38	24	31	40	68	73	36	41	37
Natimuk District	55	19	12	36	34	31	20	10	6
Pimpinio and Kalkee	85	20	39	45	44	59	24	17	4
Quantong	53	44	29	41	57	38	34	12	3
Riverside	74	59	21	53	87	61	38	14	11
Toolondo	60	14	25	29	25	56	19	9	4
Vectis and Dooen	47	48	21	33	51	31	40	23	3
Wartook	70	19	15	40	37	63	44	15	7
TOTAL	3740	2314	2276	2170	2498	2660	2017	1329	623

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Knowledge of how the population age structure will change is important for planning open space.

There are **three key levers which influence population growth: births, net migration and deaths** (natural increase). The forecast age groups of the Horsham Rural City is a function of the current age of the population (people aging each year, being born and dying) as well as the age of people migrating into and out of the area. This in turn is driven by location, access to existing housing, the amount and type of new residential development and where the area is positioned in a cycle of change.

Some areas are more driven by one factor than others. Migration is largely driven by housing development and employment opportunities, whereas natural increase is a function of the age of the population.

- **In 2016, the age bracket with the highest proportion of the population was 0-14 years** (3,740 people), accounting for 19% of the total population (19,627).
- **The largest increase in people between 2016 and 2031 is expected in the 65+ age bracket** (29% total growth) followed by the 35-44 age bracket (26% growth).
- The population aged 55-64 is expected to decline by 10%.

These projections show **the current population of Horsham is ageing** which is primarily due to the high percentage growth of the 65 plus age segment. Over the next 20-30 years, Horsham is likely to see a significant increase in population of residents 60 years and over, and population decline of residents aged 50 or less.

FORECAST POPULATION AND BENCHMARKS – 2016 - 2031

		0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Horsham	2016	3,740	2,314	2,276	2,170	2,498	2,660	3,969	19,627
	2031	4,222	2,597	2,587	2,726	2,513	2,394	4,755	21,794
	% growth	13%	12%	14%	26%	1%	-10%	29%	11%
Ballarat	2016	20,170	15,362	13,779	12,758	12,671	11,820	16,690	103,250
	2031	27,128	19,086	18,166	17,873	15,479	13,884	25,258	136,874
	% growth	34%	24%	32%	40%	22%	17%	51%	33%
Bendigo	2016	21,504	15,287	13,898	13,298	14,038	13,725	18,695	110,445
	2031	27,685	18,363	18,323	18,655	16,480	15,374	29,753	144,633
	% growth	29%	20%	32%	40%	17%	12%	59%	31%
Regional Victoria	2016	264,219	171,966	157,327	167,700	190,441	192,513	276,427	1,420,593
	2031	297,665	188,492	187,222	200,272	191,352	200,167	409,328	1,674,497
	% growth	13%	10%	19%	19%	0%	4%	48%	18%
Victoria	2016	1,106,043	786,904	930,584	826,185	791,476	685,936	921,639	6,048,767
	2031	1,395,238	952,542	1,036,078	1,097,932	964,541	837,555	1,449,372	7,733,258
	% growth	26%	21%	11%	33%	22%	22%	57%	28%

Source: Victoria in Future 2016, DELWP

Open space has a variety of health and well-being benefits, including the provision of opportunities for social connection, places for formal and informal exercise, spaces to relax and unwind and opportunities to connect with the natural environment.

While Horsham residents are more active than the average Victorian population, there are still a number of areas for improvement pertaining to health and wellbeing which can be attended to through open space.

In Horsham:

- **Nearly half (48.5%) of HRCC residents are sufficiently active**, compared to only 41.4% of Victorians.
- Approximately **1 in 5 Horsham residents are classified as obese**.
- **49.9% of Horsham residents reported feelings of an adequate work-life balance** in Horsham.
- Only **54.4% of adults** – 87.1% of males and 62.1% of females – in Horsham **feel safe walking at night**.
- More **residents in Horsham (49.6%) are suffering from avoidable death by cardiovascular diseases** than the average Victoria population (33.8%).

Prioritising the mental wellbeing of Horsham residents (along with their physical health) will increase the livability and appeal of the region. It is important that future planning considers the development and promotion of open spaces that will encourage HRCC community members to be more active, provide feelings of safety and opportunities to escape from the pressures of everyday life.

HEALTH STATUS

Health Indicators	Horsham	Grampians Region	Victoria
Obesity	21.4%	25.0%	18.8%
Sedentary People reporting no physical activity during the week	1.8%	2.7%	3.6%
Insufficiently Active <150 mins or <2 sessions/wk	44.5%	50.9%	50.4%
Sufficiently Active ≥150 mins or ≥2 sessions/wk	48.5%	41.0%	41.4%

Source: Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Population Health Survey 2014

WELLBEING STATUS

Physical Activity	Horsham	Victoria
Mental Health Residents reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression	33.4%	25%
Work-Life Balance Percentage of population reporting adequate balance	49.9%	57.3%
Safety at Night Feelings of safety walking alone after dark	54.4%	55.1%
Cardiovascular Disease Rate of avoidable death	49.6%	33.8%

Source: HRCC Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021