

SWAN HILL DATA PROFILE

2024



Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit

Swan Hill Data Profile


This document has been prepared to provide a data profile on the health and wellbeing of the local government area of Swan Hill. It contains publicly available data that has been collated and summarised to inform local government, health services, advocacy and community groups.

All effort has been made to report data accurately and represent data available at time of publishing. These estimates may differ from those seen elsewhere due to differences in calculation methodologies and/or source data used.

Produced by Bendigo Health,
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 We acknowledge the First Peoples of Australia who are the Traditional Custodians of the land and water where we live, work and play. We celebrate that this is the oldest living and continuous culture in the world. We are proud to be sharing the land that we work on and recognise that sovereignty was never ceded.

 We welcome all cultures, nationalities and religions. Being inclusive and providing equitable healthcare is our commitment.

Data snapshot

The Swan Hill local government area is situated in the far north-west corner of Victoria, within the Mallee sub-region of the Loddon Mallee. It has a culturally diverse population along with a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at 4.5%.

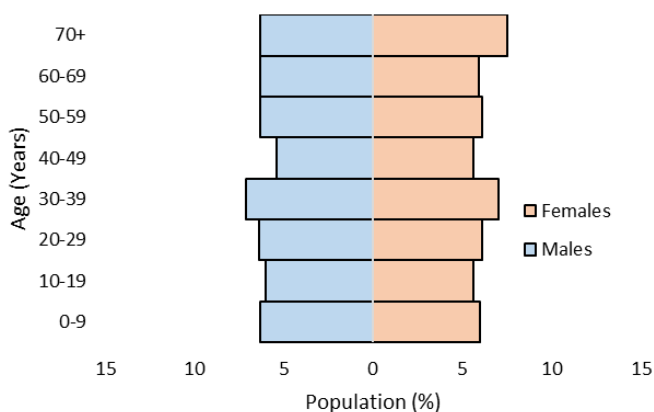
Swan Hill, like much of regional Victoria, has an aging population with a higher burden of chronic disease and disability than the state average. The median income for individuals, families and households are all below the state and Swan Hill has a considerably high homelessness rate.

The data suggests Swan Hill experiences higher rates in most health risk factors which may impact long-term health measures including higher rates of high blood pressure at 23.6% (compared to 22.7% for Victoria) and obesity (38.1% versus 31.3% for Victoria). Swan Hill also shows higher rates of current smokers (22.1% compared to 15.5% for Victoria), and people consuming more than two standard alcoholic drinks per day on average is 20.4% versus 14.4% in Victoria.

With 98.3% of the region bushfire prone and increasing average temperatures the region, it is likely to be significantly impacted by climate change.

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Swan Hill Age Profile



Indigenous Population



People experiencing homelessness:
 Swan Hill 111.4 per 100,000
 Victoria 46.9 per 100,000

Median household income:
 Swan Hill \$1,379
 Victoria \$1,746

Rental Affordability

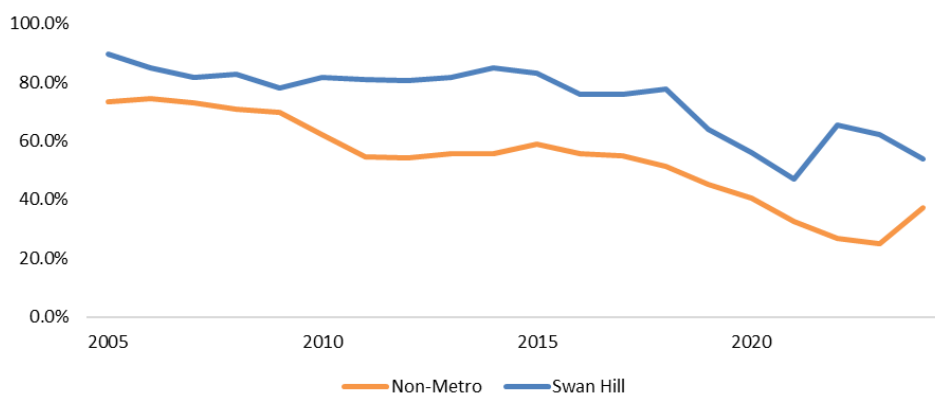


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Local Government Area (LGA) summary – Swan Hill



The local government area (LGA) of Swan Hill Rural City Council is located in the north west of the Loddon Mallee region, bordering New South Wales, separated by the Murray River. Outside of Swan Hill township are communities from Robinvale, Nyah District, Manangatang, Ultima, Piangil/Wood Wood, Boundary Bend, Lake Boga, Woorinen and Beverford. Swan Hill LGA area covers an area of approximately 6,116 square kilometers, with a population of approximately 21,403 (2021). Swan Hill, the principal urban center, has approximately 10,400 people. The population is spread across small towns and farming communities, contributing to a predominantly rural character.

Swan Hill Shire's economy is heavily driven by agriculture, including grain production, horticulture (fruits and vegetables), and viticulture accounting for 20.7% of employment. Irrigated farming is a key factor in the region's productivity, with the Murray River playing a vital role in water supply. Livestock farming, particularly sheep and cattle, also contributes to the local economy. Other economic drivers include tourism (especially related to the Murray River and historical attractions), retail, and services. Healthcare and social assistance is the second leading industry of employment at 12.4% followed by retail at 8.2%.

According to geographical remoteness classifications within the [Modified Monash Model \(MMM\) 2019](#), the region comprises of two MMM categories (4 and 5) indicating it includes a medium rural town and other small rural towns across the shire.

Swan Hill has 92% of bushfire prone land along with being subject to flooding from the Murray & Murrumbidgee river systems. Additionally, the Swan Hill catchment is subject to rising temperatures with an average summer temperature of 31.2 degrees. Swan Hill council area is part of both the Mallee and North Central Catchment management authorities.

It is acknowledged that Swan Hill is situated on the traditional lands of the Wamba Wamba, Barapa Barapa, Latji Latji, Tatti Tatti and Wadi Wadi peoples, who have been custodians of lands and water ways for thousands of years. The region remains strong in Aboriginal cultural heritage values. The Murray River (Milloo) was a constant source of both food and water and an integral aspect in the day-to-day lives of Aboriginal people.

Source: [Swan Hill Rural City, Modified Monash Model | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, 2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1. Population

1.1 General Population

Swan Hill's population profile, based on ABS data obtained from the census, reveals a slightly older demographic. The median age of 39 years is slightly higher than the state median of 38 years. The percentage of people aged 70 and above is also higher in Swan Hill compared to the state average. The male-female ratio is slightly skewed towards males.

	Swan Hill	Victoria
Median age	39	38

Age Groups	Swan Hill		Swan Hill (% of total pop)		% Victoria	
	Male	Female	% Male	% Female	% Male	% Female
0-9 years	1,345	1280	6.3	6.0	6.1	5.8
10-19 years	1,293	1202	6.0	5.6	6.0	5.6
20-29 years	1,368	1310	6.4	6.1	6.9	6.9
30-39 years	1,513	1499	7.1	7.0	7.4	7.8
40-49 years	1,156	1195	5.4	5.6	6.4	6.6
50-59 years	1,351	1307	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.9
60-69 years	1,354	1253	6.3	5.9	5.0	5.5
70+ years	1,355	1,604	6.3	7.5	5.4	6.5
Total	10,748	10,652	50.2	49.8	49.2	50.6

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1.2 Indigenous Status

Swan Hill has a significant Indigenous population which makes up 4.5% of the total population. This is considerably higher than the state average of 1%. The median age of Swan Hill's Indigenous population is younger at 22 years, compared to the state median of 24 years. The median age is also significantly younger than the average of the total Swan Hill population.

Indigenous status	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	Victoria	% Victoria
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	967	4.5	65,646	1
Non-Indigenous	18,701	87.4	6,148,188	94.5
Indigenous status not stated	1,735	8.1	289,665	4.5
Median age of Indigenous population	22		24	

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1.3 Culture Diversity

A substantial majority of Swan Hill local government area residents are Australian citizens (80%), with 74.3% being born in Australia. The top responses for ancestry include Australian (35.6%), English (33.1%), Irish (10.2%) and Scottish (8.4%) and Italian (7.5%). It is noteworthy that 12% of the population in Swan Hill consists of people who are not Australian citizens. Language use patterns reveal that a majority (74.8%) of Swan Hill's residents speak only English. However, 5.5% people speak other languages and do not speak English well or not at all. A total of 1,340 (17.4%) households speak a language other than English with Malay, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Italian and Tongan being the predominant languages.

Overall, Swan Hill's population profile reflects a blend of cultural and linguistic diversity, contributing to the multicultural fabric of the region.

Australian Citizenship	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	Victoria	% Victoria
Australian Citizen	17,137	80	5,389,821	82.9
Not an Australian Citizen	2,577	12	810,344	12.5
Not stated	1,688	7.8	303,333	4.7
Speaks English only	16,030	74.8	4,369,804	67.2
Uses other language and speaks English: Not well	939	4.3	216,541	3.3
Uses other language and speaks English: Not at all	239	1.1	69,334	1.1
Total Population	21,403		6,503,491	

Source: [Census of Population and Housing, 2021, TableBuilder](#)

Country of birth, top responses (all people)	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	Victoria	% Victoria
Australia	15,912	74.3	4,228,667	65.0
<i>Other top responses:</i>				
Malaysia	796	3.7	62,662	1.0
Vietnam	352	1.6	93,598	1.4
India	250	1.2	258,193	4.0
Italy	200	0.9	64,796	1.0
Philippines	185	0.9	68,463	1.1

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

Language used at home, top responses, other than English (all people)	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	Victoria	% Victoria
Malay	435	2.0	7,433	0.1
Mandarin	417	1.9	221,798	3.4
Vietnamese	408	1.9	118,801	1.8
Italian	319	1.5	92,320	1.4
Tongan	271	1.3	3,532	0.1
English only used at home	15,030	74.9	436,9804	67.2
Households where a non-English language is used	1,340	17.4	722,004	30.2

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1.4 LGBTIQ+ population

Unfortunately, there is a lack of local data on LGBTIQ+ population including population size and health and wellbeing data. There is data at a state and national level that can be used as an indicator. The Victorian Population Health Survey 2017 estimates 5.7 per cent of Victorian adults identify as LGBTIQ+, however some rural areas have attracted significantly higher proportion of LGBTIQ+ people to their communities.

State and national data indicates poorer mental and physical health for LGBTIQ+ community members. There is also significantly higher rates of drug use, alcohol, smoking, chronic disease, homelessness, and disability along with higher rates of anxiety and depression, psychological stress and low satisfaction with life.

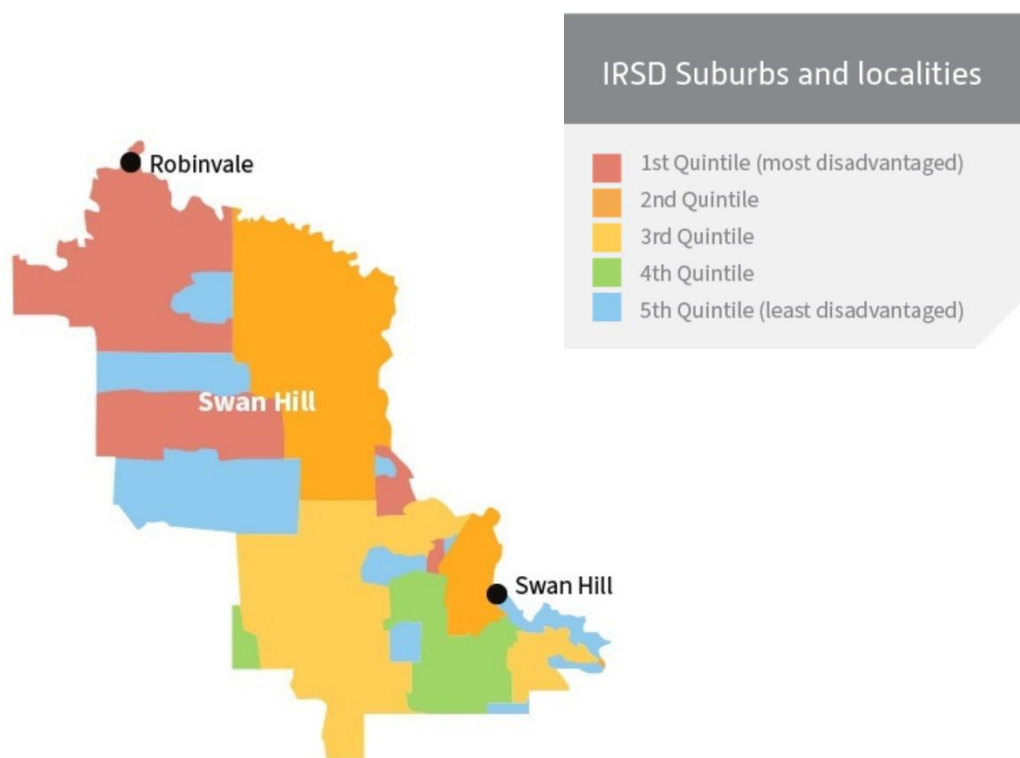
Sources and for more information: [Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022–32 | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/pride-in-our-future-victoria-s-lgbtiqa-strategy-2022-32)
[The health and wellbeing of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer population in Victoria - Findings from the Victorian Population Health Survey 2017 | Victorian Agency for Health Information \(vahi.vic.gov.au\)](https://vahi.vic.gov.au/the-health-and-wellbeing-of-the-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-intersex-and-queer-population-in-victoria-findings-from-the-victorian-population-health-survey-2017)

1.5 Areas of Disadvantage

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is a general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area.

A low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage. For example, an area could have a low score if there are: many households with low income, or many people without qualifications, and many people in low skilled occupations. A high score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage. For example, an area may have a high score if there are: few households with low incomes, few people without qualifications, few people in low skilled occupations.

Within the Swan Hill LGA there are areas calculated to have the highest relative disadvantage and areas with the least relative disadvantage. The areas of the most disadvantage cluster around the most populated areas of Robinvale, Manangatang, Nyah and Woorinen South. The average IRSD score for Swan Hill shire is 941 (2021), which ranks Swan Hill LGA 7th in Victoria of most disadvantage (rank 1 = most disadvantage, rank 79 = least disadvantage).



Source: [ABS: Census of population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes from areas \(SEIFA\), 2021](https://www.abs.gov.au/census-of-population-and-housing-socio-economic-indexes-from-areas-seifa-2021)

2. Prevention and Determinants

2.1 Prevalence of selected health risk factors for adults

In 2017-18, 13 per 100 population of Swan Hill residents aged 18 years and over reported experiencing high or very high psychological distress. This is comparable to the state rate of 13.3 per 100 population.

The region exhibits a higher rate of high blood pressure (23.6 per 100 in Swan Hill versus 22.7 per 100 in Victoria) and obesity (38.1 per 100 in Swan Hill versus 31.3 per 100 in Victoria). Swan Hill also shows higher rates of current smokers (22.1 per 100 compared to 15.5 per 100 in Victoria) and people consuming more than two standard alcoholic drinks per day on average (20.4 per 100 in Swan Hill versus 14.4 per 100 in Victoria). The data suggests Swan Hill experiences higher rates in most health risk factors which may impact long-term health measures.

Indicators ^A (ASR per 100 population, modelled estimates), 18 years and over self reporting, 2017-2018	Swan Hill	Victoria
High or very high psychological distress	13	13.3
High blood pressure	23.6	22.7
Overweight (but not obese)	37.2	36.4
Obese	38.1	31.3
Current smokers	22.7	15.5
Consumed more than two standard alcoholic drinks per day on average	22.1	14.4
Consumed adequate fruit intake	44.1	51.5
Undertook low, very low or no exercise in the previous week	71.1	65.7

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

^AASR per 100. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

2.2 Alcohol and other drugs

The alcohol and other drug statistics for Swan Hill, based on the provided data, highlight certain trends and patterns in the region's substance use landscape. In general, it appears Swan Hill experiences higher rates of alcohol-related incidents, including deaths and ambulance attendances but lower hospitalisation when compared to Victoria. On the other hand, Victoria has higher rates of ambulance attendances and hospital admissions for illicit drug-related issues.

Alcohol and other drug Indicators (rate per 100,000 population)	Swan Hill	Victoria
Deaths for alcohol-related events, FY-2021	229.2	141.9
Deaths for illicit drug (any)-related events in, FY-2021	na	0.6
Ambulance attendances for Alcohol Intoxication (w/wo Other Substance), FY-2022/23	461.7	393.5
Ambulance attendances for Alcohol Only (Intoxication), FY-2022/23	381.6	319.7
Ambulance attendances for Illicit Drugs (Any), FY-2022/23	193.2	204.6
Hospital admissions for Alcohol, FY-2021/22	499.9	577.9
Hospital admissions for Illicit Drugs (Any), FY -2021/22	112.1	242.9

Source: [Alcohol and other drug statistics in Victoria - AODstats](#)

These statistics are presented per 100,000 population

2.3 Life Expectancy

The median age at death for both males and females in Swan Hill remained the same from 2016 to 2021. However, men's life expectancy is lower (78yrs) than females (86yrs) in Swan Hill.

Examining premature mortality (deaths occurring before the age of 75), Swan Hill demonstrated positive trends. For males, there was a substantial reduction from an average annual ASR of 470.2 to 371.3, indicating a percentage decrease of 21%. Similarly, for females, the average annual ASR decreased from 264.7 to 220, reflecting a percentage decrease of 16.9%. However, premature deaths remain higher in Swan Hill compared to the Victorian rates.

Avoidable mortality (deaths that could have been prevented) also showed improvement in Swan Hill. For males, there was a decline from an average annual ASR of 272.7 to 220.2, representing a percentage reduction of 19.2%. For females, the average annual ASR decreased from 138.8 to 118, indicating a percentage reduction of 14.9%. Despite these improvements, Swan Hill avoidable deaths continue to be higher than the Victorian rates.

	Report - 2016 to 2020 ASR [^] per100,000				Report - 2017 to 2021 ASR [^] per100,000				% Difference between reports			
	Swan Hill		Victoria		Swan Hill		Victoria		Swan Hill (%)		Victoria (%)	
	Male (M)	Female (F)	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Median age at death (yrs)	78	86	79	85	78	86	79	85	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Premature Mortality, 0 to 74 years of age [^]	470.2	264.7	269.5	171.2	371.3	220	273.4	172.9	-21	-16.9	1.4	1.0
Avoidable Mortality, 0 to 74 years of age [^]	272.7	138.8	138.3	80.5	220.2	118	139.5	80	-19.2	-14.9	0.9	-0.6

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^]Average annual ASR per 100,000. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

2.4 Sexual and Reproductive Health

Swan Hill consistently shows higher birth rates and total fertility rates compared to the Victorian average. However, the adolescent birth rate in Swan Hill is notably higher than the Victorian average but has decreased from 2021 to 2022.

Indicators	2022		2021	
	Swan Hill	Victoria	Swan Hill	Victoria
Female Birth - Rate (per 1,000) ¹	24.9	20.5	26.9	20.7
Female Total Fertility Rate - Rate (lifetime) ²	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.7

Indicators	2020		2019	
	Swan Hill	Victoria	Swan Hill	Victoria
Female Adolescent Birth - Aggregate 2 year rate (per 1,000) ³	10.1	8.2	13.5	9.1

Source: [Victorian Women's Health Atlas \(victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au\)](#)

¹The rate equals the number of live births in 2020, per 1,000 women of the corresponding LGA. Note: Care should be taken when interpreting changes in fertility rates for Victoria from 2015 to 2018 due to registry system changes and processing of backlogs which may have inflated the birth counts for 2016 and 2017.

²The average number of children that a woman in a particular LGA could expect to bear during her reproductive lifetime if current fertility rates in that LGA continue. Note: Care should be taken when interpreting changes in fertility rates for Victoria from 2015 to 2018 due to registry system changes and processing of backlogs which may have inflated the birth counts for 2016 and 2017.

³The rate equals the number of live births to women younger than 20 years in the two-year period Jan 2019-Dec 2020, by LGA, per 1,000 women aged 13-19 residing in that LGA.

2.5 Sexually transmitted diseases

Swan Hill has considerably higher rates of chlamydia in females compared to the Victorian rates. Hepatitis B, gonorrhoea in females and syphilis case numbers are less than five and therefore are not reported, with the exception of gonorrhoea in males (2.8 per 10,000). This is lower than the Victorian rate of 8.6 per 10,000 in 2023.

Sexually transmitted diseases	2023				2022			
	Swan Hill		Victoria		Swan Hill		Victoria	
	Indicators per 10,000 persons	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Chlamydia ¹	20.1	8.9	16.3	18.7	15.9	5.6	14.4	15.7
Gonorrhoea ²	^	2.8	2.5	8.6	^	4.7	2.2	8.0
Hepatitis B ³	^	^	0.6	0.8	^	2.8	0.7	0.9
Syphilis ⁴	^	^	0.7	2.7	^	^	0.5	2.5

Source: [Victorian Women's Health Atlas \(victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au\)](http://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au)

^Less than five cases in a year are not reported

¹ The rate equals the number of chlamydia cases notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation.

² The rate equals the number of gonorrhoea cases notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation. (2) State and region total and averages shown in the Atlas are automatically generated based on LGA location data for female/male sex only and may differ to Victorian totals published elsewhere.

³ The rate equals the number of hepatitis B cases (total of both newly acquired and unspecified) notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation. (2) State and region total and averages shown in the Atlas are automatically generated based on LGA location data for female/male sex only and may differ to Victorian totals published elsewhere.

⁴ The rate equals the number of syphilis cases (total of both newly acquired and unspecified) notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation. (2) State and region total and averages shown in the Atlas are automatically generated based on LGA location data for female/male sex only and may differ to Victorian totals published elsewhere.

⁵ The rate equals the number of HIV cases (total of both newly acquired and unspecified) notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation. (2) State and region total and averages shown in the Atlas are automatically generated based on LGA location data for female/male sex only and may differ to Victorian totals published elsewhere.

2.6 Health - Selected long-term health condition

Arthritis and asthma are prevalent in the community, with 9.7% and 9.6% of the population reporting these conditions respectively. Both conditions show slightly higher prevalence rates in Swan Hill compared to the state of Victoria.

All long-term conditions listed in the table below are either higher or the same as Victoria, with the exception of cancer and mental health conditions.

The proportion of Swan Hill residents having one or more long-term health condition (28.8%) is higher than the state average (27.4%). Further data looking at heart health shows the rates of heart-related hospitalisations (49.8 per 10,000) and coronary heart disease mortality (91.0 per 100,000) are both considerably higher than the Victorian average (40.6 per 10,000 and 60.2 per 100,000 respectively).

Type of long-term health condition, 2021	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill [^]	Victoria	% Victoria [^]
Arthritis	2084	9.7	518,633	8
Asthma	2050	9.6	543,047	8.4
Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	1617	7.6	571,150	8.8
Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)	1075	5.0	303,371	4.7
Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)	946	4.4	243,130	3.7
Cancer (including remission)	588	2.7	179,326	2.8
Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)	441	2.1	97,270	1.5
Kidney disease	229	1.1	57,437	0.9
Stroke	208	1.0	59,844	0.9
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	159	0.7	45,946	0.7
Any other long-term health condition(s)	1331	6.2	519,110	8
No long-term health condition(s)	12189	56.9	3,969,506	61
Not stated	2524	11.8	492,709	7.6

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/2021/Swan-Hill-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

[^]Calculated percentages represent a proportion of the number of people in the area (including those who did not answer the long-term health conditions question).

Count of selected long-term health conditions [^] (all people), 2021	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	% Victoria
None of the selected conditions	12,783	59.7	65.0
One condition	3,979	18.6	18.8
Two conditions	1,377	6.4	5.7
Three or more conditions	740	3.5	2.9
Not stated	2,524	11.8	7.6

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/2021/Swan-Hill-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

[^] Selected long-term health conditions include arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia (including Alzheimer's), diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina), kidney disease, lung condition (including COPD or emphysema), mental health condition (including depression or anxiety) and stroke. Other long-term health conditions are not included in this count.

Heart health indicators	Swan Hill	Victoria
Heart related hospital admissions (2021-2016)	49.8	40.6
ASR (per 10,000 persons)		
Coronary heart disease mortality (2012-2020)	91	60.2
ASR (per 100,000 persons)		

Source: [Heart Foundation – Australian Heart Maps](https://www.heartfoundation.org.au/australian-heart-maps)

2.7 Avoidable deaths by cause

Avoidable deaths are deaths from conditions that are potentially preventable through individualised care and/or treatable through existing primary or hospital care.

The highest rate of avoidable deaths (0-74 years) in Swan Hill are circulatory system disease (60.8 per 100,000) and ischaemic heart disease (42.7 per 100,000), both with considerably higher rates compared to Victoria (32.7 per 100,000, 20.6 per 100,000 respectively). Swan Hill has the second highest avoidable death rate from circulatory disease and the highest for ischaemic heart disease in Victoria.

Swan Hill also has higher rates of avoidable deaths compared to Victoria from cancer, external causes, respiratory disease, suicide, transport accidents, cerebrovascular disease and lung diabetes but lower rates for colorectal cancer.

Avoidable deaths by cause [^] (ASR per 100,00) 0-74 yrs, 2017 -2021	Swan Hill	Victoria
Circulatory system	60.8	32.7
Ischaemic heart disease	42.7	20.6
Cancer	28.6	27.8
Breast cancer	26.0	15.6
External causes (Falls, burns, suicide and self-inflicted injuries etc)	19.6	13.5
Respiratory system disease	16.8	9.0
Obstructive pulmonary disease	15.8	8.3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	14.6	10.6
Transport accidents	12	4.0
Cerebrovascular disease	8.6	7.6
Diabetes	7.6	5.2
Colorectal cancer	4.8	10.1

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

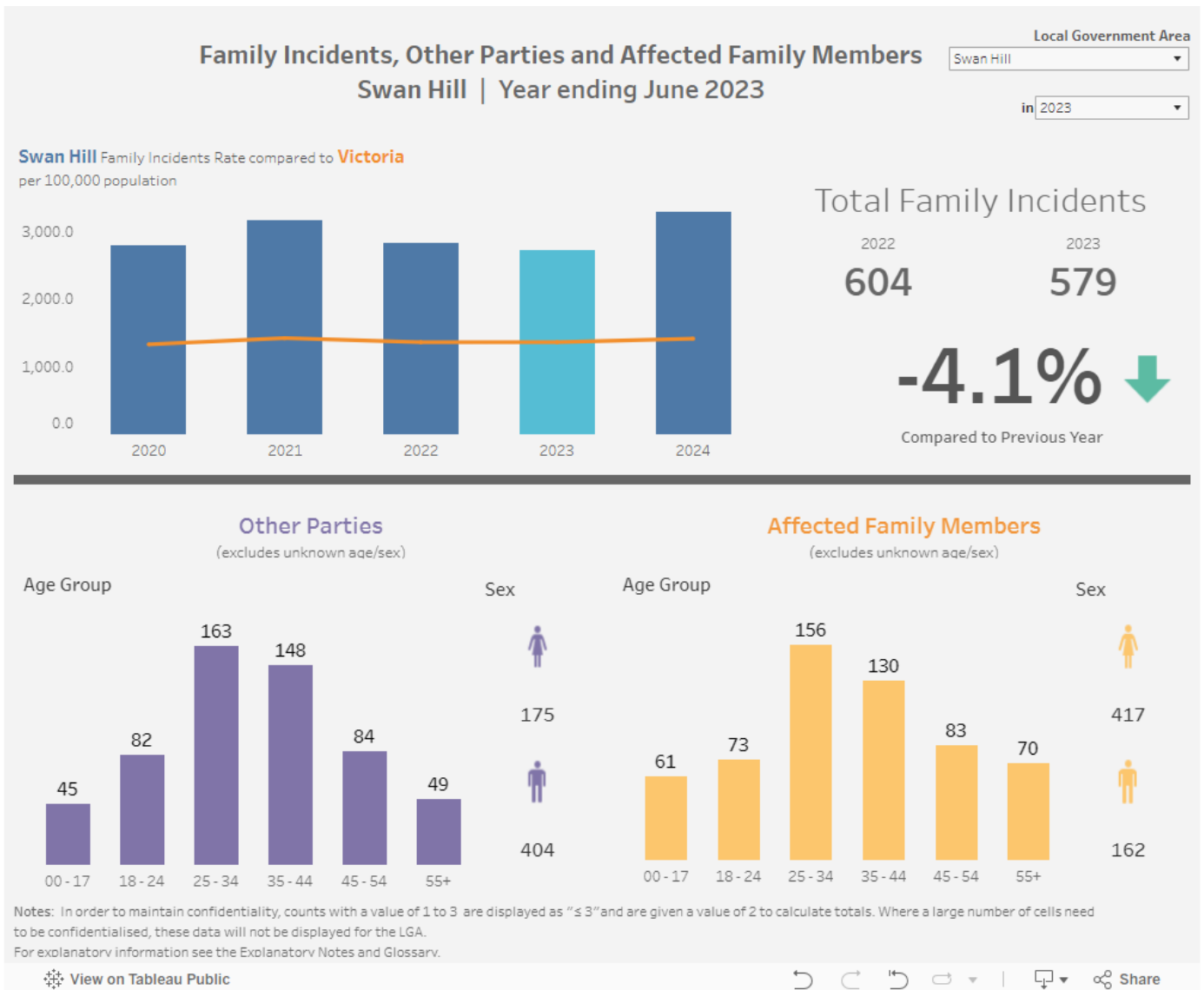
[^] For all indicators, the data presented are the average annual indirectly age-standardised rates per 100,000 total population (aged 0 to 74 years); and/or indirectly age-standardised ratios, based on the Australian standard. The exception is for 'Deaths from breast cancer (females)', where the rates are limited to the female population.

3. Family Violence

According to the Crimes Statistic Agency, Swan Hill had 2,729.6 per 100,000 family violence incidents (2022/23) which is double the Victorian rate (1,366.2 per 100,000).

A family incident is an incident attended by Victoria Police and a police report has been completed. Swan Hill reported family violence incidents are consistently higher than the State rate. An 'affected family member' is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during a family incident. The majority of the 'affected family' in Swan Hill is women.

The other individual involved in a family incident is referred to as the 'other party'. The 'other party' could be a current partner, former partner or a family member. The highest age group for other parties and affected family members is 25-34 years.



Source: [Crime Statistics Agency - Latest crime data by area](#)

4. Family and Income

4.1 Family composition

Couple families without children constitutes the largest proportion in Swan Hill, accounting for 44% of all families, which is higher than the state average of 37.6%. Couple families with children make up 39.2% of all families in Swan Hill, which is lower than the state average of 45.5%. This indicates a smaller proportion of families in Swan Hill have children compared to the broader state.

One-parent families represent 14.9% of all families in Swan Hill, which is higher than the state average of 15.2%. This suggests single-parent households are more prevalent in Swan Hill compared to the state as a whole.

Other families, which may include non-traditional family structures, account for a small percentage (1.9%) in Swan Hill, slightly higher than the state average of 1.7%.

All families	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	Victoria	% Victoria
Couple family without children	2,346	44	645,543	37.6
Couple family with children	2,086	39.2	782,321	45.5
One parent family	796	14.9	262,040	15.2
Other family	103	1.9	28,875	1.7

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

4.2 Single (or lone) parents

The data indicates the majority of single (or lone) parents in Swan Hill are female, constituting a substantial 80.9% of the total single parent population. This correlates with the state's percentage

Proportion of the total single (or lone) parent population	% Swan Hill	% Victoria
Male	19.2	19.1
Female	80.9	80.9

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

4.3 Employment status of couple families

In Swan Hill, the most common employment statuses for couple families are one employed full – time and one part-time (24.4%) and both employed, working full-time (21.6%). The proportion of both adults not working in Swan Hill (19.7%) is comparable to the state average (19.8%).

Couple families where parents or partners were aged 15 years and over	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	Victoria	% Victoria
One employed full-time, one part-time	1,078	24.4	322,757	22.6
Both employed, worked full-time	956	21.6	323,693	22.7
Both not working	870	19.7	283,160	19.8
One employed full-time, other not working	525	11.9	189,173	13.2
One employed part-time, other not working	263	5.9	90,569	6.3
Both employed, worked part-time	211	4.8	70,928	5
Other	325	7.3	97,725	6.8
Labour force status not stated	206	4.7	49,854	3.5

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/australian-bureau-of-statistics/collections/census-of-population-and-housing/census-all-persons-quick-stats)

4.4 Early child development

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a nationwide census of early child development that shows how young children have developed as they start their first year of full-time schooling. The Swan Hill figures indicate a higher proportion of vulnerable children for physical, social, emotional and language indicators compared to the Victorian proportions. There is also a higher proportion of children in Swan Hill who have two or more developmental vulnerable domains (12.7%) compared to Victoria (10.2%).

Vulnerable (n=233, 2021)				
Indicator	Indicator description	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	% Victoria
Physical	Child is healthy; independent; excellent gross and fine motor skills	34	15.4	8.1
Social	Gets along with others; shares; self-confident	21	9.5	9.0
Emotional	Able to concentrate; help others; patient, not angry or aggressive	21	9.5	7.7
Language	Interested in reading or writing; can count; recognises numbers and shapes	23	10.4	7.2
Communication	Can tell a story; communicate with adults and children; articulate themselves	15	6.8	7.4
Vulnerability 1	Developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains	57	25.8	19.9
Vulnerability 2	Developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains	28	12.7	10.2

Source: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data-explorer/?id=181509>

4.5 Household income

The provided data on household income for the Swan Hill region, compared to the state of Victoria, gives insights into the income distribution within the community. The median weekly incomes for people aged over 15, families and households are all below the state medians. The percentage of occupied private dwellings in Swan Hill with a weekly income of less than \$650 is 20.6% and above is \$3000 (13.3%) compared to a state average of 16.4% and 24.2% respectively. This indicates Swan Hill has a greater number of households with low income when compared to the state average.

Household income: occupied private dwellings (excl. visitor only and other non-classifiable households) [^]	% Swan Hill	% Victoria
Less than \$650 total household weekly income	20.6	16.4
More than \$3,000 total household weekly income	13.3	24.2

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

[^] Percentages exclude dwellings with 'Partial income stated' of 'All incomes not stated.'

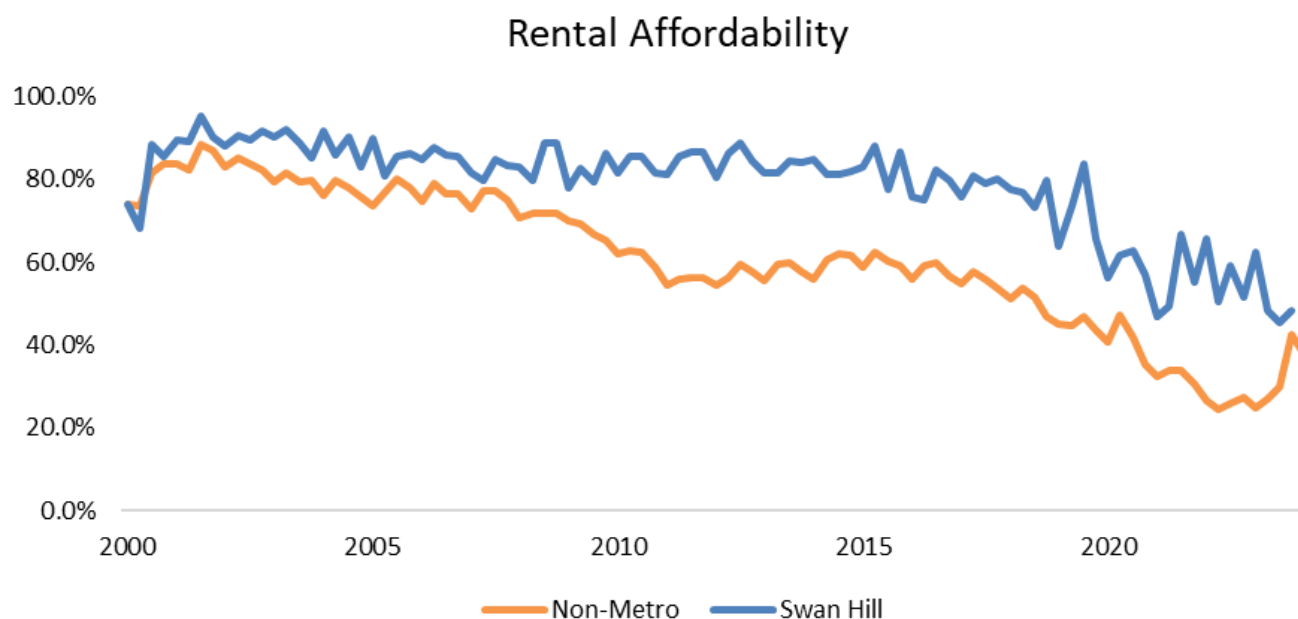
Median weekly incomes [^] (people aged 15 yrs and over)	Swan Hill	Victoria
Personal	\$715	\$805
Family	\$1,721	\$2,120
Household	\$1,379	\$1,746

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

[^] Incomes are collected in ranges and exclude people, families and households where at least one member aged 15 years and over did not state their income.

4.6 Rental affordability

Median rent prices are continuing to increase and becoming less affordable. The graph below represents affordability of rental homes for lower income households. The affordability benchmark used is that no more than 30% of gross income is spent on rent. Swan Hill is experiencing the same level of decline in rental affordability from 2019 as seen across the Loddon Mallee region. However, Swan Hill (48.4%) is more affordable in 2023, compared to non-metro areas in Victoria (26.9%)



Source: [Rental Report - Quarterly: Affordable Lettings by LGA - Dataset - Victorian Government Data Directory](https://data.vic.gov.au)

Lower income households are defined as those receiving Centrelink incomes.

4.7 Homelessness

Access to safe, adequate housing is central to the health and wellbeing of individuals and families. Secure and affordable housing is the basis for social connectedness and a contributor to the social determinants of health and wellbeing. This data includes:

- living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out
- living in supported accommodation for the homeless
- staying temporarily with other households
- living in boarding houses
- living in 'severely' crowded dwellings

Swan Hill has the second highest homelessness rate in Victoria. The Average age standardised rate (ASR) in Swan Hill is 111.4 per 10,000 people while the ASR in Victoria is more than half the rate at 46.9 per 10,000 people. While the overall rate is different between Swan Hill and Victoria, the specific challenges and characteristics of homelessness may vary between regions.

	Number	ASR [^] per 10,000	
	Swan Hill	Swan Hill	Victoria
People experiencing homelessness, 2021	234	111.4	46.9

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^]Average annual ASR per 10,000. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

5. Education

5.1 Type of educational institution attending

Swan Hill has a comparable percentage of the population attending early and secondary education to the state average. However, the area has a significantly lower percentage of people attending university or other higher education compared to the state-wide average, with Swan Hill at 12.6% and Victoria at 24.5%.

People attending an educational institution	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	Victoria	% Victoria
Preschool total	429	7.0	139,502	7.1
Primary total	1,705	27.7	520,258	26.5
Secondary total	1,240	20.2	412,219	21
Tertiary - Vocational education (including TAFE and private training providers)	449	7.3	155,358	7.9
Tertiary - University or other higher education	324	5.3	325,961	16.6
Tertiary total	775	12.6	482,005	24.5

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

5.2 Level of highest educational attainment

The data on the highest educational attainment in Swan Hill for people aged 15 years and over reveals a diverse educational landscape. Swan Hill shows lower percentages of individuals with higher education qualifications (Bachelor's degree and above) and advanced Diplomas or Diploma level, while having higher percentages in Certificate and Year 12 qualifications indicating a diverse educational profile. This could potentially reflect accessibility to different forms of higher education compared to metropolitan areas. The percentage of individuals in Swan Hill with a Bachelor's degree or higher is notably lower than the state-wide average, accounting for 11.2% in Swan Hill compared to 29.2% in Victoria. Meanwhile, Swan Hill has 14% of individuals with Certificate III qualifications compared to the 10.9% state-wide average.

People aged 15 years and over	Swan Hill	% Swan Hill	Victoria	% Victoria
Bachelor Degree level and above	1,940	11.2	1,557,447	29.2
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	1,268	7.3	521,291	9.8
Certificate level IV	640	3.7	179,000	3.4
Certificate level III	2,430	14.0	580,494	10.9
Year 12	2,714	15.6	797,281	14.9
Year 11	1,435	8.2	304,927	5.7
Year 10	1,924	11.1	389,680	7.3
Certificate level II	10	0.1	3,250	0.1
Certificate level I	0	0	647	0
Year 9 or below	2,193	12.6	422,139	7.9
Inadequately described	321	1.8	111,674	2.1
No educational attainment	306	1.8	59,722	1.1
Not stated	2,215	12.7	406,049	7.6

Source: [2021 Swan Hill, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

6. Disability

The provided data on disability shows that the proportion of people with a profound or severe disability, whether they live in long-term accommodation or in households, are comparable to the Victorian proportions. Most people with profound or severe disability are living in households.

In Swan Hill there are 501 people participating in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (2.4 per 100 people) in 2022, higher compared to the Victorian Rate (2.2 per 100 people).

Indicator, 2021	Swan Hill	Swan Hill	Victoria
People with a profound or severe disability, includes people in long-term accommodation (all ages)	1,254	6.4%	6.1%
People with a profound or severe disability and living in households (all ages)	1,062	5.4%	5.4%
People with a profound or severe disability, includes people in long-term accommodation (0 to 64 years)	533	3.4%	3.3%
People with a profound or severe disability and living in households (0 to 64 years)	501	3.2%	3.2%
Estimated number of total persons, living in households, with moderate or mild core activity limitation (modelled estimates), 2018	2,225	9.8 ASR [^]	n.p.
National Disability Insurance Scheme participants, 2022	501	2.4 ASR [^]	2.2 ASR [^]

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^]Average annual ASR per 100. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

7. Environment

7.1 Municipal emissions snapshot

Swan Hill is a rural city that is moderate in size relative to the state average and has a low urban density. Its major emissions source is on road transportation, due to the community's larger commuting and other travel requirements. The second largest source of emissions is electricity consumption.

In 2020/21, there was 598,000 (t CO₂e) total emissions for Swan Hill, this decreased to 498,000 (t CO₂e) in 2021/22 - this is a reduction of 16.7%.

Source (2021/22)	Swan Hill			Victoria	
	Sector	Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	% Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	% Emissions (t CO ₂ e)
Electricity	Residential	58,000	12	13,049,000	15
	Commercial	46,000	9	12,037,000	13
	Industrial	19,000	4	10,798,000	12
Gas	Residential			6,128,000	7
	Commercial			1,192,000	1
	Industrial	7,000	1	4,174,000	5
Transport	On road	287,000	58	17,313,000	19
	Rail			229,000	0
	Aviation			1,171,000	1
Waste		8,000	2	2,683,000	3
Industrial Processes and Product Use		12,000	2	6,370,000	7
Fugitive (gases and vapors accidentally released into the atmosphere)		0		2,911,000	3
Agriculture		61,000	12	11,523,000	13
Land Use		1,000	0.2	230,000	0
Total municipal emissions		498,000	100	89,578,000	100

Source: [Swan Hill, VIC :: Snapshot \(snapshotclimate.com.au\)](https://snapshotclimate.com.au)

7.2 Average temperature from a 30-year climate period

Temperatures in the Loddon Mallee region differ significantly from north to south. The northern part of the region has the highest average temperatures in Victoria, with the Swan Hill region experiencing an average maximum temperature of 31.2°C. Winters are mild, and the maximum temperature in winter is an average of 15.6°C. Conversely, the southern part of the region experiences cool and rainy winters and warm and arid summers. In the elevated southern regions, the average maximum temperature is below 25°C. Frosty weather is frequent in the whole region.

LGA (1961 – 1990)	Summer (Ave °C)		Winter (Ave°C)	
	Max	Min	Max	Min
Swan Hill Rural City	31.2	15	15.6	4.6
Mildura	31	14.8	15.9	5.2
Gannawarra Shire	30.5	14.7	14.8	4.5
Buloke Shire	30	14	14.6	4.4
Loddon Shire	29.4	13.9	13.9	4.2
Campaspe Shire	29.3	14.1	13.9	3.9
City of Greater Bendigo	28.2	13.4	13.1	3.9
Mount Alexander Shire	27	12	12	3.1
Macedon Ranges Shire	24.1	11.2	10.3	3.2
LMR Average	28.9	13.5	13.7	4.1

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

7.3 Bushfire prone areas

Most of the Loddon Mallee region is classified as bushfire prone area, with 92% of Swan Hill is classified as bush fire prone. This means high bushfire hazards in the Loddon Mallee intersect with settlements and areas that are experiencing growth in rural residential and tourism.

The fire danger period in Victoria has become lengthier, indicating a trend towards extended fire seasons. The seasonal fire restriction dates are determined by the municipality and are dependent on factors such as amounts of rain, grassland curing (grass dies, dormant or dry out), and other local conditions.

Smoke from fires, including planned burns, can also pose a hazard to people’s health. The individuals most at risk from smoke exposure include young children, adults over 65 years of age, people with asthma or existing heart or lung conditions, pregnant women, outdoor workers, and smokers. Bushfire-prone areas are either subject to or likely to be subject to bushfires, and are subject to specific bushfire construction standards.

LGA	% Area Bushfire Prone	Bushfire Prone Area* (km ²)	Total Area^ (km ²)
Loddon Shire	100	6,694	6,696
Mount Alexander Shire	99.8	1,527	1,530
Gannawarra Shire	98.7	3,701	3,750
Macedon Ranges Shire	98.6	1,723	1,748
Mildura Rural City	98.3	21,710	22,083
Campaspe Shire	97.7	4,415	4,519
Buloke Shire	97.6	7,807	8,000
City of Greater Bendigo	97.6	2,930	3,000
Swan Hill Rural City	92.0	5,625	6,115
LMR Total or Average	92.0	5,625	6,115

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

7.4 Areas potentially impacted by flooding

The Mallee sub-region has a significant number of urban settlements exposed to flood risk. Floods have caused significant damage to farms through inundation, isolation, and flash floods following heavy rainfall. Flooding provides important inflows to wetlands and lake systems but may also impact towns and infrastructure.

The flood warning service coverage is shown in the figure below with both the Flood Watch and Flood Warning catchment shown. The table below shows the effected main localities. This is not an extensive list and there are smaller localities that may be impacted. The flood risk and area impacted by flooding varies around the region. The table (below) shows the percentage of each LGA which is impacted by flooding at the 1:100-year average recurrence interval (ARI). There is a one percent chance (1% annual exceedance probability (AEP)) of these areas experiencing flooding of this level in any given year based on flood modelling results from flood studies. The localities listed have some defined built up area in or near the flood impact area defined by the 1:100-year ARI.

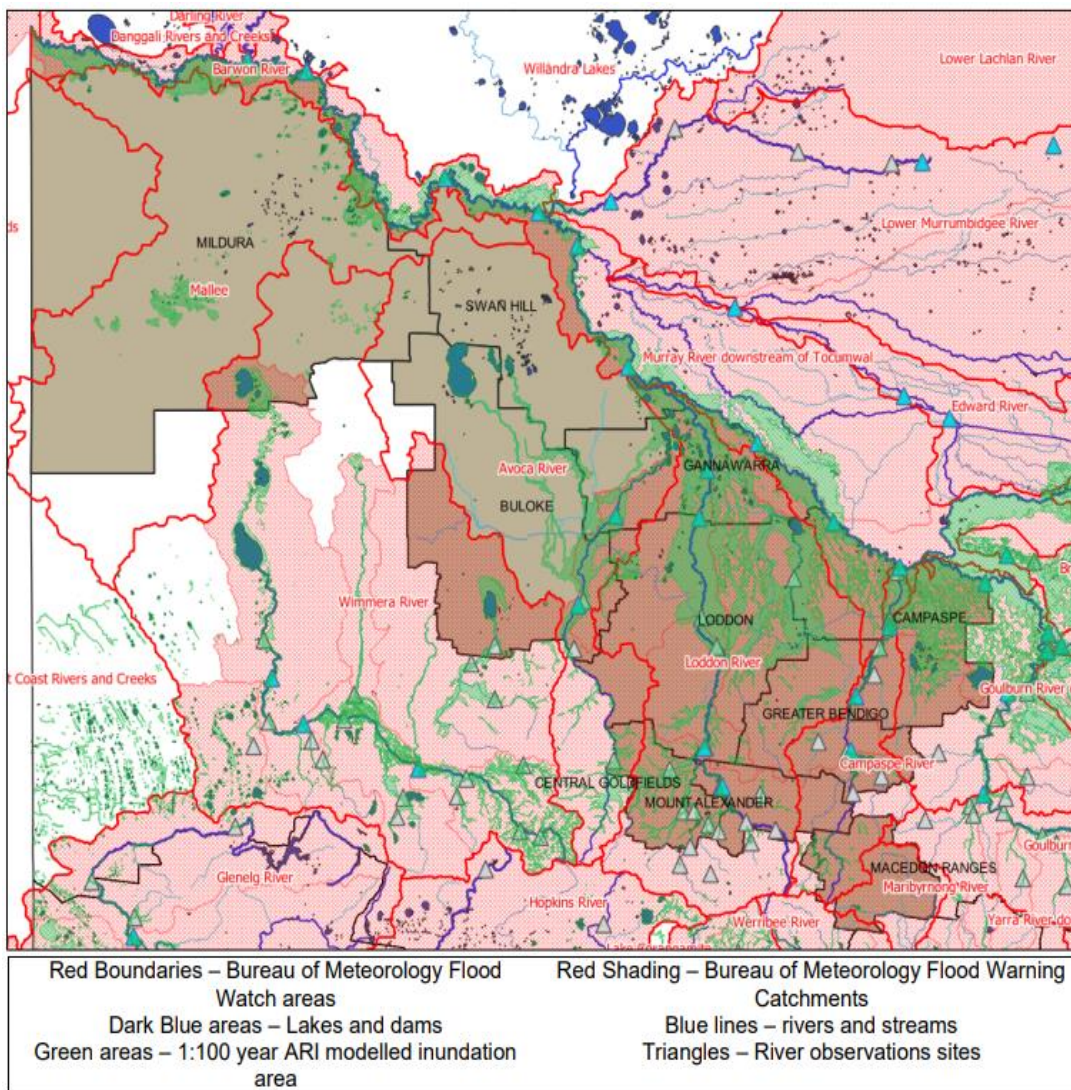


Figure 1: Flood warning and 1:100-year ARI inundation.

LGA	%Included in 1:100 Ari Area^	Main Localities with Affected Built Up Areas
Gannawarra	40.4	Barham (NSW), Cohuna , Kerang ,Koondrook , Quambatook
Campaspe	31.7	Echuca, Kyabram, Moama (NSW), Rochester, Tongala, Wharparilla
Loddon	29.1	Boort, Pyramid Hill
Buloke	11.2	Charlton, Donald
Swan Hill	10.2	Murray Downs (NSW), Nyah, Pental Island, Robinvale, Swan Hill
Mildura	6.7	Swan Hill , Nichols Point
Greater Bendigo	5.9	Ascot (Bendigo), Bendigo, Eaglehawk, East, Bendigo, Elmore, Epsom, Flora Hill, Golden Square, Heathcote, Huntly, Kangaroo Flat, Kennington, Long Gully, Maiden Gully, North Bendigo, Quarry Hill, Spring Gully, Strathdale, Strathfieldsaye, White Hills
Mount Alexander	2.4	Campbells Creek, Castlemaine, Moonlight Flat
Macedon Ranges	2.0	Gisborne, Kyneton , Riddells Creek , Romsey , Woodend

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

^Percentage of each LGA which is impacted by flooding at the 1:100-year average recurrence interval (ARI).

Abbreviations

Abbreviation Table	
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
ARI	Age Recurrence Interval
ASR	Age Standardise Rate
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
FDP	Fire Danger Period
FY	Financial Year
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IPPU	Industrial processes and product use
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
LGA	Local Government Area
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
TAFE	Technical and Further Education

Resources

LMPHU	Bendigo Health Website - Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit
PHIDU	https://phidu.torrens.edu.au/
Women's Health Atlas	https://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au/#/
ABS Quick stats	https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/SAL21682
AEDC	https://www.aedc.gov.au/data-explorer/?id=181509

Feedback

Any feedback on this profile is welcome and should be provided to the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit via email: lmphu@bendigohealth.org.au