

Hills Region

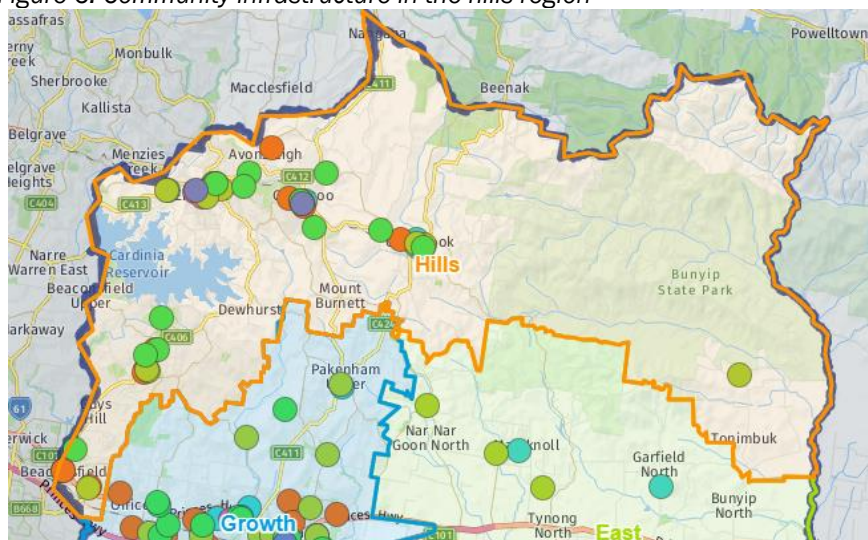
Hills region context

The hills region comprises several townships to the south of the Dandenong Ranges, with 'rural country' or 'hill-top bushland' character.

The population of this region is relatively stable.

Between 2011 and 2021, the population increased by 1,150 people and the current population is 18,460 people in 2023. The population is expected to continue to increase slightly into the future, with a projected population of 18,750 people by 2033.

Figure 6: Community infrastructure in the hills region



There are higher proportions of older adults in the hills region, with over one third of the population (37 per cent) aged 50 years and over. Of the families in the region, the proportions of families with older children are generally higher.

The population of the hills region has higher proportions of culturally and linguistically diverse populations than other non-urban areas of Cardinia Shire. Fourteen per cent of the population were born overseas and five per cent of the population speak a language other than English. 11.6 per cent of Cardinia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population lives in the hills region.

Over two-thirds (68 per cent) of working residents in the hills region leave the Shire for work every day.

According to the 2021 Cardinia Liveability Survey, in the last 12 months, one fifth (23 per cent) of residents in the hills region attended local art exhibitions, 41 per cent of residents attended a local library, and almost one third (30 per cent) attended cultural events. Attendance at a local library is higher in the hills region than elsewhere in Cardinia Shire, demonstrating the value of the Emerald Library and Cardinia Mobile Library for this community. 35 per cent of residents in the region feel no or a slight connection to their local community, and 19 per cent believe there is not enough connection to local community. It will be important to understand the expectations of the hills region community about what they want and need from community services and infrastructure to enhance opportunities for community connection and access to services, programs, and events, especially given the distances between townships.

Proposed community infrastructure

In the hills region, there are currently two significant projects included in Council's Long Term Financial Plan that are proposed to include community infrastructure. These are:

- Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Pavilion Proposed 2025/26
- Alma Treloar Masterplan Implementation Proposed 2026/27

*Where projects have not already commenced, these assets are proposed only, with all investment subject to Council's annual budget process and the availability of external funding.

Hills region community infrastructure

Undersupplied in 2023	Undersupplied in 2033	Over supplied in 2033
		Community room – large (integrated) Community room – large (standalone) Community room – medium Computer/training room Library

Community rooms

The quantity assessment suggests that large and medium community rooms and training rooms in the hills region are oversupplied. Spaces are available in a variety of facility types, such as community centres, public halls or recreation reserve pavilions. The condition and functionality of these spaces are good. Sourcing accurate utilisation data is important to better understand community value and to consider increased activation opportunities, or whether spaces can be repurposed to deliver under-supplied spaces for the region.

The community infrastructure audit suggests that the Clematis Hall is not functional which is due to its overall condition and the limited accessibility of the amenities. This could also extend to there being an oversupply of similar sized standalone spaces in other nearby locations. This facility should be reviewed as a priority to determine the ongoing value and possible future use of the Hall.

Consult rooms

The quantity assessment suggests that small meeting rooms and consult rooms are well supplied in the hills region. Condition and functionality of these facilities is generally good.

Kindergarten

The quantity assessment suggests that kindergarten spaces are well-supplied, however utilisation and kindergarten enrolment data suggest spaces are under supplied in some townships and potentially over supplied in others. Council is undertaking a Hills Region Feasibility Study to understand kindergarten demand and requirements further, particularly relating to the implementation of the Best Start, Best Life reform and review of the Cardinia Kindergarten Infrastructure and Service Plan, commencing in 2023.

Concentrations of community infrastructure

There are several different community infrastructure assets within individual townships in the hills region, particularly Cockatoo and Emerald and to a lesser extent, Beaconsfield, Beaconsfield Upper and Gembrook. Consideration should be given to whether infrastructure could be integrated, in line with the principles of the Community Infrastructure Plan, to move towards community hub models.

Kitchen facilities

There are five facilities that have kitchen facilities available within the hills region, which may be ancillary to other uses within the facility, or for the provision of community kitchen uses. These facilities are located within separate townships. The facilities themselves are of good building condition and functionality.

Library

The Emerald Library is located within the hills region and has recently been extended. This library is valued by the community and centrally located in Emerald's shopping precinct optimising access.

Public toilets

There are eight public toilets in the hills region in various localities. The community infrastructure audit suggests that the condition and functionality of these facilities are generally good.

Recommendations for the hills region

1. Seek community feedback about the utilisation and community sentiment of Clematis Hall.

2. Review the mix of community infrastructure in Cockatoo to consider if integration will improve utilisation and accessibility.
3. Review the mix of community infrastructure in Emerald to consider if integration will improve utilisation and accessibility.
4. Review the community infrastructure required to be included in the scope and timing of the the proposed Alma Treloar Masterplan Implementation.

Community Infrastructure Audit – Hills Region

Category	Provision standard	Year	Population	Supply	Target	Assessment	Facility name	Number of rooms	Building condition	Facility FFP score
Community room - large (integrated) 50-100 capacity	8,000 population per room	2023	18458	15	2.31	Over supplied	Beaconsfield Community Complex	2	Good	Good
		2033	18752	15	2.34		Beaconsfield Upper Community Centre	1	Good	Good
							Chandler Reserve	1	Good	Good
							Cockatoo Community Complex	1	Good	Good
							Cockatoo Senior Citizens Centre	1	Good	Good
							Emerald Nobelius Museum & Toilets	1	Good	Good
							Emerald Senior Citizens	1	Good	Good
							Gembrook Community Centre	2	Good	Good
							Hills Hub	1	(blank)	Good
							Cockatoo Kindergarten and Community House	1	Good	Average
							Cockatoo Mtn Rd Res Netball Pavilion	1	Good	Good
							Worrell Reserve	1	Good	Good
							Holm Park Recreation Reserve	1	Good	Good
Community room - large (standalone) 100+ capacity	20,000 population per room	2023	18458	7	0.92	Over supplied	Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre	1	Good	Good
		2033	18752	7	0.94		Beaconnhills Country Golf Club	1	Good	Good
							Beaconsfield Upper Conservation Group Nursery	1	(blank)	(blank)
							Beaconsfield Upper Recreation Reserve	1	Good	(blank)
							Clematis Hall	1	Good	Poor
							Emerald Community House	1	Good	Good
							Tonimbuk Public Hall	1	Good	Good
Community room – medium 20-50 capacity	8,000 population per room	2023	18458	18	2.31	Over supplied	Beaconsfield Community Complex	1	Good	Good
		2033	18752	20	2.34		Beaconsfield Upper Community Centre	1	Good	Good
							Beaconsfield Upper Recreation Reserve	2	Good	(blank)
							Chandler Reserve	1	Good	Good
							Emerald Arts Society (Studio and workshop)	2	Good	Good
							Emerald Nobelius Museum & Toilets	1	Good	Good
							Gembrook Recreation Reserve	2	Good	Good
							Gembrook Community Centre	1	Good	Good
							Hills Hub	4	(blank)	Good
							Sutherland Park Recreation Reserve	2	Good	Good
							Emerald Senior Citizens	1	Good	Good
							[PROPOSED 2027] Alma Treloar Masterplan implementation	1	(blank)	(blank)
							[PROPOSED 2026] Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Pav	1	(blank)	(blank)
Community room – small <20 capacity	8,000 population per room	2023	18458	11	2.31	Well supplied	Alma Treloar Reserve – Scout Hall	1	Good	(blank)
		2033	18752	11	2.34		Beaconsfield Community Complex	3	Good	Good
							Gembrook Community Centre	1	Good	Good
							Emerald Community House	1	Good	Good
							Emerald Library	1	Good	Good
							Hills Hub	2	(blank)	Good
							Holm Park Recreation Reserve	1	Good	Good
							Josie Bysouth Recreation Reserve	1	Good	Good
							Worrell Reserve	1	Good	Good

Well supplied	Well supplied, becoming inadequate in 2033	Undersupplied	Over supplied
---------------	--	---------------	---------------

Category	Provision standard	Year	Population	Supply	Target	Assessment	Facility name	Number of rooms	Building condition	Facility FFP score
Computer / training room	60,000 population per room	2023	18458	7	0.31	Over supplied	Beaconsfield Community Complex	3	Good	Good
		2033	18752	7	0.31		Beaconsfield Upper Community Centre	1	Good	Good
							Emerald Library	1	Good	Good
							Cockatoo Kindergarten and Community House	1	Good	Average
							Hills Hub	1	(blank)	Good
Consult room (Includes MCH)	4,000 population per room	2023	18458	6	4.6	Well supplied	Beaconsfield Community Complex	1	Good	Good
		2033	18752	6	4.7		Beaconsfield Upper Community Centre	1	Good	Good
							Cockatoo Community Complex and senior citizens	1	Good	Good
							Hills Hub	1	(blank)	Good
							Emerald Maternal and Child Health Centre	2	Good	Good
Kindergarten	Covers 85% of population of 3-4 year olds	2023	431	503	366.35	Well supplied	Avonsleigh Kindergarten	1	Good	Poor
		2033	425	503	361.25		Beaconsfield Kindergarten - O'Neil Road	2	Good	Good
							Beaconsfield Kindergarten - Wood Street	1	Good	Average
							Beaconsfield Upper Kindergarten - McBride	1	Good	Poor
							Beaconsfield Upper Kindergarten - Stoney Creek	1	Good	Poor
							Cockatoo Community Childcare Centre	2	Good	Good
							Cockatoo Kindergarten and Community House	1	Good	Average
							Emerald Kindergarten	2	Good	Average
							Gembrook Kindergarten	1	Good	Average
Kitchen		2023	18458	13			Beaconsfield Community Complex	1	Good	Good
		2033	18752	13			Beaconsfield Upper Community Centre	1	Good	Good
							Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre	1	Good	Good
							Beaconhills Country Golf Club	1	Good	Good
							Holm Park Recreation Reserve	3	Good	Good
							Tonimbuk Public Hall	1	Good	Good
							Cockatoo Community Complex and senior citizens	1	Good	Good
							Gembrook Community Centre	2	Good	Good
							Hills Hub	2	(blank)	Good
Library	100,000 population per library	2023	18458	1	0.18	Over supplied	Emerald Library	1	Good	Good
		2033	18752	1	0.19					
Other		2023	18458	6			Emerald Lake Park (Café, paddleboats, model railway)	1	Good	Average
		2033	18752	6			Gembrook Craft Cottage (Crafting room)	1	Good	Good
							Gembrook Riding Club (Social space)	1	(blank)	Good
							Hills Hub (Men’s Shed)	1	(blank)	Good
							Puffing Billy Railway Station	1	(blank)	Good
							The Gem Community Arts Centre (Theatre)	1	Good	Good
Public toilets		2023	18458	11			Beaconsfield Public Toilet Block (Exeloo)	1	Good	Good
		2033	18752	11			Beaconsfield Upper Charing Cross Public Toilet Block	1	Good	Good
							Clematis CFA Depot Public Toilet	1	Good	(blank)
							Cockatoo Main Street Public Toilet	1	Good	Average
							Emerald Public Toilet (next to Hills Hub)	1	Good	Good

Category	Provision standard	Year	Population	Supply	Target	Assessment	Facility name	Number of rooms	Building condition	Facility FFP score
							Gembrook Park Public Toilet Block	1	Good	Good
							Gembrook Skate Park Public Toilet Block	1	Good	Good
							J.A.C Russell Park Public Toilet (Exeloo)	1	Good	Good
							Maryknoll Recreation Reserve Toilet Block	1	Good	Average
							Puffing Billy Railway Station Public Toilet Block	1	Good	Good
							Emerald Public Toilet Block (Ferres Rd)	1	Good	Average



Well supplied



Well supplied, becoming inadequate in 2033



Undersupplied



Over supplied