

Mernda means young girl (derived from murnmurndik) in Woiwurrung the local language of the Wurundjeri people.

Europeans settled in the 1840s; the land was mainly used for dairy farming. Early industry included a unique concentration of flour mills along the Plenty River.

The post office opened in 1875 and parts of the original school, church, bakery/store, hotel, railway station and Mechanics' Institute still stand.

Planning and development

Located 30 kilometres north-east of Melbourne's city centre, Mernda is a rapidly developing residential area of around 17 square kilometres. As of 2015, it is one of the fastest growing areas in Australia. When fully developed, Mernda will accommodate over 30,000 square metres of retail space for supermarkets and shops and around 80,000 square metres for commercial use for offices, small businesses, medical facilities, gym and child care.

Council's Mernda Strategy Plan 2004 (amended in 2008) provides the planning and design framework for development of the Mernda and Doreen growth area.

More information

All planning and development plans can be viewed at Council's website.



Population

By 2036 it is estimated that the population of Mernda will increase by about 68 per cent from 16,800 (2015) to an estimated 28,200 with an increase in the median age over the same period from 29 to 35.

By 2036 the largest age groups are expected to be 35 to 49 year-olds followed by 50 to 59 year-olds.

Mernda has the third largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the municipality behind Whittlesea Township and Epping.

Births

In 2015, there will be an estimated 403 births (eight per week on average) and by 2036 this is expected to increase 472 births per year (nine births per week on average).

Diversity

The most common languages spoken other than English are Italian Macedonian and Greek and the most common country-of-birth other than Australia include England, India and Italy.



Families and households

By 2036 the number of dwellings will increase from about 6,200 to 10,500; 39 per cent of those households will be couples with children, down from the 2015 figure of 44 per cent.

Employment

In 2015 the most common types of occupation are professionals (18 per cent) and technicians and trades workers (18 per cent). More residents work in the construction industry compared with any other industry.

Education

In 2015, three per cent of residents are attending preschool and 10 per cent are attending primary school.

Travelling in and out

In 2015, 72 per cent of dwellings have access to two or more motor vehicles and 73 per cent of residents drive a car to their place of work.





Jindi Family and Community Centre



Advocacy priorities

Duplication of Plenty Road

Council is advocating for the state government to duplicate Plenty Road from Riverdale Boulevard to Bridge Inn Road and install traffic lights at Plenty Road and Bridge Inn Road, Mernda.

Municipality-wide

Schools

The state government has committed to build new schools in Mernda including a P-12 school in Mernda South West (Renaissance Rise), Mernda South Primary (Hawkstowe) and Mill Park Lakes Primary. The state government also funded the completion of Hazel Glen College in Doreen and has committed to build a new technical college for the municipality.

Yan Yean Road duplication: Yarrambat to Doreen

Council is seeking state government funding to duplicate Yan Yean Road north of Kurrak Road to Bridge Inn Road.

E6 construction from Metropolitan Ring Road to Bridge Inn Road

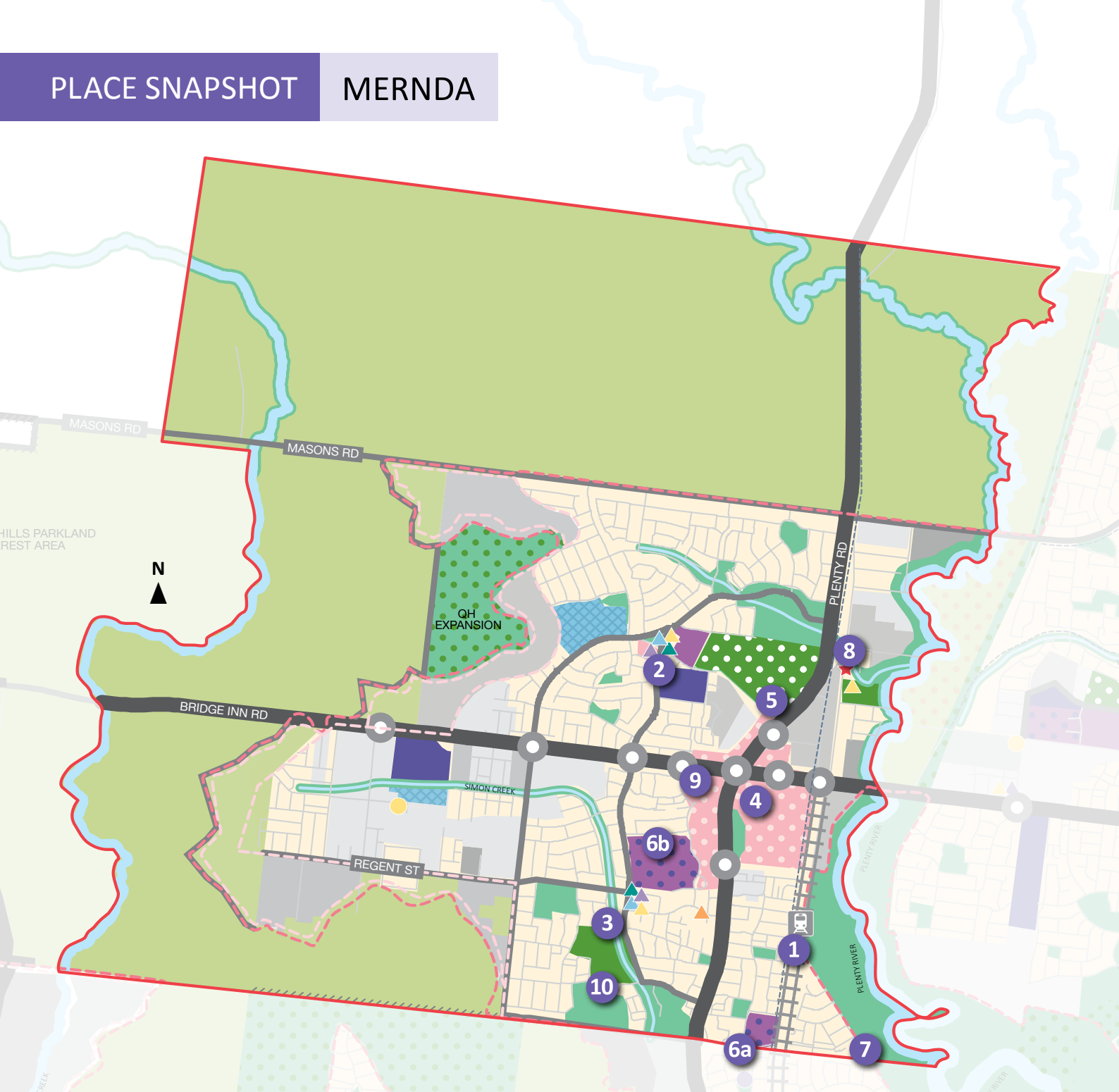
Council is seeking state and federal government funding to construct the 11 kilometre E6 road to alleviate congestion on Plenty Road and High Street/Epping Road. The new E6 could be capable of carrying more than 60,000 cars per day.

Bus services for the municipality

Council is seeking state government funding to improve bus services across the municipality, particularly between newly developed areas to employment centres.

Northern Hospital expansion

There is a critical need to expand the Northern Hospital to adequately service the growing population in the City of Whittlesea and Melbourne's north. The Northern is the only public hospital in the northern growth corridor. Council is advocating for additional beds and Royal Children's Hospital paediatric services.



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|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Place boundary | Private school | Existing childcare |
| Major roads | Government school | Proposed childcare |
| Roads | Proposed school | Existing kindergarten |
| Proposed roads | Existing open spaces | Existing CAS (Community Activity Space) |
| Proposed railway line / station | Proposed open spaces | Proposed CAS |
| Shared pathway (walking / bike) | Sports pavillions / ovals / pitches | Existing places of worship |
| Rivers / creeks / waterways | Proposed sports pavillions / ovals / pitches | Existing MCH (Maternal and Child Health) |
| Urban growth boundary | Residential | Fire station |
| Precinct structure boundary | Non-urban land | Proposed signalised intersections |
| 2017-2020* | Existing town centre | |
| 2020-2025* | Proposed town centre | |
| 2025+* | Retirement village | |

*These timeframes estimate relate to lot release, they do not relate to housing construction. Lot release is when titles are officially released after a Statement of Compliance is issued for any stage of an estate. Generally, houses are constructed anytime between six to 18 months after a stage is 'released.' Housing construction is dependent on market demand.

1 Rail Extension to Mernda

The state labor government has committed funding to extend the South Morang train line to Mernda. The train line is expected to be operational in 2019. The project will include:

- Eight kilometres of new duplicated track from South Morang to Mernda
- Full grade separations with no new level crossings
- A new station at Mernda and one additional station between Mernda and South Morang.

2 Mernda Village Activity Community Centre

Includes three and four-year-old kindergarten, maternal and child health services, a hall and multi-purpose rooms.

3 Jindi Family and Community Centre

- Located 1.5 kilometres from the Mernda Town Centre
- Includes three and four-year-old kindergarten, maternal and child health service and two multi-purpose meeting rooms.

4 Proposed Mernda Town Centre

Located at the intersection of Bridge Inn Road and Plenty Road, is expected to create up to 2,000 jobs and become a regional destination. May include:

- Large shopping centre with supermarkets, pharmacists, medical centre and other retail businesses
- Council youth centre and community space
- Library and art space.

5 Proposed Mernda Regional Recreation Reserve

- A 30-plus hectare regional recreation reserve
- Dependent on future funding proposed facilities may include: an aquatics and fitness centre; a multi-purpose sports stadium; Australian Rules Football, cricket and soccer pitches; tennis and lawn bowls courts.

6a Mernda South Primary School

Expected to be completed and opened at the commencement of Term 1 in 2017. This school site will also include an integrated Council kindergarten, maternal & child health facility and a (YMCA) long day child care centre.

The Council kindergarten and maternal and child health facility is to be delivered through a state government commitment of \$2 million.

6b Mernda Central Primary and Secondary School

This primary school and stage 1 of the secondary college (prep to grade 6 and year 7) are expected to be completed and opened at the commencement of Term 1 in 2017. This school site will also include a (YMCA) Learn to Swim Centre and two court sports hall.

7 Carome Homestead

The Homestead itself was built in 1861 from local bluestone and is situated on the property that once housed one of Victoria's first water-powered flour mills. Some remnants of the mill still remain overlooking the Plenty River. The Homestead has been lovingly restored and includes a café.

8 Turners Bakehouse Eatery

Built in 1892, today it reflects a nineteenth-century country bakery with bakehouse oven, stabling, shop and a house.

9 Planned Future Police Station

The state labor government has committed \$15 million to build a police station in the Mernda/Doreen area.

10 Waterview Recreation Reserve

- A nine-hectare reserve with two Australian Football League/cricket ovals
- Multi-purpose community pavilion.