

# Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper

## Submission Cover Sheet

### Submission Information

This cover sheet should be attached to submissions made to the Department of Communications in relation to the Mobile Coverage Programme Discussion Paper.

#### Contact Details

Name of respondent:	
Name of organisation:	Yarra Ranges Council
Phone:	
Email:	
Website (if applicable):	<a href="http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au">www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au</a>
Date:	April 2, 2014

#### Confidentiality and privacy

All submissions and comments, or parts thereof, will be treated as non-confidential information unless specifically requested, and acceptable reasons should accompany each request. Email disclaimers will not be considered sufficient confidentiality requests.

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Do you want all or parts of the submission to be treated as confidential? Yes ☐ No ☒

*If yes, identify below which parts of the submission are to be treated as confidential (and provide a reason):*

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If the submission contains personal information of any third party individual, indicate on this Submission Cover Sheet if that third party individual has not consented to the publication of his or her personal information:

#### Submission Instructions

Submissions are to be made by **5:00pm (AEST) Friday 28 February 2014**.

Where possible, submissions should be lodged electronically, preferably in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats via the email address [mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au](mailto:mobilecoverage@communications.gov.au)

Alternatively, submissions can be sent to the postal address below (to arrive by the due date):

The Manager  
Mobile Coverage Programme  
Department of Communications  
GPO Box 2154  
CANBERRA ACT 2615

All submissions lodged will be acknowledged by the Department of Communications by email (or by letter if no email is provided). Respondents lodging a submission who do not receive acknowledgement of their submission should contact the Department. Submissions which are not acknowledged by the Department as being received may not be considered. Respondents should be aware that emails greater than 10Mb may not be successfully delivered.

# Submission to Department of Communications Mobile Coverage Program

[www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

Mobile connectivity in Yarra Ranges is essential for resident and visitor safety and future economic prosperity.

The natural and rural landscapes and uniqueness of Yarra Ranges has intrinsic appeal to residents, businesses and tourists.

Yarra Ranges is home to approximately 150,000 residents and welcomes over 3 million visitors each year. 13,000 businesses contribute to our \$10 billion economy. Tourism and other significant industries are undermined by a critical lack of mobile phone coverage. Poor universal mobile phone coverage fails to meet the safety needs of residents and visitors with Yarra Ranges having mobile black spots in some of the world's most bushfire prone areas.

Yarra Ranges Council, local businesses, residents, members of Parliament and stakeholders are ready to conduct pilot mobile black spot initiatives in two key areas, East Warburton and Steels Creek. Our submission outlines a compelling case for this.

## Key messages of the Yarra Ranges submission

*All levels of Government have a key role in emergency management and community safety. Inadequate mobile network capacity in Yarra Ranges is an unnecessary and unacceptable risk to community safety.*

*Achieving improved community safety outcomes in communities that face extreme natural disaster risks, needs a high weighting in the funding criteria.*

*The assumption of poor commercial viability in deploying mobile towers in Yarra Ranges has seriously undermined community safety. This is a wrong assumption with local populations and tourism visitation justifying investment.*

*Local research found that ADSL coverage is inadequate for businesses and residents.*

*East Warburton and Steels Creek are among the highest risk communities for bushfire in the country.*

*Victoria and Yarra Ranges needs a proportionate amount of the \$80M funding to address mobile black spots.*

*Yarra Ranges Council, local businesses, residents, members of Parliament and stakeholders are ready to conduct pilot mobile black spot initiatives in two priority areas, East Warburton and Steels Creek.*

## Community safety concerns build a compelling case for East Warburton and Steels Creek coverage

There were ten fatalities in Steels Creek on Black Saturday 2009. Multiple properties were lost and there were devastating impacts on flora and fauna.

The recent fires in February 2014 both in and close to Yarra Ranges highlighted the ongoing vulnerability to bushfire in our region.

Whole-of-community fire responses were strengthened by reforms to messaging and information delivery by emergency services which now use different communications platforms.

*These systems only work well if there is mobile coverage. At present East Warburton and Steels Creek remain vulnerable due to mobile black spots.*

Risk, emergency and community safety is a key service area for Yarra Ranges Council. The forward planning, multi-agency collaboration and dedication of resources work to ensure that key townships of the Upper Yarra such as East Warburton, and smaller towns like Powelltown, McMahon's Creek and Reefton, are fire-ready and resilient in mitigating bushfire risk.

The dedication of resources, community engagement and planning are key strategies of Council to support communities like Steels Creek and East Warburton to be equipped to deal with another major fire event.

*All levels of Government have a key role in emergency management and community safety. Inadequate network capacity is an unnecessary and unacceptable risk to community safety.*



## The case for East Warburton and Steels Creek

Mobile network operators and the incumbent national telecom operator Telstra have observed that deploying mobile reception infrastructure at Steels Creek and East Warburton is not commercially viable.

Telstra also acknowledges its commitment under legislation to universal service obligations for fixed line telephony and guaranteeing communications in fire-prone areas with poor mobile coverage. This is in context of landlines being redundant when power fails, as it can in bushfire and other emergencies.

Since Black Saturday essential community safety information is being distributed by the CFA and other agencies through a variety of channels such as SMS, Twitter and through a revamped CFA web site.

Unhindered access to all these channels for community safety updates will mean the difference between leaving early and a safe escape, or being trapped in a life-threatening bushfire.

There are a number of high use tourist roads that traverse areas around Steels Creek and East Warburton that are high risk road safety areas of focus for ambulance and police. For example roads like the Warburton-Woods Point and Marysville-Woods Point Roads are one of most popular motorcycle rides destinations in the state. Mobile black spots in these areas are a serious impediment to agency response time in case of an accident.

Recent reviews by East Warburton and Steels Creek community members highlight the sub-standard access to this multi-channel community safety information (Appendix 1).

*The assumption of poor commercial viability in deploying mobile towers in Yarra Ranges has seriously undermined community safety. This is a wrong assumption with local populations (1086 for East Warburton and Steels Creek) and tourism visitation justifying investment.*

The mobile connectivity issues for East Warburton and Steels Creek are ongoing problems that urgently need to be rectified. Research from the 'Dandenong Ranges Landscape Bushfire Project'<sup>1</sup> states:

"the Upper Yarra corridor, Warburton, East Warburton and Reefton, are among the highest risk communities for bushfire in the country".

This is largely a result of access, topography, communication black-spots and geographic isolation.

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<sup>1</sup> Dandenong Ranges Landscape Bushfire Project'; Fire Services Commissioner Research Project

In 2011, the Victorian Fire Safety Commissioner wrote to Telstra requesting that an investigation be undertaken regarding East Warburton. In spite of engagement with community no investment by Telstra has been forthcoming. The Fire Safety Commissioner's letter of support for enhancing mobile coverage in these towns is attached (Appendix 2).

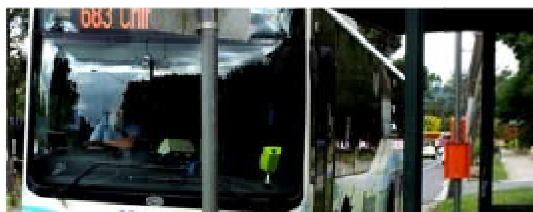
The National Bushfire Collaborative Research Centre undertakes research on bushfire risks. Some of the findings for East Warburton, Warburton, as well as Kinglake and Healesville are compelling (Steels Creek is captured in mapping data for this model with Kinglake).

These towns are among the top five places at risk of damage to property and life in the State according to advanced bushfire modeling.

The software model, Phoenix RapidFire, uses meteorological data and data on community assets, infrastructure and people, to demonstrate the probabilities of both neighbourhood and house loss. Long-term meteorological models indicate a likely reduction in average rainfall due to a return to El Niño like conditions for south-east Australia. This will increase bushfire risk for towns like East Warburton and Steels Creek.

Findings from the Bushfire Collaborative Research Centre's Phoenix model overlays mapping for bushfire risk and mobile coverage (Appendix 3). The correlation is clearly evident between extreme bushfire risk and poor or no mobile coverage in East Warburton and Steels Creek.

There is agreement at local, state and federal representative level that this urgently needs to change.



## Robust mobile reception and broadband in East Warburton and Steels Creek will deliver economic benefits

Emergency service management, health and wellbeing, community and government services and education are all impacted by poor access to essential communication networks-both fixed and wireless. These services are most needed in remote towns like East Warburton and Steels Creek.

Social disadvantage and reduced access to services are captured in socio-economic data for East Warburton and Steels Creek. The 887 residents in East Warburton are characterized by: lower incomes; a higher percent of people caring for a person with a disability; and a high reliance on car travel (Appendix 4).

In East Warburton, road infrastructure to the town is restrictive, with the Warburton Highway being the single thoroughfare and the National Park and State Forest surrounding the town.

High reliability on a car for connectivity also applies for the 199 residents of Steels Creek. The town's road access is also hemmed in by National Park and State Forest.

Research into the social determinants of health shows access to education for residents and travel times to tertiary institutions are barriers to post secondary study. For students travelling to Lilydale or beyond for study, poor mobile coverage adds to security concerns, with taxis almost negligible and thus long walks from bus stops to home, being common. There is an additional long term benefit to residents' wellbeing from investment in mobile access to these two key areas of Yarra Ranges.

## No mobile phone coverage is bad for business

Delay and uncertainty on the NBN rollout is an impediment to business growth and community amenity within Yarra Ranges. Previous Round 5 and Round 6 NBNCo

deployment plans would have delivered high-speed broadband to Steels Creek and East Warburton.

A number of exchanges across Yarra Ranges are at peak capacity resulting in delays in ADSL coverage. Upgrading mobile data infrastructure will allay some of the concerns around poor broadband.

A high-speed broadband network supports flexible work practices. This is critical for residents in East Warburton or Steels Creek, many of whom have little or no access to public transport services. For these residents tele-working promises: reduced travel; less stress on roads; and the environment; and more time to spend with family and in community.

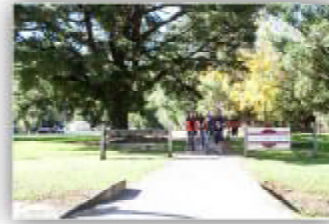
Poor or no access to broadband has been cited by investors and potential residents to overlook Yarra Ranges in favour for other regions. A local community health service recently closed its Yarra Junction operation because of poor phone and internet access and speed.

### Poor mobile phone coverage negatively impacts tourism

The Upper Yarra, including East Warburton and Steels Creek, offers substantial growth opportunities for investment in nature-based tourism. Tourism operators are looking to invest. Areas of appeal include: farm-stay accommodation; cycling based tourism, especially mountain biking; and packaged walking and hiking tourism. These areas also lend themselves to mountain bike facilities and packaged trekking.

Many riders and trekkers use mobile internet apps such as Google Latitude, Strava and Garmin Connect to live track and broadcast their whereabouts in remote locations as a safety measure. Without adequate mobile services the potential for major mountain bike trails and trekking developments are substantially hindered.

Better telecom services will assist both safety concerns and the success of seasonal tourism



events such as the Nordic Festival in Warburton and large regional festivals like Grape Grazing that routinely accommodate 5-10,000 people over a weekend. Safety and mobile interactivity enabling use of Twitter, Instagram and other apps that support visits is compromised without a strong mobile network.

For our businesses, especially tourism operators to be globally competitive, rectifying the lack of broadband and mobile connectivity is essential.

### Deliver urgently needed and tangible outcomes

The Discussion Paper raises the question of how to prioritise deployment for the \$80 Mobile Network Expansion. A priority for network expansion is communities that “are prone to experiencing natural disasters.” This criterion should be paramount in mobile infrastructure site selection.

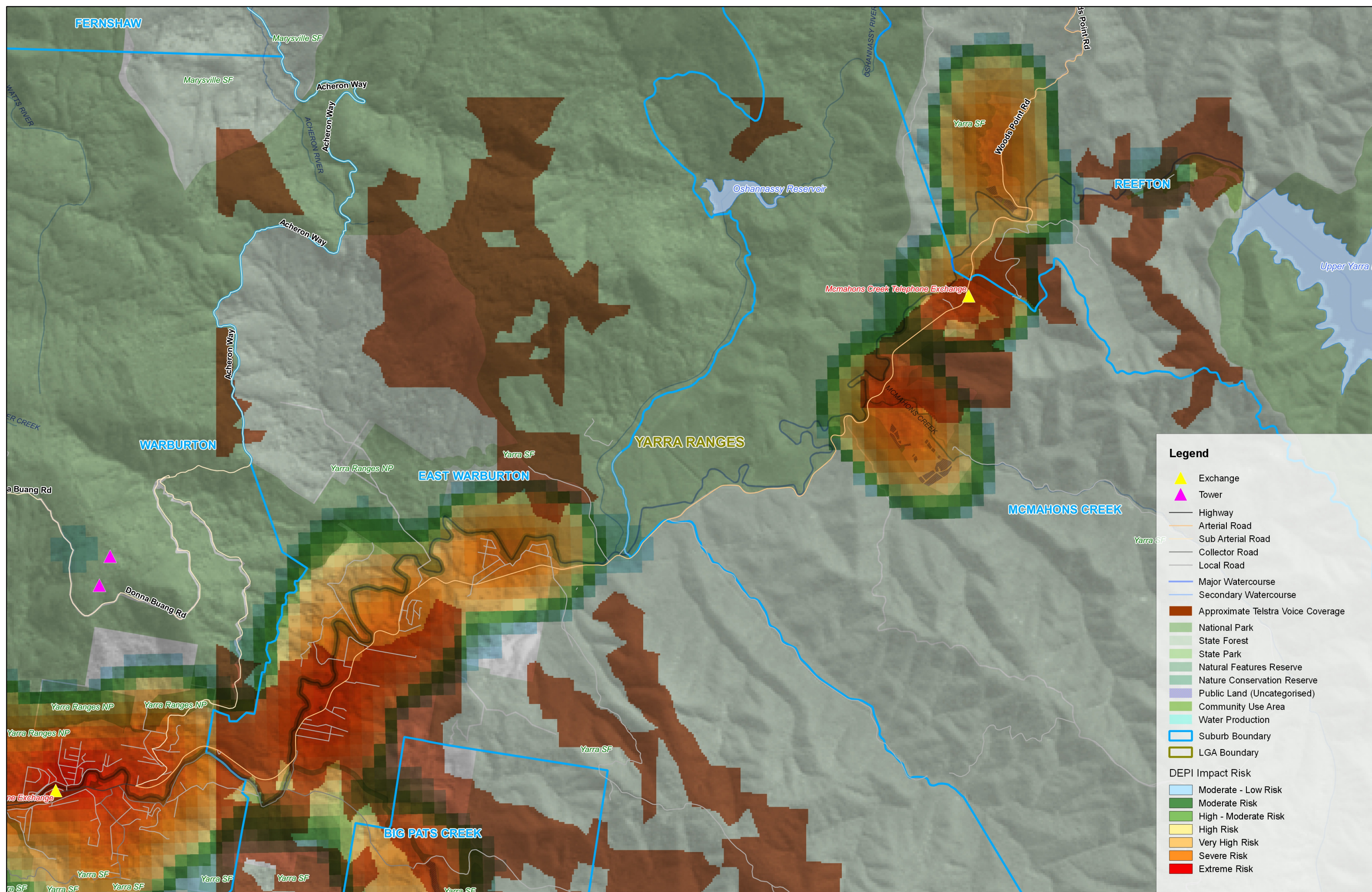
*Achieving improved community safety outcomes in communities that face extreme natural disaster risks, needs a high weighting in the funding criteria.*

East Warburton and Steels Creek are two of the highest priority sites in the country. This is supported by community and specialist representations in the letters of support.

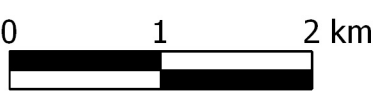
Economic benefits for residents and future business growth further the case for these two communities to be pilot sites.

*Victoria needs a proportionate amount of the \$80M funding to address mobile black spots. Yarra Ranges must be considered a priority due to unacceptable safety risks relating to bushfire that our residents are tragically all too familiar with.*





**EAST WARBURTON - REEFTON  
APPROXIMATE TELSTRA VOICE COVERAGE**

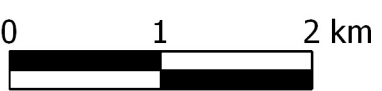
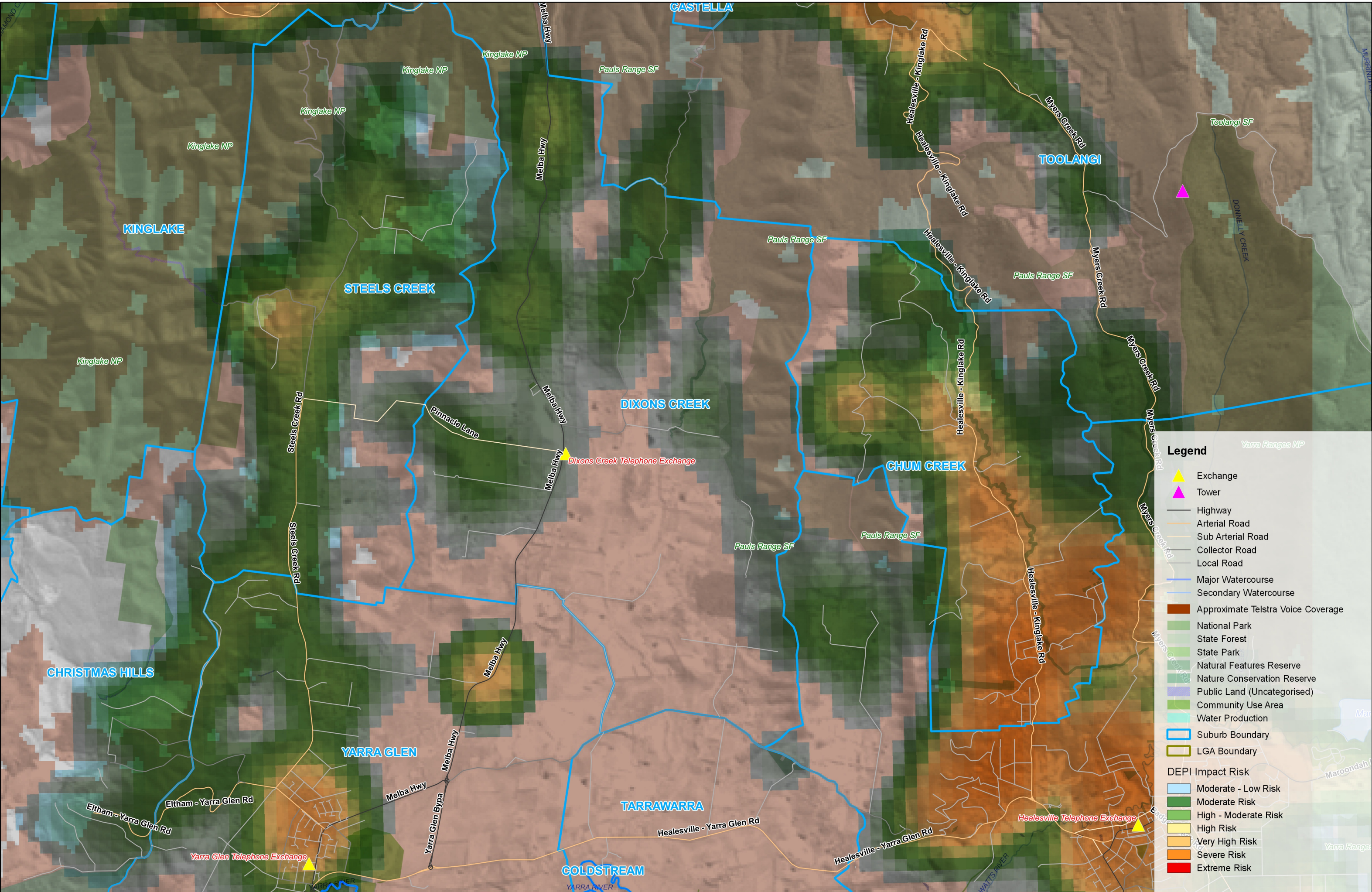


\* Voice coverage areas approximated from maps on Telstra website

Map scale: 1:50000 @ A3  
Map last updated: 25-02-2014  
Datum: GDA94 MGA Zone 55  
Job reference: HD101875







**YARRA GLEN - STEELS CREEK  
APPROXIMATE TELSTRA VOICE COVERAGE**



\* Voice coverage areas approximated from maps on Telstra website  
Map scale: 1:50000 @ A3  
Map last updated: 25-02-2014  
Datum: GDA94 MGA Zone 55  
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## Attachment 4- Demographics

### 2011 Census QuickStats

All people - usual residents

### East Warburton

#### People 887

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#### Families 241

Average children per family 2

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#### All private dwellings 473

Average people per household 2.4

Median weekly household income \$897

Median monthly mortgage repayments \$1,300

Median weekly rent \$250

Average motor vehicles per dwelling 1.9

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2014 MapData Services Pty Ltd (MDS), PSMA Australia Limited

### Key features – East Warburton

- Low income
- Higher percent of people caring for a person with a disability
- High reliance on car travel

<u>People</u>	East Warburton	%	%
<b>Total</b>	887	--	--
<b>Male</b>	446	50.3	49.4
<b>Female</b>	441	49.7	50.6
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</b>	4	0.5	2.5

In the 2011 Census, there were 887 people in East Warburton (State Suburbs) of these 50.3% were male and 49.7% were female. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 0.5% of the population.



<u>Age</u>	East Warburton	%
<b><i>People</i></b>		
<b>0-4 years</b>	41	6.6
<b>5-9 years</b>	60	6.3
<b>10-14 years</b>	72	6.4
<b>15-19 years</b>	66	6.5
<b>20-24 years</b>	28	6.8
<b>25-29 years</b>	21	7.0
<b>30-34 years</b>	38	6.8
<b>35-39 years</b>	55	7.1
<b>40-44 years</b>	81	7.2
<b>45-49 years</b>	78	7.0
<b>50-54 years</b>	93	6.7
<b>55-59 years</b>	85	6.0
<b>60-64 years</b>	58	5.6
<b>65-69 years</b>	46	4.3
<b>70-74 years</b>	31	3.3
<b>75-79 years</b>	19	2.5
<b>80-84 years</b>	10	2.0
<b>85 years and over</b>	5	1.9

The median age of people in East Warburton (State Suburbs) was 44 years. Children aged 0 - 14 years made up 18.9% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 13.0% of the population.

Of people in East Warburton (State Suburbs) aged 15 years and over, 45.3% were married and 17.8% were either divorced or separated.

The median age of married people in East Warburton (State Suburbs) was 53 years and the median age of people never married was 34 years.

In East Warburton (State Suburbs), of people aged 15 years and over, 46.3% of people were in a registered marriage and 14.0% were in a de facto marriage.

<u>Education</u>	East Warburton	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<b>Pre-school</b>	17	6.8	89,819	5.6	332,844	5.1
<b>Primary - Government</b>	52	20.8	271,996	16.8	1,181,787	18.2
<b>Primary - Catholic</b>	10	4.0	93,173	5.8	359,062	5.5
<b>Primary - Other Non Government</b>	12	4.8	45,848	2.8	214,359	3.3
<b>Secondary - Government</b>	42	16.8	193,776	12.0	774,074	11.9
<b>Secondary - Catholic</b>	➤ 7	2.8	82,226	5.1	307,142	4.7
<b>Secondary - Other Non Government</b>	21	8.4	69,464	4.3	254,828	3.9
<b>Technical or further education institution</b>	15	6.0	117,953	7.3	473,606	7.3
<b>University or tertiary institution</b>	9	3.6	246,550	15.2	932,524	14.3
<b>Other</b>	8	3.2	50,269	3.1	161,660	2.5
<b>Not Stated</b>	57	22.8	356,483	22.0	1,511,694	23.2
<b>Total</b>	250	--	1,617,557	--	6,503,580	--

In East Warburton (State Suburbs) 28.1% of people were attending an educational institution. Of these, 29.6% were in primary school, 28.0% in secondary school and 10.0% in a tertiary or technical institution.

## People cultural & language diversity

The most common ancestries in East Warburton (State Suburbs) were English 33.1%, Australian 26.6%, Irish 11.3%, Scottish 9.4% and German 5.1%.

In East Warburton (State Suburbs), 80.4% of people were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth were England 7.3%, Netherlands 1.4%, Germany 1.2%, New Zealand 1.2% and Scotland 0.8%.

In East Warburton (State Suburbs), 61.5% of people had both parents born in Australia and 24.7% of people had both parents born overseas.

In East Warburton (State Suburbs) 93.0% of people only spoke English at home. Other languages spoken at home included Macedonian 0.6%, German 0.5%, Hungarian 0.5%, Bulgarian 0.5% and Japanese 0.5%.



## People employment

<u>Employment</u>	East Warburton	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<i>People who reported being in the labour force, aged 15 years and over</i>						
<b>Worked full-time</b>	217	53.3	1,583,266	59.2	6,367,554	59.7
<b>Worked part-time</b>	139	34.2	791,836	29.6	3,062,976	28.7
<b>Away from work</b>	29	7.1	155,530	5.8	627,797	5.9
<b>Unemployed</b>	22	5.4	144,844	5.4	600,133	5.6
<b>Total in labour force</b>	407	--	2,675,476	--	10,658,460	--

There were 407 people who reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night in East Warburton (State Suburbs). Of these 53.3% were employed full time, 34.2% were employed part-time and 5.4% were unemployed.

<u>Employment - hours worked</u>	East Warburton	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<i>Labour force, people aged 15 years and over</i>						
<b>1-15 hours per week</b>	54	14.1	289,746	11.4	1,087,799	10.8
<b>16-24 hours per week</b>	45	11.7	245,456	9.7	947,792	9.4
<b>25-34 hours per week</b>	39	10.2	256,634	10.1	1,027,380	10.2
<b>35-39 hours per week</b>	65	17.0	445,919	17.6	1,808,879	18.0
<b>40 hours or more per week</b>	147	38.4	1,137,351	44.9	4,558,678	45.3

Of employed people in East Warburton (State Suburbs), 14.1% worked 1 to 15 hours, 11.7% worked 16 to 24 hours and 38.4% worked 40 hours or more.

<u>Median age by employment status</u>	East Warburton	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<i>Labour force, people aged 15 years and over</i>						
<b>Employed full-time</b>	45	--	40	--	40	--
<b>Employed part-time</b>	48	--	40	--	40	--

The median age of people employed full-time in East Warburton (State Suburbs) was 45 years and for people who were employed part-time was 48 years.

The most common occupations in East Warburton (State Suburbs) included Technicians and Trades Workers 18.1%, Labourers 15.7%, Professionals 13.9%, Community and Personal Service Workers 11.3%, and Clerical and Administrative Workers 11.3%.

## Occupation

<u>Industry of employment, top responses</u>	East Warburton	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<i>Employed people aged 15 years and over</i>						
<b>School Education</b>	35	9.1	111,140	4.4	467,373	4.6
<b>Residential Care Services</b>	19	5.0	40,479	1.6	184,770	1.8
<b>Accommodation</b>	13	3.4	23,124	0.9	120,813	1.2
<b>Cafes, Restaurants and Takeaway Food Services</b>	12	3.1	106,394	4.2	412,804	4.1
<b>Building Cleaning, Pest Control and Gardening Services</b>	12	3.1	35,023	1.4	142,745	1.4
<u>Median weekly incomes</u>	East Warburton	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%

### *People aged 15 years and over*

<b>Personal</b>	436	--	561	--	577	--
<b>Family</b>	1,113	--	1,460	--	1,481	--
<b>Household</b>	897	--	1,216	--	1,234	--

The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in East Warburton (State Suburbs) was \$436.

<u>Travel to work, top responses</u>	East Warburton	%	%
<b>Car, as driver</b>	244	63.7	60.2
<b>Car, as passenger</b>	16	4.2	5.3
<b>Walked only</b>	4	1.0	3.7
<b>Bus</b>	3	0.8	3.0
<b>Truck</b>	3	0.8	1.0
<b>People who travelled to work by public transport</b>	11	2.9	10.4
<b>People who travelled to work by car as driver or passenger</b>	266	69.3	65.8

In East Warburton (State Suburbs), on the day of the Census, the methods of travel to work for employed people were Car, as driver 63.7%, Car, as passenger 4.2% and walked only 1.0%. Other common responses were Bus 0.8% and Truck 0.8%. On the day, 2.9% of employed people travelled to work on public transport and 69.3% by car (either as driver or as passenger).



<u>Unpaid work</u>	East Warburton	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<i>People aged 15 years and over</i>						
<b>Did unpaid domestic work (last week)</b>	531	74.1	3,017,919	69.3	12,149,347	70.0
<b>Cared for child/children (last two weeks)</b>	180	25.0	1,187,433	27.3	4,827,808	27.8
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability (last two weeks)	<b>93</b>	<b>12.9</b>	490,097	11.3	1,896,957	<b>10.9</b>
<b>Did voluntary work through an organisation or group (last 12 months)</b>	146	20.3	772,444	17.7	3,090,874	17.8

In East Warburton (State Suburbs), of people aged 15 years and over, 74.1% did unpaid domestic work in the week before the Census. During the two weeks before the Census, 25.0% provided care for children and 12.9% assisted family members or others due to a disability, long term illness or problems related to old age. In the year before the Census, 20.3% of people did voluntary work through an organisation or a group

**Source ABS Data**

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## 2011 Census QuickStats

All people - usual residents

### Steels Creek

#### People 199

Male 100

Female 99

Median  
age 47

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#### Families 57

Average children per  
family 1.9

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#### All private dwellings 92

Average people per household 2.4

Median weekly household  
income \$992

Median monthly mortgage  
repayments \$2,000

Median weekly rent \$0

Average motor vehicles per  
dwelling 2.5

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### People

Steels  
Creek %

Victoria %

Australia %

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<b>Total</b>	199	--	5,354,042	--	21,507,717	--
<b>Male</b>	100	50.3	2,632,619	49.2	10,634,013	49.4
<b>Female</b>	99	49.7	2,721,423	50.8	10,873,704	50.6
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</b>	3	1.5	37,990	0.7	548,369	2.5

<b><u>Age</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>People</i>						
<b>0-4 years</b>	8	4.0	344,733	6.4	1,421,050	6.6
<b>5-9 years</b>	7	3.5	326,121	6.1	1,351,921	6.3
<b>10-14 years</b>	16	8.0	327,939	6.1	1,371,054	6.4
<b>15-19 years</b>	8	4.0	345,339	6.5	1,405,798	6.5
<b>20-24 years</b>	6	3.0	375,108	7.0	1,460,673	6.8
<b>25-29 years</b>	4	2.0	388,669	7.3	1,513,236	7.0
<b>30-34 years</b>	5	2.5	372,214	7.0	1,453,775	6.8
<b>35-39 years</b>	15	7.5	383,415	7.2	1,520,138	7.1
<b>40-44 years</b>	12	6.0	391,197	7.3	1,542,879	7.2
<b>45-49 years</b>	24	12.1	372,367	7.0	1,504,142	7.0
<b>50-54 years</b>	18	9.0	354,110	6.6	1,447,404	6.7
<b>55-59 years</b>	17	8.5	317,438	5.9	1,297,244	6.0
<b>60-64 years</b>	17	8.5	293,812	5.5	1,206,116	5.6
<b>65-69 years</b>	24	12.1	224,911	4.2	919,319	4.3
<b>70-74 years</b>	7	3.5	177,316	3.3	708,090	3.3
<b>75-79 years</b>	7	3.5	140,338	2.6	545,263	2.5
<b>80-84 years</b>	4	2.0	114,020	2.1	436,936	2.0
<b>85 years and over</b>	0	0.0	104,995	2.0	402,681	1.9
<b>Median age</b>	47	--	37	--	37	--

<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
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## **Registered marital status**

<i>People aged 15 years and over</i>						
Married	107	63.7	2,136,928	49.1	8,461,114	48.7
Separated	3	1.8	125,441	2.9	529,280	3.0
Divorced	19	11.3	339,497	7.8	1,460,899	8.4
Widowed	0	0.0	242,620	5.6	949,634	5.5
Never married	39	23.2	1,510,759	34.7	5,962,769	34.3
<b>Marital Status</b>						
<b><u>Median age by registered marital status</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>People aged 15 years and over</i>						
Married	60	--	50	--	50	--
Separated	0	--	49	--	49	--
Divorced	55	--	54	--	54	--
Widowed	78	--	78	--	78	--
Never married	24	--	25	--	25	--
<b><u>Social marital status</u></b>						
	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>People aged 15 years and over</i>						
Registered marriage	92	64.8	1,948,522	49.4	7,647,042	49.2
De facto marriage	11	7.7	341,315	8.7	1,476,369	9.5
Not married	39	27.5	1,653,820	41.9	6,413,399	41.3
<b><u>Median age by social marital status</u></b>						
	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>People aged 15 years and over</i>						
Registered marriage	59	--	50	--	50	--
De facto marriage	54	--	35	--	35	--
Not married	47	--	32	--	33	--
<b><u>Education</u></b>						
	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
Pre-school	0	0.0	89,819	5.6	332,844	5.1
Primary – Government	13	25.0	271,996	16.8	1,181,787	18.2
Primary - Catholic	0	0.0	93,173	5.8	359,062	5.5



<b>Primary - Other Non Government</b>	4	7.7	45,848	2.8	214,359	3.3
<b>Secondary - Government</b>	5	9.6	193,776	12.0	774,074	11.9
<b>Secondary - Catholic</b>	7	13.5	82,226	5.1	307,142	4.7
<b>Secondary - Other Non Government</b>	0	0.0	69,464	4.3	254,828	3.9
<b>Technical or further education institution</b>	3	5.8	117,953	7.3	473,606	7.3
<b>University or tertiary institution</b>	6	11.5	246,550	15.2	932,524	14.3
<b>Other</b>	0	0.0	50,269	3.1	161,660	2.5
<b>Not Stated</b>	14	26.9	356,483	22.0	1,511,694	23.2
<b>Total</b>	52	--	1,617,557	--	6,503,580	--

## Education

<u>Ancestry, top responses</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<b>English</b>	88	32.4	1,614,911	23.5	7,238,533	25.9
<b>Australian</b>	75	27.6	1,606,233	23.3	7,098,486	25.4
<b>Irish</b>	32	11.8	522,025	7.6	2,087,758	7.5
<b>Scottish</b>	26	9.6	436,976	6.4	1,792,622	6.4
<b>German</b>	13	4.8	183,700	2.7	898,674	3.2

<u>Country of birth</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<b>Australia</b>	151	75.1	3,670,933	68.6	15,017,847	69.8
<i>Other top responses</i>						
<b>England</b>	20	10.0	172,070	3.2	911,593	4.2
<b>Germany</b>	3	1.5	28,022	0.5	108,002	0.5
<b>Netherlands</b>	3	1.5	21,635	0.4	76,046	0.4
<b>New Zealand</b>	3	1.5	80,237	1.5	483,398	2.2
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	3	1.5	43,994	0.8	86,412	0.4

<u>Birthplace of parents, stated responses</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
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<b>Both parents born overseas</b>	47	24.9	1,911,658	38.1	6,876,586	34.3
<b>Father only born overseas</b>	14	7.4	343,515	6.9	1,407,270	7.0
<b>Mother only born overseas</b>	4	2.1	230,297	4.6	989,220	4.9
<b>Both parents born in Australia</b>	124	65.6	2,528,189	50.4	10,757,087	53.7

<b><u>Religious affiliation, top responses</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>No Religion</b>	80	40.2	1,283,881	24.0	4,796,787	22.3
<b>Catholic</b>	35	17.6	1,428,758	26.7	5,439,268	25.3
<b>Anglican</b>	30	15.1	656,706	12.3	3,679,907	17.1
<b>Uniting Church</b>	11	5.5	250,938	4.7	1,065,795	5.0
<b>Presbyterian and Reformed</b>	9	4.5	142,217	2.7	599,515	2.8

## Religious Affiliation

<b><u>Language, top responses (other than English)</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>German</b>	3	1.5	20,083	0.4	80,371	0.4
<b>Spanish</b>	3	1.5	29,016	0.5	117,498	0.5
<b>English only spoken at home</b>	186	91.6	3,874,861	72.4	16,509,291	76.8

<b><u>Employment</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><i>People who reported being in the labour force, aged 15 years and over</i></b>						
<b>Worked full-time</b>	49	47.1	1,583,266	59.2	6,367,554	59.7
<b>Worked part-time</b>	51	49.0	791,836	29.6	3,062,976	28.7
<b>Away from work</b>	4	3.8	155,530	5.8	627,797	5.9
<b>Unemployed</b>	0	0.0	144,844	5.4	600,133	5.6
<b>Total in labour force</b>	104	--	2,675,476	--	10,658,460	--

<b><u>Employment - hours worked</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><i>Labour force, people aged 15 years and over</i></b>						
<b>1-15 hours per week</b>	21	20.8	289,746	11.4	1,087,799	10.8



<b>16-24 hours per week</b>	10	9.9	245,456	9.7	947,792	9.4
<b>25-34 hours per week</b>	13	12.9	256,634	10.1	1,027,380	10.2
<b>35-39 hours per week</b>	7	6.9	445,919	17.6	1,808,879	18.0
<b>40 hours or more per week</b>	47	46.5	1,137,351	44.9	4,558,678	45.3

<b><u>Median age by employment status</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Labour force, people aged 15 years and over</i>						
<b>Employed full-time</b>	45	--	40	--	40	--
<b>Employed part-time</b>	46	--	40	--	40	--

<b><u>Occupation</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Employed people aged 15 years and over</i>						
<b>Professionals</b>	23	22.3	564,781	22.3	2,145,442	21.3
<b>Managers</b>	18	17.5	332,929	13.2	1,293,970	12.9
<b>Technicians and Trades Workers</b>	17	16.5	350,758	13.9	1,425,146	14.2
<b>Clerical and Administrative Workers</b>	14	13.6	364,498	14.4	1,483,558	14.7
<b>Labourers</b>	12	11.7	227,185	9.0	947,608	9.4
<b>Sales Workers</b>	8	7.8	245,334	9.7	942,140	9.4
<b>Community and Personal Service Workers</b>	7	6.8	234,381	9.3	971,897	9.7

<b><u>Industry of employment, top responses</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
<i>Employed people aged 15 years and over</i>						
<b>Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming</b>	5	4.9	23,883	0.9	120,143	1.2
<b>Building Structure Services</b>	5	4.9	17,210	0.7	62,138	0.6
<b>Building Installation Services</b>	5	4.9	46,504	1.8	177,159	1.8
<b>Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction</b>	4	3.9	15,756	0.6	81,382	0.8
<b>Accommodation</b>	4	3.9	23,124	0.9	120,813	1.2

<b><u>Median weekly incomes</u></b>	<b>Steels Creek</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>%</b>
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<i>People aged 15 years and over</i>						
Personal	509	--	561	--	577	--
Family	1,343	--	1,460	--	1,481	--
Household	992	--	1,216	--	1,234	--

<u>Travel to work, top responses</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<i>Employed people aged 15 years and over</i>						
Car, as driver	48	45.7	1,554,490	61.4	6,059,972	60.2
Car, as passenger	4	3.8	116,098	4.6	537,638	5.3
Bus	3	2.9	26,507	1.0	301,187	3.0
Taxi	3	2.9	4,887	0.2	22,076	0.2
Truck	3	2.9	20,121	0.8	104,746	1.0
People who travelled to work by car as driver or passenger	55	52.9	1,675,663	66.2	6,620,840	65.8

<u>Unpaid work</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<i>People aged 15 years and over</i>						
Did unpaid domestic work (last week)	135	80.4	3,017,919	69.3	12,149,347	70.0
Cared for child/children (last two weeks)	43	25.9	1,187,433	27.3	4,827,808	27.8
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability (last two weeks)	16	9.5	490,097	11.3	1,896,957	10.9
Did voluntary work through an organisation or group (last 12 months)	48	28.6	772,444	17.7	3,090,874	17.8

## Dwellings

includes dwelling structure | household composition | mortgage & rent | number of motor vehicles

<u>Dwelling type</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
Occupied private dwellings	75	82.4	1,944,690	88.7	7,760,320	89.3
Unoccupied private dwellings	16	17.6	246,742	11.3	934,470	10.7

<u>Dwelling structure</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
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Creek						
<i>Occupied private dwellings</i>						
Separate house	69	92.0	1,495,970	76.9	5,864,574	75.6
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc	0	0.0	185,737	9.6	765,980	9.9
Flat, unit or apartment	0	0.0	250,493	12.9	1,056,237	13.6
Other dwelling	6	8.0	11,692	0.6	66,666	0.9

<u>Tenure</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
<i>Occupied private dwellings</i>						
Owned outright	38	50.7	665,416	34.2	2,488,149	32.1
Owned with a mortgage	28	37.3	697,533	35.9	2,709,433	34.9
Rented	6	8.0	515,586	26.5	2,297,458	29.6
Other tenure type	0	0.0	14,619	0.8	70,069	0.9
Tenure type not stated	3	4.0	51,535	2.7	195,213	2.5

<u>Household composition</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
Family households	58	77.3	1,385,188	71.2	5,550,614	71.5
Single (or lone) person households	17	22.7	476,869	24.5	1,888,698	24.3
Group households	0	0.0	82,630	4.2	321,007	4.1

<u>Household income</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
Less than \$600 gross weekly income	--	21.5	--	23.8	--	23.7
More than \$3,000 gross weekly income	--	12.3	--	10.4	--	11.2

[View the income fact sheet](#)

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people category, includes selected people & dwelling characteristics

<u>People characteristics</u>	Steels Creek	%	Victoria	%	Australia	%
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	4	--	37,990	--	548,368	--
Male	4	100.0	18,675	49.2	270,331	49.3
Female	0	0.0	19,315	50.8	278,037	50.7
Median age	67	--	22	--	21	--

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**Source: ABS Commonwealth of Australia 2014**

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