



Newport West

Neighbourhood Profile



Hobsons Bay
CITY COUNCIL

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Newport West Neighbourhood Profile Executive Summary

The Newport West neighbourhood is bounded along the western edge by Blenheim Road, crossing Mason Street and then into Charlotte Street. The northern border is formed by Blackshaws Road and the east and south boundaries follow the Werribee / Geelong railway line. For the purposes of this profile, the Newport West neighbourhood is defined as the west side of the suburb of Newport. The suburban rail line separates the Newport West neighbourhood from Newport East.

Newport West is predominantly zoned for residential use. The other main zone is for use as public parks and recreation. Like several other areas in the municipality, the early history of Newport West is closely associated with the quarrying of bluestone. There were a number of quarries at Newport West in the 1880s and 1890s. The site of one of these quarries has now been developed into the Newport Lakes Park which is the largest parcel of open space in the neighbourhood.

Residents appreciate the quietness of Newport West and described it as having a country feel, a “serene” place to live and an attractive location that is close to the city. Those who worked in the west enjoyed living close to their job. One resident who was reluctantly moving in the near future described Newport West as “comfortable” and said “it will be difficult to leave because of the strong networks I have”. There were aspects of the neighbourhood that could be improved however. Some residents felt that the areas around “Melbourne Road and Mason Street are not very appealing whereas some of the streets are lovely. The main gateways look abandoned” and would benefit from some attention. While most people felt that Newport West was a relatively safe place there were some concerns about the amount of traffic on Mason Street and Blackshaws Road.

Population Numbers

- At the 2006 Census, Newport West had close to 7,000 residents. The population grew by just over 200 new residents since the 2001 Census. This translates to a growth rate of 3.3 per cent.
- Population forecasts for the coming decade show a marked growth in the population over the next five years and then less pronounced growth through to 2020. By 2020, the forecast population is expected to reach 8,297.

Age Structure

- Between 2001 and 2006, there was growth in the number of young children aged 0-4 years, teenagers aged 12-17 years and adults aged 35-59. All age groups over 60 years declined suggesting a regeneration of the population is underway.

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- The forecasts for the next five or so years anticipate growth in the population age ranges that contribute to young and maturing families and in the 50-69 years age group, while the number of older residents (70 years plus) is expected to decrease.

Overseas born residents

- In 2006, Newport West had 1,634 residents who were born overseas. Overseas born residents make up 23.6 per cent of the Newport West population, lower than the municipal figure of 28.9 per cent.
- The main countries of birth include the United Kingdom, Lebanon, Greece and New Zealand.
- Just over 60 per cent of Newport West's overseas born residents speak another language, on par with the municipal figure.

Residents needing assistance

- There are an estimated 735 residents of Newport West who have a disability.
- The 2006 Census findings indicated that 328 (4.7 per cent) residents need help with a core activity involving self-care, communication and mobility.

Education

- There are two government primary schools and one senior secondary school in Newport West, together with a Catholic primary school.
- Approximately 21 per cent of residents were enrolled in education in 2006, on par with the Hobsons Bay rate.
- 46.2 per cent of Newport West residents have completed Year 12, compared to the municipal figure of 42.6 per cent.

Labour force

- At the 2006 Census, 92.1 per cent of Newport West residents (aged 15 years and over) were employed. Just over two thirds had a full time job which was a little higher than the Hobsons Bay figure.
- Newport West's unemployment rate of 5.6 was similar to the Hobsons Bay rate (5.9 per cent).
- Local residents were mainly employed manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical services, health care and social assistance and the retail trade.

Income

- 2006 Census data shows that 3363 Newport West residents (60.3 per cent) had a weekly income below \$800. This is lower than the municipal figure (64.3 per cent).
- Almost 32 per cent of residents have a gross weekly income of more than \$1,000, approximately five per cent above the Hobsons Bay rate.

Housing

- At the 2006 Census there were 3,057 dwellings in Newport West, an extra 186 dwellings since 2001. Separate dwellings were the predominant type (69 per cent) and a further 21 per cent were medium density.

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- Just over 31 per cent of Newport West households owned their own homes, 34 per cent were purchasing and a further 29 per cent were renting.
 - Compared to Hobsons Bay, Newport West households had a lower level of home ownership and higher levels of purchasing and renting.

Transport

- Almost 40 per cent of Newport West households own one car, about three per cent above the municipal rate. Newport West has a marginally higher proportion of households with no car (one per cent) and eight per cent of households have three or more cars which is three per cent above the municipal rate.
- Just over 62 per cent of Newport West residents either drove or were car passengers, which was six per cent below the Hobsons Bay figure.
- Four per cent more Newport West residents catch the train to work than do Hobsons Bay residents and the neighbourhood has slightly higher rates of people who cycled.

Future development proposed for the neighbourhood

- A review of the structure plan for the Newport activity centre is being undertaken. The activity centre incorporates the railway station and the nearby shopping precincts at Mason Street/Melbourne Road, Hall Street and Melbourne Road (south of North Road). The plan will guide the major changes to land use, transport, the built form and public spaces.
- The Council is preparing plans for a community facility in Paine Reserve on Mason Street that will incorporate the Newport library, community hall and senior citizens facilities, as well as the restoration of the Mechanics Hall. A master plan for Paine Reserve will also be completed.
- A new early years learning centre will be developed on land at the Newport Gardens Primary School. The centre is expected to open in 2014.

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