



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.

- 
- 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.

DISCLAIMER

Every care has been taken to ensure the information in this document is correct. However, Hobsons Bay City Council does not accept any liability for the information (or the use of such information) provided in this document.





Newport West Neighbourhood Past Current and Future Development

Introduction

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.)

History and Development

Aboriginal History

The Hobsons Bay Heritage Study notes that “most of the coastal territory of what is now regarded as the Melbourne metropolitan area and the Mornington Peninsula was, in pre-contact times, the territory of the Bunurong people. The Bunurong were divided into six different clans or tribes. Those who lived in the area now covered by Hobsons Bay (and stretching around to Albert Park) were the Yalukit-willam people”.¹

While no direct reference is made to Newport West in *The Yalukit-willam: The First People of the City of Hobsons Bay*², the publication refers to the general area and to an oral record attributed to Bembo, a leader of the Yalukit-willam. “Old Bembo recalled that his grandfather recollected on when Hobsons Bay was a kangaroo ground; they say, ‘Plenty catch kangaroo, and plenty catch opossum there’.... and that the river once went out to the heads, but that the sea broke in and that Hobsons Bay, which was once hunting ground, became what it is.”³

European Settlement

Like several other areas in the municipality, the early history of Newport West is closely associated with the quarrying of bluestone. “From the earliest years of settlement this resource was exploited by quarrying for use in constructing buildings and bridges, paving roads and as ballast for shipping. Quarrying took place at Williamstown, Spotswood, Newport, Yarraville, Altona, Brooklyn and Kingsville. In effect, quarrying was Hobsons Bay’s first heavy industry.”³

There were a number of quarries at Newport West in the 1880s and 1890s. The site of one quarry is where the Newport Lakes Park has been developed. Initially, this area incorporated about 158 acres and was called ‘Goose Flats’ by European settlers. It was bought by Thomas



Hall in 1852 and after being farmed by several owners, part of the property was leased in 1869 for one hundred pounds for use as a quarry. ⁴

The site was still being quarried up until the late 1960s. It was then used as a tip before being developed into a park in the 1970s. (Refer to Environmental Features section)

In addition to its links to bluestone, it is impossible to separate the history of Newport West from the development of Melbourne's railway system. The Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company proposed connecting the Williamstown and Geelong with a line that terminated at a temporary station at Newport, which at the time was called Greenwich and sometimes Geelong Junction. The line crossed pastoral farming country in North Altona and Newport and was opened in June 1857. Geelong Junction (Newport) opened in March 1859. It was renamed Williamstown Junction in 1868 and then again to Newport in 1881.

Alongside this rail line development were plans to build a workshop to replace temporary ones in Williamstown. However, "it was not until 1880 that work began, when the Victorian Railways purchased annexes used at the 1880 Melbourne Exhibition and erected one of them at Newport. The first carriages built by the workshops were completed in 1889, with locomotives manufactured by the Phoenix Foundry in Ballarat." ⁵

(NB The actual site of the Newport workshops is located within the boundary of the Williamstown North neighbourhood; however they are intrinsically linked to the history of Newport West and its surrounds.)

At its peak, the Newport workshops employed around 5,000 workers and it's said to be the place where the game of Trugo originated, invented by workers in the 1920s. The original workshops have been maintained for heritage uses. New buildings that were later constructed in the 1980s are still in operation. ⁶

The development of the rail and the railway workshops attracted industry to the area. One such industry was the Newport flour mills which were established in 1902, between Melbourne Road and the rail line. The mill was later operated by the Victorian Oatgrowers Pool for oat crushing, before Defiance Milling Co. took it over and returned it to flour milling in 1986. The building is still there but is no longer used as a mill. (refer to What's Ahead)



The Newport Hotel (now called Seagulls)
 Source: State Library of Victoria
<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/gid/slv-pic-aab41496/1/a02469>

To service the thirsty railway workers, the Newport Hotel, on the corner of Melbourne Road and Mason Street, was built in 1888 (now called Seagulls).

As the neighbourhood developed, so too did other community infrastructure. At the time, few workers had access to education. The response was to build mechanics institutes which also included libraries and so the Newport Mechanics' Institute Hall was built in 1935. It was later converted to a public library in the late 1960s which is still operating at the original Mason Street site.

Another building still standing in Newport is the Masonic Hall on Melbourne Road. It was constructed in 1924-25 and replaced an earlier hall in the area.⁷ (refer to What's Ahead section)

Newport West also had its own picture theatre in Melbourne Road. The building was on or near the site of the current Centrelink offices. Reference is made to it in newspaper articles in The Argus and the Williamstown Chronicle, dating back to the 1920s and 1930s.



Newport Masonic Hall

To cater for the families of the local workers, Newport School (now Newport Lakes Primary School) opened in 1855 as a "private school on a private village 'Cambridge' which stretched from Blackshaws Road, over the Railways Ways and Works Yards to Burleigh Street". It became Cambridge National School in 1856 and subsequently had a number of name changes (Geelong Junction, Williamstown Junction, Newport, Newport Lakes). It moved to its current site in Elizabeth St in 1886 and is the oldest continuously operating government school in the western suburbs.⁸

In terms of housing development, Newport West first began to attract residents in the 1880s when the railway workshops were being constructed. In 1885, the Newport Estate, to the west of the railway workshops, was marketed for residential development, as was Halls Farm.



According to the Victorian Heritage Database, the plans for the neighbourhood indicate that a small pocket between Jack, Mirils, Mason and Anderson Streets was almost fully developed by 1936. On the north of Mason Street most blocks south of Junction Street were developed and were bordered by the quarries along on the western edge.⁹

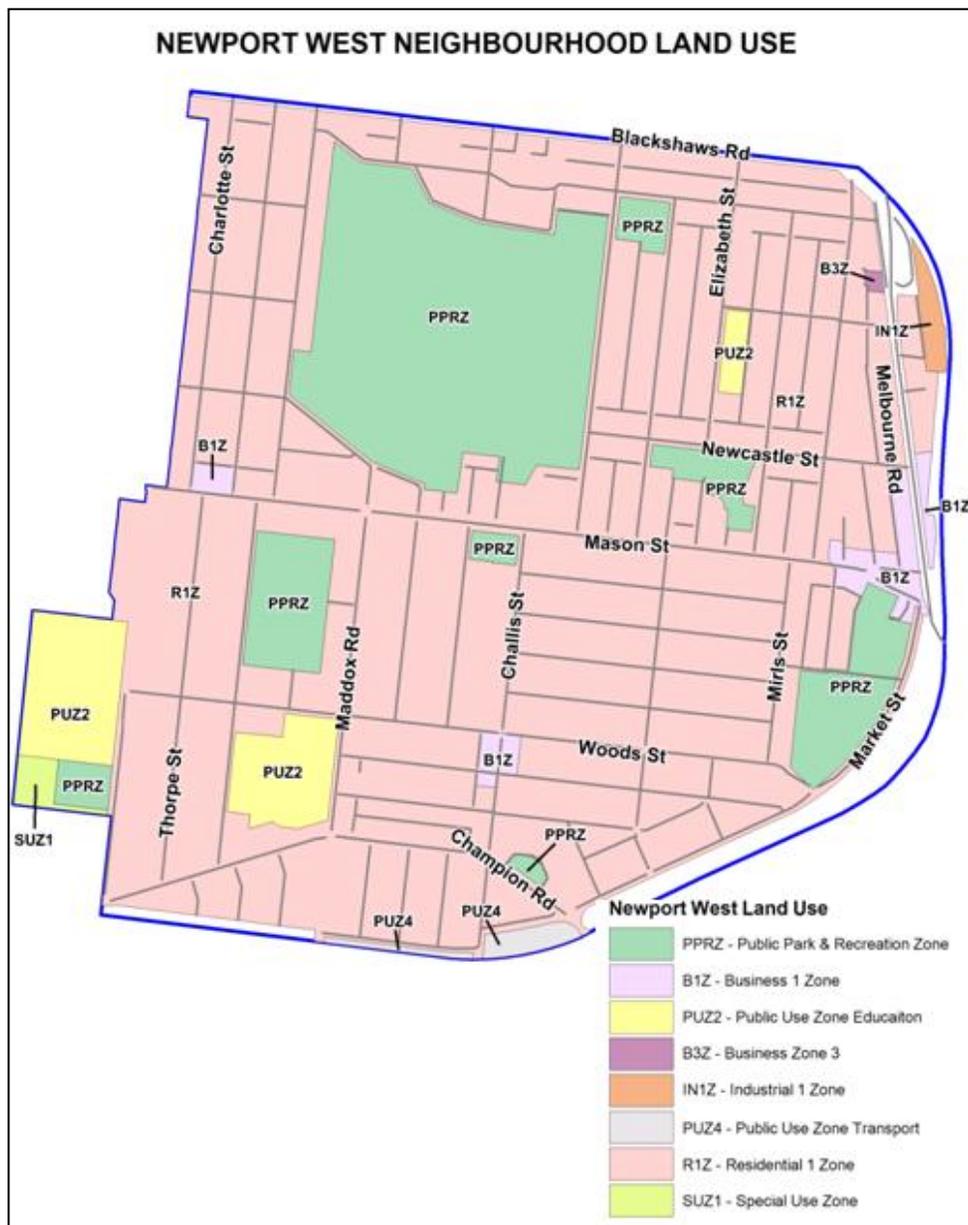
By the 1940s the Housing Commission of Victoria had begun building in the neighbourhood, constructing the Champion Road Estate in 1941 and the West Newport Estate after 1945. The Railways Department also built housing in Newport West in response to post-war housing shortages.

The Railways' homes, for employees were pre-fabricated and imported from England and erected in a small pocket bounded by Challis and Jubilee Streets, Rosshire Road and the railway line.¹⁰

The Current Environment

Land uses

Newport West is predominantly zoned for residential use (R1Z). The other main zone is for use as public parks and recreation (PPRZ). There is a scattering of business zones (BZ1 and BZ3) which are generally the activity centres and also several education zones (PUZ2). In addition there is one special use zone (SUZ1) to the south west where a mosque is to be developed and an industrial zone (IN1Z) to the north east, the location of a now disused Newport flour mill.



Environmental Features

Probably the most significant environmental feature in Newport West is Newport Lakes Park. The park covers 33 hectares and was developed on the site of a former bluestone quarry and rubbish tip (refer to European Settlement).

Extensive revegetation works have been undertaken and over 200 species of plants and 85 species of birds have been recorded at the site.



Landmarks



The Substation

The Substation is a local landmark that was built in the early 1900s to provide power to support the electrification of Melbourne's rail network. It began operation in 1920 and was later replaced by new buildings at Yarraville and Williamstown in 1967. It was left unused until 1996 when, through the efforts of local residents, work began to restore the building and convert it into a community arts facility which opened in 2008 (see Community Facilities).

The Newport Flour Mill

Older residents are likely to be more familiar with the Newport Flour Mill that is located between Melbourne Road and the rail line. Built in 1902, the building was used to mill both flour and oats. Operations at the mill ceased in the mid 2000s.

Residential Development



Apart from the busiest roads such as Melbourne and Blackshaws Road and to a lesser extent Mason Street, the general feel of the neighbourhood is relatively quiet, with established street trees and recreational spaces.

The type of residential development in Newport West varies considerably in terms of period and the styles of homes. Overall, housing on the northern side of Mason Street appears to be from an older period compared to the south side. Examples from

the Victorian era, together with the Edwardian and inter-war period, are common. There is also some newer infill development, although this is not wide spread.

On the south, the housing is a more eclectic mix. Californian bungalows sit beside brick veneers from the 1950s, 60s and 70s and there is also a noticeable level of new townhouse and unit development. Recent development has seen a shift from detached housing, replaced by two or three town houses on an allotment. As mentioned earlier, Newport West also has a small tract of housing, on this side of Mason Street that was developed in the 1940s by the State Housing Commission.





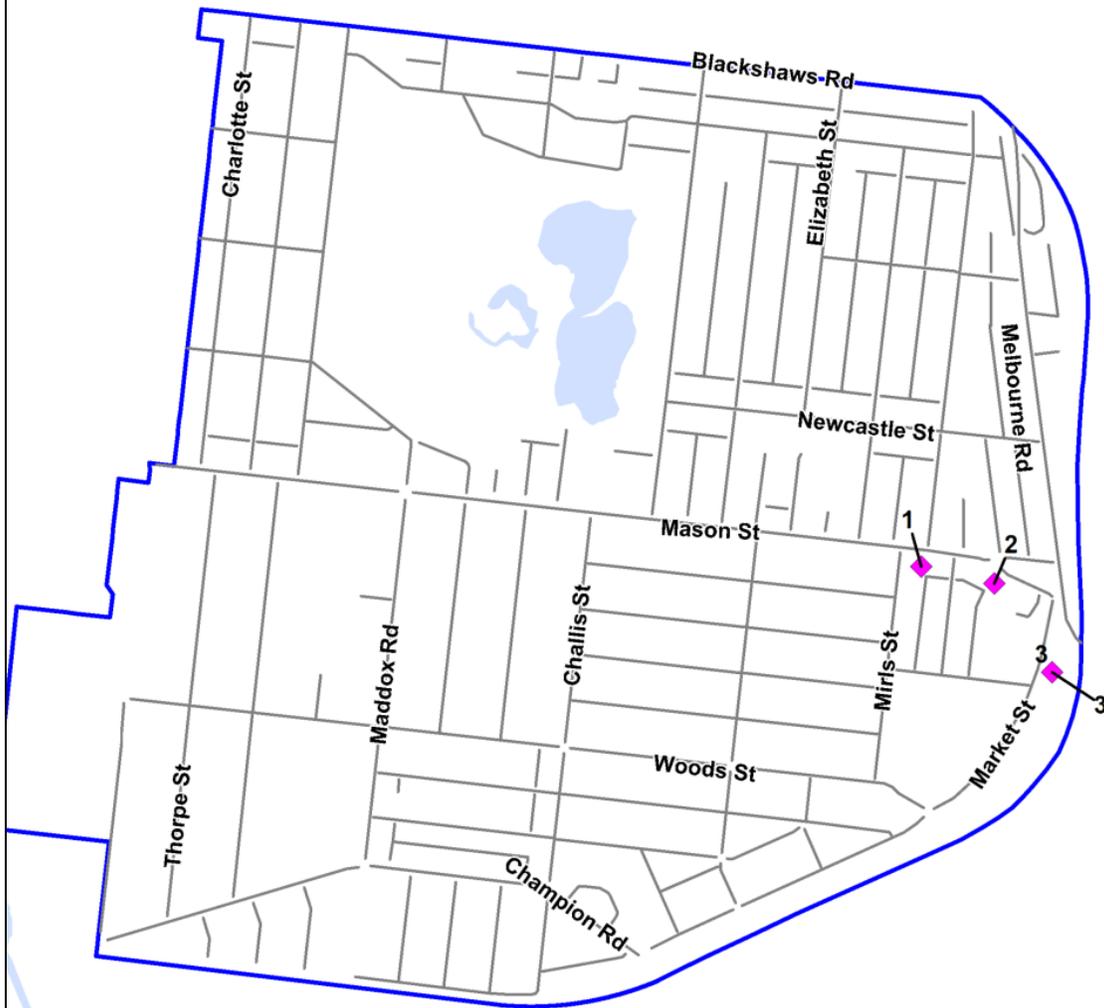
Community Facilities

The Newport Community Education Centre is a not for profit, community based centre that offers a number of accredited adult education including literacy and English courses, pre-accreditation workshops for food handling and safety, together with computer, governance training, recreational and health and fitness courses. The centre also provides occasional childcare and runs children's activities (refer to Children's Services).

The Substation is a not-for-profit, community-based arts centre. It is an important arts facility, not only for the neighbourhood, but at a municipal and regional level. Together with music, theatre, dance and the visual arts, the Substation also hosts a range of workshops and programs for the local community.

The Newport Community Hall in Mason Street is a community managed hall that can be hired and holds approximately 70 people.

NEWPORT WEST COMMUNITY FACILITIES



ID	Name	Address
1	Newport Community Education Centre	43 Mason St
2	Newport community hall	13-15 Mason St
3	The Substation	1 Market St



Children's Services

Several services for babies and young children operate out of facilities in Newport West.

Maternal Child and Health nurses provide services for infants and young children in rooms adjacent to Paine Reserve in Mason Street. The office is open five days a week.

Outlets children's centre provides permanent and occasional care. It offers both full and half day childcare for children aged 0 - 6 years. The centre is located in Mason Street and operates out of the Newport Community Education Centre.

The Hobsons Bay Kindergarten is community managed service in a Council owned facility. It offers both three and four year old kindergarten. While currently located in Woods Street, plans are in progress to relocate the kindergarten to the site of the Newport Gardens Primary School in Maddox Road (refer to What's Ahead).





Schools

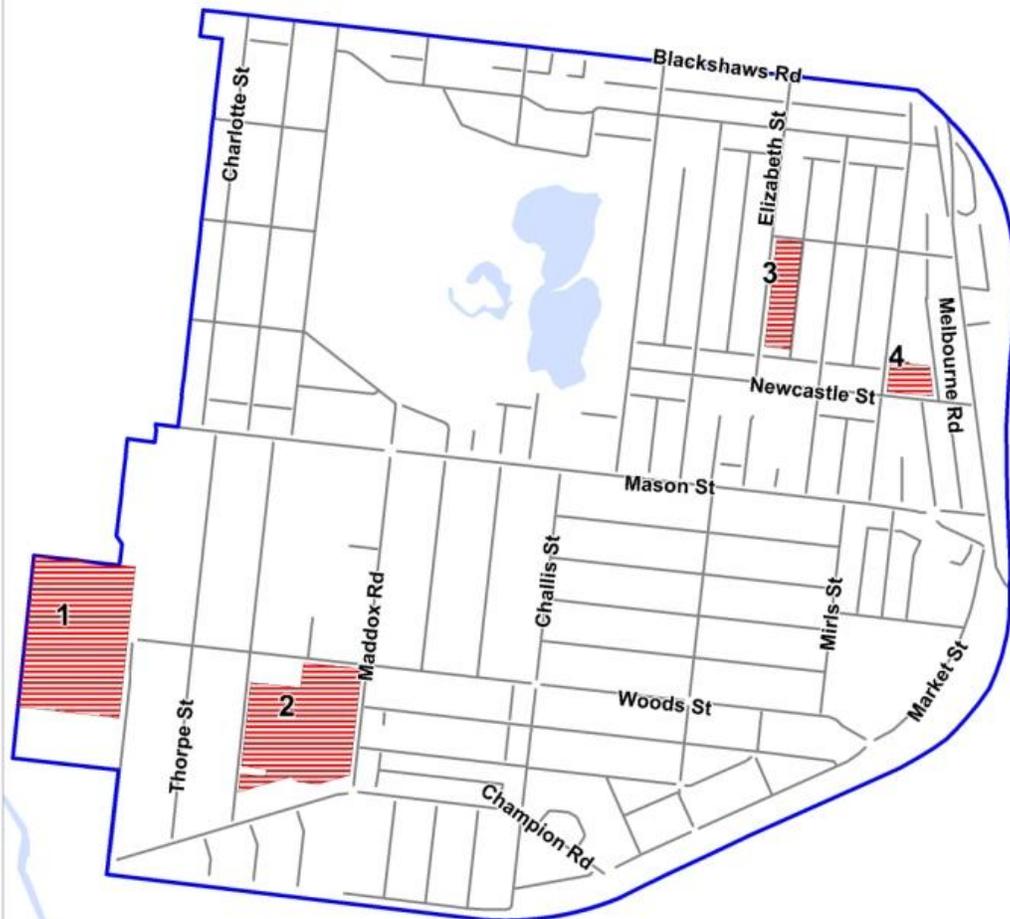
There are three primary schools and one senior secondary school in Newport West.

Newport Lakes Primary School, in Elizabeth Street, and Newport Gardens Primary School, in Maddox Road, are both government schools. Newport Lakes relocated to its current site in 1886 and is the oldest continuously operating government school in the western suburbs. Newport Gardens Primary School opened in 2010 and is built on the site of the former Hobsons Bay Primary School.

Sacred Heart school is a Catholic primary school that opened its doors in 1901 and is located in Newcastle Street.

Bayside Secondary College - Paisley Senior Campus is located in Blenheim Road. The school is for Years 10 to 12.

NEWPORT WEST EDUCATION FACILITIES



ID	Name	Address
1	Bayside Senior Secondary College (Paisley Campus)	Blenheim Rd
2	Newport Gardens Primary Schools	41 Maddox Rd
3	Newport Lakes Primary School	Elizabeth St (cnr Ross St)
4	Sacred Heart Catholic School	20 Newcastle St (cnr Schutt St)



Recreational facilities and reserves

In total, there are 12 areas of open space in Newport West, although several of them are small parcels of land that separate roads or skirt the rail line. The remainder provide both formal and informal recreational opportunities for the neighbourhood's residents.

By far the largest open space is Newport Lakes Park. As mentioned earlier, the lakes were developed on a former quarry and are set within larger open space which includes walking paths, picnic shelters and toilets, a barbeque area and two play grounds.

Brian Martyn Oval includes a cricket oval, a pavilion that has recently been upgraded, together with a netball court and playground.

Loft Reserve has two turf and synthetic ovals and associated sports pavilions that are used for cricket in summer and rugby league football in winter. The reserve also has a playground and a ½ court for basketball.

In addition there are playgrounds in Ducrow, Leo Hoffman and Paine Reserves.

The Council is currently developing a playground strategy which will outline future works to be undertaken in Newport West.

NEWPORT WEST PUBLIC OPEN SPACES



Cultural Activities

Newport Folk and Fiddle Club

Among the events run by the club are a monthly Club Night (an informal occasion for singing, playing, or just listening), a monthly Open Stage night, acoustic concerts, a Bush Orchestra, Community Choir, annual Folk Festival, dances and workshops.

Eid

Followers of the Muslim faith celebrate Eid twice a year at the Newport mosque in Mason Street. These two festivals include:

- Eid-UI-Adha - the Festival of Pilgrimage and marks the end of the Hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca.
- Eid-UI-Fitr - marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The festival is sometimes referred to as the 'Festival of Fast-Breaking'.

The Substation

As mentioned earlier in the document (refer to Community facilities), the Substation is an important cultural hub for many cultural activities.

Retail Centres

Newport West has several retail activity centres. The main centre is at the eastern end of Mason Street which extends into Melbourne Road. There is also a small strip shopping centre in Challis Street, on the south side of Woods Street.

The Mason Street shopping centre includes a broad mix of shops and services including several small supermarkets, green grocers, butchers and bakers, cafes and takeaways, a hotel and a packaged liquor outlet. Among the services provided are hairdressers, a pharmacy, counselling and legal services and a garage. The electoral offices of the Senator for Melbourne's west are also located here.



Mason Street shopping centre

The shopping strip in Melbourne Road includes Centrelink offices, a takeaway shop, furniture stores, video hire, health services, a bike shop and a garage.

The small strip of shops in Challis Street consists of a milk bar, combined post office and newsagent and a packaged liquor outlet. The centre also has a medical practice, health services, hairdresser and beautician. Also based in Challis Street are the offices of the Williamstown Rental Housing Co-operative (WRHC) which is a Registered Housing Provider. The Co-op currently manages 36 properties in Hobsons Bay that are owned by the Department of Human Services - Office of Housing.

Doctors

There are two medical clinics in Newport West.

- Mason Street Medical Centre
50 Mason Street, Newport
- Challis Street Medical Centre
37 Challis Street, Newport

Dentists

Newport West has one dental surgery

- Newport Dental Surgery
32 Mason Street, Newport

Local Newspapers

There are three local newspapers that are delivered across the municipality: the Hobsons Bay Weekly, The Star and the Leader.

Public Transport

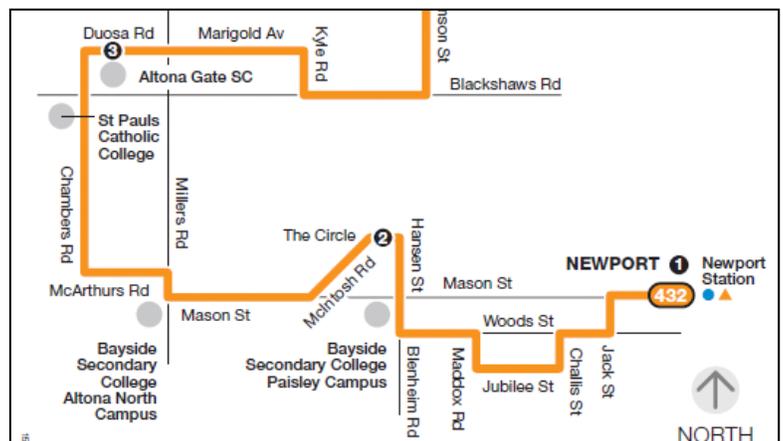
Rail

The Newport Railway Station is located at the junction on Melbourne Road and Mason Street. The line runs from the Melbourne CBD to Newport where the line splits. From here, trains run south to Williamstown and west to Werribee and Geelong.

Bus services

There are three bus routes that service the Newport West neighbourhood and a bus interchange is based in the Mason Street shopping precinct.

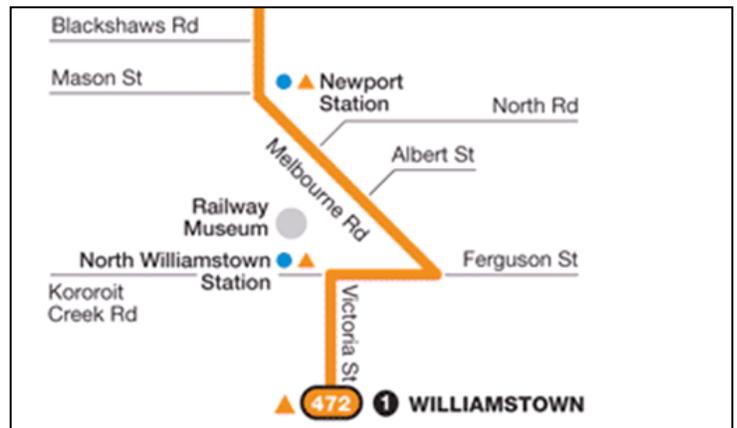
Route 432: Newport to Yarraville
Departs from the bus interchange in Mason Street and runs via The Circle and Altona Gate shopping centres to the Yarraville Railway Station.





Route 471: Williamstown –Sunshine (via Newport)
 From Williamstown, the bus stops at the Newport bus interchange, then via The Circle, Altona Gate shopping centres before reaching its destination at the Sunshine Railway Station terminus.

Route 472 Moonee Ponds – Williamstown (via Footscray): the bus service departs Victoria Street, Williamstown and runs through Newport via Melbourne Road, then on to the Footscray Railway Station before reaching its destination at the Moonee Ponds Bus Terminal in Mt Alexander Road.





What's Ahead for Newport West

Planning

Newport Activity Centre Structure Plan Review

The Council is currently reviewing the Newport Activity Centre Structure plan. 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. It will also look at opportunities to improve the linkages between Newport West and other parts of the activity centre.

Car Parking Review

The Council is developing a parking strategy for the municipality. As part of this, the strategy will consider parking issues around Mason Street and the Substation.

Newport Four Mill

The Council has received a proposal from the owners of the mill for a rezoning to a mixed use, with the intention to redevelop the site to include residential development. The outcome is yet to be determined

Recreation

The Council has developed a Play Space strategy for adoption by Council in 2012. The strategy will earmark the playgrounds in Newport West for future improvement or upgrade.

A future upgrade of Paine Reserve will be aligned with the development of a master plan (refer to information in Capital works).

In 2012/13, work will be undertaken at Kohry Reserve to improve the presentation of the park, including the installation of park furniture, and linkages to the railway station.

The remediation of contamination at Jack Madigan reserve will commence in 2012. The work is expected to take up to five years to complete and will then be returned to public open space.

Capital works

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. Council will be reviewing the service needs of local residents in order to determine the most appropriate mix of services to be delivered from this re-developed community facility.

A new early years learning centre will be developed on land at the Newport Gardens Primary School. The plans for the co-located centre include Maternal and Child Health, childcare, specialist early years services provision and kindergarten services. The centre is expected to open in 2014.

Road works in Percy Street (between Bruce and Graham Streets) are scheduled for 2012/2013.

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 - b. Hobsons Bay Neighbourhood Character: Precinct Six

Newport West Neighbourhood

Data Profile

A. Population Characteristics

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, above the Hobsons Bay rate of 0.7 per cent for the same period.

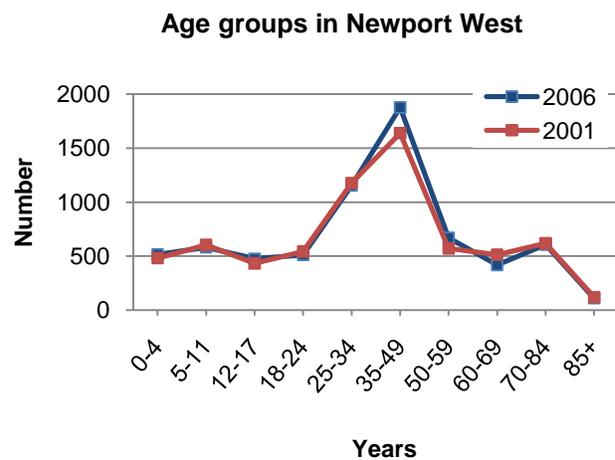
The table and graph below provide an overview of the age structure of residents in Newport West and which age groups have increased or declined between 2001 and 2006. Along with a growth in the number of residents aged 35-49, there has also been an increase in the number of teenagers aged 12-17 years and young children aged 0-4 years. In addition, the 50-59 age group also increased while all other age groups decreased. This decline in the number of residents over 60 years suggests some regeneration of the population is underway.

Table 1: Population Numbers

Years of age	2006	2001	Change 2001- 2006
0-4	517	482	35
5-11	582	604	-23
12-17	477	434	43
18-24	511	543	-32
25-34	1,155	1,178	-22
35-49	1,876	1,639	238
50-59	670	571	99
60-69	418	514	-96
70-84	606	619	-13
85+	111	121	-10
Total	6,924	6,704	219

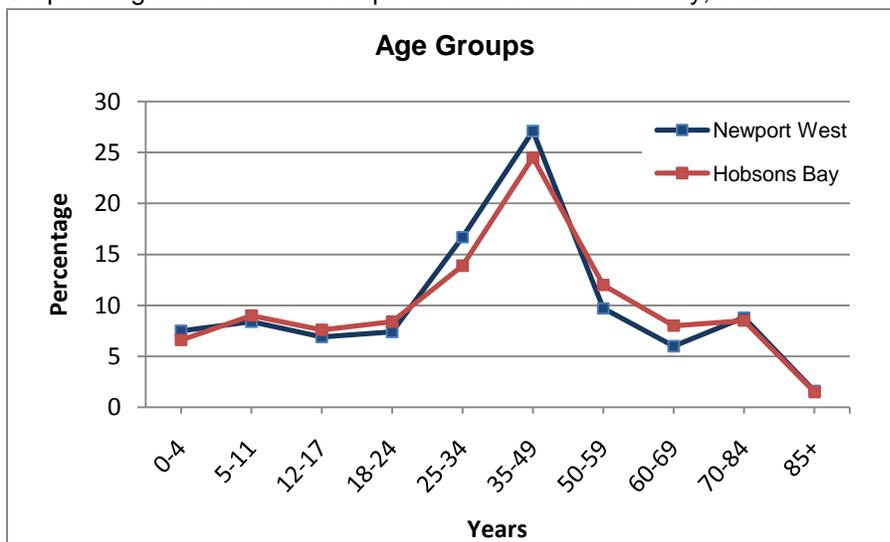
Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Graph 1: Population 2006 and 2001



The notable differences in Newport West, compared to the Hobsons Bay population as a whole, are a higher representation of residents aged 25-49 years and lower numbers of those aged 50 years and over.

Graph 2: Age structures in Newport West and Hobsons Bay, 2006

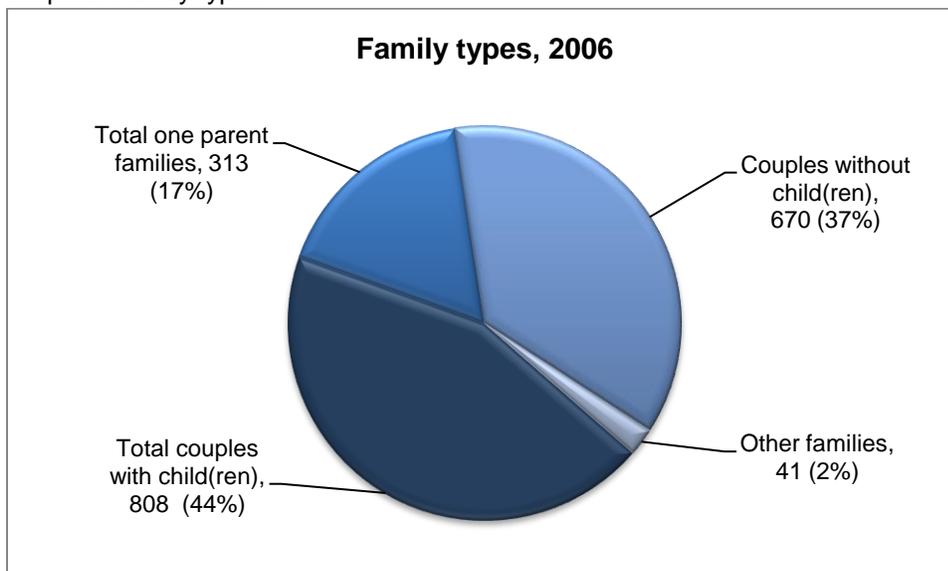


Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Family types

Close to 1,850 families lived in Newport West, in 2006. This represents an increase of 129 new families in the neighbourhood since 2001. Couples with children were the largest family type (44 per cent) in 2006 and 17 per cent of families were single parent families. In addition, 37 percent of all family types were couples without children and a small proportion (2 per cent) consisted of other family types.

Graph 3: Family types



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Families with children under 15 years (comprising couple and single parent families) were the dominant family type. They made up just over 40 per cent of the families in the neighbourhood. A further 20 per cent of families had children over 15 years.

In addition, almost 37 per cent of families consisted of couples without children and looking back to the previous Census in 2001, most of the growth in families was in this family type (70 additional families).

Compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole, Newport West had a slightly lower proportion of couple families with children. There were only small percentage differences between the other family types.

Table 2: Family structure

	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006 Number
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Couples with child(ren) under 15 years	596	32.6	31.4	559	32.9	33.1	37
Couples with child(ren) 15 years and over	212	11.6	15.3	220	12.9	15.8	-9
Total couples with child(ren)	808	44.1	46.7	780	45.8	48.9	28
One parent families with child(ren) under 15 years	160	8.8	8.5	144	8.4	8.3	17
One parent families with child(ren) 15 years and over	152	8.3	8.9	154	9.0	7.5	-2
Total one parent families	313	17.1	17.4	297	17.5	15.8	15
Couples without child(ren)	670	36.6	34.0	600	35.2	33.5	70
Other families	41	2.3	1.8	26	1.5	1.8	16
Total families	1,832	100	100	1,703	100	100	129

Enumerated data

Household types

As shown in Table 3, household types are generally made up of families, people living alone and in groups. Single family households are the most common household type in Newport West (63.9 per cent), an increase of three per cent between 2001 and 2006.

Lone person households are the second largest household type in the neighbourhood, although the number has fallen a little since 2001.

Comparing Newport West with Hobsons Bay shows that the household composition is reasonably similar, with only minor differences being that the neighbourhood has a slightly lower proportion of one family households and a higher proportion of lone person households.

Table 3: Household types

Enumerated data	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
One family households	1,770	63.9	67.1	1,641	60.9	68.7	129
Two or more family households	29	1.0	1.3	28	1.0	1.3	1
<i>Total family households</i>	<i>1,799</i>	<i>64.9</i>	<i>68.4</i>	<i>1,668</i>	<i>61.9</i>	<i>69.9</i>	<i>131</i>
Lone person households	737	26.6	24.6	783	29.1	23.6	-46
Group households	118	4.2	3.2	129	4.8	2.9	-12
Other not classifiable households*	117	4.2	3.8	115	4.3	3.5	2
Total households	2,771	100	100	2,695	100	100	76

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

* No or insufficient information available to classify

Overseas born residents

In 2006, Newport West had 1,634 residents who were born overseas. Almost 300 (18 per cent) arrived in the neighbourhood in the five years to 2006 and the majority (just over two thirds) arrived prior to 1991.

Overseas born residents make up 23.6 per cent of the Newport West population, lower than the municipal figure of 28.9 per cent.

Table 4: Year of arrival in Australia

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
2006	61	3.7	2.1
2005	47	2.9	3.1
2004	62	3.8	3.0
2003	50	3	2.3
2002	31	1.9	1.7
2001	44	2.7	1.8
1996 to 2000	127	7.8	8.0
1995 to 1991	55	3.4	6.0
Before 1991	1,067	65.3	67.2
Not stated	90	5.5	4.8
Total	1,634	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Table 5 highlights the main countries of birth of residents who were born overseas. In common with the rest of the municipality, the main birthplace of Newport West residents was the United Kingdom. There was some variation between Newport West and Hobsons Bay regarding the other main countries of birth. Lebanon, Greece and New Zealand were the three next main countries of birth of the neighbourhood's residents whereas in Hobsons Bay they were Italy, New Zealand, Malta and Vietnam (not shown in the table).

Since the 2001 Census, the largest increase among Newport West residents who were born overseas was among those from India, whereas for the whole of Hobsons Bay, the largest increase was among New Zealand born residents. However, the overall numbers of overseas born residents in both Newport West and Hobsons Bay decreased between 2001 and 2006.

Table 5: Top 10 overseas birthplaces ranked for 2006 (persons)

	2006			Change 2001- 2006
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
United Kingdom	268	3.9	4.7	12
Lebanon	147	2.1	1.2	-39
Greece	126	1.8	1.6	-17
New Zealand	117	1.7	1.9	7
Italy	99	1.4	2.3	-25
India	83	1.2	0.9	47
Former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	62	0.9	1.1	-16
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	59	0.9	1	-12
Germany	56	0.8	0.6	2
Malta	40	0.6	1.8	-4

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Among Newport West residents, 71.6 per cent have a non-English speaking background and this was slightly below the municipal figure of 73.8 per cent. Between 2001 and 2006, there was a decrease in the number of residents from a non-English speaking background, in both the neighbourhood and Hobsons Bay.

Table 6: Non-English speaking background

	2006			Change 2001- 2006 Number
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Non-English speaking backgrounds	1,182	71.6	73.8	-64
Main English speaking countries	469	28.4	26.2	42
Total overseas born	1,651	100.0	29.1	-21
Not stated				
Australia	4,823	69.6	63.7	205
Not stated	454	6.6	7.2	-5
Total	6,928	100	100	179

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Just over 60 per cent of Newport West's overseas born residents speak another language, on par with the municipal figure. Of these residents, Newport West has a slightly higher proportion of people who are either not proficient or do not speak English. The actual number of residents who are not proficient in English fell between 2001 and 2006, in line with the fall of overseas born residents.

Table 7: Proficiency in English (overseas born persons aged 5 years and over)

	2006			Change 2001- 2006
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Speaks English only	630	38.4	37.5	48
Speaks another language and English not well or not at all	281	17.1	14.8	-69
Speaks another language and English well or very well	719	43.8	46.8	-1
Speaks another language and English - proficiency not stated	10	0.6	0.6	0
Not stated	0	0	0.3	-3
Total	1,639	100	100	-25

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

People with disabilities

The number of people in Australia who have a disability is based on the findings of the *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers*, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). In partnership with the ABS, the National Disability Administrator (NDA) uses these responses to produce disability estimates for each local government area (LGA). The survey was conducted in 2003 and repeated in 2009, however the LGA data for 2009 has not yet been released.

The 2003 survey estimates suggest that 18.6% of the Hobsons Bay population has a disability (and are living in a private dwelling). Using this figure, there are 735 residents of Newport West who have a disability.

In addition to the 2003 survey data, the 2006 Census included a disability related question that asked whether help or supervision was required with one or more of the core activities involving self-care, communication and mobility. It is important to note that these results do not reflect the true extent of disability in the community, as some people with disabilities may not require assistance. The Census findings were that 328 (4.7 per cent) residents said they need help with a core activity, similar to the rate for Hobsons Bay (4.4 per cent).

As might be expected, the table shows that the proportion of people needing assistance tends to increase among older residents and this trend is also evident across the municipality. Among residents of Newport West who need assistance, three quarters (249) are aged 55 years and older.

Table 8: Core activity need for assistance

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
0 to 4 years	6	0.1	0.1
5 to 14 years	9	0.1	0.2
15 to 19 years	0	0.0	0.1
20 to 24 years	8	0.1	0.1
25 to 34 years	11	0.2	0.1
35 to 44 years	21	0.3	0.3
45 to 54 years	24	0.3	0.4
55 to 64 years	41	0.6	0.6
65 to 74 years	37	0.5	0.7
75 to 84 years	93	1.3	1.2
85 years and over	78	1.1	0.7
Total	328	4.7	4.4

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Participation in education

Among Newport West residents, around 21 per cent were enrolled in education in 2006, on par with the Hobsons Bay rate.

The neighbourhood's enrolment rates in pre school are only marginally higher than the municipal rate. The number of children enrolled increased between 2001 and 2006, reflecting the increase in 0-4 year olds for the same period (refer to Table1).

Newport West's enrolment rates in primary and secondary school are reasonably similar to those for Hobsons Bay. Looking at the changes between 2001 and 2006, Table 9 shows that the neighbourhood's primary school enrolment numbers decreased slightly, while secondary school enrolments increased. Again, these numbers reflect the change in population numbers for these age groups and are highlighted in Table 1.

The neighbourhood has slightly higher rates of university enrolments compared to Hobsons Bay and also of those who aren't participating in any type of education. In terms of numbers, both university enrolments and non-participation rates increased between 2001 and 2006.

Table 9: Attendance at an educational institution

(persons)	2006			Change 2001- 2006
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Pre School	136	2.0	1.6	36
Primary	518	7.5	7.8	-15
Secondary	392	5.7	6.2	37
TAFE	118	1.7	1.7	-44
University	272	3.9	3.2	31
Other	56	0.8	0.9	-29
Not Attending	4,961	71.6	70.2	62
Not Stated	470	6.8	8.3	106
Total	6,924	100	100	184

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Newport West residents have a higher level of school completion when compared to the municipality as a whole. Just over 46 per cent have completed Year 12 (46.4 per cent and 42.6 per cent respectively). Newport West's residents were also less likely to have left school before completing Year 10.

Table 10: Highest level of schooling completed (persons aged 15 years and over)

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Year 8 or below	512	9.2	10.2
Year 9 or equivalent	354	6.4	7.1
Year 10 or equivalent	762	13.7	15.1
Year 11 or equivalent	726	13.0	13.1
Year 12 or equivalent	2,588	46.4	42.6
Did not go to school	82	1.5	1.8
Not Stated	549	9.8	10.2
Total	5,573	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

The residents of Newport West are generally more likely to have a post secondary qualification. As highlighted in Table 11, one in five residents have a Bachelor or higher degree. Between 2001 and 2006, the number of residents with a degree increased by almost 400 (6.5 per cent).

In addition, 7.7 per cent of Newport West residents have a diploma or advanced diploma, just above the Hobsons Bay figure. While fewer residents hold a diploma compared to the number with a degree, there was a 35 per cent increase among those with a diploma between 2001 and 2006.

Along with the increase in residents with a tertiary qualification there was a corresponding decrease in the number who had no qualifications. The overall number without qualifications fell by 381 people and compared to Hobsons Bay, there five per cent fewer unqualified residents in Newport West.

Table 11: Highest qualification achieved (persons aged 15 years and over)

	2006			Change 2001- 2006 Number
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Bachelor or Higher degree	1,146	20.5	16.1	394
Advanced Diploma or Diploma	431	7.7	6.6	153
Vocational	818	14.7	15.0	-7
No qualifications	2,503	44.9	49.3	-381
Not Stated	680	12.2	13.0	29
Total	5,578	100	100	189

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Internet connected

In 2006, Newport West households had marginally higher rates of internet connection compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole. Almost 40 per cent of the neighbourhood's households had broadband connections. Almost 36 per cent of Newport West households have no internet connection, slightly lower than for the municipality.

Table 12: Type of internet connection (household internet connection)

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Broadband connection	1,092	39.0	37.9
Dial-up connection	483	17.3	17.2
Other connection	16	0.6	0.6
Total internet connections	1,592	56.9	55.7
No internet connection	998	35.7	36.9
Internet connection not stated	210	7.5	7.3
Total households	2,799	100	100

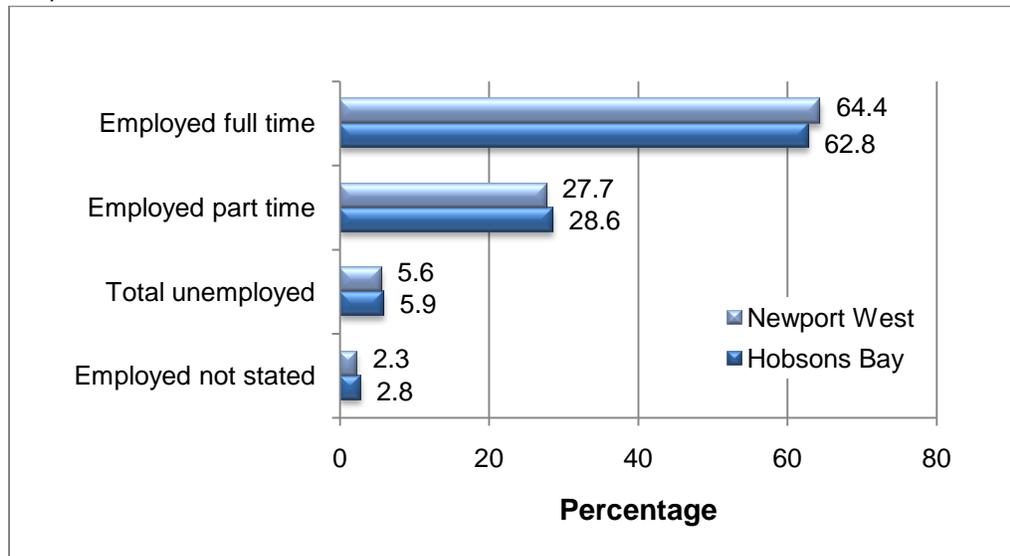
Enumerated data

B. Labour Force Characteristics

Labour force participation

Data from the 2006 Census shows that 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. The unemployment rate for both was similar.

Graph 4: Labour force status, 2006



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Between 2001 and 2006, Newport West's total labour force increased by 308, which was slightly higher than the population increase of 15-65 year olds which also increased over the same period (there was a population increase of 267 people of workforce age).

The overall number of residents who were employed increased by approximately 400 people; again this was above the increase of workforce aged residents.

As mentioned above, around two thirds of residents in Newport West were employed full time in 2006. Between 2001 and 2006, those with a full-time job rose by close to 300, representing an additional 3.1 per cent of the labour force. Over the same period, an additional 100 residents had a part time job.

In 2001, unemployment in Newport West was 1.3 per cent above the municipal rate but by 2006 unemployment had fallen significantly to a level that was slightly below the municipality rate.

Table 13: Labour force status (persons aged 15 years and over)

	2006			2001			Change 2001- 2006
	number	Newport West	Hobsons Bay	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Employed full time	2,221	64.4	62.8	1,924	61.3	62.7	297
Employed part time	956	27.7	28.6	851	27.1	26.4	106
Employed not stated	78	2.3	2.8	79	2.5	3.1	-1
Total employed	3,255	94.4	94.1	2,853	90.9	92.2	402
Total unemployed	192	5.6	5.9	286	9.1	7.8	-93
Total labour force	3,447	100	100	3,139	100	100	308
Total in labour force	3,447	61.9	59.1	3,139	57.8	58.9	308
Total not in labour force	1,829	32.8	34.7	2,012	37.1	36.4	-182
Not stated	295	5.3	6.2	278	5.1	4.6	16
Total	5,571	100	100	5,429	100	100	142

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Employment sector

Manufacturing is the largest employer of residents in the neighbourhood and also across the municipality, although not to the same extent in Newport West. Just over 11 per cent of the neighbourhood's residents have a job in manufacturing, compared to the Hobsons Bay figure of 14 per cent.

The other main employment sectors include

- Professional, scientific and technical services (9.5 per cent)
- Health care and social assistance (9.2 per cent)
- Retail trade (8.6 per cent).

Compared to Newport West, the municipality has a larger proportion of residents who work in retail and transport, postal and warehousing.

Table 14: Industry, 2006 (employed people)

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Manufacturing	365	11.2	14.0
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	311	9.5	7.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	301	9.2	8.7
Retail Trade	280	8.6	9.9
Education and Training	250	7.7	7.0
Public Administration and Safety	238	7.3	6.4
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	209	6.4	7.8
Construction	207	6.4	6.7
Wholesale Trade	181	5.5	5.1
Financial and Insurance Services	156	4.8	4.6
Accommodation and Food Services	137	4.2	5.4
Other Services	123	3.8	3.3
Information Media and Telecommunications	118	3.6	2.6
Administrative and Support Services	117	3.6	3.9
Inadequately described or Not stated	98	3.0	2.8
Arts and Recreation Services	84	2.6	1.9
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	47	1.4	1.5
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	27	0.8	0.7
Mining	6	0.2	0.2
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	3	0.1	0.2
Total	3,256	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Occupations

Newport West tends to have a higher rate of people in 'white collar' occupations. Of the 3,256 residents with a job, more than one in four had professional occupations, well above the municipal rate of one in five.

On the other hand, the neighbourhood has a lower proportion of people working as labourers and machinery operators and drivers compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole.

Table 15: Occupation of employed people

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Professionals	858	26.4	20.2
Clerical and Administrative Workers	554	17.0	16.8
Technicians and Trades Workers	441	13.5	14.1
Managers	428	13.1	11.8
Community and Personal Service Workers	273	8.4	7.9
Sales Workers	266	8.2	9.1
Labourers	216	6.6	9.6
Machinery Operators And Drivers	165	5.1	8.4
Inadequately described or not stated	54	1.7	2.1
Total	3,256	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Unpaid work and volunteering

New questions on the 2006 Census sought information about voluntary and unpaid work.

The first question addressed the unpaid work of caring for an aged person or a person with a long term illness or disability. Approximately 600 residents (10.7 per cent) indicated they provide unpaid assistance, which was marginally higher than the Hobsons Bay figure (10.2 per cent).

Table 16: Unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age (persons aged 15 years and over)

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Provided unpaid care	599	10.7	10.2
No unpaid care provided	4,484	80.5	79.9
Not stated	490	8.8	9.9
Total	5,573	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

The second question asked about participation in voluntary work. It should be noted that this question specifically asks about volunteering for an organisation or group and potentially missed out those whose volunteering is less formal. As a result, the figures may be an undercount.

Nevertheless, Table 17 shows that 17 per cent of residents (948 people) do volunteer with groups and organisations, which is three per cent above the municipal rate.

Table 17: Volunteering for an organisation or group

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Volunteer	948	17.0	14.1
Not a volunteer	4,121	73.9	76.4
Volunteer work not stated	508	9.1	9.5
Total	5,576	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

C. Financial Wellbeing

Individual incomes

According to monthly data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), at August 2006 (the point at which the 2006 Census was collected), the average gross weekly income in Victoria was \$815.40. (ABS, Cat 6302.0, Table 12b.). Census data in the table below shows that 3363 residents (60.3 per cent) of Newport West had a weekly income below \$800. This is below the municipal figure (64.3 per cent).

Overall, Newport West has a higher proportion of residents who have higher incomes compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole. Almost 32 per cent have a gross weekly income of more than \$1,000 which is around five per cent above the municipal figure. As a result, the neighbourhood also has fewer lower income residents than does the municipality.

Table 18: Gross weekly individual income (persons aged 15 years and over)

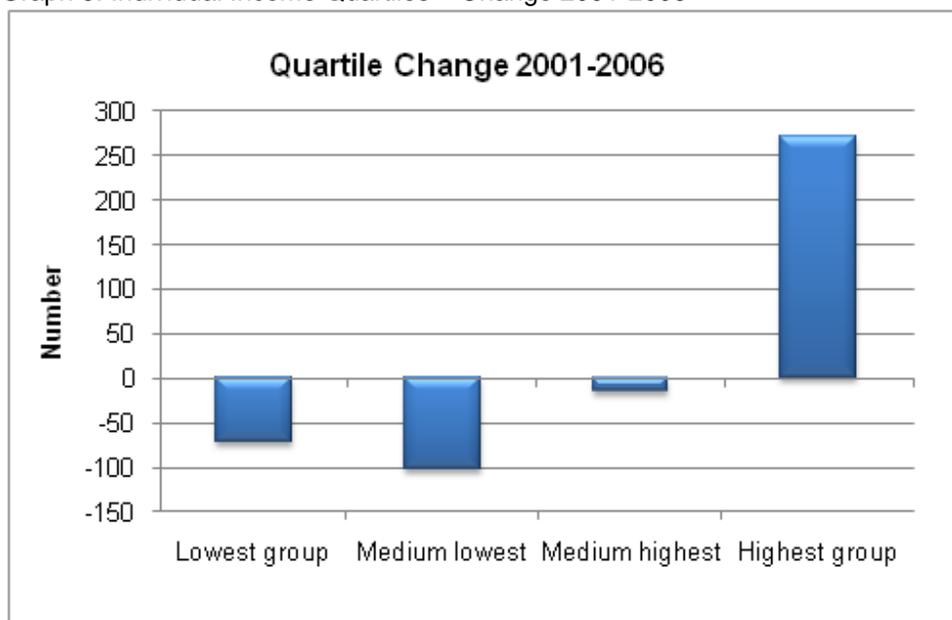
	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
negative/nil income	371	6.6	7.7
\$1 to \$149	400	7.2	7.0
\$150 to \$249	777	13.9	15.3
\$250 to \$399	631	11.3	11.7
\$400 to \$599	651	11.7	12.3
\$600 to \$799	533	9.6	10.3
\$800 to \$999	456	8.2	8.5
\$1,000 to \$1,299	578	10.4	8.1
\$1,300 to \$1,599	306	5.5	4.2
\$1,600 to \$1,999	182	3.3	2.7
\$2,000 or more	208	3.7	3.3
not stated	484	8.7	9.0
Total	5,576	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Due to the influences of economic change such as wage fluctuations and inflation, individual income groups are not comparable over time. By using income quartiles, we are able to compare the relative incomes across different years. (These quartiles are calculated by using Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD) individual income data.)

The graph below highlights the rise in the income of Newport West residents that occurred between 2001 and 2006. In that period, the number of residents in the highest income quartile rose substantially while all other quartiles declined.

Graph 5: Individual Income Quartiles – Change 2001-2006



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

In comparing Newport West to Hobsons Bay as a whole, the proportion of individuals in the neighbourhood with incomes in the highest quartile increased by five per cent whereas across the municipality it rose by only one percent. A possible explanation for the increase may be due to the gentrification that is occurring in the neighbourhood.

Table 19: Individual income quartiles (persons aged 15 and over)

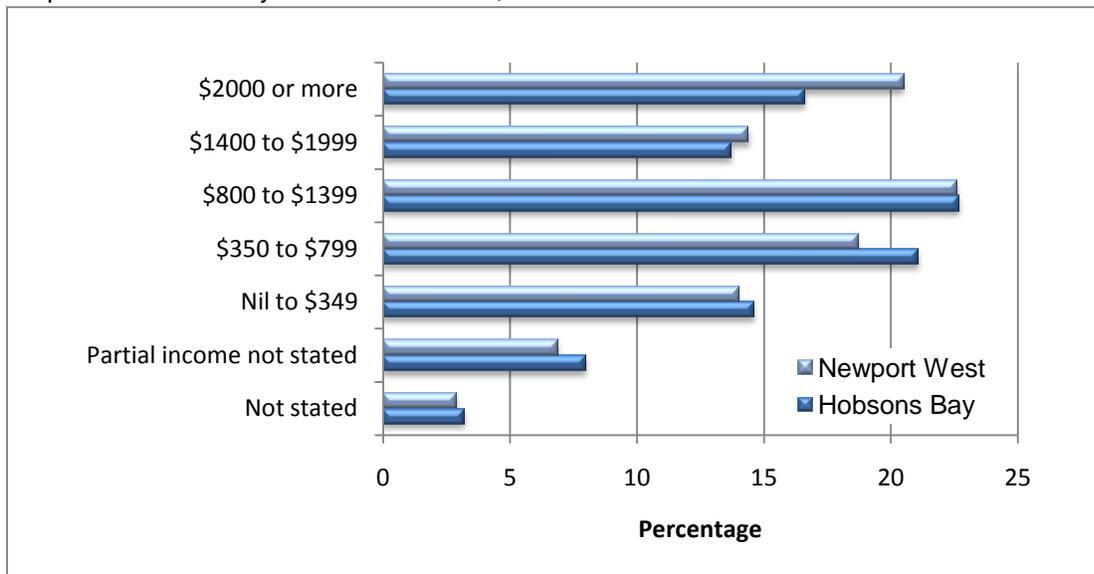
	2006		2001		Change 2001-2006 '000
	%	Hobsons Bay%	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Lowest group	23.3	25.3	25.1	25.9	-71
Medium lowest	24.1	26.0	26.6	25.8	-101
Medium highest	22.9	24.3	23.6	24.9	-15
Highest group	29.7	24.3	24.7	23.3	272
Total	100	100	100	100	85

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Household incomes

As a consequence, Newport West also has a greater incidence of households with higher incomes. The incidence of higher income households, particularly those with gross weekly incomes above \$2,000, is well above the municipal rate, while the percentage of those with incomes below \$800 per week is lower.

Graph 6: Gross weekly household income, 2006

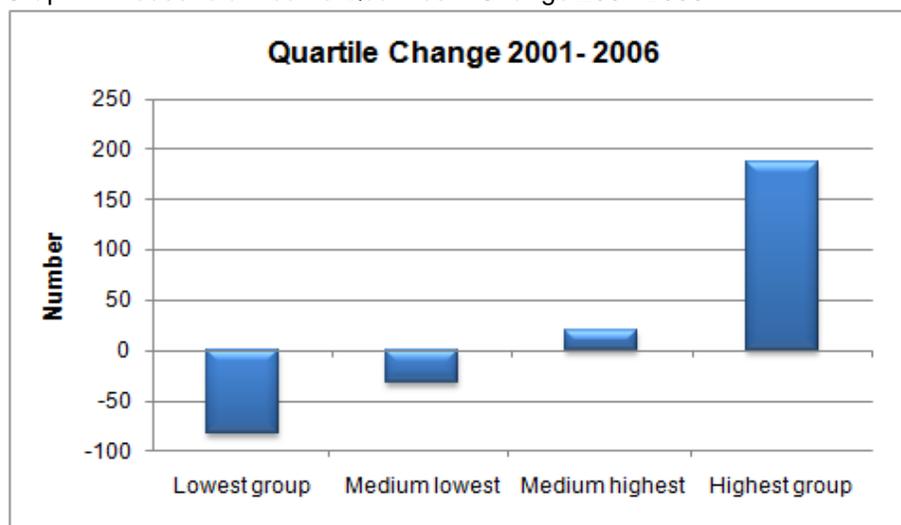


Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

In common with individual incomes, household incomes are also not comparable over time. As a result, the income quartile method is used to compare changes in the income profile of the community.

The graph below highlights a large increase in the number of Newport West households with incomes in the highest income quartile, reflecting the trend of rising individual incomes. Between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of Newport West households with incomes in the highest quartile increased substantially by 188 households (seven per cent), while numbers in the two lowest quartiles both decreased, particularly the lowest quartile.

Graph 7: Household Income Quartiles – Change 2001-2006



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

It is also noticeable that while the highest percentage of households in Hobsons Bay had incomes in the lowest quartile, the reverse was true for Newport West, with more than a quarter (26.7 per cent) of the neighbourhood's households having incomes in the highest quartile.

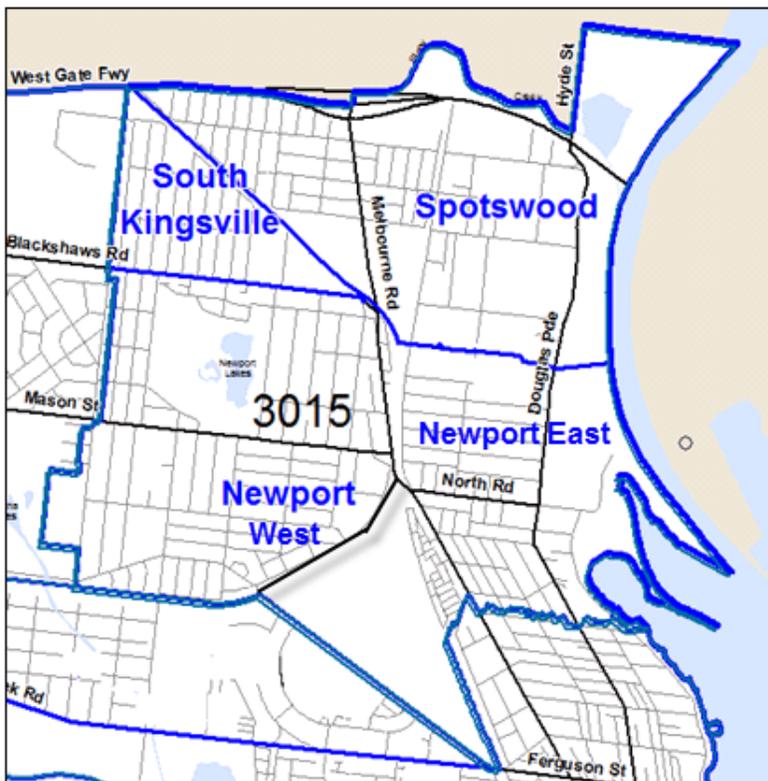
Table 20: Annual household income quartiles

	2006		2001		Change 2001- 2006 '000
	%	Hobsons Bay %	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Lowest group	25.1	27.8	29.7	27.8	-82
Medium lowest	24.3	25.3	26.6	25.8	-31
Medium highest	23.9	23.9	24.0	24.5	20
Highest group	26.7	22.9	19.7	21.9	188
Total	100	100	100	100	95

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Centrelink payments and allowances

Centrelink data for small areas is available by postcode only and not by smaller areas such as neighbourhoods. Therefore, the data in the table below is for postcode 3015 which in addition to Newport West includes the Spotswood and South Kingsville and Newport East neighbourhoods (as shown in map below).



The data shows the number of people receiving Centrelink payments as at March 2011. Between 2,703 and 2,722 payments were made to residents in the 3015 postcode. Of these, almost half (1,344) were age pensions. Just over 500 residents received a disability payment and a further 107 people received a carer allowance.

In addition, 339 residents received a Newstart allowance and a further 247 received a Youth Allowance.

Table 21: Centrelink payments for Postcode 3015 (March Qtr 2011)

Pensions and payments	Number	% (approx)
Age pension	1,344	50
Disability support pension	499	18
Carer Payment	107	4
Newstart Allowance	339	13
Youth Allowance	247	9
Parenting Payment Single	133-152*	5
Austudy Payment	34	1
Total	2,703 - 2,722	100

Source: Centrelink (requested data)

* Due to Centrelink privacy policy, the data provided is not exact but falls within the range

SEIFA index of disadvantage

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. One of these indexes relates to socio-economic disadvantage and is based on factors such as low income, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations, low educational attainment and other variables that reflect disadvantage. These are weighted to provide a single score which provides an indication of the level of disadvantage in an area.

The Australian average score is set at 1,000. Scores below 1,000 represent greater disadvantage among the population and conversely scores above indicate less disadvantage.

In 2006, the SEIFA disadvantage score for Newport West was 1017.5, well above the Hobsons Bay score of 997.8 and the Australian average and indicating the extent of disadvantage in the neighbourhood is lower.

Table 21: SEIFA disadvantage score

Laverton	884.5
Brooklyn	902.5
Altona North	910.6
Altona Meadows	984.1
<i>Hobsons Bay City</i>	<i>997.8</i>
Spotswood - South Kingsville	1004.5
Altona - Seaholme	1008.0
Newport West	1017.5
Seabrook	1036.2
Williamstown	1062.4
Williamstown North	1072.4
Newport East	1085.8

Source: ABS 2006 Census www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Gaming losses

Newport West residents, like all residents of Hobsons Bay, have access to or are affected by the provision of electronic gaming machines (EGMs). The municipality has ten gambling venues, with a total of 579 EGMs. Among the 79 local government areas (LGAs) in the state, Hobsons Bay is ranked 13th in relation to the highest number of gaming machines per adult and 16th in terms of losses per adult (Victorian Local Governance Association).

Information on the impact of gambling on EGMs for Hobsons Bay as a whole shows that in 2010/11, losses totaled \$51.4 million or \$747 per adult which was up on the previous year when losses were \$49.8million and \$737 respectively.

In Newport West, there is one gambling venue where \$6.7million was lost on EGMs.

Table 22: Number of EGMs in Hobsons Bay and gambling losses

	LGA Ranking	
Venues: 2010	10	Ranking as compared to all 79 Victorian municipalities
EGMs: 2010	579	22
EGMs per 1,000 Adults: 2010/2011	8.6	12
EGM Gaming Losses 2009/2010	\$51.4m	24
Losses per Adult 2009/2010	\$747	14

<http://www.vlga.org.au/Resources/Library/GamblingIndicatorsforLocalAreas.aspx>

D. Housing

Dwelling types

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

Looking back to the 2001 Census results, Table 23 highlights the change in the types in the neighbourhood. There has been a substantial decrease in the proportion of separate houses. In 2001, 74 per cent of all dwellings were separate and by 2006 the figure had dropped to 69 per cent. Alongside this trend was the increase in medium density dwellings, increasing from 17.7 per cent in 2001 to 21 per cent in 2006. It should also be noted that, over the same period, the number of unoccupied dwellings also increased.

In comparing the type of housing in Newport West with that of the municipality, the trend to increased density is consistent across both areas.

Table 23: Private dwelling types

	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006
	number	%	Hobsons Bay	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Separate house	2,108	69.0	71.2	2,125	74.0	74.8	-17
Medium density	643	21.0	20.2	509	17.7	16.9	134
High density	31	1.0	1.0	14	0.5	1.1	17
Caravans, cabin, houseboat	0	0.0	0.3	0	0.0	0.4	0
Other	13	0.4	0.4	14	0.5	0.5	-1
Not stated	3	0.1	0.0	31	1.1	0.7	-28
TOTAL occupied private dwellings	2,795	91.4	93.1	2,692	93.8	94.3	103
TOTAL unoccupied dwellings	263	8.6	6.9	179	6.2	5.7	83
TOTAL Dwellings	3,057	100	100	2,871	100	100	186

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

a) 'Medium density' includes all semi-detached, row, terrace, townhouses and villa units, plus flats and apartments in blocks of 1 or 2 storeys, and flats attached to houses.

(b) 'High density' includes flats and apartments in 3 storey and larger blocks.

State Government owned housing

Public housing data is only available by suburb. Therefore, the data in Table 24 is for the Newport suburb which covers the neighbourhoods of Newport West and Newport East. Of the 56 public housing properties in the suburb, just under half are medium density dwellings.

Table 24: Public housing

Low rise flats	Medium density	Moveable units	Semi detached housing	Separate housing	Total
5	26	5	12	8	56

Source: Office of Housing (requested data 2010)

Residential aged care facilities

The neighbourhood has one residential aged care facility which has a total of 60 beds, all of which are for residents with high care needs.

Table 25: Residential aged care facilities

Facility Name	Total Beds	High care	Low care
Westgate Aged Care Facility	60	60	0

Building permits

In the period of June 2010 to June 2011 there were 32 permits issued for new dwellings in Newport West. Most of these were for multi unit develops comprising 19 permits for two unit or town house developments and three permits for three townhouse developments. There were 10 permits issued for single dwellings.

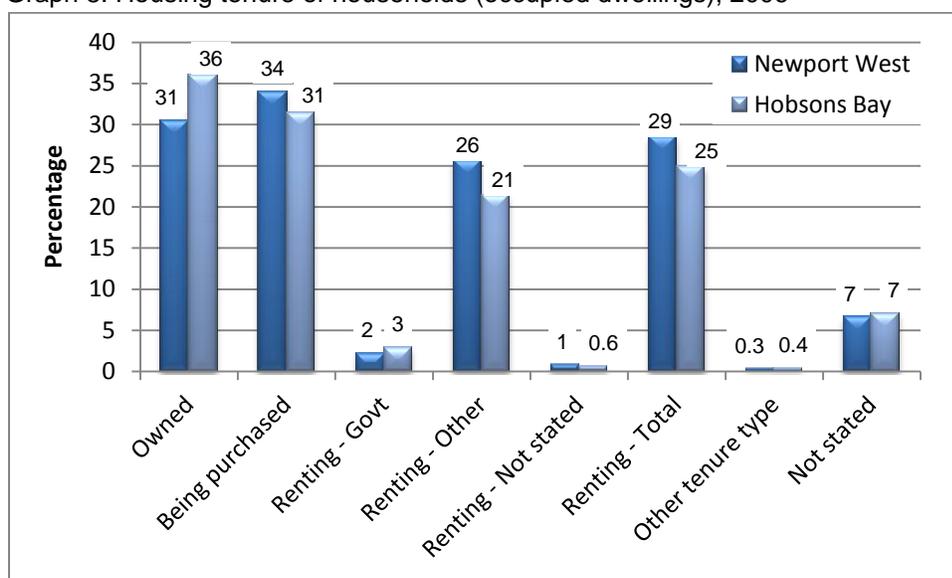
Housing tenure

It is important to note that between 2001 and 2006, changes were made to the wording of the Census questionnaire regarding home ownership. "Fully Owned" in 2001 became "Owned Outright" in 2006, while "Being Purchased" became "Owned with a mortgage". This change in wording may have impacted on how people interpreted the question so a degree of caution should be used in any comparisons of the 2001 and 2006 data.

In 2006, just over 31 per cent of households owned their own homes, 34 per cent were purchasing and a further 29 per cent were renting. Looking back to the 2001 Census, the main changes to the tenure of Newport West households was an increase in the proportion of purchasers and a decrease in owners. Once again this is probably linked to the regeneration of the population as new residents move in.

Newport West had a lower level of home ownership, compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole (31 per cent and 36 per cent respectively) and higher levels of purchasing (34 per cent and 31 per cent respectively) and renting (29 per cent and 25 per cent respectively).

Graph 8: Housing tenure of households (occupied dwellings), 2006



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Housing sales

Table 26 provides data on the monthly median sales price of houses, which is the midpoint price of houses sold in the suburb of Newport (NB: data is only available for the Newport suburb which includes the neighbourhoods of Newport West and East). Please note that in some instances, data in the table is repeated across several months and this is because there were either no house sales over that period or no updated data was available.

Over the 12 months to May 2011, there were fluctuations in median house prices in the suburb. Over the twelve months, prices generally ranged between \$620,000 and \$675,000. However there were two peaks, in August 2010 the median price was \$708,275 and in March 2011 it reached \$720,000.

Compared to medium prices across Hobsons Bay, housing in the suburb of Newport was consistently more expensive.

Table 26: Median house prices – Newport suburb

Period	Newport Median Price	Hobsons Bay Median Price
May 2011	\$ 620,000	\$ 605,000
April 2011	\$ 617,500	\$ 605,000
March 2011	\$ 720,000	\$ 621,000
February 2011	\$ 620,000	\$ 562,000
January 2011	\$ 627,000	\$ 495,350
December 2010	\$ 630,000	\$ 519,000
November 2010	\$ 675,000	\$ 592,500
October 2010	\$ 662,500	\$ 640,000
September 2010	\$ 625,000	\$ 572,500
August 2010	\$ 708,275	\$ 585,000
July 2010	\$ 665,000	\$ 619,000
June 2010	\$ 652,500	\$ 560,000

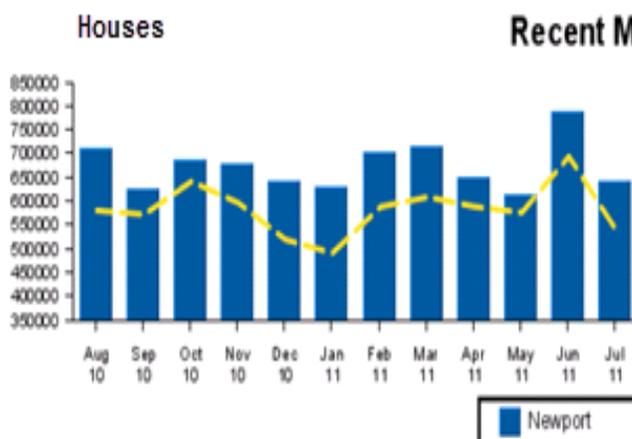
Source: RPdata (<http://reports.rpdata.com.au>)

The graphs below highlight the variations in prices, but particularly the unit prices. As mentioned earlier, where there have been no sales in a month, the data from the previous month is repeated.

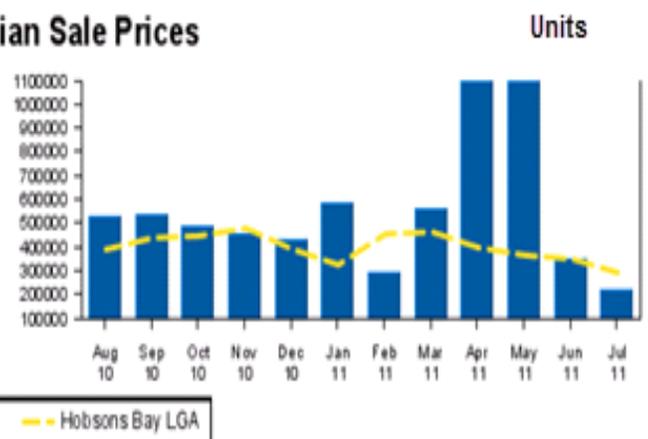
Overall median unit prices in Newport were between \$430,000 and \$530,000, apart from the April/May figure of \$1million which was at odds with the general trend.

The graph shows that the median house price in Newport West outstripped those for Hobsons Bay, but it also shows the monthly rise and fall in houses prices in both areas was closely aligned.

Graph 9a: Median house price



Graph 9b: Median unit price



Source: RPdata (<http://reports.rpdata.com.au>)

Housing loan repayments

As shown previously in Graph 5, 34 per cent of Newport West households had a mortgage in 2006 and Graphs 9a and 9b showed the higher cost of housing in the neighbourhood, compared to the municipality as a whole..

The outcome of this is made clear in the table below which shows that mortgage repayments were generally higher compared to Hobsons Bay. Just over 25 per cent of households had a monthly mortgage of \$2,000 or more compared to a Hobsons Bay figure of 20 per cent. In addition, there were four per cent more Newport West households with a monthly mortgage of between \$1,600 and \$1,999.

Table 27: Monthly housing loan repayments (households)

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
\$1 to \$249	15	1.6	2.4
\$250 to \$399	19	1.9	2.3
\$400 to \$549	46	4.8	5.5
\$550 to \$749	43	4.5	6.7
\$750 to \$949	99	10.4	9.9
\$950 to \$1,199	97	10.1	12.5
\$1,200 to \$1,399	89	9.4	10.9
\$1,400 to \$1,599	72	7.5	8.8
\$1,600 to \$1,999	170	17.9	13.1
\$2,000 to \$2,999	177	18.6	13.6
\$3,000 and over	64	6.7	6.4
Not stated	63	6.6	7.9
Total	953	100	100

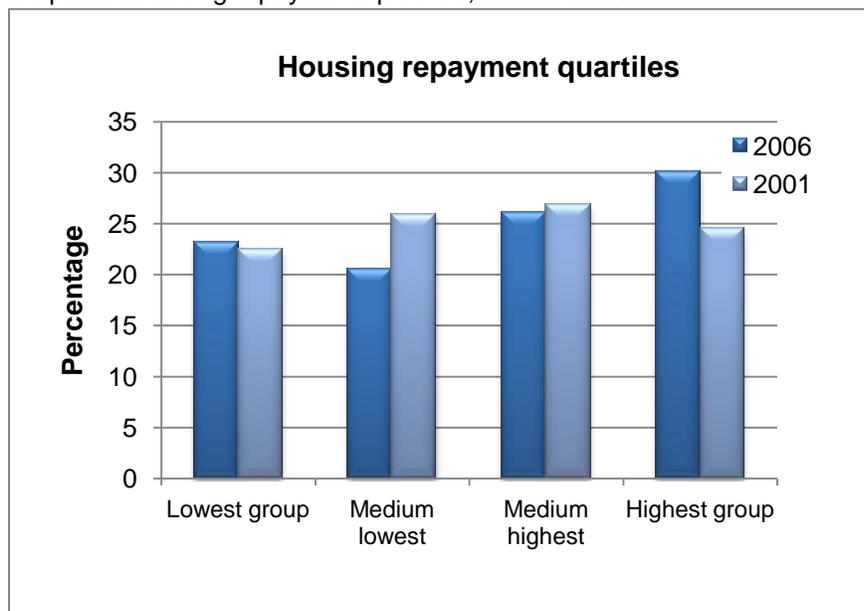
Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Comparing changes to housing loan repayments over time is difficult due to the impact of economic change such as inflation and interest rates. However, housing loan repayment quartiles provide a method to standardise the data, enabling comparisons to be made at points in time. (These quartiles are calculated using loan payment data for the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD)).

The graph below shows that between 2001 and 2006 the major change in repayments was a decrease in the percentage of households in the medium lowest quartile and a corresponding increase in the highest quartile.

In contrast, the Hobsons Bay quartiles remained relatively steady over the same period.

Graph 10: Housing repayment quartiles, 2001 and 2006



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Housing rents costs

There is no centralised data source where information on housing rentals on given areas can be obtained. However, a review of online real estate listings for Newport West (September 2011) shows a wide variation in rental prices, depending on the type of the property.

Of the properties advertised in the first week of September 2011, 17 were houses and 26 were a mix of townhouses and apartments. Rents for houses ranged from \$340 and \$590 per week, depending on the number of bedrooms, while apartments and townhouses were between \$225 and \$470 per week. (Source: <http://www.myhome.com.au/>)

Rental payments

The data on rental payments in Table 28 is from the 2006 Census. If the properties listed above are a guide, rents appear to have risen significantly since 2006.

On the whole, in 2006, Newport West households tended to be paying higher rents relative to municipality generally. For example, 20 per cent paid more than \$275 per week (this is above the Hobsons Bay figure of 16 per cent). At the low end of rentals, 59 per cent of Newport West paid less than \$224 per week, well below the municipal figure of 68 per cent.

Table 28: Weekly housing rental (households)

	2006		
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %
\$0 to \$49	24	3.1	3.7
\$50 to \$99	49	6.3	7.9
\$100 to \$139	105	13.6	9.2
\$140 to \$179	112	14.5	18.4
\$180 to \$224	169	21.8	28.8
\$225 to \$274	119	15.3	12.7
\$275 to \$349	90	11.6	8.4
\$350 to \$449	41	5.3	4.1
\$450 to \$549	17	2.2	1.2
\$550 and over	4	0.5	1.9
not stated	45	5.8	3.7
Total	775	100	100

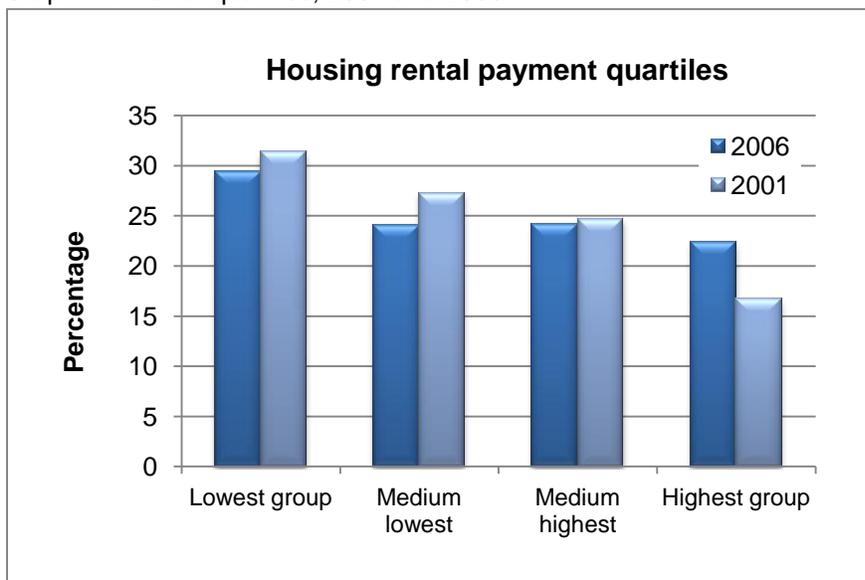
Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

As with mortgages, comparing rental payments over time requires a method to standardise economic influences and rental payment quartiles are used as an effective way of comparing changes in the cost of renting. (Quartiles are calculated from the Melbourne Statistical Division rental payment data.)

Graph 8 shows data on the percentage of households in the neighbourhood who were renting and how the cost of their rent changed between 2001 and 2006. The graph highlights the rise in rents. The proportion of households with rents in the low to medium highest quartiles all fell, while the proportion in the highest quartile increased by just over six per cent.

This upward shift in households paying high rents went against the municipal trend where there was only a slight change across the quartiles.

Graph 11: Rental quartiles, 2001 and 2006



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Housing stress

Housing stress is linked to the percentage of a household's income that is required to cover rental or mortgage payments. A common definition of stress is where housing payments account for 30 per cent or more of a household's gross income. This definition is used in the following analysis of low and medium income households. Depending on the level of income, housing payments may put households under varying degrees of financial stress.

Hobsons Bay City Council commissioned *id consulting* to measure housing stress and the extent of its impact across the municipality and its neighbourhoods. The resulting data in Table 29 provides an overview of Newport West's low and middle income households and the degree of their housing stress.

The table shows that for renters and purchasers the level of housing stress in Newport West is generally lower than that experienced by the municipality as a whole. Among low income households that are renting, just under one in five is in housing stress, compared to one in four in Hobsons Bay.

On the other hand, the level of housing stress among low income purchasers in Newport West is half of that for Hobsons Bay. One likely explanation is that incomes are higher within the neighbourhood and higher housing prices and rents may preclude low incomes households from living there.

Table 29: Households experiencing housing stress

	Low income		Middle income	
	Less than 30% of income spent on housing payments	30% or more of income spent on housing payments (<i>housing stress</i>)	Less than 30% of income spent on housing payments	30% or more of income spent on housing payments (<i>marginal housing stress</i>)
Rent				
Newport West	10%	19%	13%	5%
Hobsons Bay	12%	24%	13%	5%
Mortgage				
Newport West	4%	5%	4%	5%
Hobsons Bay	7%	10%	11%	6%

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

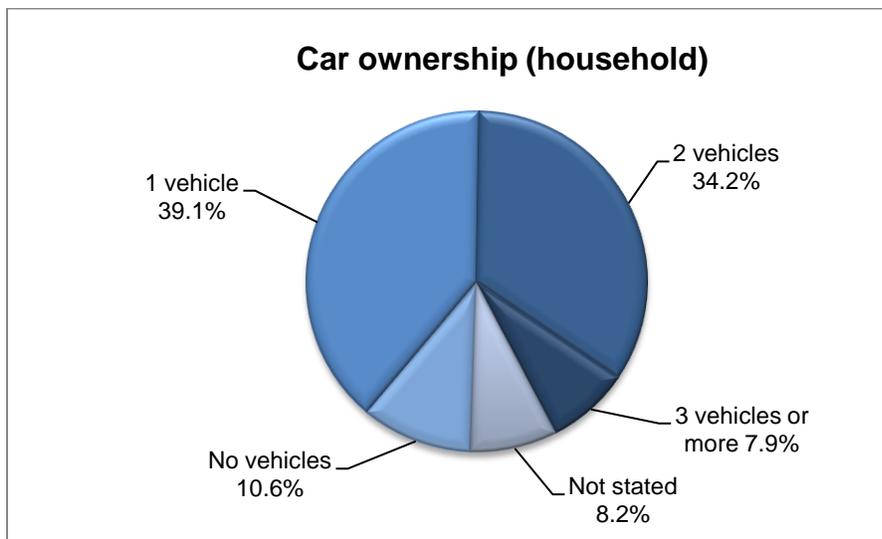
E. Transport

Car ownership

The patterns of car ownership in Newport West show that almost 40 per cent of households own one car, about three per cent above the municipal rate. Locally and across Hobsons Bay 34 per cent of households have two cars. Newport West has a marginally higher proportion of households with no car (one per cent more) and a further eight per cent of households have three or more cars which is three per cent above the municipal rate.

Between 2001 and 2006, the main change in car ownership in Newport West was a four per cent increase in households with two cars while other categories of car ownership decreased slightly.

Graph 12: Car ownership, 2006



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Journey to work

Table 30 provides an overview of how people get to work and shows that the car was the dominant form of transport both in Newport West and across the municipality. Just over 62 per cent of local 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.

The main changes in the neighbourhood's modes of transport between 2001 and 2006 were a decrease in the proportion who travelled by car and an increase in those who caught the train.

Table 30: Travel to work (includes multi-mode journeys)

	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Train	503	15.8	11.2	377	13.4	9.8	126
Bus	15	0.5	1.1	37	1.3	1.4	-22
Tram or Ferry	0	0.0	0.1	6	0.2	0.1	-6
Taxi	6	0.2	0.2	3	0.1	0.2	3
Car - as driver	1,842	57.7	63.1	1,698	60.6	63.8	144
Car - as passenger	154	4.8	5.0	158	5.7	5.8	-4
Truck	26	0.8	0.8	20	0.7	1	5
Motorbike	42	1.3	0.6	14	0.5	0.4	28
Bicycle	76	2.4	1.1	31	1.1	0.9	45
Walked only	35	1.1	1.7	27	1	1.4	8
Other	30	1.0	0.7	12	0.4	0.8	19
Worked at home	65	2.0	2.7	77	2.7	2.7	-12
Did not go to work	342	10.7	9.8	298	10.7	9.5	44
Not stated	56	1.8	2.0	43	1.5	2.2	14
Total	3,192	100	100	2,800	100	100	392

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

F. Population Forecasts

Population

Population forecasts for Hobsons Bay and its neighbourhoods are based on the results of the 2006 Census and incorporate information such as new residential development, together with population trends related to births, deaths and internal and external migration etc that has occurred since the census was taken. The forecasts were developed for the Council, by *id consulting*.

As noted earlier, the population of Newport West increased by 219 people (3.3 per cent) between 2001 and 2006. The table below provides forecasts for the coming decade which show a marked growth in the population over the next five years and then less pronounced growth through to 2020. By 2020 the population is forecast to have increased by 1,220 new residents.

New infill developments are expected to expand the supply of housing to accommodate the growing population. Some redevelopment around the Mason Street activity centre is likely and at the Newport Flour Mill, although this is still at the planning phase and yet to be confirmed. (Refer to What's Ahead in history and development section of the profile)

Table 31: Population forecasts

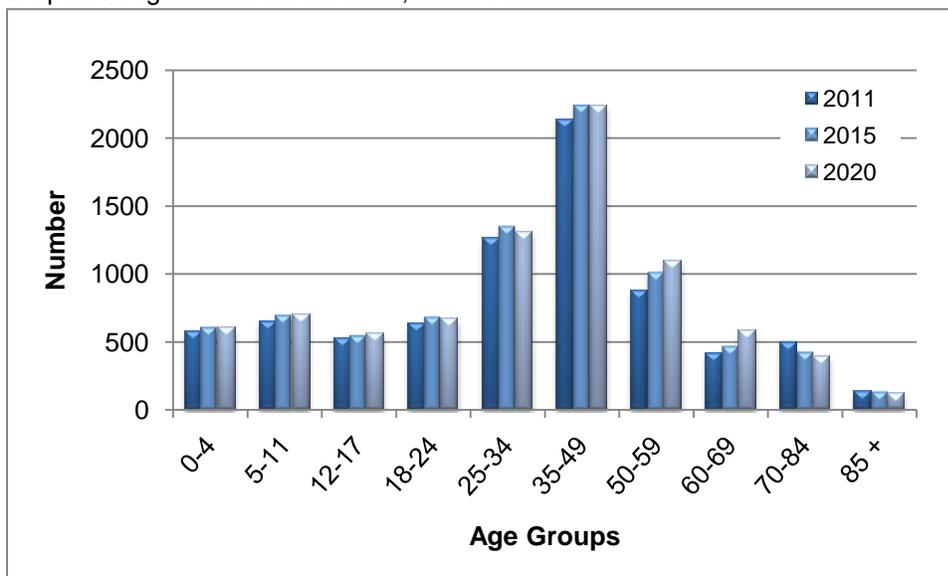
	2011	2015	2020	Change 2011-2020
Total population	7,072	8,165	8,297	1,220
Percentage change		↑15.5%	↑1.6%	

Source: Forecast id <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

Age structure

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 age group, while the number of older residents (70 years plus) is expected to decrease.

Graph 13: Age structure forecasts, 2011-2020



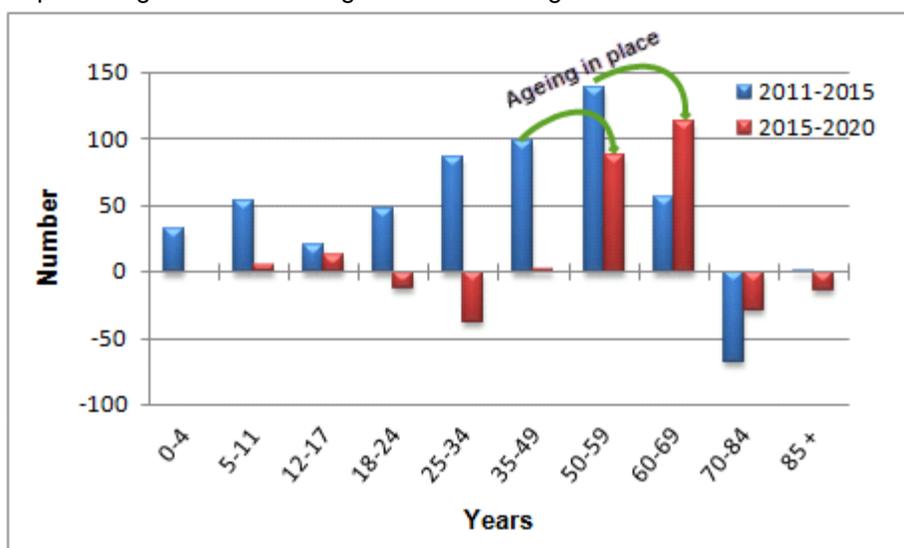
Source: Forecast id <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

The graph below shows the gains and losses in each age group over the next decade. All age groups up to 70 years are expected to grow in the first half of the decade after which most growth will be among those aged 50-69 years.

In line with the anticipated growth in families, the graph highlights increased numbers of young children, primary school aged children and to a lesser degree those in their teens up to 2015 and these increases correspond in growth among the 25-49 age group that are likely to be parents. An increase in the number of 50-59 year olds is also forecast and is expected to peak by 2015.

When looking at the period between 2015 and 2020, the graph below makes evident that those who were aged in their mid 40s to late 50s between 2011 and 2015, are generally expected to remain in the neighbourhood for at least the next five years.

Graph 14: Age structure changes – losses and gains



Source: Forecast id <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

Housing and households

To accommodate Newport West population growth, the number of dwellings is expected to increase in the first half of the decade and after 2015, the development in new housing is expected to slow. This may be due to the limited amount of undeveloped sites remaining in the neighbourhood where housing can be built.

Household sizes are also expected to rise, reflecting the growth in families moving into the area, particularly between 2011 and 2015.

The rate of 2.48 people per household in Newport West shows a slight upward trending over the coming decade, while the Hobsons Bay average is expected to drop from 2.55 to 2.44.

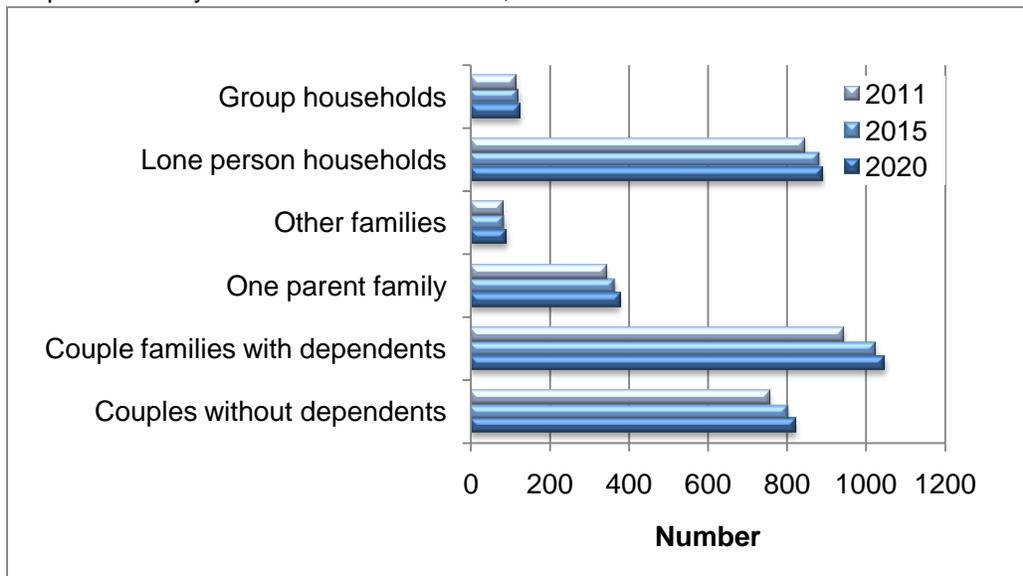
Table 32: Households and dwellings

	2011	2015	2020
Households	3,112	3,288	3,353
Dwellings	3,234	3,417	3,484
Average household size	2.47	2.48	2.48

Source: Forecast id <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

The graph below indicates that couple families with dependants will continue to grow and are expected to be the largest household type, with growth most noticeable before 2015. Lone person households and couples without dependant are the next largest household types and both are expected to follow the same growth pattern.

Graph 15: Family and household forecasts, 2011-2020



Source: Forecast id <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

DISCLAIMER

Every care has been taken to ensure the information in this document is correct. However, Hobsons Bay City Council does not accept any liability for the information (or the use of such information) provided in this document.



Newport West Neighbourhood Consultation Summary

A. Introduction

The Newport West Profile provides an overview of the history and development of the neighbourhood, some data about the characteristics of residents and information about the types of services and facilities available in the neighbourhood.

However, none of this information can describe how people feel about Newport West as a place to live, visit or work. In order to gain a better understanding of these perspectives, a number of consultations took place in late 2011. What follows is a summary of the findings of those consultations and who participated in them.

During the consultations, several long term residents also shared their memories of living and working in Newport West and some of their comments are included towards the end of this consultation section.

B. Methodology

The consultation methods used to develop this section included focus groups and individual interviews.

In order to ensure a variety of views were heard, participants were drawn from a range of age groups. Each session lasted for approximately one hour.

Face to face interviews were conducted with three residents. In addition, three focus groups were undertaken involving:

- participants in activity groups at the Newport Senior Citizens centre
- Grade six students from Newport Lakes Primary School
- playgroup parents

The questions used in the consultations are included in Appendix 1.

C. Summary

The following notes are a summary of the comments of the participants in the consultation and are framed around the questions that were asked.

How would you describe Newport West

People who participated in the consultation were generally positive when talking about their experience of living in Newport West. For some, describing the neighbourhood was aligned with the social connections that they had established. They talked about the neighbourhood providing “a great family environment”, giving them opportunities to know their neighbours, to have good friends living nearby and in some instances meaning they could live close to their family.

One person who was moving in the near future described Newport West as “comfortable” and said “it will be difficult to leave” because of the strong networks she had made within the community. Another spoke about feeling more connected with the area since having children. “No kids on board translates to not being home as much, working longer hours and not connecting with your surrounds” and now being at home has meant “I have more time to get involved in activities”.

Having previously lived in the inner suburbs of Melbourne, several people spoke about Newport West as being a quiet place to live, something which they enjoyed. While “peak hour traffic is not a nightmare” they did sometimes miss aspects of inner city living, “a lack of choice being the main thing [I miss] - food, decent music, more diversity and things to do socially.”



Sculpture at entrance to Newport Lake
Source: Student, NewportLakes Primary School

Other people described the physical features of Newport West. Since first moving to the neighbourhood almost a decade ago, one person noted the positive improvements that had changed their perception about the place and these included the landscaping and upgrading Newport Lakes and the surrounds and also the opening of the Substation. Children at the local primary school also mentioned Newport Lakes as an important feature of Newport West and a place where they can ride a bike or walk the dog.



In summing up their impression of the neighbourhood, one person noted that it is changing, due to gentrification and new housing developments. As a result, “there is a new dynamic that challenges your familiarity [with the neighbourhood], but on balance the buzz adds excitement”. Another upside of Newport West’s gentrification was that it brought a new generation of residents and as a result, “there are more and more young couples, prams and children running about” which were reinvigorating the area.

What things make it a good place to live and work?

The quietness of Newport West was mentioned by a number of participants as something they particularly enjoyed about living in Newport West. They described it as having a country feel, that it was an attractive location and a “serene” place to live. Contributing factors were having good access to the coast and a feeling of openness and some also mentioned a lack of density in the buildings. One participant spoke of the attributes of being close to parks, sporting ovals and of “treed boulevards’ lining many of the streets. Children identified “being close to everyone”, “having good friends” and “great sports facilities” among the things they enjoyed about the neighbourhood.

Easy access to the city was an important feature, making the commute to work relatively straightforward. One person said that while proximity to the city wasn’t an essential it was an advantage made easy by good train or car access. Pointing to a lack of awareness of what the neighbourhood has to offer another person, with a number of friends who lived outside of the neighbourhood, commented “It’s always amusing how people are amazed at how close Newport is to town”. Others who worked in the west enjoyed living close to their job.

The affordability of housing in the area was an initial attraction for some participants. One person commented that “affordability is great, especially being single” and another said that they had settled on Newport West because “we couldn’t afford the eastern suburbs”. Having a growing family and needing a bigger house brought some people to the neighbourhood. “We needed more space for a second child and [were looking for] a house with four bedrooms, a backyard that was within our price range... We also had friends who moved to Newport near the Newport Lakes which was an influencing factor.”

From the children’s perspective, Newport West allowed them certain freedoms and independence. Some enjoyed being able to get around the neighbourhood by themselves, “I like riding down Scott Street because it’s quiet” and another enjoyed “riding my bike down to the sea (to the Strand) and buying an ice cream”.

Another aspect of Newport West that people appreciated was the diversity within the community, both the mix of old and new residents and the cultural diversity. As one participant mentioned, the presence of the neighbourhood’s Lebanese community and its strong orientation towards family made a great contribution to the area.



On a more reflective note, when asked to describe Newport West, a relative newcomer said that “you need to scratch the surface to find its beauty [and] have some interactions to understand the appeal of an area”.

For a group of older residents, it was clear that their capacity to interact with their neighbourhood had contracted and this had affected life for them. In most instances, this was because health issues had made it increasingly difficult for them to get about independently. So when asked to describe what they liked about the area their responses varied. While some talked about having family or good neighbours they could rely on, others were housebound and with few visitors, they missed having social interaction and felt isolated and lonely.

What activities do you do locally and what facilities do you use?

Participation in activities and the use of facilities varied, depending on age and stage of life. For the parents of young children, the use of childcare and maternal and child health (MCH) services were important priorities. All were users of the local MCH centre and were very positive about the role it filled in the wellbeing of both their babies and themselves. Mothers spoke about the flexibility of the service which allowed for structured visits and open sessions. They were also enthusiastic about “the fabulous staff who are welcoming and engaging and able to help [them] to adjust [to being a parent]”. They appreciated that the nurses were there as a backup to their doctor and also that “the door is always open if you want to use the bathroom facilities or a place to feed [the baby]”.

In relation to childcare, some mothers indicated that they would like to use this service but “access is difficult due to long waiting lists” and in some instances they were “resorting to family members” to fill the gap. Some mothers indicated they preferred to use family day care rather than a childcare centre.

One parent spoke about her children having used the toy library when they were small and of having enjoyed being within walking distance of the Hobson Bay kindergarten. There was a mixed reaction to the planned relocation to the Newport Gardens Primary School site, with some being sad to see them moved while others were more positive about the co-location of the school with children’s services. In terms of the next phase of moving on to school, it was still too early for parents of young babies to be firm about where their children would go to school, although most indicated they planned to send them to local primary schools.

There was a mixed response to access health services, especially to doctors. While some indicated they had a local doctor they were happy with, “the Challis Street medical centre is very accessible” and appointments were relatively easy to get, one person suggested there were “problems with the ratio of doctors” which made it difficult to get in to see a doctor. Another noted that “if a child is sick, it’s quicker to go to emergency at the Williamstown Hospital and wait 20 minutes”. The lack of bulk billing services in the neighbourhood was also mentioned.

Some people indicated they have yet to find a local doctor and have maintained contact with one where they previously lived. Most of the older people who participated in the consultation lived outside of the neighbourhood and while they generally had a local GP, there was an increased use of specialist services such as cardiologists and also of podiatrists that they had to travel to.

Asked about their use of the public library in Newport West, again there was a mixed response, with most people indicating that they preferred to use the new library in Altona North and the former Williamstown library which is being rebuilt. Most of those who were users of the Newport West library tended to only use it occasionally to borrow or for the Storytime sessions for children. Most people felt that the building needed to be improved and that it was too small. Some comments included, "It needs rejuvenation, possibly an overhaul [to include] other services"; "there's no lounging space to allow for reading"; and from the parent of small children, "I'm conscious of the noise and disruption factor that may result from over-excited little ones".

In terms of shopping, it was a mixed bag as to where people shopped for food and other purchases. The Mason Street shops were used by most people but in a number of cases this was mainly to supplement shopping that happened outside the neighbourhood. This was not always the case as there was also a group who enjoyed shopping locally, commenting that Mason Street offered a good range of shops that were in easy walking distance from home. One person spoke positively of shopping in Mason Street and welcomed the opening of a new IGA supermarket to replace "shopping at Coles and [I] will continue to support the smaller outlets for other stuff".

One child who seemed pretty familiar with Mason Street said they liked it "because there are lots of shops, mum does her shopping in the supermarket, but I like it because of the local library, the fish and chip shop, newsagency and the football oval behind it". Other children spoke

of going to Sammy's bakery and 'Routley's for breakfast". Locals also mentioned the Challis Street shops, using the milk bar and picking up the newspaper there.



Newport Lakes Primary School
Source: Student, Newport Lakes Primary School

Sport and recreational pursuits were among the activities adults and children did locally and also outside of the neighbourhood. As mentioned earlier, Newport Lakes played an important recreational role, as a place to walk the dog and for children to ride their bikes "along the

lake's edge and over the obstacles and hills". In terms of more formal activities the children talked about playing netball and football at school and some played in the juniors for the

Newport Power football club, at Bryan Martyn Reserve. One parent's son played cricket and was involved in Auskick at the reserve and noted that there are now over 100 children participating in these sessions.

Parents with babies were occasional users of the neighbourhood's playgrounds but felt these spaces "needed to be more accommodating of a range of ages and also for children with disabilities". Parents also indicated they didn't like their babies crawling in bark soft fall and would prefer a rubberised surface but said that they would probably use them more as their children got a little older.

Talking about cultural facilities, people described the Substation as "a beautiful space" that offered a mix of creative activities and events. People enjoyed the flexibility of the building and the surrounding spaces to deliver exhibitions, markets and music.



Hoffman Reserve
Source: Student, Newport Lakes Primary School

What things do you regularly do outside the neighbourhood?

The activities that were most commonly mentioned as undertaken outside of Newport West were visits to health services, shopping and participation in sport.

In relation to health services, some people attended the South Kingsville Health Co-operative or doctors in Williamstown or Altona North. Williamstown Hospital was also a service that was used but more often than not it was for emergencies only. They were also more likely to have a dentist in nearby suburbs or out of the municipality than to visit one locally. As one person commented, a visit to the dentist was more likely to be planned rather than an emergency and so people were happy to keep the dentist where they had previously lived or one that had been recommended.

Supermarket shopping tended to happen in areas other than Newport West. It was evident that for the large weekly shop, people went to Williamstown or did "a big shop at the Altona Gate supermarket or the one at the Rifle Range". One person who shopped in Williamstown was



frustrated with the lack of parking there. “Parking is an issue that needs to be addressed. It’s frustrating taking the car [to shop] because the parking is limited. Others spoke of shopping at the Circle, Borrack Square and “the hidden gems like Altona Fresh”, all in the adjacent suburb of Altona North. Some travelled further afield to shop for food and mentioned Footscray (for Asian foodstuffs) and also the Victoria and South Melbourne markets.

A lack of clothing shops in the Newport West meant shopping elsewhere, or as one person put it, being “forced to go to Highpoint”. A lack of appropriate clothes shops was an issue for older residents too who said they tended to travel to Altona Meadows and Altona Gate, although they described Altona Gate as having poor transport access which made it difficult for people with mobility problems.

In relation to sporting and recreational activities, the Bayfit pool and gym in Altona North was a commonly used facility. However, one person felt children’s swimming lessons there were too costly and that the “Maribyrnong pool was much more interesting for kids and much cheaper.. Bayfit lacks sophistication and the changing rooms are poorly fitted out”. Several others mentioned using the pool and sports facilities at Albert Part and another played club cricket outside of Hobsons Bay.

A number of the children who participated in the consultation played sports outside of Newport West but still within the municipality. Some played tennis at Williamstown and Brooklyn, basketball in Altona, badminton in Altona North and played with other football clubs. Beyond Hobsons Bay, one cycled with a club in Brunswick and others did gymnastics.

Recreational activities that were pursued in nearby areas were linked to the coast: people visited the beach, Jawbone Park, the Warmies and the Strand. The beach and coastal trails were particularly popular for those with a dog or who enjoyed cycling

As mentioned earlier, adults and children generally indicated they didn’t often use the Newport library in Mason Street. Instead they liked the new library in Altona North, particularly the children. One parent was looking forward to the completion of the new Williamstown library because their children were involved in a range of sports activities there and in the interim they used the library’s online service.

How do you get about the neighbourhood?

Modes of transport options were usually influenced by the age of the consultation participants. Asked how they got to school, children normally walked or rode a bike or scooter and a few were driven. Outside of school, riding their bikes was common and one boy spoke about his adventure “riding all the way to Essendon and riding down to the river and onto the Maribyrnong trail and back”. By preference, the children said they “try to avoid busy roads and use quieter streets, but people yell at you for being on the footpaths.”



Adult participants said that being close to the Newport railway was handy and that the train service was quite good. Several mentioned catching the train into the city and across to Altona, while a couple of the children said they catch the train occasionally. Not unexpectedly, the car was also used by most adults for getting to work, for shopping and generally getting about.

For a number of older participants, the train was the preferred option for public transport to get to the doctor or to shop, although one person said they did not feel safe using the train. However it was not surprising that failing health made it increasingly difficult for a number of them to continue to use public transport.

When asked about the bus, several older residents talked about the difficulty with the bus service, but they all appreciated the community bus that brought them to the planned activity group where this consultation took place. Parents said the public bus service was not convenient and that they had difficulty getting on with a pram, while older people said they were unable to negotiate the steps and could only catch the newer low rider buses or were unable to walk to the bus stop. An older resident, who did use the bus after no longer being able to drive a car, described the service as being “not bad”.

Other options for older people who were still able to get about reasonably independently included motorised scooters and walking. As one person said “I must keep walking because of a hip problem” while another said that they used a frame but that walking was getting harder as time went by. As a result, they were more reliant on taxis and family to get them about. One woman who had limited support from family or friends and who had difficulty walking was essentially housebound and spoke of her loneliness, highlighting the importance of activity groups for older residents.

Do you think Newport West is a safe place?

While most people felt that Newport West was a relatively safe place there were some aspects to the neighbourhood that concerned some participants in the consultation. Overwhelmingly their concern related to road traffic. Two streets in particular were mentioned. One parent was worried about the high volume of traffic on Blackshaws Road and due to its lack of pedestrian crossings, was “afraid to let the children walk to school”. Another parent commented that she was happy for her children to ride to school and that not having to cross a busy road such as Mason Street was a plus. According to one adult, “it’s a little daunting crossing Mason Street, especially around the 5.00pm mark”.

Concern about busy roads was also mentioned by children (see section on getting around), but generally they tried to avoid them if they could but if not they seemed to have good road sense. “Crossing Mason Street is a bit tricky, so I wait for the lollipop man”. Parents concern about Blackshaws Road was echoed by one of the children who said, “My dog died there and there’s no pedestrian crossing. [They] were going to install one a year ago but it didn’t happen”.



A few adults and children mentioned that they were wary of groups of young people “hanging around” near the Newport Station and also near the Challis Street shops. They said the area around the underpass to the station “does cause some anxiety ... it’s not pleasant”. There were also several comments about ‘hooning’ around the Mason Street and Maddox Road area.

What would make it a better place to live / work / visit?

A relative newcomer to the neighbourhood felt that the areas around “Melbourne Road and Mason Street are not very appealing, not beautiful, whereas some of the streets are lovely. The main gateways look abandoned” and would benefit from some attention. One older resident expressed the view that “the place looks rundown, the shops especially. It needs a good clean up”.

Children also talked about the physical appearance of the streets and didn’t like the graffiti or the vandalism around bus stops. They were concerned about rubbish and for one it was about the fishers who “left behind fishing hooks and line and other garbage”.

However according to others, time was helping to improve the neighbourhood’s overall appearance, as old industrial sites were redeveloped, street trees matured and more were planted.

Those who had lived in the neighbourhood for sometime talked about new housing developments that were occurring which they felt were changing the character of the neighbourhood. “What was initially attractive [about Newport West] was the lack of high density, but this is changing. Houses from the 1960s and 70s “that are not desirable or protected are being pulled down in droves” and being replaced by higher density development which “added noticeably to the congestion”.

A cross-section of people also wanted a better mix of retail outlets to suit all ages and among these were clothing shops, “somewhere to buy good bread and a nice wine bar”. One older resident, lamenting the lack of choice, spoke about the loss of the local milk bars and of there being too many coffee shops.

An issue that is common across all of metro Melbourne is concern about house prices. Several in the parents group commented on the decline in affordability in the neighbourhood with one wanting to move to a quieter street but rising house prices were making that an impossible option. Similarly, another who was renting could not afford to buy.

Do you plan to stay in Newport West?

On the whole, people said they intended staying in Newport West for the foreseeable future, although several indicated that they would be moving to be closer to family and work. In other instances, a family was hoping to move to some acreage outside of Melbourne, in a couple of



years while another person pondered about 'life after children' and the possibility of moving to the coast "sometime down the track".

Younger parents, who had moved to Newport West in search of a family home, generally intended to stay put. Now that they had bought a house, they were feeling settled in the area and were enjoying the friendships they'd established. They said they now had more time to get involved because they were at home, caring for babies, or were working part time.

A number of residents, having bought a home and renovated it, were looking forward to becoming more familiar with their neighbourhood. While some said they would probably need a larger house at some point, they would like to remain living in Newport West. However as mentioned earlier, rising house prices were affecting some people's capacity to buy into the neighbourhood.

In summing up what would keep them living in Newport West, one person put it down to the importance of good neighbours. "I don't want to lose the spirit of my street and the street connections".

Consultation Questions

What's your connection with Newport West?

Local resident HB resident Work here Visitor

Other _____

1. If you were describing Newport West what are some of the area's distinctive features? (what makes it different to other places)

2. What are the things that make it a good place to live / work / visit?

Prompts

- The facilities (eg parks, open space, leisure facilities)
- Access to shops; shops have what you need
- Access to services (doctors dentists etc, childcare/MCH, schools)
- Affordable housing
- Close to work

3. What sort of activities do you do locally?

Prompts

- Member of club / group
- Play sport
- Socialise / meet with friends
- Volunteer
- Shop
- Work

4. What are some of the facilities you use in the local area?

Prompts

- Childcare/MCH/preschool/schools
- Sports/ recreation
- Neighbourhood
- Community centre/halls
- Seniors centre



5. What things do you regularly do outside the area eg in other parts of Hobsons Bay or beyond?

Prompts

- library
- shop
- go to school
- access services health
- Sport/leisure activities
- Catch up with friends / socialise

6. How do you normally get about the area?

Prompts

- public transport
- drive
- walk
- ride a bike)

7. Is it easy / safe to get about?

8. What would make it a better place to live / work / visit?

Prompts

- sport/leisure places
- meeting /socialising opportunities
- transport
- shops
- services
- safety
- work

9. Do you expect to still be living here in the next 5 years – if yes – how do you think your needs will change?

- facilities
- services