

# Smarter Choices - Access and Movement Study

Prepared for Bass Coast Shire Council

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Institute for  
*Sensible Transport*



# Executive Summary

**The need for this Access and Movement Study arose from the recognition that Wonthaggi requires a long term, strategic and holistic plan for meeting its ambition to grow sustainably over the next 30 years.**

## What we found

Wonthaggi is experiencing traffic safety issues, heavy vehicle movement through the town's centre and parking difficulties that are putting pressure on Wonthaggi's future growth and liveability. The most consistent theme to arise from the review of the policy documents was that car dependence is too high in Wonthaggi and more needs to be done to create an environment in which more sustainable options become more attractive.

The Access and Movement Study has found Wonthaggi to have:

- High levels of car use, with around 9 in 10 trips made by car
- High parking demand during peak times
- Streets dominated by on street parking and through traffic
- A large proportion of car trips are of short distance; a third of all trips to work are under 2.5km and half are under 5km.
- Very low levels of walking, cycling and public transport. In many cases, existing conditions for these modes have reduced their attractiveness and appeal.

Rising traffic congestion has emerged as a concern in Wonthaggi. The evidence reviewed for this project suggests Wonthaggi has a car dependency problem. Its traffic congestion is a symptom of a lack of viable alternatives to the car. 'Solving' Wonthaggi's congestion can only be achieved by shifting a significant proportion of the short car trips to more space efficient modes.

## Creating a safer, more sustainable and vibrant Wonthaggi

The challenge facing Wonthaggi is stark. An expected doubling of the population over the next

three decades will mean that if existing travel patterns continue, the inevitable congestion and parking difficulties will detract from the lifestyle that currently draw people to Wonthaggi. 'Doing more with less' is the philosophy that will need to underpin strategic transport investment, as the amount of road and parking space per person begins to diminish.

This Study identified a wide range of opportunities to begin Wonthaggi's transformation into a sustainable, safe and inviting regional centre that capitalises on Wonthaggi's uniqueness. Its small scale, laneways and short average trip distances offer great opportunities to become a leading Victorian regional town for more sustainable travel.

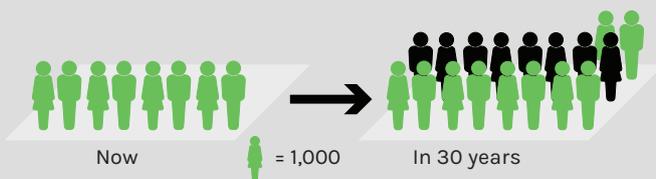
While this will be great for those seeking to walk, cycle and use public transport more often, it will also result in better outcomes for those that have to drive.

This Access and Movement Study outlines a holistic 30-year vision to make Wonthaggi an even better place to live, work and visit. This Access and Movement Study has the title *Smarter Choices* because it focuses on 'doing more with less'. As Wonthaggi's population is set to more than double over the next 30 years, it is critically important to design a transport system that is more space and environmentally efficient, that provides access to healthier transport modes and creates streets that are more people-focused.

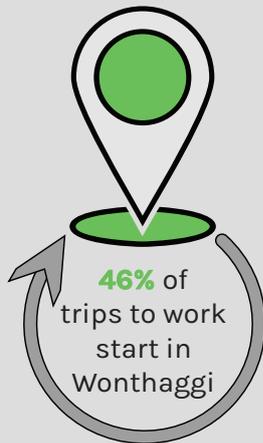
A package of reinforcing, integrated actions have been developed, to provide a clear set of implementable initiatives designed to assist Bass Coast Shire Council achieve its long-term vision for Wonthaggi.

# Transport and Population

## Wonthaggi

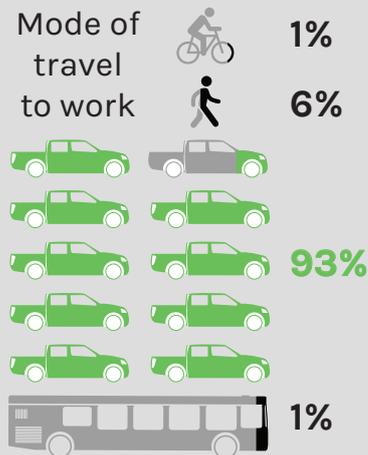


Wonthaggi's population will **more than double** over the next 30 years



**Half** of all trips to work are under 5km

**A Third** of all trips to work are under 2.5km



Traffic increases by **+20%** in peak holiday periods

**70%** of the bicycle network is unbuilt



**50%** of jobs in Wonthaggi are in Retail and Health sectors



In a year, most households earn between **\$20,800 & \$25,999**

**72%** of households earn below the average Victorian income



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and Bass Coast Shire Council data

### Summary of Wonthaggi's key transport and demographic information

### Car parking analysis

A number plate survey was conducted on a weekday in late May for vehicles parked in key locations in central Wonthaggi. Number plates were recorded using video and the number plates were then detected. This data was then sent to the Department of Transport, requesting the postcode of vehicle registration.

The map shown in Figure 59 illustrates the catchment of the vehicles parked in central Wonthaggi. This serves as a proxy for the likely origin of those vehicle parked in central Wonthaggi.

#### Box 7 Understanding where parked cars originate

Figure 59 provides the results from the car parking analysis described in Box 7. It shows that just over 1 in 4 cars parked in central Wonthaggi are registered to an address within Wonthaggi itself, suggesting many trips of less than 2km. Wonthaggi is clearly a destination for Inverloch residents, with some 15% of vehicles surveyed registered in Inverloch.

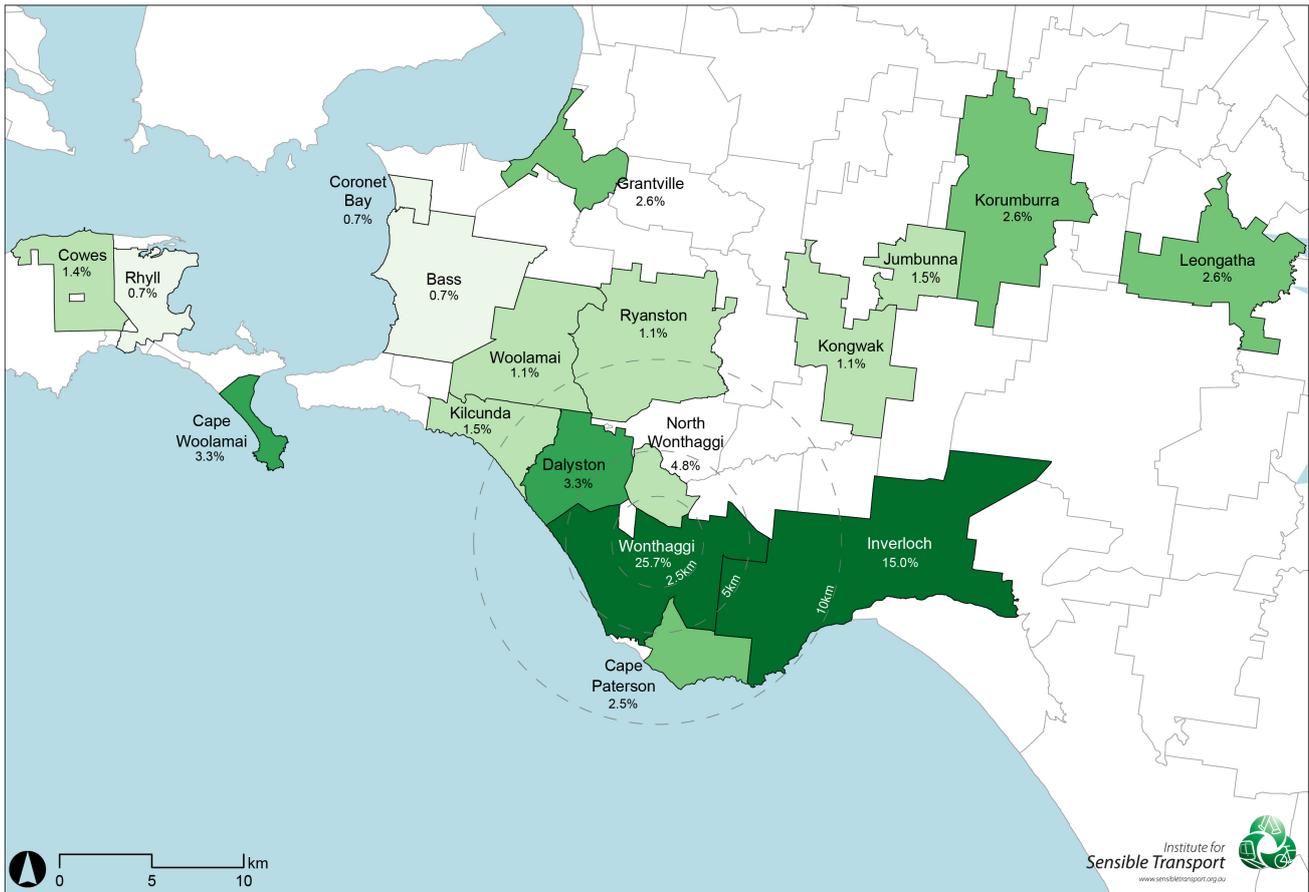


Figure 59 Postcode of registration for vehicles parked in central Wonthaggi