Strengths

The cluster has the potential to build a critical mass of tertiary education, health-related training, health care, and retail and professional services, as well as facilitate private investment.

Jobs

There are around 14,600 jobs in the cluster.¹⁴

Key attributes

The cluster is well placed to tap into the growing municipalities of Melbourne’s west and diversify its education, research and health-related activities. The cluster is centrally located between the CBD and two western growth areas. It also has access to major road and rail networks.

The cluster’s connectivity will increase with the completion of the Metro Tunnel. The Metro Tunnel will provide a 15–20 minute train commute to the CBD and a direct link from the cluster to the south-eastern suburbs. Level crossing removals and two western growth areas. It also has access to major road and rail networks.

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regional train services from Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo will pass through the cluster at Sunshine railway station.

There is an opportunity for the cluster to be a central location for the increased provision of health and education services. For instance, Sunshine Hospital is an acute and sub-acute teaching hospital with approximately 600 beds (including mental health beds managed by North West Mental Health). In addition, the Western Centre for Health, Research and Education is a collaborative project between Victoria University, the University of Melbourne and Western Health, where training and research will be carried out. Victoria University has two campuses in the cluster, and other facilities to be developed in the cluster include the Joan Kirner Women’s and Children’s Hospital and the Sunshine Private Hospital. The cluster also includes the Sunshine Metropolitan Activity Centre and the St Albans Major Activity Centre.

Source: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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