

5.4 Land uses

Past and present land use will provide some indication of the nature of the land. Historically the Shire of Romsey has hosted many uses including agriculture, timber harvesting, industry and residential. Today land use in the area is just as varied.

5.4.1 Public Land

Public land only accounts for a small portion of the Shire of Romsey. Part of the Mount Charlie Flora Reserve occurs in the west of the Shire and to the north is the Cobaw State Forest. There are small parcels of recreational reserves scattered throughout the Shire.

5.4.2 Forestry

A small amount of hardwood production occurs on public land in the Cobaw State Park and the Mount Macedon Regional Park.

5.4.3 Mining

There are two proclaimed mines in the Shire of Romsey, both on the Cambrian chert material. The mine site at Monegeetta is council owned, and there is a privately owned site at Springfield. In addition to the two proclaimed mines there are privately owned gravel pits.

5.4.4 Grazing

The major agricultural enterprise in the Shire is sheep production for wool and meat, and to a lesser extent cattle for the production of beef. Other more specialised grazing enterprises are deer farming and thoroughbred breeding.

5.4.5 Cropping

Cereal cropping occurs mainly on basalt and sedimentary gentle and very gentle slopes. Wheat and oat cropping is mainly used to support the fat lamb industry and canola is grown in the summer months.

5.4.6 Recreation

In the larger residential towns of Romsey, Lancefield and Riddells Creek there are numerous recreational facilities. Community sporting facilities such as football ovals, golf courses, tennis, netball and basketball courts are available in the towns. Barbecue and playgrounds exist in recreational reserves in Romsey and Riddells Creek. The Forest Reserves provide opportunities of bushwalking, orienteering, four wheel driving, and sight seeing.

5.4.7 Residential Development

The Shire of Romsey, being easy commuting distance to Melbourne, has experienced pressure for conversion of agricultural land for residential and small lot development. Residential development is centred around the townships of Romsey, Lancefield and Riddells Creek. Small lot development occurs throughout the Shire.

5.4.8 Intensive Horticulture

Potato cropping and floriculture occur on the red volcanic soils between Romsey and Lancefield.