Little River & Rural Areas

Suburb profile

First settled in the mid-1830s, Little River was named after the stream that separates the City of Wyndham with the City of Greater Geelong. Little River is a predominantly rural area, with a small township and land used for grazing and cropping. By 2036, after considerable development and growth, Little River and other rural areas in Wyndham are forecast to become home to more than 29,000 people. For the purpose of this profile, rural areas refer to areas of Cocoroc, Mount Cottrell and Mambourin.

**Population**

In 2016, 1,898 people are residing in Little River and Rural Communities, accounting for less than 1% of the total population of Wyndham.

**Forecast**

The population of Little River is forecast to increase significantly between 2016 and 2036, from an estimated 1,144 residents to 29,148 (2447.9%). A period of significant growth is expected between 2021 and 2026, when the population will increase by 326.1% or a total of 5,054 residents.

**Age**

Over 15% of the Little River/Rural areas population is aged 65 years or older, compared to 8% of the Wyndham wide population. The median age of Little River residents is older than the Wyndham median by 10 years (42 years and 32 years respectively).

**Births**

There were 14 births to parents living in Little River during 2014.

**Cultural Diversity**

Little River and Rural Areas are the least culturally diverse in Wyndham. Only 15% of the population were born overseas, compared to 42% of residents Wyndham wide. Malta was the most common country of birth outside Australia, and Maltese was the most commonly spoken language other than English.

**Households**

There are an estimated 721 households in Little River/Rural areas and similarly to Wyndham, couple families with children are the most common household type. The average household size in Little River is slightly smaller than the Wyndham average, at 2.9 people per household.

**Tenure**

Little River and Rural Areas has the highest rate of fully owned homes in Wyndham with 37% of dwellings owned outright. Only 8% of Little River and Rural Area homes are rented compared to 25% of homes across Wyndham.

**Employment**

Less than 3% of Little River/Rural West residents were unemployed and looking for work in 2011, compared to 6.3% of Wyndham residents. The most common industries of employment in Little River and Rural Areas were construction, manufacturing and retail.

**Journey to work**

In 2011, 66% of Little River and Rural area employees drove their car to work and less than 7% caught the train. Nearly 9% of Little River and Rural Area residents worked from home, compared to less than 3% of Wyndham residents.

**Education**

In 2011, 10% of Little River and Rural area residents over 15 years of age had obtained a bachelor or higher degree, compared to 19% of Wyndham residents.

**Need for assistance**

4.5% of Little River/Rural West residents require assistance with core activities, compared to 3.9% of Wyndham residents.

**SEIFA Index of Relative Social Disadvantage (IRSD)**

Little River and Rural West have a SEIFA IRSD score of 1032, which is slightly higher than the Wyndham score of 1,013. This means it is a slightly less disadvantaged area compared to the municipality overall.