

Create Buffers and Drive Time Areas

What is a buffer? Why do people use them?



A buffer is a distance from a particular point. This can be a radius or a walk/drive time area.

A local developer might be building a new shopping centre and may want to make sure it's not within a 25km radius from all the current shopping centres.

Buffers are important so experts can make informed decisions.

Before you start...

Before you can start, you need your layer with your [point data](#). You can either upload these via an Excel file, find the layer in ArcGIS Online or drop your own points using Map Notes. These topics are covered on our other skill sheets.

This layer is all the major shopping centres in Melbourne.



Creating a buffer (circle only)

1. Select Analysis
2. Select Use Proximity
3. Select Create Buffer
4. Make sure your point data layer is selected from the drop down

1 Choose layer containing features to buffer

Melbourne Shopping Centres

5. Enter your distance as well as your measurement

2 Enter buffer size

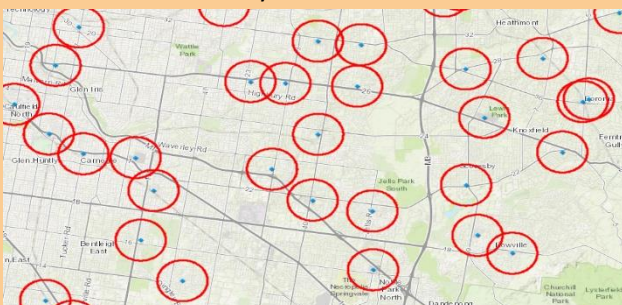
Distance Field

Enter buffer size

25 Kilometers

To create multiple buffers, enter distances separated by spaces (2 3 5).

6. Give your buffer layer a title
7. Turn off Use current map extent
8. Press Run Analysis



Creating a drive time buffer

1. Select Analysis
2. Select Use Proximity
3. Select Create Drive Time Area
4. Make sure your point data layer is selected from the drop down

1 Choose point layer to calculate drive-time areas around

Melbourne Shopping Centres

5. Enter your distance and choose your measure (there is walking, driving and trucking time)

2 Measure

Driving Time

5 Minutes

To output multiple areas for each point, type sizes separated by spaces (2 3.5 5).

6. Select traffic if applicable
7. Give your drive time buffer layer a title
8. Turn off Use current map Extent
9. Press Run Analysis

