

02.03
02/12/2022
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Strategic directions

02.03-1
02/12/2022
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Settlement

The dispersed settlement pattern in Yarra Ranges, including many relatively small rural towns located in the Green Wedge, creates challenges in meeting community expectations about the range of accessible services and facilities.

There are opportunities for more intensive development within and adjoining activity centres to provide additional housing and employment generating uses.

The redevelopment of urban areas and key redevelopment sites including the Chirnside Park Activity Centre, the former Cave Hill Quarry and the former Swinburne University, will expand the diversity of housing, education, recreation and employment opportunities in Yarra Ranges.

The location of the Urban Growth Boundary has largely prevented urban expansion into the productive agricultural areas and rural landscapes of the Green Wedge. However, there are ongoing latent pressures to change the current Urban Growth Boundary to expand urban development into some adjoining Green Wedge areas.

The Green Wedge areas will continue to support a diverse mosaic of agricultural activities, rural lifestyle opportunities, tourism and bushland areas. New developments, subdivisions, and land use changes, will continue to be managed in a way that protects and enhances the primary Green Wedge values of supporting sustainable farming, retaining a healthy biodiversity and protecting valued landscapes

Table 1 below describes the key characteristics of the green wedge area.

Table 1- Green wedge land use and settlement

Category	Characteristics
Productive Agricultural Areas	<p>Areas where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lots are generally greater than 4 hectares in intensively cultivated areas, or 10 hectares in other areas ▪ Most lots are cleared and sown with pasture grasses or managed for horticulture ▪ Most lots are currently used for agriculture or have realistic potential to be used for horticulture, livestock grazing or other forms of productive agriculture.
Rural Landscape Areas	<p>Areas where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lot sizes are generally greater than 2 hectares ▪ Most lots have been at least partially cleared of indigenous vegetation ▪ Most lots are used for residential purposes in a rural environment ▪ Very few lots are used for productive agriculture (meaning lots of more than 4 hectares that are used for horticultural

Category	Characteristics
	<p>production or lots of more than 10 hectares that are predominantly cleared and sown with pasture grasses).</p>
<p>Rural Residential Areas</p>	<p>Areas where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lots sizes are generally between 0.1 hectares and 2 hectares ▪ Most lots are used for residential purposes in a heavily treed environment ▪ Very few lots are used for productive agriculture (meaning lots of more than 4 hectares that are used for horticultural production or lots of more than 10 hectares that are predominantly cleared and sown with pasture grasses) ▪ Many of the existing lots have been created by the consolidation of smaller lots under subdivision restructure and tenement requirements of previous planning schemes. <p>These areas are mostly concentrated in the Dandenong Ranges although pockets exist in other localities.</p>

Large landholdings and relatively lower land values in Green Wedge areas can attract uses that are seeking to relocate from urban areas. Some of these land uses can create potential conflicts with agriculture and rural amenity.

Additional urban housing development outside of the established Urban Growth Boundary would lead to unsustainable outcomes such as high infrastructure costs and adverse impacts on the environment, landscape and agricultural practices. Speculation about changes to the Urban Growth Boundary can also undermine the confidence and investment decisions of agricultural producers, tourism industry providers and rural lifestyle residents in the Green Wedge.

Council’s strategic directions for settlement are to:

- Contain urban development and urban renewal within the urban growth boundary.
- Support a mix of housing, business opportunities and community infrastructure within the suburbs and larger rural towns.
- Protect the Green Wedge by ensuring use and development complements or enhances the primary values and characteristics of the Green Wedge.
- Minimise residential subdivision in the green wedge.
- Limit the use of rural land in the green wedge to agriculture, rural industry, tourist-oriented businesses or dwellings.

Activity centres

Yarra Ranges’ network of activity centres (shown in Table 2 below and on the Economic Activity Plan at 02.04-3) plays an important role in providing a range of services and employment opportunities and

a complementary range of housing types, commercial services and community infrastructure.

Table 2 - Yarra Ranges Activity Centre Hierarchy

Activity Centre Type	Role
<p>Major Activity Centres Chirnside Park and Lilydale</p>	<p>These centres provide a large, diverse and intensive mix of retail, commercial, entertainment, cultural and other uses.</p> <p>They have strong public transport links, serve a large regional-sized catchment, and are priority locations for future private and public sector development.</p> <p>Land within and adjoining these centres is the preferred location for additional and more diverse residential development.</p>
<p>Large Neighbourhood Activity Centres Belgrave, Healesville, Kilsyth, Monbulk, Mooroolbark, Mount Evelyn, Seville, Yarra Glen, Yarra Junction</p>	<p>Smaller in floor space terms than Major Activities Centres, these centres have a retail mix that is focussed on convenience and grocery shopping. They also provide a range of community services to the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Some of these centres, which serve a catchment that extends into the rural hinterland, perform a significant role in the provision of community and civic services, with some also providing a range of facilities and services for tourists.</p> <p>Land within and adjoining these centres is generally an appropriate location for additional housing.</p>
<p>Small Neighbourhood Activity Centres Coldstream, Montrose, Mount Dandenong, Olinda, Sassafras, Tecoma., Upwey, Wandin North, Warburton, Woori Yallock.</p>	<p>These centres have a more limited role in providing convenience retailing and community facilities for an immediate surrounding catchment.</p> <p>Usually, they have a small supermarket as the main anchor tenant. In some cases, they also serve a tourist market.</p>
<p>Local Activity Centres Examples include: Colby Drive - Belgrave South, Monbulk Road Silvan and Switchback Road - Chirnside Park</p>	<p>Local Activity Centres consist of a small group of shops that typically serve a local walk-in catchment and provide for the daily convenience and 'top up' needs of local residents and passing motorists.</p> <p>Some of these centres contain a limited number of community facilities and other uses.</p>

The existing activity centre network located in the suburban areas of the municipality, offers sufficient

opportunities to meet projected future retail requirements in established centres that are accessible to residents.

The creation of a sustainable urban form that consolidates development around a network of activity centres also has environmental and social benefits including reducing car dependency, efficient use of community infrastructure, and reducing the need for urban development in rural areas.

Council's strategic directions for activity centres are to:

- Locate retail, commercial, entertainment, community services and facilities and other intensive employment generating activities within established activity centres.
- Accommodate additional retail and office floor space within larger activity centres.
- Discourage activity centre functions in out of centre locations.
- Support housing within and adjoining activity centres.
- Support well-designed and integrated activity centres that service the needs of local residents and visitors and contribute to a sense of local identity.

02.03-2
02/12/2022
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Environmental and landscape values

Biodiversity

The natural environment, dominated by hills and trees, will continue to be the most defining characteristic of Yarra Ranges.

Yarra Ranges retains extensive areas of forested land together with a complex network of fragmented remnants of indigenous vegetation and waterways that provide habitats for a rich biodiversity. Remnant scattered trees and vegetation on private land also provide habitat and connectivity to the areas of public reserves that exist in Yarra Ranges. A significant proportion of indigenous vegetation especially within the foothills and valleys of Yarra Ranges was cleared as part of past land management practices.

The patchwork of fragmented bushland remnants throughout the settled areas of Yarra Ranges is susceptible to incremental vegetation removal, weed and pest animal invasion. Loss of vegetation from the landscape leads to nutrient loss, soil erosion, silting and pollution of waterways which can contribute to reduced agricultural production. Further fragmentation of bushland remnants also undermines their long-term viability as wildlife habitat.

River corridors, catchments and waterways

The waterways within the Yarra River and Dandenong Creek catchments are important environmental and water supply assets of the region although they suffer from degradation due to past and ongoing land management practices.

The Yarra River and its associated wetlands are important for wildlife habitat, as a landscape feature, a source of drinking water and as a recreational resource.

Remnant vegetation along waterways plays an important role in protecting in stream habitat and water quality. Responsible land and water management will help to protect drinking water quality and enhance the value of Yarra Ranges' bushland remnants and waterways as wildlife habitats, water resources and for recreation.

Land use and development within the catchment areas of the Yarra River may have an adverse impact on water quality within Yarra Ranges waterways.

Council's strategic directions for environment are to:

- Avoid the incremental loss and further fragmentation of large intact remnant patches of indigenous vegetation.
- Sustainably manage habitat areas and improve connections between them.

- Offset unavoidable vegetation removal by revegetation or land management measures that achieve a net increase in key biodiversity assets.
- Protect biodiversity assets on public land and areas that are accessible to the public.
- Avoid the removal of indigenous vegetation or significant earthworks within riparian environments that will impact on water quality and habitat value of waterways.

02.03-3
02/12/2022
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Environmental risks and amenity

The combination of Yarra Ranges' natural topography, its urban fringe location and projected climate changes has resulted in many communities being exposed to environmental hazards including bushfire, landslip, flooding and soil contamination. Priority should be given to the protection of human life in the management of areas that are affected by environmental hazards.

By recognising and planning for the risks associated with projected climate changes, the adverse effects of water scarcity, bushfire, flood and landslip events will be minimised.

Many communities especially in the Dandenong Ranges are not serviced by reticulated sewerage which also has adverse impacts on the local environment and waterway network.

Council's strategic directions for environmental risks are to:

- Discourage additional dwellings, subdivision and other sensitive land uses in bushfire prone areas and where the required defensible space would necessitate significant removal of high-quality indigenous vegetation.
- Locate and design development to minimise the potential risk from flooding.
- Protect the storage capacity of flood pondage areas.
- Locate and design development within areas of landslip risk to minimise the potential risk to life and property.

Amenity

The residential zones in Yarra Ranges permit a range of non-residential business uses that meet local community needs.

Lower land values in residential neighbourhoods can attract commercial activities that can adversely affect the amenity of residential neighbourhoods through car parking and traffic and undermine the role of activity centres.

Council's strategic direction for amenity is to:

- Provide opportunities in residential zones for non-residential land uses that respond to local community needs and retain the residential character of the area.

02.03-4
02/12/2022
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Natural resource management

The relatively reliable rainfall and favourable soil conditions in many parts of Yarra Ranges Green Wedge have traditionally supported a strong agricultural sector.

Agriculture in Yarra Ranges will continue to evolve in response to changes in economic and climate conditions. The areas of potentially productive agricultural land will need to be managed to retain long term opportunities.

The extent of the stone resource within these quarries is finite and confined by environmental constraints and other land use priorities on nearby and adjoining land.

Council's strategic directions for natural resource management are to:

- Discourage additional dwellings and land fragmentation in productive agricultural areas that would

have an adverse impact on farming operations or significantly reduce the extent of land available for productive agricultural use.

- Support development of existing extractive industry resources while protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

02.03-5

02/12/2022
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Built environment and heritage

Scenic landscapes are a key contributor to the identity of Yarra Ranges and unsympathetically designed new development can detract from these landscapes.

The identity and rural town character of many Yarra Ranges settlements is enhanced by their location in a rural landscape setting and distinct separation from other urban areas. The quality and presentation of buildings and public places in Yarra Ranges' activity centres also plays a significant role in creating a sense of place for local communities.

Much of the building stock in Yarra Ranges comprises modest buildings constructed before the introduction of environmentally sustainable design concepts.

The future built form of development will adopt environmentally sustainable design principles, be accessible to people of all abilities, respect heritage places and will reinforce the valued characteristics of their surroundings.

Yarra Ranges' diversity of heritage buildings and places reflect its origins and contributes to its identity. There is a need to protect the important elements of this heritage to nurture greater community awareness and appreciation of Yarra Ranges' past.

Council's strategic directions for the built environment and heritage are to:

- Protect and respect sensitive environments, significant landscapes and cultural and natural heritage.
- Incorporate best practice environmental design to contribute to sustainable building form.
- Encourage development that contributes to a sense of place and adds to the character and identity of the distinct localities in Yarra Ranges.

02.03-6

02/12/2022
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Housing

The combination of Yarra Ranges' attractive environment and its location on the fringe of Melbourne will result in ongoing pressures for additional and more intensive development.

Although there are latent pressures to expand urban development into the Green Wedge there is sufficient capacity within established urban areas and key strategic redevelopment sites to accommodate future housing and employment opportunities.

The concentration of additional housing development in identified consolidation areas (refer Residential Framework Plan to Clause 16.01-1L) based on established activity centres will improve housing diversity, increase the proportion of housing with convenient access to services, and reduce pressures for change in other neighbourhoods.

There is a limited diversity of housing stock to meet the needs of changing demography.

More diverse and adaptable housing stock will be required to meet community needs including affordable housing, housing that is accessible to people with disabilities and a range of specialised housing types to cater for the growing number of older people that provides opportunities for them to continue living within or close to their local community.

Council's strategic directions for housing are to:

- Support residential growth, increased densities and housing diversity in the consolidation areas of the major activity centres.
- Support diverse housing on key redevelopment sites and combined lots that are close to community

services, local employment and public transport.

- Support affordable housing in new developments in consolidation areas and other locations with access to town centres, commercial and community facilities.
- Contain residential subdivision within the existing Urban Growth Boundary.
- Discourage housing in locations that would increase the potential for land use conflicts and adverse impacts on landscape amenity or the environment.
- Support aged care accommodation in locations that meet the needs of an ageing population.

02.03-7
02/12/2022
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Economic development

Yarra Ranges has a narrow economic base with a limited range of higher-level employment opportunities. Many residents travel outside the municipality for jobs and high-order services, including tertiary education and regional shopping centres.

Much of the local employment is in sectors such as manufacturing and retailing which have limited long term prospects for job growth. There are a significant number of home based businesses in Yarra Ranges.

A number of large manufacturing businesses operate in Yarra Ranges, however recent expansion in industrial floorspace has been in smaller scale units that accommodate businesses catering for more localised markets.

There are limited opportunities within the Urban Growth Boundary for further industrial development however many existing industrial areas contain under-developed sites that offer potential for more intensive industrial use.

Yarra Ranges includes local industry sectors that support the growth of social enterprises. Opportunities exist for the development of local business incubator sites to support local business ideas and agribusiness.

The Green Wedge contains extensive areas of productive agricultural land which support a strong agricultural sector.

Processing of sustainable timber resources provides significant local employment and economic activity in some of Yarra Ranges' rural towns.

Council's strategic directions for economic development are to:

- Consolidate retail and office-based businesses in activity centres.
- Provide for new businesses in accessible locations that broadens the economic base and range of employment opportunities in Yarra Ranges.
- Retain a broad range of industrial based employment and support efficient use of industrial land.
- Manage industrial areas to provide opportunities for future changes and innovation within the local employment sector.
- Support the timber industry that adds value to the timber resources that are available in Yarra Ranges.
- Accommodate, rural industries and other infrastructure that support the ongoing use of rural land for agriculture in the Green Wedge.

Tourism

The Green Wedge areas contain tourist destinations including wine growing areas, national parks, State forests, recreational trails, golf courses and well-known attractions such as the Puffing Billy Railway, the Dandenong Ranges, Warburton and Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Green Wedge also includes a variety of businesses linked to tourist related activities including visitor accommodation, wineries, restaurants and cafes.

Many tourist related businesses have a direct association with their setting especially in the wine growing regions and areas of forestry activity.

The Green Wedge and its proximity to the metropolitan region will attract ongoing interest in providing tourism and hospitality services. This sector will provide new economic opportunities in the region. However, it needs to be managed to protect the primary values and characteristics of the Green Wedge.

Council's strategic directions for tourism are to:

- Support commercial land uses associated with tourist activities to create business opportunities that broaden the economic base of rural towns.
- Encourage tourism activity that supports overnight stays and a diversity of tourist experiences.
- Support tourism development in the green wedge that protects biodiversity, agriculture and valued landscapes.

02.03-8

02/12/2022
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Transport

Relatively low population density of many communities within Yarra Ranges create challenges in providing frequent and reliable public transport linkages.

Many residential areas also lack a comprehensive network of connected footpaths and have limited access to off road pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Major new development proposals can have a significant impact on the operation of the road network. These impacts should be mitigated where necessary.

An integrated approach to transport needs is required to provide transport infrastructure to meet anticipated demands.

Council's strategic directions for transport are to:

- Manage and improve transport networks to meet community and regional needs and reduce private motor vehicle transport.
- Facilitate a range of transport options and increased public transport use.
- Protect future regional transport routes and support improvements to existing arterial road routes.

02.03-9

02/12/2022
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Infrastructure

The generally low density and widely dispersed settlement pattern in Yarra Ranges create challenges in meeting community expectations about the level of services and infrastructure.

Open space

There are opportunities to improve the quality of open spaces and the linkages between them.

Waterways such as the Yarra River and disused infrastructure such as former rail lines and water supply aqueducts offer long-term opportunities to expand the network of off-road recreational trail routes throughout Yarra Ranges.

There is a need for public open space and recreational facilities to respond to increased demand in locations where significant population increases or demographic changes are anticipated, and to provide an enhanced opportunity for all Yarra Ranges residents to lead healthy lifestyles within a safe environment.

Council's strategic directions for open space are to:

- Deliver an accessible and equitable public open space network with assistance from developer contributions.

- Improve links between regional public open space facilities.
- Facilitate rural based public open space and recreation opportunities.
- Support a network of accessible community infrastructure hubs.

Community and development infrastructure

Many low-density residential areas are not sewered. Extending reticulated sewerage to un-serviced areas will address effluent disposal issues in Monbulk and other residential communities in the southern foothills of the Dandenong.

Upgrade works to improve the capacity of stormwater drainage infrastructure is also required along with the extension of reticulated natural gas through to Warburton township.

More intensive redevelopment within activity centres, at strategic redevelopment sites and through urban consolidation and renewal needs to be coordinated with the provision of reticulated services infrastructure and community infrastructure.

Council's strategic directions for community and development infrastructure are to:

- Consolidate future development in fully serviced areas within the Urban Growth Boundary.
- Prioritise the extension of reticulated sewerage to unsewered areas within the Urban Growth Boundary.
- Support the upgrade of stormwater drainage and other reticulated infrastructure in established urban areas that have been identified for more intensive development.
- Ensure major developments make contributions to address community infrastructure needs, including through community hubs comprising clusters of adaptable community facilities in accessible locations.

11

10/06/2022
VC216

SETTLEMENT

Planning is to anticipate and respond to the needs of existing and future communities through provision of zoned and serviced land for housing, employment, recreation and open space, commercial and community facilities and infrastructure.

Planning is to recognise the need for, and as far as practicable contribute towards:

- Health, wellbeing and safety.
- Diversity of choice.
- Adaptation in response to changing technology.
- Economic viability.
- A high standard of environmental sustainability, urban design and amenity.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Prevention of land, water, air and noise pollution.
- Protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity, waterways and other natural resources.
- Accessibility.
- Land use and transport integration.
- Waste minimisation and resource recovery.

Planning is to prevent environmental, human health and amenity problems created by siting incompatible land uses close together.

Planning is to facilitate sustainable development that takes full advantage of existing settlement patterns and investment in transport, utility, social, community and commercial infrastructure and services.

12
10/06/2022
VC216

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LANDSCAPE VALUES

Planning should help to protect the health of ecological systems and the biodiversity they support (including ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic diversity) and conserve areas with identified environmental and landscape values.

Planning must implement environmental principles for ecologically sustainable development that have been established by international and national agreements. Foremost amongst the national agreements is the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment, which sets out key principles for environmental policy in Australia. Other agreements include the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, National Greenhouse Strategy, the National Water Quality Management Strategy, Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030, the National Forest Policy Statement and National Environment Protection Measures.

Planning should protect, restore and enhance sites and features of nature conservation, biodiversity, geological or landscape value.

12.05-1S Environmentally sensitive areas

31/07/2018
VC148

Objective

To protect and conserve environmentally sensitive areas.

Strategies

Protect environmentally sensitive areas with significant recreational value from development that would diminish their environmental conservation or recreational values. These areas include the Dandenong and Macedon Ranges, the Upper Yarra Valley, Western Port and Port Phillip Bay and their foreshores, the Mornington Peninsula, the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers and the Merri Creek, the Grampians, the Gippsland Lakes and its foreshore, the coastal areas and their foreshores, Alpine areas and nominated urban conservation areas, historic buildings and precincts.

12.05-2S Landscapes

31/07/2018
VC148

Objective

To protect and enhance significant landscapes and open spaces that contribute to character, identity and sustainable environments.

Strategies

Ensure significant landscape areas such as forests, the bays and coastlines are protected.

Ensure development does not detract from the natural qualities of significant landscape areas.

Improve the landscape qualities, open space linkages and environmental performance in significant landscapes and open spaces, including green wedges, conservation areas and non-urban areas.

Recognise the natural landscape for its aesthetic value and as a fully functioning system.

Ensure important natural features are protected and enhanced.

12.05-2L Rural landscapes

02/12/2022
C195yan

Strategies

Design and site development sensitively having regard to the natural physical features of the land including slope, existing vegetation and view lines.

Discourage non-farm related commercial buildings that adversely impact on valued rural landscapes.

13.02-1S Bushfire planning

31/07/2018
VC148

Policy application

This policy must be applied to all planning and decision making under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* relating to land that is:

- Within a designated bushfire prone area;
- Subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay; or
- Proposed to be used or developed in a way that may create a bushfire hazard.

Objective

To strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.

Strategies

Protection of human life

Give priority to the protection of human life by:

- Prioritising the protection of human life over all other policy considerations.
- Directing population growth and development to low risk locations and ensuring the availability of, and safe access to, areas where human life can be better protected from the effects of bushfire.
- Reducing the vulnerability of communities to bushfire through the consideration of bushfire risk in decision making at all stages of the planning process.

Bushfire hazard identification and assessment

Identify bushfire hazard and undertake appropriate risk assessment by:

- Applying the best available science to identify vegetation, topographic and climatic conditions that create a bushfire hazard.
- Considering the best available information about bushfire hazard including the map of designated bushfire prone areas prepared under the *Building Act 1993* or regulations made under that Act.
- Applying the Bushfire Management Overlay to areas where the extent of vegetation can create an extreme bushfire hazard.
- Considering and assessing the bushfire hazard on the basis of:
 - Landscape conditions - meaning conditions in the landscape within 20 kilometres (and potentially up to 75 kilometres) of a site;
 - Local conditions - meaning conditions in the area within approximately 1 kilometre of a site;
 - Neighbourhood conditions - meaning conditions in the area within 400 metres of a site; and
 - The site for the development.
- Consulting with emergency management agencies and the relevant fire authority early in the process to receive their recommendations and implement appropriate bushfire protection measures.
- Ensuring that strategic planning documents, planning scheme amendments, planning permit applications and development plan approvals properly assess bushfire risk and include appropriate bushfire protection measures.
- Not approving development where a landowner or proponent has not satisfactorily demonstrated

that the relevant policies have been addressed, performance measures satisfied or bushfire protection measures can be adequately implemented.

Settlement planning

Plan to strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities and prioritise protection of human life by:

- Directing population growth and development to low risk locations, being those locations assessed as having a radiant heat flux of less than 12.5 kilowatts/square metre under *AS 3959-2009 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas* (Standards Australia, 2009).
- Ensuring the availability of, and safe access to, areas assessed as a BAL-LOW rating under *AS 3959-2009 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas* (Standards Australia, 2009) where human life can be better protected from the effects of bushfire.
- Ensuring the bushfire risk to existing and future residents, property and community infrastructure will not increase as a result of future land use and development.
- Achieving no net increase in risk to existing and future residents, property and community infrastructure, through the implementation of bushfire protection measures and where possible reducing bushfire risk overall.
- Assessing and addressing the bushfire hazard posed to the settlement and the likely bushfire behaviour it will produce at a landscape, settlement, local, neighbourhood and site scale, including the potential for neighbourhood-scale destruction.
- Assessing alternative low risk locations for settlement growth on a regional, municipal, settlement, local and neighbourhood basis.
- Not approving any strategic planning document, local planning policy, or planning scheme amendment that will result in the introduction or intensification of development in an area that has, or will on completion have, more than a BAL-12.5 rating under *AS 3959-2009 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas* (Standards Australia, 2009).

Areas of biodiversity conservation value

Ensure settlement growth and development approvals can implement bushfire protection measures without unacceptable biodiversity impacts by discouraging settlement growth and development in bushfire affected areas that are important areas of biodiversity.

Use and development control in a Bushfire Prone Area

In a bushfire prone area designated in accordance with regulations made under the *Building Act 1993*, bushfire risk should be considered when assessing planning applications for the following uses and development:

- Subdivisions of more than 10 lots.
- Accommodation.
- Child care centre.
- Education centre.
- Emergency services facility.
- Hospital.
- Indoor recreation facility.
- Major sports and recreation facility.
- Place of assembly.

- Any application for development that will result in people congregating in large numbers.

When assessing a planning permit application for the above uses and development:

- Consider the risk of bushfire to people, property and community infrastructure.
- Require the implementation of appropriate bushfire protection measures to address the identified bushfire risk.
- Ensure new development can implement bushfire protection measures without unacceptable biodiversity impacts.

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- Any applicable approved state, regional and municipal fire prevention plan.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *AS 3959-2009 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas* (Standards Australia, 2009)
- *Building in bushfire-prone areas - CSIRO & Standards Australia* (SAA HB36-1993, 1993)
- Any bushfire prone area map prepared under the *Building Act 1993* or regulations made under that Act

13.05-1S Noise management

10/06/2022
VC216

Objective

To assist the management of noise effects on sensitive land uses.

Strategy

Ensure that development is not prejudiced and community amenity and human health is not adversely impacted by noise emissions.

Minimise the impact on human health from noise exposure to occupants of sensitive land uses (residential use, child care centre, school, education centre, residential aged care centre or hospital) near the transport system and other noise emission sources through suitable building siting and design (including orientation and internal layout), urban design and land use separation techniques as appropriate to the land use functions and character of the area.

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- The noise requirements in accordance with the Environment Protection Regulations under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Environment Protection Regulations under the Environment Protection Act 2017*
- *Noise Limit and Assessment Protocol for the Control of Noise from Commercial, Industrial and Trade Premises and Entertainment Venues* (Publication 1826, Environment Protection Authority, May 2021)
- *Environment Reference Standard* (Gazette No. S 245, 26 May 2021)
- *Passenger Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy* (Victorian Government, 2013)
- *VicTrack Rail Development Interface Guidelines* (VicTrack, 2019)

13.07-1S Land use compatibility

01/07/2021
VC203

Objective

To protect community amenity, human health and safety while facilitating appropriate commercial, industrial, infrastructure or other uses with potential adverse off-site impacts.

Strategies

- Ensure that use or development of land is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.
- Avoid locating incompatible uses in areas that may be impacted by adverse off-site impacts from commercial, industrial and other uses.
- Avoid or otherwise minimise adverse off-site impacts from commercial, industrial and other uses through land use separation, siting, building design and operational measures.
- Protect existing commercial, industrial and other uses from encroachment by use or development that would compromise the ability of those uses to function safely and effectively.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Recommended separation distances for industrial residual air emissions* (Publication 1518, Environment Protection Authority, March 2013).

13.07-1L Non-residential uses in residential areas

02/12/2022
C195yran

Policy application

This policy applies to non-residential uses in the Neighbourhood Residential Zone, General Residential Zone and Residential Growth Zone.

Location strategies

Discourage the dispersal of medical facilities into residential areas.

Discourage the incremental encroachment of commercial uses into residential neighbourhoods.

Encourage non-residential uses to adjoin an activity centre or abut a Road Zone.

Discourage non-residential uses from forming ribbon development along land abutting a Road Zone and forming a quasi-commercial area.

Design strategies

Design use and development to be compatible with the surrounding character and amenity of residential neighbourhoods.

Set back non-residential development from common boundaries and provide effective landscaping and screening buffers to protect residential amenity of abutting and nearby residential land.

Provide off-street car parking and design access to minimise the need for cars to travel through local residential streets.

Policy guidelines

Consider as relevant:

- Whether a proposed non-residential land use or development demonstrates a need to locate in a residential area.

15.01-1S Urban design

31/07/2018
VC148

Objective

To create urban environments that are safe, healthy, functional and enjoyable and that contribute to a sense of place and cultural identity.

Strategies

Require development to respond to its context in terms of character, cultural identity, natural features, surrounding landscape and climate.

Ensure development contributes to community and cultural life by improving the quality of living and working environments, facilitating accessibility and providing for inclusiveness.

Ensure the interface between the private and public realm protects and enhances personal safety.

Ensure development supports public realm amenity and safe access to walking and cycling environments and public transport.

Ensure that the design and location of publicly accessible private spaces, including car parking areas, forecourts and walkways, is of a high standard, creates a safe environment for users and enables easy and efficient use.

Ensure that development provides landscaping that supports the amenity, attractiveness and safety of the public realm.

Ensure that development, including signs, minimises detrimental impacts on amenity, on the natural and built environment and on the safety and efficiency of roads.

Promote good urban design along and abutting transport corridors.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)

15.01-1L Urban design in activity centres

02/12/2022
C195yan

Strategies

Provide active frontages to main streets and other key public domain areas of activity centres to encourage pedestrian activity.

Encourage pedestrian links between an activity centre, car parking, public transport facilities, recreational trails and parklands.

Design new development to respect the amenity of adjoining residential areas.

Design car parking, vehicle accessways and drive through facilities to avoid disruption to continuous retail frontages or create impediments to pedestrian circulation.

Design development to provide accessibility including accommodating motorised scooters, wheelchairs and prams.

Encourage underground cabling, cable bundling or co-location of services and telecommunications infrastructure to improve the amenity of streetscapes and increase opportunities for substantial street trees.

15.01-2S Building design10/06/2022
VC216**Objective**

To achieve building design and siting outcomes that contribute positively to the local context, enhance the public realm and support environmentally sustainable development.

Strategies

Ensure a comprehensive site analysis forms the starting point of the design process and provides the basis for the consideration of height, scale, massing and energy performance of new development.

Ensure development responds and contributes to the strategic and cultural context of its location.

Minimise the detrimental impact of development on neighbouring properties, the public realm and the natural environment.

Improve the energy performance of buildings through siting and design measures that encourage:

- Passive design responses that minimise the need for heating, cooling and lighting.
- On-site renewable energy generation and storage technology.
- Use of low embodied energy materials.

Ensure the layout and design of development supports resource recovery, including separation, storage and collection of waste, mixed recycling, glass, organics and e-waste.

Encourage use of recycled and reusable materials in building construction and undertake adaptive reuse of buildings, where practical.

Encourage water efficiency and the use of rainwater, stormwater and recycled water.

Minimise stormwater discharge through site layout and landscaping measures that support on-site infiltration and stormwater reuse.

Ensure the form, scale, and appearance of development enhances the function and amenity of the public realm.

Ensure buildings and their interface with the public realm support personal safety, perceptions of safety and property security.

Ensure development is designed to protect and enhance valued landmarks, views and vistas.

Ensure development considers and responds to transport movement networks and provides safe access and egress for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

Encourage development to retain existing vegetation.

Ensure development provides landscaping that responds to its site context, enhances the built form, creates safe and attractive spaces and supports cooling and greening of urban areas.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)
- *Apartment Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2021)
- *Waste Management and Recycling in Multi-unit Developments* (Sustainability Victoria, 2019)

15.01-4S Healthy neighbourhoods

31/07/2018
VC148

Objective

To achieve neighbourhoods that foster healthy and active living and community wellbeing.

Strategies

Design neighbourhoods that foster community interaction and make it easy for people of all ages and abilities to live healthy lifestyles and engage in regular physical activity by providing:

- Connected, safe, pleasant and attractive walking and cycling networks that enable and promote walking and cycling as a part of daily life.
- Streets with direct, safe and convenient access to destinations.
- Conveniently located public spaces for active recreation and leisure.

- Accessibly located public transport stops.
- Amenities and protection to support physical activity in all weather conditions.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017)

15.01-4R Healthy neighbourhoods - Metropolitan Melbourne

31/07/2018
VC148

Strategy

Create a city of 20 minute neighbourhoods, that give people the ability to meet most of their everyday needs within a 20 minute walk, cycle or local public transport trip from their home.

15.01-5S Neighbourhood character

09/10/2020
VC169

Objective

To recognise, support and protect neighbourhood character, cultural identity, and sense of place.

Strategies

Support development that respects the existing neighbourhood character or contributes to a preferred neighbourhood character.

Ensure the preferred neighbourhood character is consistent with medium and higher density housing outcomes in areas identified for increased housing.

Ensure development responds to its context and reinforces a sense of place and the valued features and characteristics of the local environment and place by respecting the:

- Pattern of local urban structure and subdivision.
- Underlying natural landscape character and significant vegetation.
- Neighbourhood character values and built form that reflect community identity.

15.01-5L Neighbourhood character

02/12/2022
C195yan

Policy application

This policy applies to all land zoned Residential Growth, General Residential and Neighbourhood Residential.

Objective

To protect the distinctive characteristics and environmental features of residential neighbourhoods.

Strategies

Design development to complement existing site features such as slope, terrain, substantial trees and remnant vegetation.

Retain extensive tree canopy cover and native vegetation.

Support the establishment and maintenance of substantial trees within residential areas.

Site and design development on land adjoining public land and open space to provide passive surveillance.

17.01-1S Diversified economy

31/07/2018
VC148

Objective

To strengthen and diversify the economy.

Strategies

Protect and strengthen existing and planned employment areas and plan for new employment areas.

Facilitate regional, cross-border and inter-regional relationships to harness emerging economic opportunities.

Facilitate growth in a range of employment sectors, including health, education, retail, tourism, knowledge industries and professional and technical services based on the emerging and existing strengths of each region.

Improve access to jobs closer to where people live.

Support rural economies to grow and diversify.

17.01-1R Diversified economy - Metropolitan Melbourne

31/07/2018
VC148

Strategies

Support the Central City to become Australia's largest commercial and residential centre by 2050, by planning for office, retail, residential, education, health, entertainment and cultural activity spaces.

Plan for the redevelopment of Major Urban-Renewal Precincts in and around the Central City to deliver high-quality, distinct and diverse neighbourhoods offering a mix of uses.

Facilitate the development of National Employment and Innovation Clusters by ensuring they:

- Have a high level of amenity to attract businesses and workers.
- Are supported by good public transport services and integrated walking and cycling paths.
- Maximise investment opportunities for the location of knowledge intensive firms and jobs.

Support the employment and servicing role of Health and Education Precincts by:

- Focussing on improving access, particularly public transport access.
- Encouraging co-location of facilities to better utilise existing infrastructure.
- Supporting and facilitating growth of associated businesses and industries.
- Reinforcing their specialised economic functions while also providing opportunities for ancillary retail, commercial, accommodation and supporting services.

Plan for industrial land in suitable locations to support employment and investment opportunities.

Facilitate investment in Melbourne's outer areas to increase local access to employment.

17.01-1L Business incubators

02/12/2022
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Strategies

Facilitate the development of commercial businesses that involve the not-for-profit sector.

Support the development of small social enterprise businesses especially in rural towns with a limited economic base.

Support business incubators that provide a net community benefit.

Support the establishment of business incubator sites on land in industrial or commercial zones or sites where adverse amenity impacts can be managed.

Support development of new businesses in industrial or commercial zones that no longer need to operate within a business incubator site.

18.01-1S Land use and transport integration09/12/2021
VC204**Objective**

To facilitate access to social, cultural and economic opportunities by effectively integrating land use and transport.

Strategies

Plan and develop a transport system that facilitates:

- Social and economic inclusion for all people and builds community wellbeing.
- The best use of existing social and economic infrastructure.
- A reduction in the distances people have to travel to access jobs and services.
- Better access to, and greater mobility within, local communities.
- Network-wide efficiency and coordinated operation.

Plan land use and development to:

- Protect existing transport infrastructure from encroachment or detriment that would impact on the current or future function of the asset.
- Protect transport infrastructure that is in delivery from encroachment or detriment that would impact on the construction or future function of the asset.
- Protect planned transport infrastructure from encroachment or detriment that would impact deliverability or future operation.
- Protect identified potential transport infrastructure from being precluded by land use and development.

Plan land use and development to allow for the ongoing improvement and development of the State Transport System in the short and long term.

Plan movement networks and adjoining land uses to minimise disruption to residential communities and their amenity.

Plan the timely delivery of transport infrastructure and services to support changing land use and associated transport demands.

Plan improvements to public transport, walking and cycling networks to coordinate with the ongoing development and redevelopment of urban areas.

Plan the use of land adjacent to the transport system having regard to the current and future development and operation of the transport system.

Reserve land for strategic transport infrastructure to ensure the transport system can be developed efficiently to meet changing transport demands.

Support urban development that makes jobs and services more accessible:

- In accordance with forecast demand.
- By taking advantage of all available modes of transport.

Protect existing and facilitate new walking and cycling access to public transport.

Locate major government and private sector investments in regional cities and centres on major transport corridors to maximise the access and mobility of communities.

Design neighbourhoods to:

- Better support active living.
- Increase the share of trips made using sustainable transport modes.
- Respond to the safety needs of all users.

Design the transport system and adjacent areas to achieve visual outcomes that are responsible to local context with particular reference to:

- Landscaping.
- The placement of signs.
- Providing buffer zones and resting places.

Policy documents

Consider as relevant:

- *Movement and Place in Victoria* (Department of Transport, February 2019)
- *Delivering the Goods, Creating Victorian Jobs: Victorian Freight Plan* (Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, July 2018)

19.02-2S Education facilities

29/09/2022
VC222

Objective

To assist the integration of education and early childhood facilities with local and regional communities.

Strategies

Consider demographic trends, existing and future demand requirements and the integration of facilities into communities in planning for the location of education and early childhood facilities.

Locate childcare, kindergarten and primary school facilities to maximise access by public transport and safe walking and cycling routes.

Ensure childcare, kindergarten and primary school and secondary school facilities provide safe vehicular drop-off zones.

Facilitate the establishment and expansion of primary and secondary education facilities to meet the existing and future education needs of communities.

Recognise that primary and secondary education facilities are different to dwellings in their purpose and function and can have different built form (including height, scale and mass).

Locate secondary school and tertiary education facilities in designated education precincts and areas that are highly accessible to public transport.

Locate tertiary education facilities within or adjacent to activity centres.

Ensure streets and accessways adjoining education and early childhood facilities are designed to encourage safe bicycle and pedestrian access.

Consider the existing and future transport network and transport connectivity.

Develop libraries as community based learning centres.

Co-locate a kindergarten facility with all new Victorian Government primary schools.