

**21.05**

09/05/2019  
C006Pt1fisi

**NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**21.05-1**

**Agriculture overview**

French Island’s main industry is agriculture, with approximately 5,500 to 6,000 hectares of freehold rural land on the Island. This land is characterised by farming activities with cattle grazing being most common. However, land owners are diversifying into value adding practices including horticulture, biodynamics, viticulture and free range poultry farming.

**Key issues**

- Promoting sustainable rural land use.
- Maintaining farming as the main source of income for the majority of the Island’s permanent population.
- Acknowledging that access, isolation and infrastructure constraints hinder the establishment of new economically viable agricultural activities.
- Balancing the diversification of rural activities and changing farming practices, techniques and markets with protection of the Island’s ecosystems.
- Managing changes in rural land use activity including tourism and other non-agricultural activities.
- Protecting the rural landscape which contributes to the Island’s visual, cultural and heritage values, from inappropriate pressures of use and development of rural land.

**21.05-2**

**Objective**

To protect the agricultural use of rural land.

**21.05-3**

**Strategies**

1. Encourage and support the continued use of land for farming in areas where it has traditionally been concentrated on the Island.
2. Support the subdivision of land only where adequate access can be provided and in accordance with land capabilities, environmental values and the desirability to retain viable farm lots.
3. Protect rural areas of significant environmental qualities that may be more sensitive to subdivision due to the location of wetland environs and issues of accessibility, such as in the Island’s north-west.
4. Require new dwelling proposals in rural areas (i.e. outside the Restructure Overlay) to demonstrate that they are required for the agricultural activity conducted on the land.

**21.05-4**

**Objective**

To encourage diversification of agricultural and rural land use activities in accordance with the environmental capabilities of the land.

**21.05-5**

**Strategies**

1. Encourage and support diversified farming practices where they do not unreasonably impact on the quality of the environment.
2. Encourage the application of farming techniques that promote ecological sustainability.

3. Ensure that any land use or development on rural land abutting the French Island National Park has no long-term adverse impact on the Park environs and natural ecosystems.
4. Ensure agricultural land uses have regard to infrastructure constraints and protection against bushfire.
5. Ensure that use and development is appropriate to the land's susceptibility to salinity.

**21.05-6 Implementation**

The objectives, strategies and policy guidelines arising from this Clause are implemented through the application of appropriate zones and overlays in Clause 74.01.