

21.03

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND LANDSCAPE VALUES

This clause provides local content to support Clause 12 (Environmental and Landscape values) of the State Planning Policy Framework.

Specific references to individual towns are included in Clause 21.09 (Local Areas).

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Key issue - Sustainability

Council acknowledges through the *Natural and Environment Sustainability Strategy 2014-2019* the linkage between the natural environment and economic sustainability. The natural environment provides resources such as coal, timber and farmland that help drive the economy. The natural environment is also where the waste from economic activity accumulates by way of emissions to air, water and land. Council acknowledges the need for an approach which balances economic, social and environmental values.

Latrobe enjoys one of Australia’s most beautiful natural environments and its biodiversity, water and air quality must continue to remain of the highest quality. Latrobe will strive to maintain and enhance its native vegetation, improve air and water quality, reduce and reuse waste, encourage energy-efficient technologies and educate the community and industry in better waste management and environmental protection.

Built form and urban infrastructure can contribute substantially to the demand for energy. Urban form impacts on the ability of buildings to be energy efficient, particularly through solar orientation and access. Urban form also impacts on the need for people to use transport, including access to services, social connections, recreation opportunities, education and employment. Consolidated urban areas provide for shorter travel distances, walking and cycling, and support more effective public transport.

Objective 1

To identify, maintain and enhance natural ecosystems and biodiversity values within rural and urban areas.

Strategies

- 1.1 Adopt precautionary behaviour where there are possible or identified threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.
- 1.2 Protect all environmental assets as a first priority, enhance as a second priority, and consider replacement as a last resort.

Objective 2

To encourage environmentally sustainable land use and development.

Strategies

- 2.1 Promote low energy travel modes, such as walking and cycling, through the design of new subdivision and development.
- 2.2 Encourage higher densities in appropriate locations near public transport and activity centres to help shorten travel distances.
- 2.3 Encourage dwellings, subdivision design and other buildings to be energy and water efficient.
- 2.4 Encourage the reduction of urban water demands through mechanisms such as improved storm water capture and recycled water infrastructure.

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Key issue - Significant environments and landscapes

Council attempts to find a balance in advancing the City’s built environment and liveability while planning for and protecting its natural environment. Latrobe City contains a rich diversity of plants, birds and other wildlife and extends over parts of three natural bioregions.

LATROBE PLANNING SCHEME

To the north, Latrobe City contains the rugged and heavily forested foothills of the Great Dividing Range, part of the Highlands – Southern Fall bioregion that extends across the whole southern fall of the Great Dividing Range. Running through the centre of Latrobe City is the broad plain of the Latrobe Valley - part of the Gippsland Plain bioregion that extends from Melbourne to the Gippsland Lakes. To the south, Latrobe City contains the northern slopes of the Strzelecki Ranges, part of the Strzelecki Ranges bioregion, which extends towards Warragul in the west and Yarram in the east.

Objective 1

To protect indigenous flora and fauna species and their habitat across the municipality.

Strategies

- 1.1 Encourage the protection of remnant indigenous vegetation on private land.
- 1.2 Enhance the condition and quantity of indigenous vegetation.
- 1.3 Encourage the protection of indigenous fauna species and their habitat on private land with an emphasis on protecting threatened species.
- 1.4 Maintain the natural asset value of Council road reserves.

Objective 2

To increase the extent and quality of indigenous vegetation and biodiversity across the municipality.

Strategies

- 2.1 Encourage the development of wildlife corridors and links across the municipality.

Objective 3

To protect and enhance the visual, natural and cultural heritage values of rural landscapes.

Strategies

- 3.1 Ensure that development protects and enhances the key landscape features of Latrobe.

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Implementation

The objectives, strategies and policy guidelines arising from this clause are implemented through the application of appropriate zones and overlays as described in Clause 21.10.