

**21.05**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS**

This clause provides local content to support clause 13 (Environmental risks).

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**Key issues**

The key planning issues and challenges relating to environmental risks include managing:

- The effects of climate change
- Salinity
- Flooding
- Fire
- Effluent disposal

An overview of these issues and challenges are described below.

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**Climate change**

**Overview**

Council completed the *Preparing for Climate Change in the Moira Shire – Adaption Action Plan 2010* which found that the region can expect more hot days and potentially more heatwaves, fewer frosts, a greater incidence of drought and higher intensity of rainfall, and less water available for irrigation.

The changing climate is likely to impact on:

- Agricultural uses both through the changing capability of the land, which is influenced substantially by the availability of water
- The intensity of both bushfire and floods
- The resilience of communities in times of drought.

**Objective 1**

To ensure future development considers the impacts of climate change.

**Strategy**

Strategy 1.1 Ensure sustainable development considers the impacts from climate change.

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**Salinity**

**Overview**

A significant proportion of Moira will always be highly susceptible to high water tables and salinity, especially in the irrigation areas. In dryland areas, deforestation and changed land uses have also exposed areas to the threat of dryland salinity. High water tables and salinity has the potential to significantly impact on agricultural productivity and community assets. Salinity can also cause deterioration in natural vegetation and water quality. Council supports the Goulburn Broken and North East Regional Catchment Strategies in providing adaptive management programs and initiatives to minimise the risk to the region from high water tables and salinity.

**Objective 1**

To minimise the impacts of high water tables and salinity in irrigation and dryland areas.

**Strategy**

Strategy 1.1 Ensure that the impacts of salinity and high nutrient levels in water are managed in accordance with state and regional salinity and water quality programs, guidelines and requirements.

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**Flooding**

**Overview**

Management of flooding issues is one of the largest challenges. Areas are subject to periodic flooding because of the number of rivers and waterways, the topography and the use of irrigation channels for drainage that inhibit and redirect the flow of flood waters. Inappropriate development within designated floodplains can significantly exacerbate flood impacts along the floodplain. The Goulburn Broken CMA has completed the *Nathalia Flood Study* and the *Barmah Flood Study* and is finalising the Numurkah Flood Study. A comprehensive flood mapping amendment will introduce new flood controls.

**Objective 1**

To minimise the risk to life and safety of the population from the effects of flood waters.

**Strategy**

Strategy 1.1 Ensure that the identification, control and management of development in areas prone to flooding is based on an assessment of the depth and activity of potential flood and the impact of the proposed development on land outside the identified area of potential flooding, acknowledging the importance of continued agricultural activity within some areas defined as liable to flooding or rural floodway.

**Objective 2**

To preserve the natural function of floodplains, including its inherent wetland values.

**Strategy**

Strategy 2.1 Encourage an integrated approach to flood management that protects the natural function of the floodplain.

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**Fire**

**Overview**

Fire risk is a significant issue in vegetated riverine areas and isolated bushland areas. Fire risk is also an issue in agricultural areas and grasslands, particularly at the urban/grassland interface of settlements.

**Objective 1**

To ensure development responds to fire risk.

**Strategies**

Strategy 1.1 Consider fire risk for development adjacent to the Murray River red gum environment and other areas of bushland and grasslands.

Strategy 1.2 Consider the need for and implementation of bushfire and grassfire protection measures outside the Bushfire Management Overlay.

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**Effluent management**

**Overview**

Council is committed to effectively managing effluent disposal to protect public health, minimise environmental impacts, minimise the demand for water as a resource and maximise reuse opportunities in an economically viable manner. Council plays an important role in ensuring that developments either discharge effluent to a suitable treatment facility or have appropriate onsite methods for the treatment and disposal of effluent. Council also has a role in encouraging waste minimisation and reuse, including the use of new and viable technologies. It is important that the location of sewerage treatment facilities or disposal sites (septic or land applied) avoid sensitive

environmental areas including drainage lines and floodways. Council is committed to preparing a Domestic Waste Water Management Plan to address effluent management in non-reticulated areas.

### Objective 1

To ensure there is appropriate management of effluent.

### Strategies

- Strategy 1.1 Encourage on-site treatment and disposal facilities which demonstrate adequate structural integrity, capacity and capability to handle, treat and dispose of wastewater without adverse impacts on land, surface water and groundwater systems.
- Strategy 1.2 Encourage wastewater management practices in both urban and rural areas that reduce the impacts of effluent and stormwater on the environment.
- Strategy 1.3 Require package treatment plants be subject to three-month inspections for unsewered development around Lake Mulwala.
- Strategy 1.4 Maintain appropriate buffer distances between sewerage/wastewater treatment and disposal facilities and other land uses in accordance with EPA guidelines.

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### Development around Pipelines

#### Overview

The Rutherglen-Koonoomoo Pipeline is a High Pressure Gas Transmission Pipeline licenced under the *Pipelines Act 2005*. Changes to land use and development within the vicinity of the pipeline must be carefully considered to ensure risks to human life and the functional operation of the pipeline are not impacted.

#### Objective 1

To ensure future land use and development appropriately respond to existing high pressure gas pipelines.

#### Strategies

- Strategy 1.1 Consider risks associated with land use and subdivision within the measurement length of high pressure gas pipelines.
- Strategy 1.2 Encourage risk sensitive development to be located outside of the pipeline measurement length where practical.

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### Implementation

#### Zones and Overlays

- Apply the *Floodway Overlay* to areas at significant risk of flooding
- Apply the *Land Subject to Inundation Overlay* to areas subject to the 1 in 100 year flood event

#### Further strategic work

- Prepare a Domestic Waste Water Management Plan (DWMP)
- Assist North East Water and Goulburn Valley Water to develop “buffer” mechanisms surrounding wastewater treatment plants.
- Finalise the Numurkah Flood Study

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### Reference documents

- *Preparing for Climate Change in the Moira Shire – Adaption Action Plan 2010*
- *Nathalia Flood Study*
- *Barmah Flood Study*

## MOIRA PLANNING SCHEME

- *Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy*