

11.07 REGIONAL VICTORIA

31/03/2017
VC134

11.07-1 Regional planning

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Objective

To develop regions and settlements which have a strong identity, are prosperous and are environmentally sustainable.

Strategies

Identify and assess the spatial and land use planning implications of a region's strategic directions in Regional Strategic Plans.

Ensure regions and their settlements are planned in accordance with any relevant regional growth plan.

Apply the following principles to settlement planning in Victoria's regions, including the peri-urban areas:

A network of integrated and prosperous regional settlements

Support a network of integrated and prosperous regional settlements by:

- Strengthening networks of settlements by maintaining and improving transport links, digital connectivity, spatial patterns of service delivery, and promoting commercial relationships and community activities.
- Directing growth to locations where utility, transport, commercial and social infrastructure and services are available or can be provided in the most efficient and sustainable manner.
- Ensuring there is a sufficient supply of appropriately located residential, commercial, and industrial land across a region to meet the needs identified at regional level.
- Developing strategies for regional cities that reflect growth opportunities and priorities, including the identification of urban renewal and infill opportunities to optimise infrastructure investment and surplus government land.

Environmental health and productivity

Maintain and provide for the enhancement of environmental health and productivity of rural and peri-urban landscapes by:

- Managing the impacts of settlement growth and development to deliver positive land-use and natural resource management outcomes.
- Avoiding development impacts on land that contains high biodiversity values, landscape amenity, water conservation values, food production and energy production capacity, extractable resources and minerals, cultural heritage and recreation values, assets and recognised uses.

Regional Victoria's competitive advantages

Maintain and enhance regional Victoria's competitive advantages by:

- Ensuring that the capacity of major infrastructure (including highways, railways, airports, ports, communications networks and energy generation and distribution systems) is not affected adversely by urban development in adjacent areas.
- Focusing major government and private sector investments in regional cities and centres on major transport corridors, particularly railway lines, in order to maximise the access and mobility of communities.
- Providing adequate and competitive land supply, including urban regeneration, redevelopment and greenfield sites, to meet future housing and urban needs and to ensure effective utilisation of land.
- Strengthening settlements by ensuring that retail, office-based employment, community facilities and services are concentrated in central locations.

Climate change, natural hazards and community safety

Respond to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards and promote community safety by:

- Siting and designing new dwellings, subdivisions and other development to minimise risk to life, property, the natural environment and community infrastructure from natural hazards, such as bushfire and flood.
- Developing adaptation response strategies for existing settlements in hazardous and high risk areas to accommodate change over time.
- Encouraging reduced energy and water consumption through environmentally sustainable subdivision and building design.
- Encouraging a form and density of settlements that support sustainable transport to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Distinct and diverse regional settlements

Support the growth and development of distinctive and diverse regional settlements by:

- Encouraging high-quality urban and architectural design which respects the heritage, character and identity of each settlement.
- Ensuring development respects and enhances the scenic amenity, landscape features and view corridors of each settlement.
- Limiting urban sprawl and directing growth into existing settlements, promoting and capitalising on opportunities for urban renewal and infill redevelopment.
- Ensuring that the potential of land that may be required for future urban expansion is not compromised.
- Creating opportunities to enhance open space networks within and between settlements.

Liveable settlements and healthy communities

Promote liveable regional settlements and healthy communities by:

- Responding to changing community needs and facilitating timely provision of, and access to, social infrastructure and services.
- Encouraging the development of compact urban areas which are based around existing or planned activity centres to maximise accessibility to facilities and services.

- Improving the availability of a diverse range of affordable accommodation, including social housing, in regional cities and locations with good access to transport, commercial facilities and community services.
- Supporting innovative ways to maintain equitable service delivery to settlements that have limited or no capacity for further growth, or that experience population decline.

Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- *Central Highlands Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *G21 Regional Growth Plan* (Geelong Region Alliance, 2013).
- *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Great South Coast Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Hume Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Loddon Mallee North Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).

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Peri-urban areas

Objective

To manage growth in peri-urban areas to protect and enhance their identified valued attributes.

Strategies

Identify and protect areas that are strategically important for the environment, biodiversity, landscape, open space, water, agriculture, energy, recreation, tourism, environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure, extractive and other natural resources.

Provide for development in established settlements that have capacity for growth having regard to complex ecosystems, landscapes, agricultural and recreational activities in the area. These settlements include Warragul-Drouin, Bacchus Marsh, Torquay-Jan Juc, Gisborne and Kyneton and other towns identified by Regional Growth Plans as having potential for growth including Wonthaggi, Kilmore, Broadford, Seymour and Ballan.

Strengthen and enhance the character, identity attractiveness and amenity of peri-urban towns.

Prevent dispersed settlement and provide for non-urban breaks between urban areas.

Site and design new development to minimise risk to life, property, the natural environment and community infrastructure from natural hazards such as bushfire and flooding.

Establish growth boundaries for peri-urban towns to avoid urban sprawl and protect agricultural land and environmental assets.

Ensure development is linked to the timely and viable provision of physical and social infrastructure and employment.

Improve connections to regional and metropolitan transport services.

Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- *Central Highlands Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *G21 Regional Growth Plan* (Geelong Region Alliance, 2013).
- *Gippsland Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Great South Coast Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Hume Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Loddon Mallee North Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan* (Victorian Government, 2014).
- *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050: Metropolitan Planning Strategy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017).