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VC145

RESOURCE EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION

Objective

To encourage exploration and extraction of natural resources in accordance with acceptable environmental standards and to provide a planning approval process that is consistent with the relevant legislation.

Strategies

Protect the opportunity for exploration and extraction of natural resources where this is consistent with overall planning considerations and application of acceptable environmental practice.

Provide for the long term protection of natural resources in Victoria.

Recognise the possible need to provide infrastructure for the exploration and extraction of natural resources.

Planning schemes must not impose conditions on the use or development of land that is inconsistent with the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, the *Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Act (2008)*, the *Geothermal Energy Resources Act (2005)*, or the *Petroleum Act (1998)*.

Planning permit applications should clearly define buffer areas appropriate to the nature of the proposed extractive uses, which are to be owned or controlled by the proponent of an extractive industry.

Buffer areas between extractive activities and sensitive land uses should be determined on the following considerations:

- Appropriate limits on effects can be met at the sensitive locations using practical and readily available technology.
- Whether a change of land use in the vicinity of the extractive industry is proposed.
- Use of land within the buffer areas is not limited by adverse effects created by the extractive activities.
- Performance standards identified under the relevant legislation.
- Types of activities within land zoned for public use.

Protect the brown coal resource in Central Gippsland by ensuring that:

- Changes in use and development of land overlying coal resources, as generally defined in *Framework of the Future* (Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources and Minister for Planning and Environment, 1987) and the *Land Over Coal and Buffer Area Study* (Ministry for Planning and Environment, 1988), do not compromise the winning or processing of coal.
- Ensure coal-related development is adequately separated from residential or other sensitive uses and main transport corridors by buffer areas to minimise adverse effects such as noise, dust, fire, earth subsidence, and visual intrusion.
- Ensure uses and development within the buffer areas are compatible with uses and development adjacent to these areas.

Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.
- *Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Act (2008)*.
- *Geothermal Energy Resources Act (2005)*.
- *Petroleum Act (1998)*.

- *Melbourne Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas Review - Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record 2003/2.*
- *Ballarat Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas – Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record 1997/3.*
- *Bendigo Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas – Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record 1998/6.*
- *Geelong Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas – Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record 1999/2.*
- *La Trobe Supply Area - Extractive Industry Interest Areas – Geological Survey of Victoria Technical Record 1999/4.*
- *Any relevant State Environment Protection Policy.*