

**22.03**19/01/2006  
VC37**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT****22.03-1**19/01/2006  
VC37**Catchment and Land Protection**

This policy applies to all land and water in the Rural Zones and Low Density Residential Zone.

**Policy Basis**

Sustainable natural resource management is fundamental to the long term economic and social future of the Shire. Land and water planning on a catchment basis is an underlying principle of the planning scheme.

The Wimmera and Mallee Regional Catchment Strategies apply to land within the municipality.

**Objectives**

To ensure the sustainable development of natural resources of soil, water, flora, fauna, air and ecosystems. To promote the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity.

To ensure that the use and development of land and water takes into account impacts on the quality and quantity of natural resources.

To promote consistency with, and application of, any applicable regional catchment strategy and other natural resource management strategies adopted by the responsible authority.

To ensure that effluent disposal treatment systems for new development ensure that any waste water is retained on site and will not adversely impact on surface or groundwater quality.

**Policy**

It is policy that:

- Use and development which incorporates measures that protect and/or improve the quality and quantity of natural resources will be encouraged.
- Use and development proposals that are consistent with, and seek to implement, a whole farm plan will be encouraged.
- Impacts on soil, water, flora, fauna, air and ecosystems will be considered in the assessment of use and development proposals.
- Land capability will be taken into account in the assessment of use and development proposals. This includes an assessment of the biophysical characteristics (soil, slope and climate) of the land and any physical limitations present.
- Where the environmental impact of a use or development proposal are not known the responsible authority will apply the precautionary principle.
- Where appropriate conditions may be included on permits to avoid, mitigate or repair degradation of natural resources.
- Measures to manage pest plant and animal problems will be incorporated in use and development proposals where appropriate.

- Where required by the responsible authority, applications for the use and development of land will be required to demonstrate consistency with any applicable regional catchment strategy, Landcare plan and other natural resource management strategies adopted or endorsed by the responsible authority.
- Where the responsible authority considers that more information is required about a proposal, it may require a site and area analysis which sets out:
  - a natural resource profile including watercourses, soil type, vegetation and habitat area;
  - an assessment of physical limitations and an assessment of environmental hazards;
  - the location and type of buildings and works, infrastructure, adjoining use and development and access; and
  - what measures will be taken to address natural resource management issues, physical limitations and environmental hazards.

Any planning application, including subdivision and development, on land adjacent to the Wyperfeld National Park and the Yarriambiack Creek which in the opinion of the responsible authority has the potential to impact upon either the National Park or the Creek must notify the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

An application for Industry, Intensive Animal Industries, Aquaculture, Camping and Caravan Park or any other use (other than a single dwelling) which has potential to discharge liquid waste including sullage must notify Wimmera Mallee Water under s.52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

**22.03-2**  
19/01/2006  
VC37

## **Erosion Risk**

This policy applies to all zones in the Shire.

### **Policy Basis**

Some areas in the Shire are susceptible to erosion, however, situations of erosion can be created through inappropriate land management in most areas.

Erosion is a natural process, and as a result all soils in the Shire have a risk of erosion, particularly in the dunal areas of the North.

Wind erosion is the prevalent form of erosion in the Mallee region.

### **Objectives**

To ensure that development of land does not cause erosion.

### **Policy**

It is policy that:

- In areas prone to soil erosion, vegetative cover be maintained and soil disturbance minimised.
- Buildings and works must be constructed so as to minimise erosion hazard. To ensure this, the responsible authority may require the submission of plans and other information demonstrating that the buildings or works comply with this policy.
- If the responsible authority considers necessary in a particular case, applications to construct buildings and works must include site management plans which indicate how the site will be managed for ongoing maintenance of soil stability.

**Decision Guidelines**

Before deciding on an application to use, develop or subdivide land or carry out works the responsible authority may consider:

- Rural Land Mapping Projects.
- Other relevant reports.
- The advice of any relevant land management agency.
- The erosion risk of the relevant land system, as set out in the Table to this Clause.

**Table 2 Land Systems Present in the Shire of Yarriambiack**

| LAND SYSTEM    | DESCRIPTION  | OTHER DETAILS  |
|----------------|--|--|
| Tempy Hopetoun | Ridges running NNW SSE, overlaid by aeolian dunes. | Overall erosion hazard is severe when land is cleared. Yet wind erosion hazard is less for Hopetoun Land System. Dryland salting is also a land management problem.      |
| Big Desert     | Relatively infertile deep white sand.              | Exceptionally high erosion hazard when cleared. Relatively low carrying capacity. Cleared desert sands have become unmanageable. Dunes superimposed over ridges NNW SSE. |
| Tyrrell Creek  | Grey Clays.  | Prone to being adversely affected by salting.  |
| Culgoa         | Plains with scattered low hummocks. Grasslands.    | Relatively low wind erosion hazard.  |

*Source: Rowan and Downes 1963 A Study of the land in North-Western Victoria.*

**22.03-3**  
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**Wetland Areas**

This policy applies to land which includes a wetland or is integral to a wetland eco-system.

**Policy Basis**

The maintenance of wetlands is a significant environmental issue. The continued drainage of wetlands results in considerable impact on wetland ecology, native vegetation and water quality.

**Objectives**

To recognise that wetland areas comprising swamps, land subject to inundation or a perennial or intermittent lakes in the Yarriambiack Shire provide important functions

including: drainage; flora and fauna habitat; recreation area; landscape features; water filtration; and water storage.

### **Policy**

It is policy that:

- The role and function of wetland areas will be taken into account, in a local or regional setting, in respect to any proposed use or development on or adjacent to a wetland area.
- Preference will be given to maintaining the environmental integrity of wetlands and protecting their drainage, habitat, landscape, filtration and storage functions.

**22.03-4**  
19/01/2006  
VC37

### **Rare and Threatened Species**

This policy applies to all land.

### **Policy Basis**

Sites of Victorian Rare or Threatened Species of Flora and Fauna have been identified and mapped in the municipality. The intent of this policy is to give consideration to the importance of these sites as part of the planning permit process.

### **Objectives**

To maintain and enhance biodiversity in Yarriambiack Shire.

To recognise the location of Victorian Rare and Threatened Flora and Fauna species including but not limited to those listed under Schedule 2 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

To maintain and enhance the habitat particularly critical habitat, of Victorian Rare and Threatened Flora and Fauna species including but not limited to those listed under Schedule 2 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

To protect broad vegetation types, or ecological vegetation classes, or floristic communities that are classified as depleted, rare or endangered at the state wide level.

### **Policy**

It is policy that in considering a planning permit application:

- The responsible authority refers to 'Selected Biodiversity Components - LGA of Yarriambiack' DNRE, May 1996, to determine whether the land could potentially contain the habitat of a Victorian Rare and Threatened Flora or Fauna species.
- Should the land be identified to contain the habitat of a Victorian Rare and Threatened flora or fauna species the responsible authority should request the advice of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to determine whether and under what conditions the proposed development should proceed.
- High priority should be placed upon retaining remnant vegetation and habitat corridors in areas identified as habitat for Victorian Rare and Threatened Flora or Fauna species.
- The restoration and re-establishment of degraded environments and habitats is promoted.

- The following species be noted as rare or threatened: White -bellied Sea-eagle, Plains Wanderer, Mallee Fowl, Grey-crowned Babbler and Hairy-pod Wattle. The following to be noted as endangered: Weeping Myall, and Swamp Sheoak.