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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.

This clause implements the following core themes of the Council Plan;

- *The strength and diversity of the agricultural sector (p. 9)*
- *Develop water sensitive urban design, water harvesting and water re-use opportunities (p. 17)*

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

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Significant environments and landscapes

The Murray River is an asset of national and state significance. The river and its environs serve a variety of environmental, economic, social, recreational and tourist functions. A co-ordinated and co-operative approach to planning and management of the river corridor is required to protect its significant values, and to prevent conflict arising from agricultural development, urban development, tourism and recreation development along the waterway and on adjoining land.

Objective 1

To protect the river and environs of the Murray River, recognising its importance for nature conservation, flooding, economic development, recreation and tourism.

Strategies

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| Strategy 1.1 | Protect and enhance the biodiversity, ecological, and cultural values of the waterway. |
| Strategy 1.2 | Prevent the use and development adjoining the river from degrading water quality. |
| Strategy 1.3 | Promote consistent planning and management along the river corridor. |
| Strategy 1.4 | Prevent the loss of riparian flora and fauna, biodiversity, habitat and wetlands. |
| Strategy 1.5 | Protect the values and role of the Murray River reserves and other public land as floodplains. |
| Strategy 1.6 | Restrict inappropriate use and development on land adjoining the Murray River. |
| Strategy 1.7 | Ensure that buildings are sited a sufficient distance from the Murray River. |

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Biodiversity

The shire contains natural vegetation communities that are significant in a local, state and national context. Environmental threats include clearing of remnant vegetation, loss of hollow bearing trees, over-grazing, isolation and fragmentation of remnant habitat, soil degradation, degradation of riparian habitats and clearing of roadside vegetation.

The Rushworth State Forest is part of the largest block of Box-Ironbark habitat left in Victoria. There are numerous threatened species of flora and fauna in this forest, and it supports the most diverse bird communities in the state.

Apart from vegetation in state and national parks, a large proportion of remnant vegetation is found along river corridors and roadsides or as small pockets on private land.

The Northern Plains Grasslands have now become a listed community under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999, providing Commonwealth protection. Significant native grasses exist across the shire including the Patho Plains, Terrick Terrick National Park, parts of the Echuca Aerodrome and within the road reservations of Old Aerodrome Road, Odea Road and Tomara Road. Other roads including Benson Road and McKenzie Road are also likely to contain significant roadside vegetation. The Gobarup/Wanalta Creek and associated wetlands are of national significance.

Objective 2

To protect, manage and restore native vegetation, including grasslands and wetland vegetation.

Strategies

- Strategy 2.1 Encourage land owners to protect, maintain and re-establish indigenous vegetation.
Strategy 2.2 Encourage the retention of existing riparian vegetation.

Objective 3

To increase the extent and quality of native vegetation and biodiversity across the shire.

Strategies

- Strategy 3.1 Encourage the development of wildlife corridors and links across the municipality.
Strategy 3.2 Develop and operate a native vegetation offset bank based on council parks and reserves to address offset requirements.
Strategy 3.3 Encourage public and private land managers to permanently protect and manage areas of native vegetation for biodiversity.

Objective 4

To avoid and minimise impacts on environmental and biodiversity values.

Strategies

- Strategy 4.1 Protect native vegetation with a biodiversity risk of high or moderate in areas subject to land use change, including future industrial and residential areas and road reserves.
Strategy 4.2 Provide effective management of road reserves, railway lines and other public land.

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Implementation

The strategies in relation to Environmental and Landscape values will be implemented through the planning scheme by:

Application of zones and overlays

- Applying the Public Conservation and Resource Zone to Crown land, river frontages and state forests.
- Applying the Public Park and Recreation Zone to public open space managed by council.
- Applying the Public Use Zone to other council owned land.
- Applying the Urban Floodway Zone to land identified by the relevant catchment management authority as waterways and major flood paths within urban areas.
- Applying the Environmental Significance Overlay, Schedule 1 to land along the Murray River corridor to protect the biodiversity and ecological and cultural values of the waterway.
- Applying the Environmental Significance Overlay, Schedule 2 to land surrounding Echuca Saleyards to protect the site from non-compatible uses.
- Applying the Environmental Audit Overlay to potentially contaminated land, where appropriate.

Policy guidelines

- When deciding on applications for use and development that may impact on environmental and landscape values, considering, as appropriate:
 - Using local policy at Clause 22.07 Water Sensitive Urban Design (Stormwater Management) Policy to require water sensitive urban design.

Further strategic work

- Investigating the inclusion of a setback for development from waterways in all zones in order to adequately protect and enhance waterways.
- Considering mechanisms to ensure that relevant applications adjoining the Waranga Basin are referred to the Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation.

CAMPASPE PLANNING SCHEME

- Investigating the application of the Rural Conservation Zone, Vegetation Protection Overlay or the Environmental Significance Overlay to native grassland with biodiversity risk of high.
- Developing a domestic wastewater management plan.
- Reviewing the policy settings around native vegetation precincts and offsets, having regard to the new State Government native vegetation policies.
- Considering the use of the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) to protect wetlands and waterways of national significance from inappropriate use and development.

Reference documents

Guidelines for the Protection of Water Quality, North East Planning Referrals Committee, 2000

Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, 2013-2019

Shire of Campaspe Roadside Conservation Strategy, Shire of Campaspe, 2010

Earthworks Controls in the Shire of Campaspe, City of Greater Shepparton and Moira Shire, 2010

Campaspe Stormwater Management Plan, 2001

Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, 2013-2017

Council Plan, 2013-2017