21.05 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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21.05-1 Agricultural land

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Key issues

- The long-term role of agriculture in the municipality is declining. The future of intensive agriculture, particularly in the Heatherton region, will be strongly influenced by external factors such as international markets and changes in technology.
- Fragmentation of agricultural land holdings reduces agricultural land capability.
- Impacts of structural change in the agricultural sector.

Objective 1

To protect the use of high-quality agricultural land for agricultural purposes.

Strategies

1.1 Support and protect areas of viable intensive agricultural activities from ad hoc intrusion and/or encroachment of urban/non-urban uses which prejudice their long-term viability.
1.2 Avoid further subdivision in areas of high-quality agricultural land.
1.3 Promote the long-term consolidation of lots in areas of high-quality agricultural land.
1.4 Promote sustainable farm management practices.
1.5 Require use and development in agricultural areas to be based on an assessment of agricultural land capability.
1.6 Separate agricultural and 'sensitive' non-agricultural land uses by suitable buffer distances.

21.05-2 Water

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Kingston is located at the receiving end of a regional catchment system and shares responsibility for integrated catchment management with adjoining municipalities and a range of public agencies. With significant major drainage networks running through the City and the consequential role they have in influencing water quality in Mordialloc Creek, Patterson River and eventually Port Phillip Bay, water resource management is a high priority for Kingston. Council is seeking to integrate water management to become a *Water Sensitive City.* A *Water Sensitive City* is a city that is viewed as part of a catchment where water and waste water resources are predominately managed within the catchment's boundary.

Key issues

- There is an increasing focus on managing the water cycle more holistically to improve the efficiency of water use and the quality of our water.
- There is a need to improve waterways that have been degraded as a result of past drainage works and upstream pollution.
- Catchment planning and management requires coordination between relevant State Government Departments and Agencies as a result of Kingston's location at the receiving end of a regional catchment system.

Objective 1

To improve water quality within the municipality's waterways andPort Phillip Bay.

Strategies

1.1 Prevent polluted surface runoff from land uses which impact on waterways and floodplains.
1.2 Avoid use and development that may generate significant adverse impacts on the performance of local waterways and the capacity of the local drainage system.
1.3 Provide for appropriate stormwater treatment measures in new development.
1.4 Avoid construction activities from adversely impacting on the regional drainage function and performance of waterways, floodplains, drains and other water bodies.

1.5 Support water sensitive urban design treatment measures along:

- Port Phillip Bay, the foreshore reserve and land with a 300m wide coastal strip.
- Braeside Park, the Edithvale wetlands, Mordialloc Creek and Patterson River estuary.
- The proposed Chain of Parks corridor linking Karkarook Park and Braeside Park.
- The Mordialloc Settlement Drain catchment (Clayton South drain) between Kingston Road and Lower Dandenong Road.
- The Centre Swamp drain between Mordialloc Creek and Patterson River an within the contributing residential catchment on the west side.
- Industrial precincts including Moorabbin, Braeside and Clayton South.
- Catchment areas that contribute to flood affected land.

Objective 2

To integrate the water quality treatment functions, habitat and recreation importance of waterways and floodplains.

Strategies

2.1 Support the creation of a chain of wetlands within the Mordialloc Creek.
2.2 Improve the aesthetic, cultural and conservation value of the Mordialloc Creek as part of its primary drainage and flood management function.
2.3 Consider the wetland size, shape, buffers, accessibility and the natural landscape when integrating recreational use into wetland areas.
2.4 Maximise the potential for development within and adjacent to existing floodplains to incorporate public open space, wetlands and recreational and cultural activities.

Objective 3

To conserve and reuse water

Strategies

3.1 Implement best practice integrated appropriate to water cycle management.
3.2 Promote the provision of water saving devices in new development.

Decision guidelines

When deciding on applications for use and development that may impact on the water catchments, waterways, ground water resources and the Port Phillip Bay, considering as appropriate, the relevant objectives of the *Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy* to:

- Protect and improve the quality of water in our rivers and streams;
- Protect the diversity and extent of natural exosystems and streams;
- Achieve sustainable use of natural resources by primary industries;
- Provide a diverse and sustainable living environments, recreation and tourism;
- Coordinate and monitor catchment and land protection activities.

Further Strategic Work

- Create wetland treatment facilities at Karkarook Park, Woodlands Estate, the former Epsom Training Facility and the Mordialloc Creek environs.
- Work with State Government departments, agencies and industry experts to implement a precinct-based approach to integrated water management.
- Develop and implement a local policy to reduce the environmental impact of urban development on waterways and receiving water bodies in the Port Phillip catchment.

- Identify strategic projects in Kingston's urban and green wedge areas that can deliver precinct-based solutions to provide for water use and treatment opportunities.
- Develop and implement a local policy to establish a strategic and structured approach to the management and development of green wedge land.

21.05-3 Background documents

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- Implementation Strategy for the Chain of Parks, 1992.
- Kingston Green Wedge Plan, 2012.
- Sandbelt Open Space Project, Melbourne Parks and Waterways, 1994.
- Kingston Integrated Water Cycle Strategy Plan, February 2012

City of Kingston Environment, Wetlands and Waterways Framework Plan