

21.03

21/11/2019
C105latr

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LANDSCAPE VALUES

This clause provides local content to support Clause 12 (Environmental and Landscape values) of the State Planning Policy Framework.

Specific references to individual towns are included in Clause 21.09 (Local Area Growth Plans).

21.03-1

Sustainability

Council recognises the interconnected nature of a strong economy, cleaner and greener environment and healthy and connected community.

The *Natural and Environment Sustainability Strategy 2014-2019* along with each of the Live Work Latrobe land use strategies, acknowledge the need for planning policy which balances economic, social and environmental values.

Latrobe City enjoys one of Australia’s most beautiful natural environments and its biodiversity, water and air quality must continue to remain of the highest quality. Latrobe City will strive to maintain and enhance its native vegetation biodiversity, improve air and water quality, reduce and reuse waste, encourage energy-efficient technologies and educate the community and industry in better waste management and environmental protection.

Built form and urban infrastructure can contribute substantially to the demand for energy. Urban form impacts on the ability of buildings to be energy efficient, particularly through solar orientation and access. Urban form also impacts on the need for people to use transport, including access to services, social connections, recreation opportunities, education and employment. Consolidated urban areas provide for shorter travel distances, walking and cycling, and support more effective public transport.

21.03-2

Objective 1

To identify, maintain and enhance natural ecosystems and biodiversity values within rural and urban areas.

Strategies

- 1.1 Adopt the precautionary principle where there are possible or identified threats of environmental damage.
 - 1.2 Protect all environmental assets as a first priority, enhance as a second priority, and consider replacement as a last resort.
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21.03-3

Objective 2

To encourage environmentally sustainable land use and development.

Strategies

- 2.1 Promote low energy travel modes, such as walking and cycling, through the design of new subdivision and development.
 - 2.2 Encourage higher density housing choice in appropriate locations near public transport and activity centres to help shorten travel distances and increase access to services.
 - 2.3 Encourage development to be energy and water efficient.
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- 2.4 Reduce the impact of urban water usage and storm water demands through mechanisms such as improved storm water capture, Water Sensitive Urban Design, appropriate urban landscaping and recycled water infrastructure.
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21.03-4 Objective 3

To protect and promote sustainable technologies that creates prosperity resulting from natural resource use and research.

Strategies

- 3.1 Improve the balance between reliance on existing natural resources and the need to promote the liveability of the Latrobe community as an attractive region to live and work.
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21.03-5 Significant Environments and Landscapes

Council aims to find a balance in advancing Latrobe City’s built environment and liveability while planning for and protecting its natural environment.

Latrobe City contains a rich diversity of plants, birds and other wildlife and extends over parts of three natural bioregions.

To the north, Latrobe City contains the rugged and heavily forested foothills of the Great Dividing Range, part of the Highlands – Southern Fall bioregion that extends across the whole southern fall of the Great Dividing Range. Running through the centre of Latrobe City is the broad plains of the Latrobe Valley - part of the Gippsland Plains bioregion that extends from Melbourne to the Gippsland Lakes. To the south, Latrobe City contains the northern slopes of the Strzelecki Ranges bioregion, which extends towards Warragul in the west and Yarram in the east.

The rural landscapes of Latrobe City are diverse ranging from traditional broadacre farming landscapes to rural residential settlements to pristine natural environments.

21.03-6 Objective 1

To protect indigenous flora and fauna species and their habitat across the municipality

Strategies

- 1.1 Encourage the protection of remnant indigenous vegetation.
- 1.2 Enhance the condition and quantity of indigenous vegetation and biolink connections.
- 1.3 Encourage the protection of indigenous fauna species and their habitat on land with an emphasis on protecting threatened species.
- 1.4 Maintain the natural asset value of Council reserves and road reserves.
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21.03-7 Objective 2

To increase the extent and quality of indigenous vegetation and biodiversity across the municipality.

Strategies

- 2.1 Encourage the development of wildlife corridors and links across the municipality.
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21.03-8 Objective 3

To protect and enhance the visual, natural and cultural heritage values of rural landscapes.

Strategies

- 3.1 Ensure that development protects and enhances the key landscape features of Latrobe City.
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21.03-9 Biodiversity

There is a positive interrelationship between the preservation of biodiversity values, farm productivity, amenity, liveability and tourism.

Latrobe City's bioregions support a wide range of ecosystems. These contain varied plant communities, individual species and vegetation classes, a number of which are significant and protected under State and Federal legislation..

The current level of native vegetation in Latrobe Valley is 22% of 1750 levels, i.e. pre-European contact. This is relatively high coverage in comparison to other regional cities. However, coverage is not consistent across the rural areas.

The 'Cores & Links' agreement identifies core biodiversity sub-catchments and linking corridors across the Strzelecki Ranges, including the significant biodiversity of the College Creek catchment and important habitat of Strzelecki Koalawhich is nationally significant due to it's unique genetic type. The *Rural Land Use Strategy 2017* identifies further opportunities to strengthen a passage of remnant vegetation clusters extending between the Strzelecki ranges bioregion in the south to the Southern Fall bioregion of Australian Alps.

21.03-10 Objective 1

Support the retention and enhancement of habitat and biodiversity values.

Strategies

- 1.1 Support and facilitate the creation of a bio link from the Strzelecki Ranges bioregion to the Southern Fall bioregion through research, the subsequent use of planning tools, and landowner and community support.
- 1.2 Protect roadside vegetation, especially in the Strzelecki Ranges from Boolarra to Gormandale, that provides actual or potential linkages between public and private native vegetation remnants from destructive or disturbance processes.
- 1.3 Achieve a reversal within the municipality of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation and biodiversity, leading to a net gain.
- 1.4 Improve the retention of native vegetation in the landscape on roadsides, waterways and public and private land to facilitate healthy habitats to improve biodiversity.
- 1.5 Strengthen biodiversity conservation in both rural and urban landscapes and across all land tenures.
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LATROBE PLANNING SCHEME

- 1.6 Encourage rural landholders to pursue a target of 30% of native vegetation coverage across their properties and the landscape as a critical threshold for biodiversity conservation, particularly within the Strzelecki – Alpine bio-link.
 - 1.7 Engage and inform local communities as to the benefits of supporting biodiversity values and the health of the natural environment.
 - 1.8 Ensure that the enhancement of biodiversity outcomes, including the establishment of a potential biodiversity corridor, considers bushfire risk and does not pose an unacceptable increase in risk to community and infrastructure.
 - 1.9 Identify the role of fire in the regeneration of important biodiversity landscapes.
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21.03-11 Use and Development around Major Pipelines

The Morwell – Dandenong, Tyers – Morwell, Longford – Dandenong, Rosedale – Tyers, Maryvale and Flynn – Loy Yang B pipelines are high pressure gas transmission pipelines licensed under the Pipelines Act 2005. Changes to land use and development in the vicinity of the pipelines must be carefully considered to ensure risks to human life and the functional operation of the pipelines are not impacted.

21.03-12 Objective 1

To ensure future land use and development appropriately responds to existing high pressure gas pipelines.

Strategies

- 1.1 Consider risks associated with land use and subdivision within the measurement length of high pressure gas transmission pipelines.
 - 1.2 Encourage risk sensitive development to be located outside of the pipeline measurement length where practicable.
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21.03-13 Implementation

The objectives, strategies and policy guidelines arising from this clause are implemented through the application of appropriate zones and overlays as described in Clause 21.10.