

## **14.01 AGRICULTURE**

31/07/2018  
VC148

### **14.01-1S Protection of agricultural land**

31/07/2018  
VC148

#### **Objective**

To protect the state's agricultural base by preserving productive farmland.

#### **Strategies**

Identify areas of productive agricultural land, including land for primary production and intensive agriculture.

Consider state, regional and local, issues and characteristics when assessing agricultural quality and productivity.

Avoid permanent removal of productive agricultural land from the state's agricultural base without consideration of the economic importance of the land for the agricultural production and processing sectors.

Protect productive farmland that is of strategic significance in the local or regional context.

Protect productive agricultural land from unplanned loss due to permanent changes in land use.

Prevent inappropriately dispersed urban activities in rural areas.

Protect strategically important agricultural and primary production land from incompatible uses.

Limit new housing development in rural areas by:

- Directing housing growth into existing settlements.
- Discouraging development of isolated small lots in the rural zones from use for dwellings or other incompatible uses.
- Encouraging consolidation of existing isolated small lots in rural zones.

Identify areas of productive agricultural land by consulting with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and using available information.

In considering a proposal to use, subdivide or develop agricultural land, consider the:

- Desirability and impacts of removing the land from primary production, given its agricultural productivity.
- Impacts on the continuation of primary production on adjacent land, with particular regard to land values and the viability of infrastructure for such production.
- Compatibility between the proposed or likely development and the existing use of the surrounding land.
- The potential impacts of land use and development on the spread of plant and animal pests from areas of known infestation into agricultural areas.
- Land capability.

Avoid the subdivision of productive agricultural land from diminishing the long-term productive capacity of the land.

Give priority to the re-structure of inappropriate subdivisions where they exist on productive agricultural land.

Balance the potential off-site effects of a use or development proposal (such as degradation of soil or water quality and land salinisation) against the benefits of the proposal.

#### **14.01-1R Protection of agricultural land - Gippsland**

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##### **Strategy**

Protect productive land and irrigation assets, including the Macalister Irrigation District, that help grow the state as an important food bowl for Australia and Asia.

#### **14.01-2S Sustainable agricultural land use**

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##### **Objective**

To encourage sustainable agricultural land use.

##### **Strategies**

Ensure agricultural and productive rural land use activities are managed to maintain the long-term sustainable use and management of existing natural resources.

Support the development of innovative and sustainable approaches to agricultural and associated rural land use practices.

Support adaptation of the agricultural sector to respond to the potential risks arising from climate change.

Encourage diversification and value-adding of agriculture through effective agricultural production and processing, rural industry and farm-related retailing.

Assist genuine farming enterprises to embrace opportunities and adjust flexibly to market changes.

Support agricultural investment through the protection and enhancement of appropriate infrastructure.

Facilitate ongoing productivity and investment in high value agriculture.

Facilitate the establishment and expansion of cattle feedlots, piggeries, poultry farms and other intensive animal industries in a manner consistent with orderly and proper planning and protection of the environment.

Ensure that the use and development of land for animal keeping or training is appropriately located and does not detrimentally impact the environment, the operation of surrounding land uses and the amenity of the surrounding area.

##### **Policy documents**

Consider as relevant:

- *Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots* (Department of Agriculture, Energy and Minerals, 1995)
- *Victorian Code for Broiler Farms* (Department of Primary Industries, 2009)
- *Code of Practice: Piggeries* (Health Commission of Victoria and Department of Agriculture, 1984 Revised 1992)

- *Apiary Code of Practice* (Department of Planning and Community Development, 2011)
- *Planning Guidelines for Land Based Aquaculture in Victoria* (Department of Primary Industries, No. 21, 2005)

#### **14.01-2R Agricultural productivity - Hume**

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##### **Strategy**

Support clustering of intensive rural industries and agricultural production.

Take advantage of locational opportunities, including separation from sensitive land uses and access to transport, power, water and communications infrastructure.

#### **14.01-3S Forestry and timber production**

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##### **Objective**

To facilitate the establishment, management and harvesting of plantations and the harvesting of timber from native forests.

##### **Strategies**

Identify areas that may be suitably used and developed for plantation timber production.

Promote the establishment of softwood and hardwood plantations on predominantly cleared land, as well as other areas that are subject to or contributing to land and water degradation.

Ensure protection of water quality and soil.

Ensure timber production in native forests is conducted in a sustainable manner.

Conduct timber production (except agroforestry, windbreaks and commercial plantations of 5 hectares or less) in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Timber Production* (Department of Environment and Primary Industries, 2014).

Ensure Victoria's greenhouse sinks are protected and enhanced by controlling land clearing, containing the growth of urban areas and supporting revegetation programs.

##### **Policy documents**

Consider as relevant:

- *Code of Practice for Timber Production* (Department of Environment and Primary Industries, 2014)