

21.06 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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21.06-1 Agriculture

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Rural productivity within the municipality provides valuable environmental, social and economic benefits for residents and visitors.

The City aims to secure and promote the ongoing productive capacity of the Whittlesea Green Wedge for sustainable agriculture and resource utilisation into the future.

Objective 1: To protect and support agricultural productivity

- Strategy 1.1 Protect rural land from urban incursions.
- Strategy 1.2 Support the establishment of agriculture within the rural areas.
- Strategy 1.3 Avoid further land fragmentation by avoiding inappropriate subdivisions.

21.06-2 Water

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Water availability and quality is highly dependent on environmental influences, land use, human activities and consumption.

Water quality and supply is under pressure due to a changing climate, inefficient use and population growth. There are different challenges and opportunities to recognise when managing water sustainability across the City of Whittlesea.

Water sustainability requires the integrated management of the whole water cycle. This includes water from rain and storm events, to water use in agriculture, business and homes, and wastewater. In a growing municipality, the focus on sustainable use of water resources is imperative to ensure water security into the future.

Objective 1: To reduce unnecessary potable water use and maintain water quality.

- Strategy 1.1 Ensure water sensitive urban design is part of new and existing urban development.
- Strategy 1.2 Ensure water efficiency is an integral part of building design, including setting standards to maximise the use of water efficient fittings and appliances, water tanks and grey water systems.
- Strategy 1.3 Encourage the use of alternative water sources (rain, storm and grey water).

21.06-3 Resource exploration and extraction

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The extractive industry provides valuable economic benefits for the municipality, having a number of associated economic investment and indirect employment benefits.

The need for extractive industries to be located close to existing and proposed markets is to be balanced with other competing needs, including the protection of areas of environmental significance and surrounding amenity. Extractive industries can have significant impacts on the landform, air quality, biodiversity and water resources of an area.

Objective 1: To safeguard the amenity and environment of land surrounding extractive industries.

- Strategy 1.1 Provide appropriate separation distances, or buffers between extractive industry operations and sensitive uses on nearby land.

21.06-4 Implementation

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Reference Documents

- *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2022*
- *Green Wedge Management Plan 2011-2021*
- *Stormwater Management Plan 2012-2017*