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31/07/2018
VC148

FREEWAY SERVICE CENTRE

Purpose

To ensure that freeway service centres are appropriately designed and located.

To ensure that access to a freeway service centre from a freeway is designed to the requirements of the Roads Corporation.

To ensure that freeway service centres with access to a rural freeway provide only essential services and facilities which encourage drivers to stop and take an effective break at appropriate intervals in the interests of driver safety.

To ensure that any new freeway service centre meets an identifiable need to provide essential services and facilities along a freeway where those services and facilities are not readily available.

To ensure that the use of land for a freeway service centre does not adversely affect the amenity of surrounding land uses.

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Requirements to be met

Facilities and services

A freeway service centre must provide only essential services and facilities. These essential services and facilities must be available at all times. Essential services and facilities that a freeway service centre must include are:

- Designated parking areas.
- Undercover fuel sales area for petrol, diesel and LPG.
- An area of not more than 240 square metres for the sale of food, drinks and other convenience goods.
- An indoor sit-down eating area.
- A safe play area for children.
- Public toilets.
- A public telephone.

A freeway service centre with access to a rural freeway must also provide local and regional tourist information.

A freeway service centre must not include:

- Mechanical repairs (other than the emergency repair of vehicles).
- Retail facilities of more than 240 square metres.
- Video hire.
- Post office services or facilities.
- Entertainment facilities, amusement machines or gaming machines.
- The sale, distribution or consumption of alcohol unless associated with a residential hotel/motel.
- Car or truck wash facilities.

A freeway service centre with access to a rural freeway must not include overnight accommodation (other than for a caretaker or site manager).

Access to freeway service centres

No vehicular access between a freeway service centre with access to a metropolitan freeway and the local road network may be permitted.

An application to use or develop land for a freeway service centre must be referred to the Roads Corporation in accordance with section 55 of the Act.

A permit must not be granted for a freeway service centre until approval for access to the freeway has been given by the Roads Corporation.

In accordance with section 62(1)(a) of the Act, a permit granted for a freeway service centre must include the condition:

“This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- The development is not commenced within two years of the date of this permit.
- The development is not completed within four years of the date of this permit.

The responsible authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires or within three months afterwards.”

Metropolitan freeway service centre adjoining a residential zone

If the site for a freeway service centre with access to a metropolitan freeway adjoins a residential zone:

- A landscape buffer at least 3 metres wide must be provided on the site along the common boundary and must be planted and maintained to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- Except for the landscape buffer strip, all of the site not occupied by buildings must be sealed to prevent dust.
- External lights must be directed away from the residential zone to prevent light spill and glare.

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Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65, the responsible authority must consider:

- The Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- The Freeway Service Centres Design Guidelines, May 1997.