

22.13 CATCHMENT AND LAND PROTECTION

This policy applies to all land and water in the Rural and Low Density Residential Zones.

Policy Basis

The long term sustainable care and management of the Shire's natural resource base is critical for the continued economic development of the Shire and the protection of environmental assets.

Objectives

- To ensure the sustainable development of natural resources of soil, water, flora, fauna, air and ecosystems.
- To promote the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity.
- To ensure that the use and development of land and water takes into account impacts on the quality and quantity of natural resources.
- To promote consistency with, and application of, the regional catchment strategy and other natural resource management strategies.

Policy

It is policy that:

- Preference is given to the use and development which incorporates measures that protect and/or improve the quality and sustainable development of natural resources.
- Use and development proposals are consistent with and seek to implement a whole farm management plan.
- Impacts on soil, water, flora, fauna, air and ecosystems should be considered in the assessment of use and development proposals.
- Land capability is taken into account in the assessment of use and development proposals. This includes an assessment of the biophysical characteristics (soil, slope and climate) of the land and any physical limitations present.
- The potential effect of use and development on the quality of natural resources in the water catchment are considered.
- Measures to manage pest plant and animal problems should be incorporated in use and development proposals where appropriate.
- Applications for the use and development of land should be required to demonstrate consistency with the regional catchment strategy, and other relevant natural resource management strategies.
- Where the responsible authority considers that more information is required about a proposal, it may require a site and area analysis which sets out:
 - a natural resource profile including watercourses, soil type, vegetation and habitat area;
 - an assessment of physical limitations;
 - an assessment of environmental hazards;
 - the location and type of buildings and works, infrastructure, adjoining use and development and access; and
 - that measures will be taken to address natural resource management issues, physical limitations and environmental hazards.

Reference documents

- Mount Alexander Shire Environmental Action Plan, 1996
- North Central Regional Catchment Strategy, June 1997
- Agenda for Action Nature conservation in Avoca-Loddon-Campaspe Region, E Hogan 1997

- Loddon Salinity Management Plan, Loddon Community Working Group, 1992
- Campaspe Salinity Management Plan, Campaspe Community Working group, 1992
- Draft Loddon Catchment Water Quality Strategy, Loddon Waterway and Catchment Management group

Water catchment plans, strategies and studies as amended from time to time which have been adopted by the North Central Catchment Management Authority or Council