

**21.07**15/07/2010  
C76**ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES**

This focuses on the protection, conservation and sustainable management of the Shire's natural assets.

**Key Issues**

- The Shire contains mountainous country, rural areas and significant water catchments. These all play a significant role in the provision of the State's water and natural resources.
- The resources provide flora and fauna habitats, timber resources and landscapes of high visual quality that need to be protected.
- The demands for the use of the natural resources of the Shire, including water, timber and extractive materials, have an impact on the sustainability of the natural environment.

Baw Baw Shire falls mainly within two catchments, the Westernport catchment, and the West Gippsland catchment. Land use and development within catchments may have an impact on water quality and natural resource management both within and outside the Shire. Therefore a whole of catchment approach is required for the management of natural resources and in the natural environment in the exercise of decision-making.

**21.07-1**15/07/2010  
C76**Natural Resource Base****Context**

The long term sustainable management of the environment, including the maintenance of a high quality natural resource base, is the most important factor influencing the economy, lifestyle and recreational choices in the Shire.

**Objective 1 To ensure development proposals demonstrate a positive contribution to the environment by taking into account the capability of the land in terms of soil stability, erosion, flood and drainage management and the retention of native vegetation.**

Strategy 1.1 Protect the high quality productive land within the Shire from unplanned urban encroachment.

Strategy 1.2 Ensure environmental quality and that expert advice is obtained on the potential impact of developments or land uses on the environment and amenity of residents.

Strategy 1.3 Minimise the impact of pest plants and pest animals on environmental values.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

- Apply State policies on Environment under Clause 11.03-2, Management of Resources under Clause 11.03-3, and those relating to the environment under Clause 15.
- Apply local policy, Soil removal, under Clause 22.03-2 in a planning application that involves soil removal both as a use in itself or as part of another development or use, such as horticultural sheds.
- Apply local policy, Use and development of Land for Conservation Purposes, under Clause 22.03-3 in a planning application to use and develop forested land in a Farming Zone for residential purposes.
- Apply local policy, Removal of Native Vegetation, under Clause 22.03-5 for a planning application that involves native vegetation removal not affected by fire preparation clauses.

- Apply local policy, Effluent Disposal and Water Quality, under Clause 22.06-4 for a planning application that involves the development of a waste disposal device for black or grey water.
- Apply the Interim Guidelines for Potable Water Supply Catchments to use and development applications in those proclaimed catchments.

### **Other Actions**

Establish partnerships and common goals with:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment.
- Environment Protection Authority.
- Catchment Management Authorities.
- Minister for Planning and Local Government and the Alpine Resorts Management Board and community groups, such as Landcare.

**21.07-2**  
15/07/2010  
C76

### **Native Vegetation**

**Context:** The Shire possesses extensive areas of native vegetation in the mountain areas and public land. Most areas used for agriculture have been extensively cleared for grazing.

**Objective 1** To maintain the proportion of the Shire covered with high quality native vegetation.

**Strategy 1.1** Maintain where practicable areas with native vegetation as an important asset.

**Strategy 1.2** Encourage the establishment of agroforestry as an economic product and for the stabilisation of country prone to land slip and erosion.

### **Implementation**

- Apply State policy under Clause 15.09, Conservation of Native Flora and Fauna, to aid in dealing with planning applications for native vegetation removal.
- Apply local policy under Clause 22.03-5, Removal of Native Vegetation, when dealing with a planning application for native vegetation removal.