

# State Planning Policy Framework

This section sets out the State Planning Policies which apply to all land in Victoria.

These policies must be taken into account when preparing amendments to this scheme or making decisions under this scheme.

The purpose of State policy in planning schemes is to inform planning authorities and responsible authorities of those aspects of State level planning policy which they are to take into account and give effect to in planning and administering their respective areas. It is the State Government's expectation that planning and responsible authorities will endeavour to integrate the range of policies relevant to the issues to be determined and balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development.

Planning policies are directed to land use and development, as circumscribed by the Planning and Environment Act 1987, a primary objective of which is to provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land.

Planning, under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, is to encompass and integrate relevant environmental, social and economic factors. It is directed towards the interests of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations, on the basis of relevant policy and legislation. Planning authorities and responsible authorities are responsible for the effective planning and management of land use and development in their districts for the broad interests of the community, through the preparation of strategic plans, statutory plans, development and conservation plans, development contribution plans, and other relevant plans to achieve the objectives of the Act.

The State Planning Policy Framework provides a context for spatial planning and decision making by planning and responsible authorities. It is comprised of a statement of general principles for land use and development planning and specific policies dealing with sectoral issues. The specific policies encompass objectives, generic implementation techniques applying across Victoria in relation to the specified policy and geographic strategies that set out directions for particular areas. Planning and responsible authorities must take account of and give effect to both the general principles and the specific policies applicable to issues before them to ensure integrated decision-making.

The State Planning Policy Framework is dynamic and will be built upon as the government develops and refines policy, and changed as the needs of the community change.