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VC71

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

Planning should ensure all new land use and development appropriately responds to its landscape, valued built form and cultural context, and protect places and sites with significant heritage, architectural, aesthetic, scientific and cultural value.

Creating quality built environments supports the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of our communities, cities and towns.

Land use and development planning must support the development and maintenance of communities with adequate and safe physical and social environments for their residents, through the appropriate location of uses and development and quality of urban design.

Planning should achieve high quality urban design and architecture that:

- Contributes positively to local urban character and sense of place.
- Reflects the particular characteristics, aspirations and cultural identity of the community.
- Enhances liveability, diversity, amenity and safety of the public realm.
- Promotes attractiveness of towns and cities within broader strategic contexts.
- Minimises detrimental impact on neighbouring properties.

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Urban environment

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Urban design

Objective

To create urban environments that are safe, functional and provide good quality environments with a sense of place and cultural identity.

Strategies

Promote good urban design to make the environment more liveable and attractive.

Ensure new development or redevelopment contributes to community and cultural life by improving safety, diversity and choice, the quality of living and working environments, accessibility and inclusiveness and environmental sustainability.

Require development to respond to its context in terms of urban character, cultural heritage, natural features, surrounding landscape and climate.

Require development to include a site analysis and descriptive statement explaining how the proposed development responds to the site and its context.

Ensure sensitive landscape areas such as the bays and coastlines are protected and that new development does not detract from their natural quality.

Ensure transport corridors integrate land use planning, urban design and transport planning and are developed and managed with particular attention to urban design aspects.

Encourage retention of existing vegetation or revegetation as part of subdivision and development proposals.

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Urban design principles

Objective

To achieve architectural and urban design outcomes that contribute positively to local urban character and enhance the public realm while minimising detrimental impact on neighbouring properties.

Strategies

Apply the following design principles to development proposals for non-residential development or residential development not covered by Clause 54, Clause 55 or Clause 56:

Context

- Development must take into account the natural, cultural and strategic context of its location.
- Planning authorities should emphasise urban design policies and frameworks for key locations or precincts.
- A comprehensive site analysis should be the starting point of the design process and form the basis for consideration of height, scale and massing of new development.

The public realm

- The public realm, which includes main pedestrian spaces, streets, squares, parks and walkways, should be protected and enhanced.

Safety

- New development should create urban environments that enhance personal safety and property security and where people feel safe to live, work and move in at any time.

Landmarks, views and vistas

- Landmarks, views and vistas should be protected and enhanced or, where appropriate, created by new additions to the built environment.

Pedestrian spaces

- Design of interfaces between buildings and public spaces, including the arrangement of adjoining activities, entrances, windows, and architectural detailing, should enhance the visual and social experience of the user.

Heritage

- New development should respect, but not simply copy, historic precedents and create a worthy legacy for future generations.

Consolidation of sites and empty sites

- New development should contribute to the complexity and diversity of the built environment.
- Site consolidation should not result in street frontages that are out of keeping with the complexity and rhythm of existing streetscapes.
- The development process should be managed so that sites are not in an unattractive, neglected state for excessive periods and the impacts from vacant sites are minimised.

Light and shade

- Enjoyment of the public realm should be enhanced by a desirable balance of sunlight and shade.
- This balance should not be compromised by undesirable overshadowing or exposure to the sun.

Energy and resource efficiency

- All building, subdivision and engineering works should include efficient use of resources and energy efficiency.

Architectural quality

- New development should achieve high standards in architecture and urban design.
- Any rooftop plant, lift over-runs, service entries, communication devices, and other technical attachment should be treated as part of the overall design.

Landscape architecture

- Recognition should be given to the setting in which buildings are designed and the integrating role of landscape architecture.

Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- *Design Guidelines for Higher Density Residential Development* (Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2004) in assessing the design and built form of residential development of four or more storeys.
- *Activity Centre Design Guidelines* (Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2005) in preparing activity centre structure plans and in assessing the design and built form of new development in activity centres.
- *Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Crime Prevention Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2005) in assessing the design and built form of new development.
- *Urban Design Charter for Victoria* (Department of Planning and Community Development 2009).

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Neighbourhood and subdivision design

Objective

To ensure the design of subdivisions achieves attractive, liveable, walkable, cyclable, diverse and sustainable neighbourhoods.

Strategy

In the development of new residential areas and in the redevelopment of existing areas, subdivision should be designed to create liveable and sustainable communities by:

- Contributing to an urban structure where networks of neighbourhoods are clustered to support larger activity centres on the regional public transport network.
- Creating compact neighbourhoods that have walkable distances between activities and where neighbourhood centres provide access to services and facilities to meet day to day needs.
- Creating a range of open spaces to meet a variety of needs with links to open space networks and regional parks where possible.
- Providing a range of lot sizes to suit a variety of dwelling and household types to meet the needs and aspirations of different groups of people.

- Contributing to reducing car dependence by allowing for:
 - Convenient and safe public transport.
 - Safe and attractive spaces and networks for walking and cycling.
 - Subdivision layouts that allow easy movement within and between neighbourhoods.
 - A convenient and safe road network.
- Creating a strong sense of place because neighbourhood development emphasises existing cultural heritage values, well designed and attractive built form, and landscape character.
- Protecting and enhancing native habitat.
- Environmentally friendly development that includes improved energy efficiency, water conservation, local management of stormwater and waste water treatment, less waste and reduced air pollution.
- Being accessible to people with disabilities.
- Developing activity centres that integrate housing, employment, shopping, recreation and community services, to provide a mix and level of activity that attracts people, creates a safe environment, stimulates interaction and provides a lively community focus.

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Design for safety

Objective

To improve community safety and encourage neighbourhood design that makes people feel safe.

Strategies

Ensure the design of buildings, public spaces and the mix of activities contribute to safety and perceptions of safety.

Support initiatives that provide safer walking and cycling routes and improved safety for people using public transport.

Ensure suitable locations for police stations and fire brigade, ambulance and emergency services are provided for in or near activity centres. In newly developing areas these services should be located together.

Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- *Safer Design Guidelines for Victoria* (Crime Prevention Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment, 2005).

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Cultural identity and neighbourhood character

Objective

To recognise and protect cultural identity, neighbourhood character and sense of place.

Strategies

Ensure development responds and contributes to existing sense of place and cultural identity.

Ensure development recognises distinctive urban forms and layout and their relationship to landscape and vegetation.

Ensure development responds to its context and reinforces special characteristics of local environment and place by emphasising:

- The underlying natural landscape character.
- The heritage values and built form that reflect community identity.
- The values, needs and aspirations of the community.

15.02 Sustainable development

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15.02-1 Energy and resource efficiency

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Objective

To encourage land use and development that is consistent with the efficient use of energy and the minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Strategies

Ensure that buildings and subdivision design improves efficiency in energy use.

Promote consolidation of urban development and integration of land use and transport.

Improve efficiency in energy use through greater use of renewable energy.

Support low energy forms of transport such as walking and cycling.

15.03 Heritage

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15.03-1 Heritage conservation

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Objective

To ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance.

Strategies

Identify, assess and document places of natural and cultural heritage significance as a basis for their inclusion in the planning scheme.

Provide for the protection of natural heritage sites and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and biological diversity.

Provide for the conservation and enhancement of those places which are of, aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, cultural, scientific, or social significance, or otherwise of special cultural value.

Encourage appropriate development that respects places with identified heritage values and creates a worthy legacy for future generations.

Retain those elements that contribute to the importance of the heritage place.

Encourage the conservation and restoration of contributory elements.

Ensure an appropriate setting and context for heritage places is maintained or enhanced.

Support adaptive reuse of heritage buildings whose use has become redundant.

Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- The findings and recommendations of the Victorian Heritage Council.

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Aboriginal cultural heritage

Objective

To ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

Strategies

Identify, assess and document places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance, in consultation with relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties, as a basis for their inclusion in the planning scheme.

Provide for the protection and conservation of pre- and post-contact Aboriginal cultural heritage places.

Ensure that permit approvals align with recommendations of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan approved under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Policy guidelines

Planning must consider as relevant:

- The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* for all Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- The findings and recommendations of the Aboriginal Heritage Council.
- The findings and recommendations of the Victorian Heritage Council for post-contact Aboriginal heritage places where relevant.